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# RIDGEWOOD

## PAST and PRESENT

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# RIDGEWOOD

BERGEN COUNTY  
NEW JERSEY

## PAST *and* PRESENT



PUBLISHED BY  
CITIZENS SEMI-CENTENNIAL  
ASSOCIATION

RIDGEWOOD, N. J.

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DECEMBER 31, 1916

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## FOREWORD

**D**URING the early part of 1916 a number of citizens recognizing the historic importance of the year in connection with the life of Ridgewood, brought to the attention of the Village authorities and the Independence Day Association, the idea of including in the usual celebration on Independence Day, the formal opening of the new station improvements and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the adoption of the name—Ridgewood.

The Independence Day Association, therefore, called a meeting of the citizens, which developed the fact that the station improvements would not be completed by Independence Day.

As a result, the Citizens Semi-Centennial Association was incorporated to arrange for a proper celebration during the fall of the year. Committees were formed and plans developed to make the affair an epoch in the history of the community.

On account of the prevalence of infantile paralysis in the adjacent communities and the danger of its being brought into the Village, it was necessary to abandon the plans.

The Association felt, however, that the event should not pass without some recognition of a permanent character and, as a result, it was decided to enlarge upon the plans previously contemplated for a souvenir booklet of the occasion, with a consequent increase in the labor and time required in its preparation.

This book is dedicated, therefore, to the present and future residents of our community in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the adoption of the name Ridgewood, and is intended not only for the citizen who would know something of Ridgewood's past, but also for those who are interested in its present life and welfare.

The Association is indebted to the Historical Committee for the story of our community's life which it contains, to the Publicity Committee for the fitting manner in which it is published, and to its members, who through their generosity have made the publication possible.

CITIZENS SEMI-CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION.

NOTE.—For list of officers and members of association, see Appendix.



## P R E F A C E

AS directed by the general committee of the Citizens' Semi-Centennial Association, the Historical and Publicity Committees herein present the story of Ridgewood's past and present life.

The history of many communities of our present day discloses the story of a development that would not be complete without recording therein the place taken by each section—some older, others younger—which now compose their component parts, including those also which, due to governmental changes, no longer form a part of a particular territory.

While this is also true of the present municipality of Ridgewood, Bergen County, N. J., in a book of this kind it is impracticable to tell in detail the story of each section, although, in the pages which follow, their relationship from the earliest times of the community will be found interwoven with its history.

Our object has been to show not only a record, as complete as possible, of Ridgewood's past, but also its present life, and in a manner that besides being of historical interest will be of practical value to those of the present and future who are interested in our community.

With this object in view, the Historical Committee has spared no effort in seeking out and obtaining the necessary facts, including the solicitation of contributed articles from those of our citizens who are active in a particular phase of our community life. These articles, some of which appear practically as contributed, while others have been modified only as necessity demanded to adapt them to the general plan and scope of the booklet, were furnished by the following persons:

Berier, Mrs. de L.	Milliken, F. W.
De Yoe, J. Willard	Molouey, M. J.
Dimock, F. A.	Ockford, Dr. George M.
Doremus, Judge Cornelius	Parsons, J. B.
Drinker, W. W.	Roulere, Harry
Graydon, Samuel D.	Sowter, E. T.
Haight, W. H.	Vail, C. Waldemar
Hopper, Dr. John B.	Van Neste, Rev. J. A.
Howland, Miss Caroline E.	Vroom, Dr. W. L.
Keyser, F. L.	Watson, Frederick V.
Le Roy, Howard R.	White, E. T.
Maier, William H.	White, Hon. George U.
Marinus, John A.	Willard, Dr. H. S.

To these and to F. H. Bogert, Miss Florence De L. Bunce, H. J. Carroll, Mrs. Jos. W. Edwards, J. R. Eschelman, T. J. Foster, Hon. D. A. Garber, Robert Groves, Dr. A. G. Hopper, A. T. Hubschmitt, I. E. Hutton, Miss Irene C. Kelly, D. W. La Fetra, T. W. McMullen, Wilbur Morris, H. S. Patten, H. C. Pennal, Peter Pulis, A. B. Stearns, T. V. Terhune, H. A. Tice, Dr. W. A. Tracy, Carl M. Vail, W. W. Wilsey and

Geo. R. Young, as well as the citizens in general who have aided in the work, the Historical Committee takes this opportunity of acknowledging its indebtedness and expressing its appreciation of the assistance received.

To the following publications and articles and to others less extensively consulted, the Historical Committee also wishes to acknowledge its indebtedness as sources of information relating to the various periods, subjects and phases of its work:

Address by Rev. William H. Vroom, D.D.—Dedication of Tablet, Reformed Church of Paramus, July 4, 1914.

Addresses of Judge David D. Zabriskie relating to the history of Ridgewood and vicinity.

All the Days of My Life.—An Autobiography by Amelia E. Barr. Annual Reports of the Village of Ridgewood.

Appraisal of the property of the Bergen Aqueduct Company and Bergen Water Company, by E. D. Winters, 1915.

Archives of the State of New Jersey.

Atlas of Bergen County, N. J., by A. H. Walker and C. C. Pease, 1876.

Between the Ocean and The Lakes, The Story of the Erie, by E. H. Mott, 1899.

Genealogical History of Hudson and Bergen Counties, N. J., by C. B. Harvey, 1900.

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History of Bergen County, N. J., by J. M. Van Valen, 1900.

History of the Classis of Paramus of the Reformed Church in America, 1902.

History of the County of Hudson, New Jersey, by C. H. Winfield, 1874.

History of Ridgewood, by George Edgar Knowlton.

Itinerary of General Washington, by W. S. Baker.

Official Programs.—Independence Day Association of Ridgewood.

Papers and Proceedings, The Bergen County Historical Society.

Program.—250th Anniversary of the Founding of the Village of Bergen, 1660.

Public Papers of George Clinton, First Governor of New York.

Ridgewood, New Jersey, by C. H. Dunn, 1898.

Ridgewood, N. J., by Henry P. Phelps, 1912.

Ridgewood Guide, by Baxter and Breusch, 1896.

Ridgewood of Yesteryear, by Judge Cornelius Doremus.

Ridgewood's History, by Harold A. Cheel.

The Architectural Record.

The Citizens' Book, Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, 1916.

The Improvement of Ridgewood, N. J. Report by Chas. M. Robinson to Board of Trade, 1908.

The Pageant of Ridgewood, N. J., June 19, 1915.

The Ridgewood Herald.

The Ridgewood News.

If the results of our efforts furnish a source of information of value to those who seek it and also stimulate a devotion to our community's welfare, we will feel our mission has been fulfilled.

### HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

RICHARD T. WILSON, *Chairman*

Frank A. Baxter  
John H. Ward

Rebecca W. Hawes  
Judge David D. Zabriskie

Ira W. Travell  
Everett L. Zabriskie

### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

H. W. CASLER, *Chairman*

W. F. SCHMIDT, *Vice-Chairman*

F. A. Dimock  
C. H. Green  
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B. G. Smith  
D. R. Dusenberry  
B. D. Hilton

C. C. Miles  
A. H. Gamble  
H. R. LeRoy

W. S. Moore  
W. W. Wilsey

Ridgewood, Bergen County, N. J.,  
December 31, 1916.





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# Ridgewood: Past and Present

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## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

**I**N an analysis of the history of a community it will be found that the greatest influences in determining its character have been the ideals and endeavors of its inhabitants.

A narrative, therefore, of the history of Ridgewood is really one of the life of its people. While the development of particular phases of its life will be found elsewhere in this book, the general historical development of the community may well be divided into the following periods:

#### INDIAN OCCUPATION

Before the appearance of Europeans on this continent it is well known that nations of men speaking widely different languages, and commonly called Indians, existed here. The nation inhabiting the greater part of New Jersey was called the Delawares or Lenni Lenape, signifying, in their tongue, "The original people."

Several sub-divisions of the Delawares have been made by writers. The tribes who occupied and roamed over the counties of Bergen and Passaic were those of the Unalachtgo or Turkey, and the Minsi or Wolf. A further division has also been made into sub-tribes known as Hackensacks, Acquakanonks, Pomptons, Tappans and Haverstraws, all suggestive of well-known districts.

In 1643 the earliest white explorers into the region of the Hackensack and Passaic valleys found scattered villages, embraced under the name of Hackensacks, and varying in size from one to four or five houses, distributed over an area now bounded by points located approximately near Jersey City, Staten Island, Newark, Passaic, and the upper waters of the Hackensack, Passaic and Saddle Rivers.

Investigators have found actual evidence of Indian occupation in many places along the streams and creeks of the Bergen County watershed. The vicinity of Ridgewood, the banks of the Saddle River, and of the Ho-Ho-Kus and Sprout Brooks, have proven to be most promising localities for these researches.

As a result of plowed fields and washouts, evidences have been traced of primitive settlements in many places along the Saddle River and its branches. One branch in particular, Sprout Brook, below Arcola, has yielded a considerable quantity of material at three different points on its banks, all within a radius of a mile. At one point on the farm of Mr. Koch, where the brook crosses the Paramus Road, a quantity of implements and pottery was taken from the former site of a small village. Further down on Sprout Brook, back of the Board farm, is the site of what was presumably a large palisaded grass house; while one of the best preserved sites of occupation, in fact the most

typical, has been found on a high bank of the Saddle River, just below the point where it is crossed by the trolley.

Within the present limits of Ridgewood and also covering an area with a radius of from ten to twelve miles from the village, during the past fifteen years explorations have been carried on by one of its citizens, Mr. J. R. Eschelman, that have brought to light a most valuable collection (still in the possession of Mr. Eschelman) of approximately two thousand pieces of Indian objects, consisting of arrow-heads, spear-heads, axes, fish spears, skin scrapers, knives, shaft polishers, hand hammers, a granite mortar, pestles, celts (chisels), hoes, winged objects, luna (half-moon) knives, and others unclassified.

These relics have been found along the Indian trails, usually on the high side of a running stream or at some spring. In Ridgewood and its immediate vicinity the localities which have produced the best results are the shores of the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook, along the Mastin and Graydon fields and continuing above Harrison Avenue, opposite the home of E. L. Zabriskie; the grounds around the Board springs at Paramus Road and Duncker Hook (Dark Corner); and the fields beyond the Valleau Cemetery and along the Diamond Brook at the sites of its various springs to its junction with the Passaic River.

Formerly within the limits of Ridgewood Township, but now within the Borough of Glen Rock, a great block of stone stands on Rock Avenue near the Main Line Station of the Erie Railroad. Tradition says that this rock was a meeting place for the Indians, who called it Pamaekapuka. It was also known by the early settlers as the Big Rock at Small Lots. It was mentioned as a landmark in 1687, when a Patent was granted for 5,320 acres of land upon the second attempt to settle lands west of the Saddle River.

In 1710 a tract of land containing 42,500 acres, called the "Ramapo Patent," including most of the northwestern portion of Bergen County, was surveyed, beginning at the "Big Rock, four or five miles northwest of Paterson." A copper pin, placed by the surveying party at this time on the highest point of the rock, is still in evidence.

Since the early times, many of the land records of this vicinity refer to the stone as one of the points in determining the location of the property they cover. On August 26, 1912, as a result of the efforts of a number of citizens who appreciated its historical value, a deed was executed transferring the site of the rock, from the South Ridgewood Improvement Company and from Mr. and Mrs. John F. Walter, to the Borough of Glen Rock. Since that date the rock has been surrounded by a concrete walk and has been placed in a condition that guarantees its preservation for many years to come.

#### EARLY SETTLERS

The first permanent Dutch settlement in New Jersey was called Bergen and was made during the year 1660 on the site now known as Bergen Square, within the present corporate limits of Jersey City. From that point a gradual colonization was extended into the more remote districts, mainly along the waterways, following the lines of least resistance.



In 1662, Albert Zaborowski, a young man of twenty years, came from Poland in the Dutch sailing ship *Deb Ves* ("The Fox"). He married a Miss Van Der Linde and settled in the little trading post called Ackensack, where he became the possessor of a large landed interest. Of the children born to them five were sons. The oldest, Jacob, when a small boy, was stolen and carried off into the forests by the Indians. After a period of about fifteen years, Jacob was returned to his people by the Indians, who claimed they had taken him to teach him their language so that he could act as an interpreter between them and the settlers. As a result of this incident, Jacob's father obtained from the Indians a tract of land containing approximately two thousand acres and known as the "New Paramus Patent" or "Wearimus Tract."

The greater portion of the Paramus Patent lay in the northwestern part of the present Midland Township, while a section extended across the Saddle River into what is now Ridgewood Township. The tract extended in general from the Peter Board homestead on the south, about four miles north to the Stephen S. Berdan residence, and from the Saddle River on the west one and one-half miles east to the Sprout Brook.

The name "Paramus" is said to be derived from the Indian "Pere-messing," descriptive of the fact that the country abounded in wild turkey. The first white settlers called it "Peremesse," from which the transition was gradually made to the present form, Paramus.

On this tract, in 1713, Jacob Zaborowski built a home located on the present Paramus Road, just north of what is now Blauvelt's Mill. This was the first house to be built in this section of the country. A stone which bears the name Zaborowski, and the year 1713, and which had been placed in its doorway, is now in the possession of Everett L. Zabriskie, of Ridgewood.

Ridgewood is built upon the tract west of the Zaborowski lands and is part of a grant of five hundred acres made by Lord Carteret to Samuel Kingsland in 1687. The land was sold to Peter Johnson for the sum of thirty-two pounds and ten shillings, and in 1698 became the property of Johann Van Emburgh, who built the first house in 1700 in what is now Ridgewood proper.

Other Dutch families, such as the Ackerman, Banta, Bogert, De Baun, Hopper, Marinus, Terhune, Van Der Beek, Van Dien, Van Houten, Westervelt and Zabriskie families, shortly afterwards settled in this locality, purchasing their land from the Van Emburgh estate. Many of these families are still represented by their descendants, while the property of others has been disposed of to city purchasers in search of suburban homes.

#### COLONIAL PERIOD

During the Colonial period and for many years afterwards, the people devoted their time almost entirely to agricultural pursuits. The farms each contained a large number of acres, and were scattered over so extensive an area that in consequence a slow development of the community resulted.

The homes generally were of stone with a southern or eastern exposure and with old-fashioned flower gardens in the front.

Since the early settlers had come from Holland, they naturally for many years spoke their mother tongue, which in later years became known as "Jersey Dutch."

Following the teachings of their early youth, the Dutch settlers were not long in establishing a house of worship. In 1725 they organized the "Peremus Kirk," and in 1735 erected the first Church building on ground furnished by Peter Fauconier. Here for many years the services were conducted in the Dutch language.

This church is now called the congregation of the Reformed Church of Paramus and is located in the northeastern part of Ridgewood. For many years, until the organization of other churches, the Paramus Church served a territory of about fifteen square miles, and was the central gathering place for the neighboring country for all purposes related to the community interests.

#### THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The excitement which the tyranny of the British Government aroused in the colonies was felt throughout the present Bergen County, and on the 12th day of May, 1775, a Committee of Safety was organized with John Fell of Paramus as chairman. Party feeling ran high and many and bitter were the feuds among the people, although historians state that the Patriots were greatly superior in number to the Tories. The proximity of the Bergen district to New York made it important territory during the Revolutionary War. It was the gate to New Jersey and the West. Recognizing its importance, each party sought to fortify and to hold it in possession.

While no battles of importance were fought within the limits of the present county, its soil became a highway for the tread of marching armies, and its cultivated farms often attracted raiding and foraging parties of the enemy from New York City. Its people gave their sons to the cause, and provided supplies to the several American camps within their boundaries.

Among the names of such camp-grounds that of "Paramus" takes a prominent place. Tradition states that it was just south of the Paramus Church. The poet Barlow, who wrote the old-fashioned poem "Hasty Pudding," was at one time a chaplain in the army and he wrote to friends one evening that he had been all day making the rounds of his camp and that it extended from Paramus four miles toward Hackensack.

Tradition also states that the Commissary Department of the American forces occupied about ten acres of land now the site of the Valleau Cemetery opposite the old church. The church edifice existing at that time was used by the American forces at various times as a prison and for other purposes, and was so greatly damaged that in 1785 it was necessary to make extensive repairs. The graveyard connected with the church contains the remains of many patriots and British soldiers who died while their armies were in this vicinity.

Washington and his army were at Paramus several times. Many



*Courtesy C. H. L. Mitchell*

The "Old Elm" in Ho-Ho-Kus



important papers were sent from here, but all trace of Washington's headquarters seems to have been lost. It was here, after his great conflict at Monmouth, that Washington established his headquarters from July 11 to July 15, 1778. Here, on Sunday, July 12, he wrote to the President of Congress in response to the vote of thanks which had been passed by Congress for the important victory he had gained at Monmouth. At this time, also, he received advice of the arrival of the French fleet under Count d'Estaing.

He was at Paramus December 5th to 8th of the same year, and on July 30 and October 7, 1780.

The following references also indicate that some soldiers must have been stationed at Paramus nearly all the time:

General Clinton was informed of clothing for troops to be sent to Paramus, November 2, 1776;

General Clinton was informed of return of Deputy Treasurer from Paramus, November 27, 1776;

General Clinton was at Paramus December 17, 20 and 21, 1776, and January 7 and 13, 1777;

General Heath was at Paramus, December 19, 1776;

General Clinton sent scouting parties from Ramapo as far as Paramus December 23 and 29, 1776;

Colonel McClaughey's regiment was at Paramus, January 1, 1777;

Stores at Paramus were under guard of eighty or one hundred men, May 9, 1777;

Tea stored at Paramus was stolen, June 17, 1777;

Washington's army was cantoned from Fort Defiance to Paramus, August 9, 1779;

Headquarters of Major Henry Lee were located here, August 22, 1779, and September 4, 1779;

Headquarters of Lord Stirling were located here, on October 8, 1780.

On September 8, 1780, occurred the death of General Enoch Poor at Kinderhamack, a few miles east of Paramus. His body was brought to Paramus and on September 10th he was buried in the graveyard of the First Reformed Dutch Church in Hackensack.

For a long time a branch of Washington's army was stationed in the Ramapo Valley along the section now the Havemeyer estate, and from there small detachments were thrown out across the country.

Paramus, lying between this station and the Hudson River, was subject to the march and countermarches of troops belonging to both parties.

At the time the American Army was retreating across New Jersey, and before it was half-way to Trenton, General Heath came down from his station in the highlands of the Hudson River and by the way of Paramus made an attack upon the British and Tories at Tappan, New York.

It was on the route of the American Army as it moved from Newark to King's Ferry, July 5, 1778; while one division of the French, in the march of the allies to Yorktown, passed through Paramus to the north.

Under the "Old Elm," located in Ho-Ho-Kus on Franklin Turn-

pike (which starts near the Paramus Church), a granite marker was placed on May 30, 1914, by the Ramapo Valley Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, as marking the route of General Washington and his troops from Fort Lee to Ramapough during the Revolutionary War, 1776-1781.

When Aaron Burr was appointed in 1777 a Lieutenant-Colonel in the American Army, he joined his regiment at Ramapo, where it was then stationed. At Paramus resided Mrs. Provost, the widow of Colonel Provost, of the British Army. It is stated that while Burr commanded the American lines at Fort Washington, he frequently came over to Fort Lee, obtained a horse, and rode to visit the widow at Paramus, returning to his headquarters before daylight. Mrs. Provost afterwards became the wife of Burr and according to tradition was married to him in the old Paramus Church.

It was while stationed here that Burr achieved his first military success. His regiment had encamped at Ramapo, in September, 1777, when intelligence was brought that the enemy was in Hackensack in great force and advancing into the country. Colonel Burr immediately marched with all effective men, except a guard to take care of the camp, and arrived at Paramus, a distance of sixteen miles, before sunset, where he found considerable bodies of militia in great alarm and disorder.

Colonel Burr set some of the militia to repairing fences which had been destroyed by them in their endeavor to mobilize. Having taken measures to secure the troops from surprise and also to provide protection for the corn fields, he marched immediately with about thirty of the most active of the regiment and a few militia to ascertain the position and numbers of the enemy.

About ten o'clock at night, when within three miles of Hackensack, Burr, receiving word that he was within a mile of the picket guard of the enemy, led his men into a wood, ordered them to sleep until he awakened them, and went alone to discover the enemy's position. Returning about half an hour later, he awakened his men and ordered them to follow, forbidding any man to speak or fire under pain of death. Thus proceeding, they came shortly within a few yards of the picket guard before their approach was suspected. Burr then gave the word and his men rushed upon the enemy before they had time to secure their arms. The greater part of the enemy were killed, a few taken prisoners, and some accoutrements brought off without the loss of a man.

An express was immediately sent to Paramus by Burr to order all the troops to move and to rally the country. His success had so encouraged the inhabitants that they turned out with great alacrity and put themselves under his command. The enemy, however, probably alarmed by these threatening appearances, retreated the next day, leaving behind them the greater part of the plunder which they had taken.

One of the detachments thrown out by the patriot army stationed in the Ramapo Valley, was located at Hoppertown, now Ho-Ho-Kus, and operated as a sub-base for smaller parties. The presence of this force at Ho-Ho-Kus, together with the larger encampments at Ramapo

and at Paramus, subjected the country to the depredations of the British and Tories in their numerous attempts to reach the American stations and to destroy the possible sources of supplies. Some of these sorties were as follows:

About January 1, 1776, shortly after General Clinton had garrisoned his troops at Ramapo, the British, numbering between five and eight hundred troops, arrived at Hackensack. After imprisoning a number of the citizens in sympathy with the American cause, they marched on to Paramus, where they plundered some of the inhabitants of that neighborhood, afterwards returning to Hackensack with citizens of Paramus, whom they also confined in the Hackensack jail.

On the night of December 27, 1776, several families at Paramus were plundered in a raid and several friends of the American cause were taken away as prisoners.

During the night of April 21, 1779, the Tories under John Van De Roder took possession of the mill belonging to Jonathan Hopper, a captain of the militia. Hopper was born and raised at Hoppertown, but was then running a grist and saw mill at Wagaraw, on the present site of Alyea's Lee House, where Maple Avenue crosses the Passaic River to Paterson. Hopper's wife, hearing the noise, awoke her husband, and told him that some persons were in the mill. He arose, went to the door and, demanding to know who was there, was shot through the hand. The Tories then rushed into the house, seized him, and forced his wife to hold a light while they ran him through nineteen times with bayonets and killed him.

On March 23, 1780, two parties, each consisting of about three hundred British and Hessian soldiers, landed, the one at Closter, several miles above Fort Lee, and the other at Weehawken, the former force to penetrate the country northward to Hoppertown and to attack the cantonment at that place, and the other to surprise the town of Hackensack and to push on and then attack the front of the American forces at Paramus. The Court House and several dwellings in Hackensack were burned and the entire route marked by devastation. At the Paramus Church, where the two invading forces joined, they met the militia and citizens of the community, with the Continental troops stationed there, and were driven back. They succeeded in taking with them, however, about fifty prisoners, mostly citizens and members of the militia, who were thrown in the Old Sugar House Prison, many never to return.

Leaving New York City on April 15, 1780, a body of the British forces, consisting of two hundred horse and three hundred foot, landed in New Jersey at several points. Forming a junction near the English neighborhood, the whole detachment proceeded to the New Bridge on the Hackensack, where they arrived early in the morning of the 16th. After a skirmish with the American forces at that place, they continued their march to Paramus, coming in sight of the church a little after day-break. Finding the American forces had fallen back to Hoppertown, they proceeded until discovered by a picket at the bridge upon the Saddle River. Although the small American force under Major Byles was taken by surprise, it heroically attempted to defend its posi-

tion. During the engagement, however, Major Byles was mortally wounded, and his lieutenant killed. Overwhelmed by numbers, the Americans were compelled to surrender. The American losses by death, wounded, and those taken prisoner, were one Major, two Captains, four Lieutenants, and about forty rank and file, while the British lost seven rank and file killed, two Sergeants, and twenty-nine rank and file wounded.

After the encounter the British burned the house of Garret Hopper, who had bravely seconded the endeavors of the party to defend it, and who was badly wounded in the fray. They also burnt his mill and his brother's house.

In commemoration of the events connected with the community's history during the War of the American Revolution, the New Jersey Society, of the Sons of the American Revolution, in conjunction with Paramus Chapter No. 6, on July 4, 1914, placed and dedicated the following bronze tablet upon the Paramus Church building:

NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA  
NEAR THIS HOUSE OF GOD  
ENCAMPED  
GENERAL WASHINGTON AND HIS  
ARMY IN 1778  
IN GRATEFUL TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE PATRIOTS WHO  
SLEPT IN THE ADJACENT CHURCHYARD AND TO THE MEN  
AND WOMEN OF THIS COMMUNITY WHO ASSISTED  
SO VALIANTLY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE  
THIS TABLET IS PLACED BY  
THE NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF THE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
JULY 4TH, 1914

Paramus, as seen by an officer while in encampment here in 1778, is described as follows:

"This town is chiefly inhabited by Dutch people. Their church and dwelling houses are built of rough stone, one story high. There is a peculiar neatness in the appearance of their dwellings, having an airy piazza supported by pillars in front, and their kitchens connected at the ends in the form of wings. The land is remarkably level and the soil fertile, and being generally advantageously cultivated, the people appear to enjoy ease and a happy competency. The furniture in their homes is of the most ordinary kind, such as might be supposed to accord with the fashion of the days of Queen Anne. They despise the superfluities of life and are ambitious to appear always neat and cleanly and never to complain of an empty purse."

#### 1782-1865

After the Revolutionary War, the agreeable climate and the fertility of the soil attracted new settlers, who soon became established in the community. The growth of the community, however, was slow, owing to the fact that the people were widely scattered upon farms, and means of communication and of transportation were meagre and unsatisfactory.

The earliest settlements were near the Paramus Church, but soon



after the year 1800, a large area of country was developed, extending from the present site of Wortendyke to Lydecker's Mills (now Midland Park). This region was named Newtown by Cornelius Wortendyke.

Lydecker's Mill, which was located a few rods below the present stone mill (occupied today by H. J. Wostbrock engaged in the manufacture of flannels), was a flour mill to which the farmers for many miles around brought their grain. The stone mill was built by Abraham Van Riper about the year 1826, and Midland Park was then known as Van Riper's Mill. Other mills in operation in this neighborhood were early known as Baldwin's Mill, the Quackenbush or Post Mill, and the Turning Mill.

The Stone Mill, about the year 1829, was used by Messrs. Van Winkle and Park for the manufacture of cotton yarn and warps. When they later sold out to Messrs. Munn and Whitehead, this mill and the other three were operated in the manufacture of cotton yarn, and the old Lydecker Mill was converted into rooms for making and sizing cotton warps. Ira Munn, who was related to Abraham Godwin of Revolutionary memory, in his honor about this time gave to this part of Newtown the name Godwinville—a name it retained for nearly forty-five years.

Abraham Godwin, when a lad of from twelve to fifteen years of age, enlisted with his two brothers under Colonel Lewis Du Bois in the Fifth Regiment, New York State Line. He served from January 1, 1777, to January, 1782, reaching the grade of Fife-Major. One brother, Henry, became Captain of the Seventh Company of the Fifth Regiment, while the other brother, David, served as a drummer in Henry's Company.

After the war, and until his death on October 6, 1835, in the seventy-fourth year of his life, Abraham Godwin was the proprietor of the Passaie Hotel in Paterson.

The settlement of Godwinville progressed and soon covered the territory between Paramus and Newtown (Wortendyke) and included within its boundaries the present municipalities of Ridgewood, Glen Rock, and Midland Park.

The centre of the present site of Ridgewood in the early forties had only one house, a small stone building, located south of the Play House on the summit of the rise just west of the Erie Railroad tracks. The house was owned by a man named McSweeney and afterwards was occupied by a Danish family named Thompson. This old stone house finally did service as Ridgewood's first lockup for lawbreakers.

The next house on the west side of the tracks was on Godwin Avenue and was the home of David D. Ackerman, the grandfather of the present Ackerman Brothers, the grocers.

Further west on Godwin Avenue, on the rise just beyond the hollow at Garfield Place, stood a house then occupied by James Jenkins and now occupied by William Runk.

Next came a house, used as a tavern by James Blauvelt, situated on the present Martin property, at the head of Cherry Lane (Lincoln Avenue). On this same site Garrett I. Hopper afterwards had his home. On the northwest corner of Cherry Lane and Godwin Avenue



a blacksmith and wheelwright shop was erected and kept at one time by Mose Decker.

In front of this shop a public whipping-post, not an uncommon object in that period, had been set up in a triangle formed by the turning of Cherry Lane in both directions into Godwin Avenue.

At the junction of Ackerman and Doremus Avenues stood the stone portion of the house now occupied by Garrett G. Ackerman.

East of the railroad tracks other houses of that period were as follows:

On the site of the present Opera House stood an old stone farmhouse, said to be owned by a family named Archabald. The barn was located on the east side of Oak Street. Near it was the well, which still remains and which is now covered by a large flat stone. Few who pass the stone realize that it marks the site of the well whose water for many years slaked the thirst of many of the former inhabitants.

The stone portion of the house, now the office of Dr. W. L. Vroom, on West Ridgewood Avenue, was built and occupied by Peter J. Hopper, the father of Albert P. Hopper.

The next house on Ridgewood Avenue was on the Wesley Van Emburgh place and was owned and occupied by Samuel Hopper.

On the west side of Maple Avenue, on the property now owned by Samuel D. Graydon and near the gate to its entrance, stood an old stone house with its end to the road. This was originally owned by Peter Van Emburgh. It was demolished in 1864 and its stones were used for the facing of a fence which has likewise disappeared.

Where the Cameron property is now located stood a stone house which was remodeled in 1850 by its owner, a Mr. White, from whom Mr. Cameron purchased the property.

At the corner of Maple Avenue and Cameron Lane stood the stone house owned and occupied by Cornelius Zabriskie, who carried on a blacksmith business at the northeast corner of Maple and Harrison Avenues. His shop was built about 1800 and demolished in 1850.

Just north of the Cornelius Zabriskie house and on the present site of the residence of E. L. Zabriskie, stood an old stone house with its end to the road. This house was standing in 1811 when the property was purchased by Mr. Zabriskie's great-grandfather. It was torn down in 1850 and in that year the present Zabriskie house (recently remodeled) was built by A. J. Zabriskie.

Near the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook, a little south of Ridgewood Avenue and on the right-of-way of the present trolley line, stood the home of Garret A. Hopper, a brother of Samuel.

On the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Paramus Road stood a grist and sawmill, built and operated by General Andrew H. Hopper, and destroyed by fire in 1860. A second mill was put up by a Mr. Jaroleman in 1861 and conducted as a cider, grist and sawmill until it burned a few years later.

The residence of Henry Van Emburgh was located on the east side of Maple Avenue, northeast of the present Ridgewood Commercial Company's garage. It was afterwards occupied by his son, George Van

Emburgh, and later purchased by Captain Samuel Dayton and used as his homestead, finally being destroyed by fire.

The house located at the northwest junction of Prospect Street and Maple Avenue, and still occupied, was formerly the homestead of Harmanus Van Derbeek, and was built over one hundred years ago. Another house dating back a hundred years is the old Van Dien House, situated on Grove Street near Pleasant Avenue.

These houses, together with the old stone houses on the Paramus Road, referred to in that part of this book which describes the "Early Dutch Homes," comprised the nucleus of what is now Ridgewood. At that time the centre of the Village was considered, geographically, as covering the twelve or fifteen acres of land included between Prospect Street on the East, a line about one hundred and fifty feet West of the Erie tracks on the West, Ridgewood Avenue on the North, and a line passing near the Broad Street Colored Church on the South.

The opening about the year 1848 of the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad, which connected with the Erie at Suffern, and with the Paterson and Hudson River Railroad at Paterson, gave a new impulse of growth to the little settlement, which at that time consisted practically of two or three intersecting roads and scattered farms.

The nearest station on the new railroad was located at Ho-Ho-Kus. When the manufacturers at Godwinville, with their Paramus neighbors, asked for a station nearer by, they were refused, and it was only after a controversy of three years that they secured a station at the Godwinville Road Crossing (the present junction of Ridgewood, Franklin and Godwin Avenues). At first only freight trains stopped. It was two years more before the place was made a stop for passenger trains and a platform built. In 1853 several New Yorkers, settling in the village, started the erection of homes in the vicinity of the station. In 1859 a depot was erected by the residents, commutation to New York City having started a year earlier.

#### THE CIVIL WAR

The excitement in Bergen County, when the news of the attack upon Fort Sumter was received, was equal in intensity to that in any section of the country. War measures were spoken of and flags were displayed on many buildings. As in the Revolutionary times, the people were divided in sentiment, some feeling that the war was unrighteous and unnecessary. The people of this community, however, although differing strenuously in political views on questions of governmental policy, were for the most part loyal to the Union. Their enthusiasm was sufficient to secure the erection of two spacious buildings for drilling military recruits. From these drill halls, representing as they did two opposing political parties, many young men went forth to do or die for their country. One of these buildings was called Union Hall, and was built by the Republicans. The first speech made within its walls was delivered by Horace Greeley. The building has for many years been a chapel connected with the Paramus Church. The other, demolished a few years ago, was a clapboard building located east of Ho-Ho-Kus on the property of John Quaekenbush. It was built by the Society for Pro-

mulgation of Education in Bergen County, and was used as the drill room of the National Guard of Ho-Ho-Kus, of which Abram Van Emburgh was Captain. When this company enlisted in the Civil War, it became part of the Twenty-second Regiment, of which Captain Van Emburgh was made Lieutenant-Colonel on February 20, 1863.

The morning after Fort Sumter was fired upon, Rev. E. T. Corwin, then pastor of the Paramus Church (he died in 1914 and is buried in Valleau Cemetery), fastened a flag to a pole and thrust it out of the belfry of the old church. When the congregation came to church the following Sunday they found "Old Glory" waving in the breeze above them. Some of the members objected, telling the pastor it was not right to have the flag there inasmuch as there was a division of opinion in the congregation. They insisted that the flag must come down. Two patriotic members, William Ranlett and John Jacob Zabriskie, approved of the pastor's action and declared that they would protect him in keeping the flag on the steeple. During the week a committee of the objectors called on Mr. Corwin and demanded the removal of the flag before the next Sabbath's service. Mr. Ranlett, on the other hand, immediately armed and equipped twenty-five men at his own expense.

On the following Sunday morning, after the congregation had assembled on the church grounds, the committee approached the pastor and informed him that, as they had stated before, the flag must come down, and come down at once. As they started toward the belfry, the pastor halted them and said: "I told you our flag should wave above us until the war is over. I have twenty-five men who will help me protect it. The first man who touches that flag to tear it down will be shot!"

In the midst of the excitement, the committee and their sympathizers gathered their families and left the scene, many never to return again to worship in the Paramus Church.

The flag lasted half a year and was replaced by others until the close of the war.

The majority of the citizens of this vicinity, responding to their country's call, were enlisted in Companies B and D of the Twenty-second Regiment, New Jersey Infantry, which was known as the Bergen County Regiment. Before departing to join their regiment, they assembled in the Guard Room. Rev. Mr. Corwin, after preaching a farewell sermon, gave each man a copy of the Holy Bible to take with him. These companies were originally made up of the following officers and men; and those of this vicinity as recalled at the present time are indicated by stars as follows:

- \* Ridgewood.
- \*\* Ho-Ho-Kus.
- \*\*\* Glen Rock.

#### COMPANY B

- \*\*Captain Abraham Van Emburgh
- \*\*First Lieutenant Jacob Z. Van Blarcom
- \*\*2nd Lieutenant Benjamin Z. Van Emburgh

- \*1st Sergeant Andrew Van Emburgh
- \*\*2nd Sergeant Charles Van Riper
- \*\*3rd Sergeant Thomas Eckerson
- \*\*4th Sergeant James A. Osborne
- \*5th Sergeant Theodore V. Terhune
- \*\*1st Corporal Aaron Van Derbeck
- \*\*2nd Corporal Abraham H. Hopper
- \*3rd Corporal Cornelius D. Ackerman
- 4th Corporal Daniel Van Blareom
- 5th Corporal Stephen D. Bartholf
- \*\*6th Corporal Theodore Bamber
- \*\*7th Corporal John Acker
- \*8th Corporal Walter S. Terhune

#### PRIVATES

- |                      |                        |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Abrams, Elias        | Howard, Cornelius      | Terhune, Andrew A.     |
| Abrams, Henry        | Jenks, John G.         | Terhune, Henry H.      |
| Ackerman, Peter      | Kent, Cornelius C.     | Terhune, James E.      |
| Allen, Henry T.      | Lake, John             | Terhune, Joseph F.     |
| ** Banta, Thomas T.  | Lenox, George          | Terwilliger, James H.  |
| Bertholf, Peter      | * Lutkins, John H.     | * Thompson, Ackerson   |
| Brower, Robert D.    | Lutkins, Richard       | Thompson, James, Jr.   |
| Cap, George          | * Mabey, Frederick B.  | * Thompson, John H.    |
| Conklin, John E.     | ** Magroff, Martin     | Thompson, John J.      |
| Cooley, Edward       | *** Marinus, Christian | * Thompson, William H. |
| De Baun, Isaac V. B. | Marsh, George W.       | Tinker, James          |
| Doremus, William     | * Masker, Lewis        | *** Thurston, Anthony  |
| Doty, Thomas E.      | May, John J.           | Trumper, Harman        |
| Durling, John        | Meeker, William D.     | ** Turse, Jacob Y.     |
| Edwards, James W.    | Messenger, Philip      | Van Horn, William      |
| English, William     | Miller, William H. G.  | Van Riper, Peter       |
| Finch, Isaac P.      | ** Myers, John J.      | ** Van Vorst, Henry    |
| Finch, John          | ** Myers, Martin J.    | Waldron, John L.       |
| Finch, Joseph        | ** Osborne, William A. | Wanamaker, Josiah      |
| Harrop, John         | ** Perry, James        | Ward, Peter            |
| Hennion, Andrew      | Peterson, Barney       | West, Charles          |
| Hennion, Garret G.   | Pulis, Jacob           | Whitmore, James        |
| Hopper, Albert G.    | * Ryan, Patrick        | Whitmore, Wm. H.       |
| Hopper, David        | Ryerson, Albert B.     | Winters, William       |
| Hopper, Garret U.    | Schmide, Simon         | Wykoff, Samuel B.      |
| Hopper, Henry L.     | Stun, Daniel           | Yeomans, Josiah        |
| Hopper, John A.      | Stun, Isaac            | Yeomans, Myndert       |
| Hopper, Joseph B.    | ** Terhune, Alexander  | Yeomans, Samuel J.     |

#### COMPANY D

- Captain John C. Westervelt
- First Lieutenant Walter H. Rumsey
- 2nd Lieutenant Nicholas Collingnon
- 1st Sergeant Abraham C. Herring
- 2nd Sergeant Thomas Demarest
- \*\*\*3rd Sergeant John A. Marinus
- 4th Sergeant Nicholas Ottignon
- 5th Sergeant Jasper J. Westervelt
- 1st Corporal Isaac D. Bogert
- 2nd Corporal Genest M. Ottignon
- \*3rd Corporal James B. Westervelt
- 4th Corporal Charles M. Westervelt
- 5th Corporal James A. Ottignon
- 6th Corporal John F. Herring
- 7th Corporal Henry Swin
- 8th Corporal Henry Clay Humphrey



PRIVATES

** Ackerman, Abraham R.	Demarest, John	** Perry, John H.
** Ackerman, Garret	Demarest, John J.	** Post, John J.
* Ackerman, George W.	Demarest, Peter J.	Post, Robert J.
Ackerman, James P.	Dow, John	Pulis, Peter D.
Ackerman, James W.	Earl, Daniel	Raulet, C. Louis
Ackerson, John C.	Eckerson, David D., Jr.	Riker, Abraham A.
Baker, George	Eckerson, Edward T.	Rumsey, Owen I.
* Banner, James	Eckerson, Jacob B.	* Schilte, Marinus
Banta, Aaron V.	Eckerson, John C.	Smith, Daniel W.
Banta, Abraham P.	Everson, Benjamin	Stalter, Samuel
Bartow, James	Flood, James	Storms, Abraham C.
Blauvelt, Abraham	Gurnee, David	Straut, Richard
Blauvelt, Abraham D.	Herring, Abraham P.	Terhune, Albert J., Jr.
Blauvelt, Abraham J.	Herring, Daniel	Townsend, John
Blauvelt, John J.	Herring, John P.	Ulmer, Frederick
Blauvelt, Lucas C.	Hill, Thomas E.	Van Buskirk, Benj.
Blauvelt, William	Hopper, Abraham A.	Van Buskirk, Chas. E.
Bogert, Abraham B.	Jersey, John J.	Van Derlinder, Jacob
Bogert, Cornelius J.	Jones, Joseph E.	** Van Dien, John
Bogert, James M.	Kent, Cornelius J.	Van Orden, William
Bradley, Joseph A.	Kingsland, Theodore	Van Riper, Fred. A.
Cole, Isaac	Kitchel, Isaac M.	* Van Saun, Isaac
Collingnon, Angus. M.	Lockwood, David	* Wanamaker, John H.
Cook, Francis	** Monroe, David	Waring, Peter P.
Cosker, Felix A. M.	** Monroe, Stephen	Westervelt, Henry P.
* Crouter, Cornelius P.	* Mowerson, John Jacob	** Williams, John
Crouter, James	* Naugle, John D.	Wood, Abraham
Demarest, Cornelius E.	Ottignon, John C.	Wortendyke, Abraham

The foregoing is not a complete list of all enlistments from this vicinity. Others, whose records are not available at this time, were associated with regiments other than the 22nd New Jersey. One of our oldest citizens, Benjamin Eglin, served first in Company A, Twenty-second Regiment, and later in the Third New Jersey Cavalry.

The Twenty-second Infantry Regiment was organized under the provisions of an Act of Congress, approved July 22, 1861, and mustered into the United States service for nine months, September 22, 1862. The regiment was made up chiefly from the bone and sinew of Bergen County's agricultural population, the total number of officers and men being nine hundred and thirty-nine. It left the State for Washington, D. C., on September 29, 1862. Upon arrival at its destination it was ordered into camp, called Camp Fornett, ten miles west of Georgetown, D. C., just south of what is now Cabin John's Bridge, having been assigned to a provisional brigade, Casey's Division, defences of Washington. It remained in this position until about the first of December, when it proceeded to Aquia Creek, Virginia, and was assigned to Provost Duty, guarding the railroad, transferring wounded prisoners, etc.

In January, 1863, the regiment was assigned to the First Army Corps and joined the Army of the Potomac. It continued its organization and remained in active service until the expiration of its term, when it was ordered to return to New Jersey for its discharge and was mustered out of service at Trenton, June 25, 1863.

The regiment was first attached to Casey's Division, defences of

Washington, then to Patrick's Brigade, Provost Guard, Army of the Potomac, and then to the Third Brigade, First Division, First Army Corps.

The only important engagement it took part in was the movement on Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 2 and 3, 1863.

#### THE BIRTH OF RIDGEWOOD

The factors responsible for the establishment of the community of Ridgewood were the early Dutch, who settled in Paramus and its vicinity and engaged in agricultural pursuits, and the manufacturing interests that located in the hamlet of Godwinville (now Midland Park). Through the joint efforts of these people, a station, situated between the two settlements and serving both, was established on the railroad, which followed a route suggested by General George Clinton during the Revolutionary War as a natural thoroughfare.

This railroad station became the center of activities for the territory it served. Business enterprises located near it, and people who moved here from New York City built homes within easy walking distance of it.

The influence of the ideas of the new residential element, in conjunction with the precedents set by the practical and thrifty earlier settlers, laid the foundations for a new and a better community. Many improvements were made. New houses were erected and were provided with greater conveniences than the older buildings; roads were bettered; and with the passing of the year 1865 the general spirit of advancement of a fair-sized progressive village was plainly evident.

It was at this point in the history of the community that its name was changed from Godwinville to Ridgewood. This was done in 1866, following several years of agitation on the part of the citizens. While the action at that time may have been considered as one of change of name only, it really had a greater significance in that it marked the birth of Ridgewood, a truly residential community with a character and an individuality of its own.



*Courtesy E. L. Zabriskie*



*Courtesy C. H. L. Mitchell*



*Aljian Studio*

The Development of West Ridgewood Avenue, Looking from Waller Building to Station  
 Upper—1876      Center—1896      Lower—1916

## CHAPTER II

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND NATURAL FEATURES

#### NAME

THE name now applied to the Village and Township—Ridgewood—was adopted during the year 1866 at the suggestion of Mrs. Cornelia Dayton, wife of William Dayton, because of its appropriateness—the Ridge of Woods on the Heights. Previous to this the settlement had been known as Godwinville, and had then included a portion of the tract called the Paramus Plains, Glen Rock, formerly known as Small Lots, and Midland Park, formerly called Lydecker's Mills.

#### LOCATION

Ridgewood is located on the Main Line of the Erie Railroad, five miles beyond Paterson and twenty-one miles from New York City.

Situated in the western part of Bergen County, it is bounded on the north by Ho-Ho-Kus Township, on the south by the Borough of Glen Rock and by Saddle River Township, on the east by the Saddle River, and on the west by the Borough of Midland Park, by Franklin Township, and by Passaic County.

#### APPEARANCE

The Village lies in the foothills of the Watchung and the Ramapo Mountains, at an elevation at some points of three hundred feet. This environment is responsible for its remarkable diversity of scenery and the great natural beauty of its rolling surface and wooded heights, while the lack of factories and a universal plan of building homes on grounds of ample dimensions further enhances its attractiveness.

The land dips and curves—here only a gentle eminence, there a commanding, tree-crowned height overlooking almost the entire county, from whence on clear days are visible the spires of half a dozen cities, and at night the myriad lights of New York.

Less than half a mile east of the railroad station the land for quite a distance is apparently almost level. Elsewhere there are shady dells and sheltered nooks.

The clear-watered brook Ho-Ho-Kus meanders through the Village not far from its center, and, further on along its eastern boundary, there flows the larger stream which gives to this part of the country the name of Saddle River Valley. Each of these streams adds to the dominant and distinctive characteristic of Ridgewood—varied picturesqueness.

The Village is built up on both sides of the tracks of the main line of the Erie Railroad. The principal business section, however, is on the east side within two blocks of the railroad station, and the majority of the churches and of the schools are also on that side. This inequality in the distribution of activities is due to an earlier and greater development of real estate on the one side of the Village. Dur-



ing the past two years, however, the growth has been quite equally divided between the east and west sides.

#### SOIL

The soil of Ridgewood and of its vicinity is in general porous, and has always been known as exceedingly fertile and susceptible of a high degree of cultivation. In some localities clay of a heavy nature predominates, while in others sand abounds. Very little gravel is found.

#### CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

One of the greatest factors contributing to Ridgewood's development is the salubrity of its climate. The breezes which sweep over the Paramus Highlands and across the Paramus Plains, as two sections of the community were called of old, have long been known to be dry and bracing and free from the harshness and humidity of salt air common to localities near the sea-coast. Also during the summer months the breezes from the Passaic Valley, on the south and southwest of the Village, are particularly cool and refreshing.

#### ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

The roads passing through Ridgewood, before its existence as a community, formed a part of the main arteries of travel in this section of the country.

As they hold the same relative positions at the present time, it is felt that a better understanding of their situation and development will be obtained if they are considered and described not purely from a local standpoint but rather in connection with the routes of which they were or are a part, with mention of such subsequent changes as resulted when these highways passed through the confines of the locality.

#### *Hoboken-Goshen Stage Route*

Starting at Areola, running parallel with the eastern boundary line of Ridgewood Township, curving to the west as it enters the north-eastern portion of Ridgewood, and ending at the Paramus Church, the Paramus Road formed a part of the old stage route between Hoboken and Goshen.

Upon leaving the Paramus Church, the driver had the choice either of continuing along the West Saddle River Road and then turning west, going over the old road along the race-track to Ho-Ho-Kus, or of passing through Harrison Avenue, formerly called Libby Lane, to Maple Avenue and thence to Ho-Ho-Kus.

The stage route was marked by brown stones set a mile apart, each one giving the number of miles from Hoboken. One of these stones formerly indicating the regular route now stands in front of the residence of George Berdan on Harrison Avenue; while two are still standing on Paramus Road, one on the east side of the road near the barn on the farm of Aletta Van Dien, occupied by Mr. Paxton, and the other on the same side of the road in front of the Pell farm, now owned by Mr. Charles S. Chapman.

*Pompton-Hoboken Highway*

Starting at Pompton and entering Ridgewood on the west side, this highway made a detour to the north and then to the east across the township until it intersected the Paramus Road, down which the route to Hoboken was continued. This road was associated with historic events in the days of the Revolution.

This thoroughfare is also referred to as the road from Newtown (Wortendyke) to Paramus, the road from Godwinville to Paramus, and the road from Lydecker's Mills to Paramus, and was commonly called Godwinville Road. At the present time, within the limits of Ridgewood, it is known as Godwin Avenue and West and East Ridgewood Avenues.

*Hoppertown-Paterson Turnpike*

In the early days the traveler was forced to take a roundabout way to reach Paterson, using what was known as the Hoppertown-Paterson Turnpike.

Leaving Hoppertown (now Ho-Ho-Kus), the route followed the highway now known as Maple Avenue as far as the present Ridgewood Avenue. Continuing along West Ridgewood and Godwin Avenues to the beginning of Lincoln Avenue (then called Cherry Lane, from the fact that both sides of the road was lined with wild cherry trees), it followed this road in a southerly course through the southwestern portion of the Village to its intersection with the old Wagaraw Road at the Passaic River, where Moffat's Bridge is now located. It then turned westward to Morrow's Mills (now Hawthorne Mills) at the head of the Goffle Road and thence through North Main Street into Paterson.

During the forties, efforts were made to shorten the distance nearly one-half by straightening the road from Hoppertown and by carrying it across Ridgewood Avenue, where the Rouclere House now stands, to follow the present general course of Maple Avenue into Paterson.

The petitioners for this improvement were successful, however, in establishing only the present lines of the road as far as the Hoppertown Road below Ferndale. The route then followed the road to Lincoln Avenue just south of the Diamond Bridge, continuing as before by way of Morrow's Mills into Paterson. In the summertime and at low water, it was possible for a traveler to shorten his route somewhat by fording the Passaic River at the foot of Lincoln Avenue, a little east of Moffat's Bridge.

The present route was finally established after repeated efforts made during the fifties, and the Wagaraw Bridge was constructed over the Passaic River at Alyea's Mill, connecting the road with River Street in Paterson.

The latest improvement to this thoroughfare, consisting of an amasite pavement from curb to curb, twenty-five feet wide, from the southern boundary line of the Village at Glen Rock to Meadow Brook Avenue, and twenty-eight feet wide from that point north to the Ho-Ho-Kus line, was completed during 1915 as the result of continued efforts on the part of former Freeholder Isaac E. Hutton, former Com-

missioner Frederick Pfeiffer, County Engineer Ralph D. Earle, Jr., and the present Commissioner, Dr. J. B. Hopper. The efforts of these officials were ably seconded by the property owners along its route, who with few exceptions agreed to pay the extra cost of widening the road from twenty-five to twenty-eight feet where necessary and to place curbs where the properties were without them.

### *Goffle Road*

The Goffle Road, separating the southwestern part of Ridgewood from Franklin Township, takes its name from the Dutch "de Gaffel," which in that language meant "The Fork" and refers to the fork where the ancient Indian trails separated about two miles northeast of Paterson, one continuing along the present Goffle Road and the other following the route of the old Wagaraw Road.

Originally this road followed a course starting at the termination of North Main Street, Paterson, and continuing along the northern bank of the Passaic River until its intersection with the old Wagaraw Road. Here it turned, following a course through the northern portion of Manchester Township, Passaic County, until it reached the place called Van Winkle. There it intersected a road leading to Pompton. At the present time it continues from that point, following a course parallel to the Goffle Brook until it reaches its termination at Godwin Avenue in Midland Park, just outside the boundary of Ridgewood.

### *Godwinville-Hackensack Road*

Starting on the south side of Godwin Avenue, this highway in Ridgewood is now known as Aekerman Avenue. Following along the west side of the Saddle River, in the earlier days, it gave the residents on that side of the river a direct route to Hackensack.

Later a bridge was constructed over the Saddle River at Arcola (formerly Red Mills), thereby enabling the traveler, by crossing the river at that point, to continue to Hackensack along the route of the old Hoboken-Goshen Stage Line.

### *Franklin Turnpike*

Established during the sixties and starting near the Paramus Church, this road continues towards Ho-Ho-Kus until it meets and joins the old road running along the race-track into Ho-Ho-Kus. After passing through that village it follows nearly the course of the Erie Railroad through Allendale, east of Ramsey and Mahwah, to Suffern.

### *Small Lots Road*

Prospect Street, south of Maple Avenue, was formerly known as the highway leading to Small Lots (Glen Rock).

### *Rock Road*

Forming a part of its southern boundary near the grounds of the Ridgewood Country Club, this road is one of the oldest in the vicinity of the Village of Ridgewood.

Starting at the Goffle Road and extending through the Borough of Glen Rock, it passes the great rock of stone located in that municipality, from which it derives its name, and joins the old Godwinville-Hackensack Road (Ackerman Avenue). It was first used as a connecting link by the Indians in their trails leading from the Ponds (Pompton) and the Ramapos to Arcola and Hackensack.

#### PLANT LIFE

The variety of wild flowers and plant life which abound in Ridgewood and its vicinity is remarkable. Yet, strange to say, few are sufficiently interested to look up the names of the wild flowers and to note their wonderful adaptability to their surroundings. To them the gate of nature's garden is closed. They miss the fascination of color and grace of form, the schemes of this plant for cross fertilization purposes or the indolence of that and its consequent downward trend in the scale of plant life.

Who would think of looking for wild flowers in the middle of February? Yet within two miles of the station may be found the spathe of the Skunk Cabbage exquisitely blotched with shades of crimson and purple on a cream ground, possibly pushing its way up through the snow. Within quite recent years on the embankment near the station the delicate, modest *Hepatica* might be found in early spring, in shades running from deep blue to almost white; and the Wild Geranium, *Claytonia* or Spring Beauty, Adder's Tongue, and the quaint little Dutchman's Breeches abound in our woods and by the wayside. Those who know where to look may yet find the wax-like flower of the Trailing *Arbutus* with its exotic perfume, or may explore the rocky and wooded haunts where the rather rare orchid known as Lady's Slipper luxuriates, raising its head of exquisite form and shaded coloring to the wondering eyes of the finder.

There are localities, too, within easy walking distance, where the burnished gold of the Marsh Marigold in its favorite swamp makes such places in the early May morning look auriferous, as if the sun were drawing the precious metal already refined from the recesses of the earth. A little later in the month the eye is delighted with a profusion of Wild Azalea in shades of vivid pink, and near it is found the Mountain Laurel, its cup-like blossoms more delicately tinted than Dresden China, the stamen caught back until by a quick release the pollen is scattered for fertilization.

In the low-lying sedgy ground of many a meadow, the flowering grasses make a carpet, with golden buttercups and the gracefully-swaying Purple Iris marking a pattern. One need not wait long in such a place to see the flash of the red-winged blackbird or to hear his familiar call. Later will be found on similar ground Blue Lobelia, Tall Meadow Rue, Grass of Parnassus, the carnivorous Pitcher Plant, and Indian Paint Brush, the vermilion paint still on it.

The thrill in finding the Yellow Orchid or its sister, the Purple Orchid, is quite worth the patient hunt for them. That orange mass of tangle in the bush is Angel's Hair or Dodder, a parasite deprived by nature of its leaves as punishment for its degenerate mode of life.



Among other parasites frequenting this section may be mentioned Broom-rape, the charming Pink Gerardia, which has not gone far on the downward path, and Indian Pipe or Ghost-flower, a hardened sinner, colorless yet beautiful in its degradation.

The exquisite Jewel-weed, its orange flowers suspended horizontally, haunts a running brook, and in the nearby marsh may be found the beautiful spikes of Pickerel-weed. The very showy orange Butterfly-weed and its more common cousin, purple Milkweed, are by no means strangers, the pods of the latter with their silky seed-tufts making a charming house decoration in the Fall. As summer wanes, come the purple Iron-weed, the magenta Joe-Pye weed towering six to eight feet high, the Goldenrods in endless variety, and, one of the last yet one of the most beautiful, the Fringed Gentian, with its flowers—

“Blue—blue—as if that sky let fall  
A flower from its cerulean wall.”

It is not possible in a book of this nature to describe even superficially the beauty of form and color, the modest grace or brazen effrontery and, above all, the ingenuity displayed in self-perpetuation of our neighbors, the wild flowers. It is hoped that the appended list will perhaps give the incentive to anyone enthusiastic enough to take a tramp at the right seasons and in the right direction to cultivate the friendship of these charming fellow-residents.

Ferns of many beautiful varieties are to be found in great abundance in the woods or damp places, while for those interested in Fungi, Ridgewood provides a fruitful field for research.

There is another phase of plant life to which Ridgewood is admirably adapted both by the nature of its soil and by its location; namely, horticulture. The wave of enthusiasm for garden work which has in recent years spread over the country has left its deep impression here. The climatic conditions, save in an exceptional year, are favorable for even semi-hardy plants. From early spring when Pansies, Tulips, Hyacinths and Narcissuses brighten our gardens with splashes of color, until the autumn frosts cut down the Dahlias, Cosmos, and Chrysanthemums, we have a long succession of æsthetic beauty most pleasing to the eye. Of utilitarian value are the early lettuce, peas and beans; indeed many of our gardens yield enough vegetables for the household during the whole summer, to say nothing of gifts to neighbors or stores laid by for the winter. There is no corn so sweet as that which you have planted and hoed yourself. The Garden Club is demonstrating this fact to a remarkable degree, both in theory and in practice. Men need only to be told that the early morning when the air is fresh and sweet and full of the songs of birds is the time to rest one's nerves and exercise one's muscles in the garden, when many of them try it out and become converted. The semi-annual exhibitions given by the Club increasingly demonstrate the degree of success which an amateur may attain, even though he spends his days in the city.

Our soil is well suited for both Roses and Dahlias and produces some wonderful flowers in these two varieties. More beautiful flowers are seldom seen than the Roses and Dahlias at the spring and fall

exhibitions of the Ridgewood Garden Club. These exhibitions provide the requisite incentive for producing the best that can be grown and afford opportunity for the interchange by members of ideas and information of much value, as evidenced by the improvement in numerous gardens in the village. The Garden Club does not forget the sick. Regularly during the season a committee appointed for the purpose collects and distributes to the nearby hospitals such flowers as are obtainable. It has further adopted the plan of offering a prize for children at its Flower Show for the best bouquet of wild flowers, and has thereby created considerable interest among the young people.

To enumerate the flowers, shrubs and vegetables which can be grown here would mean almost a recapitulation of any complete catalog. It will be of interest to many, however, to know what wild flowers may be found in the vicinity. The following list, not fully complete, is accordingly given:

- |                                                        |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Agrimony ( <i>Agrimonia hirsuta</i> )                  | Blue Linaria ( <i>Linaria Canadensis</i> )              |
| Alum Root ( <i>Heuchera Americana</i> )                | Bluweed ( <i>Echium vulgare</i> )                       |
| American Brooklime ( <i>Veronica Americana</i> )       | Boneset ( <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> )               |
| American Pennyroyal ( <i>Hedeoma pulegioides</i> )     | Bouncing Bet ( <i>Saponaria officinalis</i> )           |
| Anemone, Rue ( <i>Syndesmon thalictroides</i> )        | Broom-rape ( <i>Thalesia uniflora</i> )                 |
| Anemone, Wood ( <i>Anemone quinquefolia</i> )          | Buckbean ( <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> )               |
| Arbutus, Trailing ( <i>Epigaea Repens</i> )            | Buckwheat, Climbing False ( <i>Polygonum scandens</i> ) |
| Arrow-arum, Green ( <i>Peltandra Virginica</i> )       | Burdock ( <i>Aretium minus</i> )                        |
| Arrow-head ( <i>Sagittaria latifolia</i> )             | Bur-marigold ( <i>Bidens frondosa</i> )                 |
| Arrow Wood ( <i>Viburnum pubescens</i> )               | Bur-marigold, larger ( <i>Bidens levis</i> )            |
| Azalea, Pink ( <i>Azalea nudiflora</i> )               | Buttercups in variety ( <i>Ranunculus</i> )             |
| Azalea, White Swamp ( <i>Azalea viscosa</i> )          | Butterfly-weed ( <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> )            |
| Aster, Blue ( <i>Aster cordifolius</i> )               | Button-bush ( <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> )        |
| Aster, Pointed-leaved ( <i>Aster acuminatus</i> )      | Campion, Bladder ( <i>Silene vulgaris</i> )             |
| Aster, Purple ( <i>Aster patens</i> )                  | Campion, Starry ( <i>Silene Stellata</i> )              |
| Aster, Stiff-leaved ( <i>Ionactis Vinarii-folius</i> ) | Cancer-root, one-flowered ( <i>Aphyllon Uniflorum</i> ) |
| Aster, White Heath ( <i>Aster ericoides</i> )          | Cardinal Flower ( <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> )           |
| Aster, Wood ( <i>Aster divaricatus</i> )               | Carrion Flower ( <i>Smilax herbacea</i> )               |
| Baneberry, White ( <i>Actæa Alba</i> )                 | Catnip ( <i>Nepeta cataria</i> )                        |
| Barberry ( <i>Berberis vulgaris</i> )                  | Celandine ( <i>Chelidonium majus</i> )                  |
| Basil ( <i>Calamintha Clinopodium</i> )                | Chamomile ( <i>Anthemis cotula</i> )                    |
| Beard-tongue, Foxglove ( <i>Pentstemon digitalis</i> ) | Chicory ( <i>Chicorium Intybus</i> )                    |
| Beechdrops, False ( <i>Hypopitis Hypopitis</i> )       | Chickweed ( <i>Alsine media</i> )                       |
| Bellwort ( <i>Uvularia Perfoliata</i> )                | Chokeberry ( <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> )                |
| Bittersweet ( <i>Celastrus scandens</i> )              | Choke-cherry ( <i>Prunus Virginiana</i> )               |
| Blackberry, High ( <i>Rubus villosus</i> )             | Cinquefoil, Common ( <i>Potentilla Canadensis</i> )     |
| Blackberry, Running Swamp ( <i>Rubus hispidus</i> )    | Cinquefoil, Shrubby ( <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> )     |
| Black Cohosh ( <i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> )            | Citronella ( <i>Collinsonia Canadensis</i> )            |
| Black-eyed Susan ( <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> )            | Cleavers ( <i>Galium Aparine</i> )                      |
| Black Haw ( <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> )              | Clematis ( <i>Clematis Virginiana</i> )                 |
| Bloodroot ( <i>Sanguinaria Canadensis</i> )            | Clover, Rabbit's-foot ( <i>Trifolium arvense</i> )      |
| Blueberry ( <i>Vaccinium Pennsylvanicum</i> )          | Clover, Red ( <i>Trifolium pratense</i> )               |
| Blueberry, Swamp ( <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> )       | Clover, White ( <i>Trifolium repens</i> )               |
| Bluets ( <i>Houstonia cœrulea</i> )                    | Clover, White Sweet ( <i>Melilotus alba</i> )           |
| Blue-eyed Grass ( <i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i> )  | Clover, Yellow ( <i>Trifolium agrarium</i> )            |
|                                                        | Clover, Yellow Sweet ( <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> )   |
|                                                        | Cockspur Thorn ( <i>Cratægus Crus-Galli</i> )           |
|                                                        | Columbine ( <i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i> )               |



- Coral-root (*Corallorhiza multiflora*)  
 Corn-cockle (*Agrostemma Githago*)  
 Cranberry (*Oxycoccus Macrocarpus*)  
 Crinkleroot (*Dentaria Diphylla*)  
 Culvers Root (*Leptandra Virginica*)  
 Daisy, Field (*Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum*)  
 Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*)  
 Dandelion (*Taraxacum Taraxacum*)  
 Day-Flower (*Commelina Virginica*)  
 Deer-grass (*Rhexia Virginica*)  
 Dewberry (*Rubus Canadensis*)  
 Dodder (*Cuscuta Gronovii*)  
 Dogbane, Spreading (*Apocynum androsamifolium*)  
 Dogwood, Flowering (*Cornus florida*)  
 Dogwood, Panicle (*Cornus candidissima*)  
 Dogwood, Red Osier (*Cornus Stolonifera*)  
 Dutchman's Breeches (*Bienculla Cucularia*)  
 Elder (*Sambucus Canadensis*)  
 Evening Primrose (*Onagrabiumis*)  
 Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)  
 Fire-weed (*Chamenerion angustifolium*)  
 Flag (*Iris versicolor*)  
 Flax (*Linum usitatissimum*)  
 Forget-me-not (*Myosotis palustris*)  
 Foxglove, Smooth False (*Dasytoma ilava*)  
 Frost-weed (*Helianthemum Canadense*)  
 Gentian, Closed (*Gentiana Andrewsii*)  
 Gentian, Fringed (*Gentiana crinita*)  
 Geranium, Wild (*Geranium maculatum*)  
 Gerardia (*Gerardia purpurea*)  
 Gill-over-the-Ground (*Glechoma hederacea*)  
 Ginger, Wild (*Asarum Canadense*)  
 Ginseng, Dwarf (*Panax trifolium*)  
 Golden Corydalis (*Cappnoides aureum*)  
 Golden Ragwort (*Senecio aureus*)  
 Golden-rod in variety (*Solidago*)  
 Grape, Fox (*Vitis Labrusca*)  
 Grape, Frost or Chicken (*Vitis Cordifolia*)  
 Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia Caroliniana*)  
 Great Burnet (*Potelinum Canadense*)  
 Ground Cherry (*Physalis Virginiana*)  
 Ground-nut (*Apios Apios*)  
 Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)  
 Hellebore, American White (*Veratrum viride*)  
 Hepatica (*Hepatica Hepatica*)  
 Honeysuckle, Bush (*Diervilla Diervilla*)  
 Honeysuckle, Common (*Lonicera Caprifolium*)  
 Honeysuckle, Trumpet (*Lonicera sempervirens*)  
 Huckleberry, Black (*Gaylussacia Resinosa*)  
 Huckleberry, Squaw (*Vaccinium stamineum*)  
 Indian Cucumber-root (*Medeola Virginiana*)  
 Indian-Paintbrush (*Castilleja Coccinea*)  
 Indian-Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*)  
 Indian-Tobacco (*Lobelia inflata*)  
 Indigo, Wild (*Baptisia tinctoria*)  
 Iron-weed (*Vernonia Novboracensis*)  
 Ivy, Poison (*Rhus radicans*)  
 Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisema triphyllum*)  
 Jewel-weed (*Impatiens biflora*)  
 Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)  
 Knotweed (*Polygonum Pennsylvanicum*)  
 Ladies' Tresses (*Gyrostachys cernua*)  
 Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*)  
 Laurel, Mountain (*Kalmia latifolia*)  
 Laurel, Sheep (*Kalmia angustifolia*)  
 Lettuce, Wild (*Lactuca Canadensis*)  
 Lily-of-the-Valley, False (*Unifolium Canadense*)  
 Lily, orange (*Hemerocallis fulva*)  
 Lily, Turk's Cap (*Lilium superbum*)  
 Lily, Trout (*Erythronium Americanum*)  
 Lily, White Pond (*Castalia odorata*)  
 Lily, Wood (*Lilium Philadelphicum*)  
 Lily, Yellow (*Lilium Canadense*)  
 Lily, Yellow Pond (*Nymphaea advena*)  
 Lion's-foot (*Nabalus albus*)  
 Live-forever (*Sedum Telephium*)  
 Lobelia, Great (*Lobelia syphilitica*)  
 Loosestrife, Whorled (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*)  
 Loosestrife, Yellow (*Lysimachia terrestris*)  
 Lupine, Wild (*Lupinus perennis*)  
 Marsh-Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)  
 May Apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)  
 Meadow-rue, Tall (*Thalictrum polygamum*)  
 Meadow-sweet (*Spiraea salicifolia*)  
 Milkweed, in variety (*Asclepias*)  
 Milkwort, Common (*Polygala viridescens*)  
 Milkwort, Fringed (*Polygala paucifolia*)  
 Milkwort, Racemed (*Polygala polygama*)  
 Mint (*Mentha Canadensis*)  
 Milrewort, False (*Tiarella cordifolia*)  
 Monkey-flower (*Mimulus ringens*)  
 Moonseed (*Menispermum Canadense*)  
 Morning-Glory, White (*Ipomoea pandurata*)  
 Morning-Glory, Wild (*Convolvulus sepium*)  
 Motherwort (*Leonurus Cardiaca*)  
 Mullein, Giant (*Verbascum Thapsus*)  
 Mullein, Moth (*Verbascum Blattaria*)  
 Mustard (*Brassica nigra*)  
 New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus Americanus*)  
 Nightshade (*Solanum Dulcamara*)  
 Nettle-Kate (*Sicyos angulatus*)  
 Orange Grass (*Hypericum nudicaule*)  
 Orchis, Purple (*Habenaria peramena*)  
 Orchis, Purple Fringed (*Habenaria psychodes*)

- Orchis, Yellow (*Habenaria ciliaris*)  
 Parsnip, Wild (*Pastinaca sativa*)  
 Partridge Vine (*Mitchella repens*)  
 Peanut, Hog (*Falcata comosa*)  
 Pepperbush, Sweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)  
 Peppermint (*Mentha piperita*)  
 Pickercel-weed (*Pontederia cordata*)  
 Pink, Deptford (*Dianthus Armeria*)  
 Pink, Grass (*Limodorum tuberosum*)  
 Pink, Wild (*Silene Caroliniana*)  
 Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*)  
 Pipsissewa, Spotted (*Chimaphila maculata*)  
 Pitcher-plant (*Sarracenea purpurea*)  
 Pogonia, Rose (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*)  
 Pokeweed (*Phytolacca decandra*)  
 Prickly Pear (*Opuntia Opuntia*)  
 Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus Carota*)  
 Raspberry, Purple Flowering (*Rubus odoratus*)  
 Rattle-box (*Crotalaria Sagittalis*)  
 Rattlesnake Plantain (*Peramium repens*)  
 Rhodora (*Rhodora Canadensis*)  
 Robin's Plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*)  
 Rose, Swamp (*Rosa Carolina*)  
 Rose, Wild (*Rosa humilis*)  
 Saint John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)  
 Sarsaparilla, Wild (*Aralia nudicaulis*)  
 Saxifrage (*Saxifraga Virginensis*)  
 Saxifrage Swamp (*Saxifraga Pennsylvanica*)  
 Self-Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)  
 Sensitive Pea (*Cassia mictitans*)  
 Service-Berry (*Amelanchier Canadensis*)  
 Shad-Bush (*Amelanchier Botryapium*)  
 Shin-leaf (*Pyrola elliptica*)  
 Silver-rod (*Solidago bicolor*)  
 Skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*)  
 Skunk Cabbage (*Spathyema foetida*)  
 Snakeroot, White (*Eupatorium ageratoides*)  
 Sneezewood (*Helenium autumnale*)  
 Solomon's Seal, False (*Vagnera racemosa*)  
 Solomon's Seal, True (*Polygonatum biflorum*)  
 Spearmint (*Mentha Spicata*)  
 Speedwell, Common (*Veronica officinalis*)  
 Speedwell, Thyme-leaved (*Veronica serpyllifolia*)  
 Spice-Bush (*Benzoin Benzoin*)  
 Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*)  
 Spring Beauty (*Claytonia Virginica*)  
 Spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*)  
 Steeplebush (*Spiræa tomentosa*)  
 Strawberry, Wild (*Fragaria Virginiana*)  
 Strawberry, Barren (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*)  
 Sumach, Poison (*Rhus Vernix*)  
 Sumach, Staghorn (*Rhus hirta*)  
 Sundew (*Drosera*)  
 Sundew, Round-leaved (*Drosera rotundifolia*)  
 Sundrops (*Kneiffia fruticosa*)  
 Sunflower, Wild (*Helianthus giganteus*)  
 Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)  
 Tear-thumb, Arrow-leaved (*Polygonum sagittatum*)  
 Tear-thumb, Halberd-leaved (*Polygonum Arifolium*)  
 Thistles in variety (*Carduus*)  
 Thorn Apple (*Datura Stramonium*)  
 Tick-trefoil (*Meibomia Canadensis*)  
 Toad-flax (*Linaria Linaria*)  
 Trillium, Nodding (*Trillium cernuum*)  
 Trumpet-flower (*Tecoma radicans*)  
 Turtle-head (*Chelone glabra*)  
 Venus' Looking-glass (*Legouzia perfoliata*)  
 Vervain, Blue (*Verbena hastata*)  
 Vervain, European (*Verbena officinalis*)  
 Vetch, Purple (*Vicia Cracca*)  
 Viburnum, Maple-leaved (*Viburnum Acerifolium*)  
 Violet, Blue (*Vista*)  
 Violet, White (*Viola Blanda*)  
 Violet, White-Lance Leafed (*Viola Lanceolata*)  
 Violet, Yellow (*Viola Pupescens*)  
 Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)  
 Virgin's Bower (*Atragene Americana*)  
 Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia Virginiana*)  
 Watercress (*Cardamine bulbosa*)  
 Water Plantain (*Alisma Plantago-aquatica*)  
 Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)  
 Wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*)  
 Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis Virginiana*)  
 Wood Betony (*Pedicularis Canadensis*)  
 Wood-sorrel, Yellow (*Oxalis stricta*)  
 Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)  
 Yellow-Avens (*Geum strictum*)  
 Yellow Star-Grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*)

## FERNS

- Maidenhair (*Adiantum pedatum*)  
 Christmas Fern (*Aspidium acrostichoides*)  
 Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium ebeneum*)  
 Lady Fern (*Asplenium Filix-femina*)  
 New York Fern (*Aspidium Noveboracense*)  
 Spinulose Wood Fern (*Aspidium Spinulosum* var. *intermedium*)  
 Evergreen Wood Fern (*Aspidium marginale*)  
 Marsh Fern (*Aspidium Thelypteris*)  
 Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium Virginianum*)  
 Ternate Grape Fern (*Botrychium dissectum*)

Hay-scented Fern (*Dicksonia pilosiuscula*)  
 Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)  
 Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)  
 Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)  
 Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda Claytoniana*)  
 Broad Beech Fern (*Phegopteris Hexagonoptera*)  
 Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*)  
 Brake or Eagle Fern (*Pteris aquilina*)

# LYCOPODIUMS

(Ground Pine)

*Lycopodium lucidulum*  
*Lycopodium abscurum*  
*Lycopodium clavatum*  
*Lycopodium complanatum*

# HORSE-TAIL

Dutch Rushes, Scouring Rush (*Equisetum Hyemale*)  
 Common Horse-tail (*Equisetum arvense*)

# TREES OF RIDGEWOOD

No other two syllable word or two-word combination could so fittingly describe the physical characteristics of this village as the name "Ridgewood." Most of our citizens in deciding to make their homes here have been influenced, consciously or unconsciously, by the wooded or tree-covered ridges.

Trees are more indispensable to the beautifying of a city than architecture of the most aesthetic design. Washington, one of the most conspicuous examples of the city beautiful in America, would not be half so beautiful without its trees. And the trees of this village are one of the first of its features to impress the stranger with the desirability of Ridgewood as a place of residence.

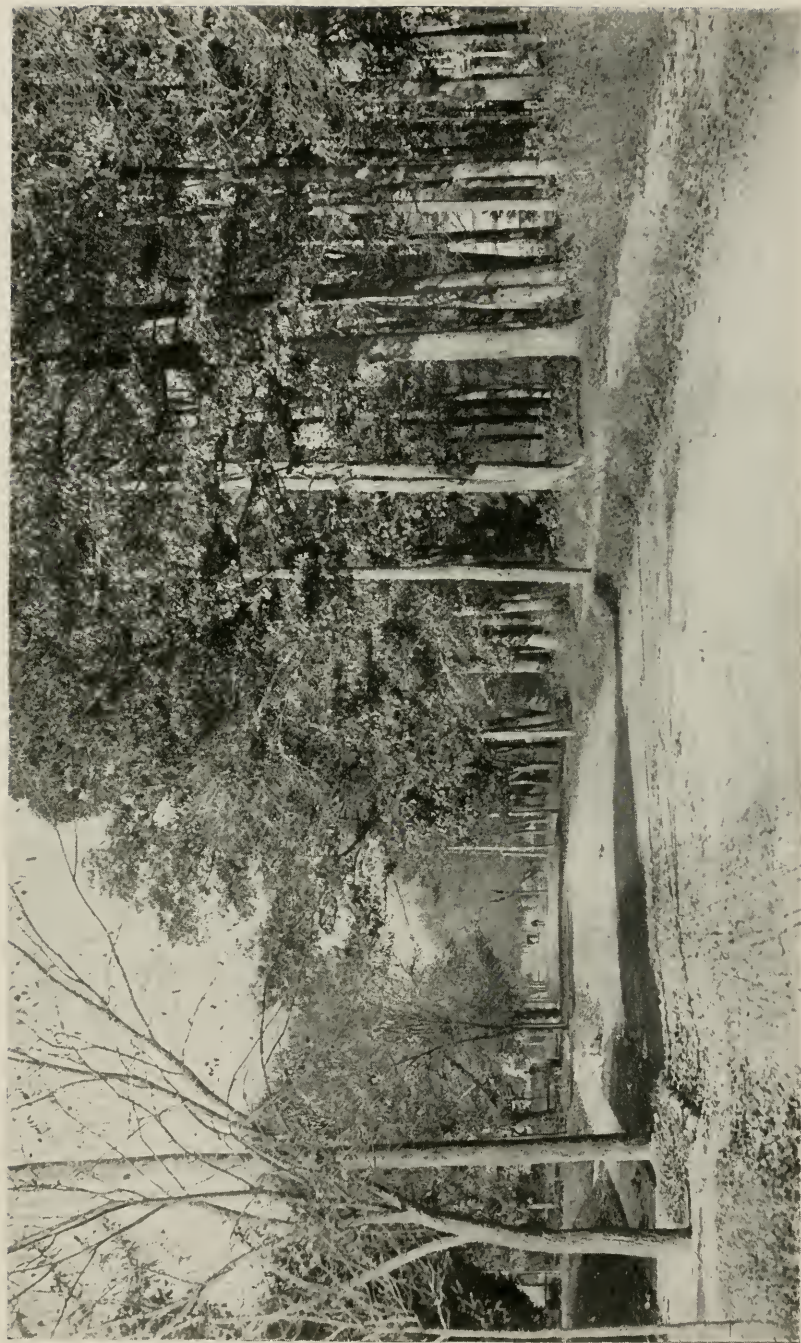
The healthfulness of Ridgewood, also, which is widely known and which has been generally credited to the porous nature of the soil and substrata, is in as large a measure due to the influence of the trees. It is claimed by the New York County Medical Society that "an adequate number of trees in the streets is one of the most effective means for mitigating the intense heat of the summer months and diminishing the death-rate among children"; and the Newark Shade Commission maintains that—

"The large percentage of ozone in forest air and the scarcity of it in the treeless streets where crowded dwellings abound demonstrates that this tonic and recuperative element of the air is due to the presence of trees and the lack of it to their absence. The air in the vicinity of trees contains less bacteria and dust particles than does the air outside of tree influence, which again demonstrates that the presence of trees decreases the total atmospheric impurities."

The site of Ridgewood at the time of the coming of the white man was, no doubt, a dense forest of evergreens and deciduous trees. At the present time acres of forest land of a later tree growth, with here and there a specimen tree of the virgin forest, still remain within the village limits and only a few minutes' walk from the railroad station. To one viewing Ridgewood from the crest of some of its hills, it appears as though the Village were built in a forest; and this is actually the case with some of the newer sections.

Following is a list naming the forest trees of Ridgewood and vicinity and also, as far as known, the shade and ornamental trees of the





*Courtesy C. H. L. Mitchell*

Pearsall's Grove—East Ridgewood Avenue—In the Early 90's.

# PAST AND PRESENT

Village. Those marked with an asterisk are exotic to this immediate locality. The others are indigenous or naturalized.

## Conifers

<i>Family or Genus</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Ginkgo Pines	* Maidenhair Tree	Salisburia adiantifolia
	White Pine	Pinus strobus
	Jersey or Scrub Pine	Virginiana
	Pitch Pine	rigida
	* Austrian Pine	Austriaca
	* Scotch Pine	sylvestris
	* Swiss Pine	cembra
	* Mugho Pine	Montana
	* Himalayan Pine	excelsa
	Tamarack	Larix Americana
Larch		
Spruce	* Norway Spruce	Picea excelsa
	* Colorado Blue Spruce	pungens glauca
	* White Spruce	alba
Firs	* Nordmann's Fir	Abies Nordmanniana
Hemlock	Hemlock Spruce	Tsuga Canadensis
Arborvitæ	* Common American Arborvitæ, and varieties	Thuya occidentalis
Retinospora	* Japanese Cedars or Japanese Cypress in variety	Chamaecyparis
Junipers	Red Cedar, and many exotics	Juniperus Virginiana

## BROAD LEAVED TREES

Walnuts	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra
	Butternut	Cinerea
Hickories	* Japanese Walnut	Sieboldiana
	Pignut or White Hickory	Hicoria glabra
	Shagbark	orata
	Bitternut	minima
Poplars	* Carolina Poplar	Populus Carolinensis
	Aspen	tremuloides
	Large-toothed aspen	grandidentata
	* Balm of Gilead	balsamifera
	* Abele or White Poplar	alba
	* Lombardy	nigra
Willows	Black Willow	Salix nigra
	Yellow Willow	blanda
	Pussy Willow	discolor
	* Weeping Willow	Babylonica
Hornbeams	Hop Hornbeam, Ironwood	Ostrya Virginiana
Birches	American Hornbeam, Blue Beech	Carpinus Caroliniana
	American White Birch	Betula populifolia
	Yellow Birch	lutea
	Red Birch	nigra
Alder	Cherry, Sweet or Black Birch	lenta
	Green Alder	Alnus viridis
Beeches	American Beech	Fagus Americana
	* European Beech	sylvatica
	* Fern-leaved Beech	asplenifolia
	* Weeping Beech	pendula
	* Cut-leaved Beech	heterophylla
	* Copper Beech	purpurea
Chestnuts	American Chestnut	
	(Only sprouts remaining)	Castanea dentata
Oaks	* Japanese Chestnut	Japonica
	White Oak	Quercus alba

# RIDGEWOOD, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

<i>Family or Genus</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Oaks	Swamp White Oak Chestnut Oak Chincapin Oak Pin Oak Red Oak Scarlet Oak Black Oak Bear or Scrub Oak * Willow Oak * Golden Oak	Quercus platanoides prinus prinoides palustris rubra coccinia velutina nana phellos robur concordia
Elms	White or American Elm Slippery Elm * English Elm	Ulmus Americana fulva campestris
Mulberries	Red Mulberry * Osage Orange	Morus celtidifolia Toxylon pomiferum
Magnolias	* Sweet or Swamp Bay * Cucumber Tree * Chinese and Japanese Magnolias in variety	Magnolia glauca acuminata
Sassafras	Sassafras	Sassafras sassafras
Hamamelis	Wych Hazel or Witch Hazel	Hamamelis Virginiana
Liquidambar	Sweet Gum	Liquidambar styraciflua
Sycamore	Buttonwood * Plane Tree	Plantanus occidentalis orientalis
Apples	Wild Crab Apple	Malus coronaria
Mountain Ash	* American Mountain Ash * European Ash or Rowan Tree	Sorbus Americana aucuparia
Service Berries	Shad-bush Dwarf June-berry	Amelanchier Canadensis obovatis
Crataegus	Cockspur Thorn	Crataegus Crus-galli
Wild Red or Yellow Plum Cherry	Wild Plum Wild Black Cherry Choke Cherry Mazzards * Japanese Weeping Cherry	Prunus Americana Prunus serotina Virginiana Avium Cerasus Japonica var. Rosea Pendula.
Yellow-wood	* Virgilia	Cladrastis lutea
Red Bud	* Judas Tree	Cercis Canadensis
Gleditsia	Honey Locust	Gleditsia triacanthos
Gymnocladus	* Kentucky Coffee Tree	Gymnocladus dioicns
Robinia	Black Locust * Clammy Locust	Robinia pseudacacia viscosa
Sophora	* Japanese Pagoda Tree	Sophora Japonica
Ailanthus	** Tree of Heaven	Ailanthus glandulosa
Sumachs	Staghorn Sumach Dwarf Sumach Poison Sumach Smooth Sumach * American Smoke Tree	Rhus Hirta Copallina vernix glabra cotinus Americana
Hollies	Black Alder Smooth Winter-berry	Ilex verticillata laevigata
Burning Bush	* Burning Bush	Euonymous atropurpureus
Maples	Red or Swamp Maple Silver or Soft Maple Sugar, Rock or Hard Maple * Striped Maple or Moosewood * Box Elder or Ash-leaved Maple * Norway Maple * Japanese Maples	Acer rubrum saccharinum saccharum Pennsylvanicum negundo platanoides Japonicum in variety



<i>Family or Genus</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Esculus	* White-Flowering, Horse Chestnut	Esculus Hippocastanum
	* Red-Flowering, Horse Chestnut	Carnea
Lindens	American Linden, Basswood	Tilia Americana
	* European Linden	Europea
	* Crimean Linden	dasystyla
	Silver Linden	tomentosa
Aralia	** Hercules Club	Aralia spinosa
Nyssa	Tupelo, Black Gum or Pepperidge	Nyssa sylvatica
Dogwoods	Flowering Dogwood	Cornus Florida
Persimmon	* Persimmon	Diospyros Virginiana
Ash	White Ash	Fraxinus Americana
	Black Ash	nigra
Chionanthus	* White Fringe Tree	Chionanthus Virginica
Catalpa	* Indian Bean	Catalpa Bignonioides
	* Chinese Catalpa	Bungei
	* Western Catalpa	speciosa
Viburnum	Black Haw	Viburnum prunifolium

\* Exotic.

\*\* Naturalized.

#### BIRD LIFE OF RIDGEWOOD

As might be expected from its beautiful location and surroundings, Ridgewood is very rich in bird life; and the birds will be found very interesting and appreciative by any one who attempts to study and attract them.

Bird life varies with the seasons even more than flowers and foliage. In considering the "Bird Life of Ridgewood," it may be well to divide them into four main classes—Permanent Residents, Summer Residents, Winter Residents, and Transients. There is another class known as Occasional Visitants, but its name will immediately eliminate it from consideration in this publication.

By far the largest and best known group is that of the Summer Residents. Few there are of the more observant people who do not recognize the song and chipping sparrows, the house wren, the swallows, the catbird, the bluebird, the robin, and perhaps one or two of the other thrushes. The interest in birds, and consequently the knowledge of them, is becoming so much more general that there are probably many Ridgewoodites who know a great many more than these. One resident in particular, the late Henry Hales, took an enthusiastic interest in bird life. He made a most valuable collection of birds, particularly those of this locality. Through his many articles on bird life written for scientific papers, he became a recognized authority on the subject. Many persons have shown their love for our feathered friends by placing bird houses on their grounds. The practice of erecting bird houses and maintaining feeding stations for birds is commended to any one who wishes to benefit his own home and the village at large, and who would enjoy many happy hours in observation and study of these shy yet friendly-disposed neighbors.

The house wren and the blue bird are undoubtedly the species most easily attracted by the nesting box, if we except always the English sparrow, which will quite unceremoniously make himself comfortable

in any available place, whether his presence is desired or not. Robins take kindly to shallow boxes or shelves placed in sheltered spots and, if they are not disturbed, will often become tame enough to nest under the eaves of the piazza roof. Chipping sparrows are very fond of close privet hedges, grape vines and low bushes. Sometimes a song sparrow will be found who has the temerity to make a home in shrubbery not far from the house. Those who live on the outskirts of the village and have barns with haylofts will have no trouble in attracting barn swallows, if there are ventilators or other openings through which the birds may pass in going to and from their nests.

One may find, in wandering afield, that the possibilities are almost unlimited for the careful student who is able to recognize all the species of the Summer Residents he sees. He will probably first be attracted by the birds of the air—barn and tree swallows, chimney swifts, and perhaps crows and bluejays, the two latter being Permanent Residents. Down by Ho-Ho-Kus Brook, or in similar places, he may see water thrushes stepping quietly along over the pebbles on the shore. In the bushes nearby may be found many other kinds of warblers, notably black and white, yellow and black throated, blue, Maryland yellow-throats, and American redstarts. In the adjacent thickets the loud crecendo chant, "Teacher, teacher, teacher, teacher, teacher," reveals the modest ovenbird. Red-eyed vireos keep up a continual chatter in the trees overhead, and from the thickets where the Maryland yellow-throats flit to and fro, may be heard the harsh call notes of the catbird. Back in the more obscure places the Wood and Wilson thrushes hold forth with their liquid notes, particularly toward evening, and pour forth music well worth the attention of the passerby. Here, or in still more secluded nooks, the bird lover may hear the quiet chuckle of the black-billed cuckoo or "raincrow," but it will take careful stalking and diligent search if he is actually to catch a glimpse of the author of the notes. At a wide spot in the brook or over some ice pond he may see a kingfisher poised for a sudden dive as an unsuspecting "sunny" comes to the surface within the scope of his keen vision; or he may hear him clatter noisily as he flies overhead to seek new pools for investigation, the bright blue and white flashing brilliantly against the darker foliage.

Out in the open fields a medley made up of many voices will fall upon the listener's ears. A little practice, however, will enable him to distinguish the whistle of the meadowlark, the similar and yet different thrills of the chipping and field sparrows, the "cherink" of the chewink or towhee, and many other characteristic bird calls and songs. Perhaps in the top of a tree in the middle of the field will be a brown thrasher pouring forth a varied, but far from unpleasant, jumble of notes. If it is well on toward midsummer, he may catch the flash of yellow and black as a goldfinch, or more often a flock of them, passes over with a jerky and undulating flight.

If, as frequently is the case, the field slopes down to a marshy spot, with wild flags, arrowhead and cat-tails, he will find any quantity of red-winged blackbirds flying back and forth or circling overhead, uttering their distinctive "conk-err-ee-e." Here also he may find the less

conspicuous rusty blackbird or the larger and more highly tinted purple grackle, although these two are more often found in drier locations.

At any time on an open country road the wayfarer may start up inconspicuous birds that fly ahead along the fences and disclose white outer tail feathers, the characteristic mark of the vesper sparrow. In the trees along the roadside a flash of black and orange will betray the Baltimore oriole, whose nest is suspended from the very tip of one of the branches. Flying over the road to his hole in a telegraph pole or hollow tree in an orchard may be seen the flicker or golden-winged woodpecker, easily to be distinguished by its graceful undulating flight and the flash of yellow as the sunlight strikes the lower surface of his wings. Another woodpecker, which is a Permanent Resident and may be encountered almost anywhere, is the downy, or more particularly the northern downy; for there is a slightly smaller variety which is common in the South. A bird more thoroughly at home in the orchard, but frequently seen on the telephone or telegraph wires along the roadside, is the kingbird, easily recognized by the head-crest and the white tip to each tail feather, making the tail appear to have a white border. Even more common in orchards, and frequently found nesting under old bridges, is the phœbe, known to almost every one. Quiet and unassuming as the phœbe is, it is particularly industrious in consuming large numbers of harmful insects.

Another Permanent Resident not seen quite so much in Summer perhaps as in Winter, is the well-known black-capped chickadee. In New England this bird has been reported as nesting in artificial houses. A bird more common than ordinarily supposed, but one frequently overlooked on account of its small size and lightning-like movements, is the brilliant little ruby-throated hummingbird, which darts here and there among the flowers, poising himself occasionally before one of them to take honey on the wing, only to be off again in a flash to a flower in another section of the garden.

Probably many whose interest is greater than their knowledge have wondered what bird is responsible for the queer antics and nasal "peent" that they have observed toward dusk. This is none other than the nighthawk, which is much more common around Ridgewood than the whip-poor-will, from which it may be distinguished by the white markings on the wings and by the forked tail.

The fall migration affords the bird-lover an opportunity to see species which are not here at any other time except during the corresponding period in the reverse migration in the spring. By far the most numerous migrants in point of variety are the warblers, and most prominent among these is the myrtle warbler, which comes early and stays late. It is very difficult to distinguish the warblers in the fall of the year, as the male, female and young all take on dull plumage, which makes them look practically alike and very similar to the other warblers. The yellow-palm is another fairly common migrant which may be distinguished from other warblers by the chestnut crown and side spots and the white patches on the outer tail feathers. It may be found in open woods and along roadsides, but it more often frequents the neighborhood of a brook.



At least two sparrows are fairly common during migration; the Fox—known by its large size and fox-like color—and the white-throated—identified by its striped crown, white throat and faint wing bars.

Spring is, of course, the ideal time to see birds in greatest variety. At that time they all wear their fresh spring plumage and bridal colors. Fifty varieties of birds is a reasonable number to be identified on almost any day of the first two weeks of May. To make this record, however, one must be able to recognize a bird quickly and accurately, and should visit the highland and the lowland, the open field and the shady wood.

Only the bird lover knows how very favorable a time is the winter for bird study. At this season a blanket of snow often conceals the natural sources of bird food. One who at this time provides a bird feeding shelf at a sheltered window and watches the various species that avail themselves of his fare, will be surprised and delighted at the variety and friendliness of his bird guests.

Chickadees, downy woodpeckers, and white-breasted nuthatches will visit the feeding shelf quite regularly, and juncos, bluejays, goldfinches, and redpolls are pretty sure to appear occasionally. English sparrows will need no urging to attend the feast. Indeed there may be difficulty in keeping them from becoming so numerous that they drive away the other birds. Tree sparrows, winter wrens, and crows spend the winter with us; but they are inclined to be shy and it is not likely that any of them would patronize the window-shelf lunch counter.

Nearly every variety of bird visiting this section of the country is found in Ridgewood. The following list shows those which have been seen and identified by its residents:

Blackbird, Red-winged ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )	Goldfinch, American ( <i>Astragalinus tristis</i> )
Blackbird, Rusty ( <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> )	Grackle, Purple or Crow Blackbird ( <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> )
Bluebird ( <i>Sialia sialis</i> )	Grosbeak, Pine ( <i>Pinicola enucleator leucura</i> )
Bluejay ( <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> )	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted ( <i>Zamelodia ludoviciana</i> )
Bobolink ( <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> )	Hawk, Cooper ( <i>Accipiter cooperi</i> )
Bunting, Indigo ( <i>Passerina cyanea</i> )	Hawk, Marsh ( <i>Circus hudsonius</i> )
Catbird ( <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> )	Hawk, Red-shouldered ( <i>Buteo lineatus</i> )
Chickadee, Black-capped ( <i>Penthestes atricapillus</i> )	Hawk, Sparrow ( <i>Falco sparverius</i> )
Cowbird ( <i>Molothrus ater</i> )	Heron, Green ( <i>Butorides virescens</i> )
Creeper, Brown ( <i>Certhia familiaris Americana</i> )	Hummingbird, Ruby-throated ( <i>Archilochus colubris</i> )
Crossbill, American ( <i>Loxia curvirostris minor</i> )	Junco, Slate-colored ( <i>Junco hyemalis</i> )
Crow, American ( <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> )	Kingbird ( <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> )
Cuckoo, Black-billed ( <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> )	Kingfisher, Belted ( <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> )
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed ( <i>Coccyzus Americanus</i> )	Kinglet, Golden-crowned ( <i>Regulus satrapa</i> )
Finch, Pine or Siskin ( <i>Spinus pinus</i> )	Meadowlark ( <i>Sturnella magna</i> )
Finch, Purple ( <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> )	Nuthatch, Red-breasted ( <i>Sitta canadensis</i> )
Flicker or High Hole ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )	Nuthatch, White-breasted ( <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> )
Flycatcher, Crested ( <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i> )	Nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles virginianus</i> )
Flycatcher, Least ( <i>Empidonax minimus</i> )	Oriole, Baltimore ( <i>Icterus galbula</i> )
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied ( <i>Empidonax flaviventris</i> )	Oriole, Orchard ( <i>Icterus spurius</i> )

Ovenbird ( <i>Sciurus aurocapillus</i> )	Warbler, Bay-breasted ( <i>Dendroica castanea</i> )
Owl, Screech ( <i>Otus asio</i> )	Warbler, Blackburnian ( <i>Dendroica fusca</i> )
Pewee, Wood ( <i>Myiochanes virens</i> )	Warbler, Black Poll ( <i>Dendroica striata</i> )
Phoebe ( <i>Sayornis phoebe</i> )	Warbler, Black-throated Blue ( <i>Dendroica caerulescens</i> )
Pipit, American, or Titlark ( <i>Anthus rubescens</i> )	Warbler, Black and White Creeping ( <i>Mniotilta varia</i> )
Redpoll ( <i>Acanthis linaria</i> )	Warbler, Black-throated Green ( <i>Dendroica virens</i> )
Redstart, American ( <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> )	Warbler, Blue-winged ( <i>Vermivora pinus</i> )
Robin, American ( <i>Plauestiens migratorius</i> )	Warbler, Canadian ( <i>Wilsonia canadensis</i> )
Sparrow, Chipping ( <i>Spizella passerina</i> )	Warbler, Cape May ( <i>Dendroica tigrina</i> )
Sparrow, English ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> )	Warbler, Chestnut-sided ( <i>Dendroica pennsylvanica</i> )
Sparrow, Fox ( <i>Passerella ilica</i> )	Warbler, Magnolia ( <i>Dendroica magnolia</i> )
Sparrow, Field ( <i>Spizella pusilla</i> )	Warbler, Myrtle ( <i>Dendroica coronata</i> )
Sparrow, Song ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> )	Warbler, Parula ( <i>Compsothlypis americana</i> )
Sparrow, Swamp ( <i>Melospiza georgiana</i> )	Warbler, Northern Parula ( <i>Compsothlypis usnea</i> )
Sparrow, Tree ( <i>Spizella monticola</i> )	Warbler, Tennessee ( <i>Vermivora peregrina</i> )
Sparrow, Vesper ( <i>Poocates gramineus</i> )	Warbler, Worm-eating ( <i>Helminthos vermivora</i> )
Sparrow, White-crowned ( <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> )	Warbler, Yellow ( <i>Dendroica aestiva</i> )
Sparrow, White-throated ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> )	Warbler, Yellow-Palm ( <i>Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea</i> )
Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )	Wax Wing, Cedar ( <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i> )
Swallow, Bank ( <i>Riparia riparia</i> )	Whip-Poor-Will ( <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> )
Swallow, Barn ( <i>Hirundo erythrogastra</i> )	Woodpecker, Downy ( <i>Dryobates pubescens medianus</i> )
Swallow, Tree ( <i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i> )	Woodpecker, Hairy ( <i>Dryobates villosus</i> )
Swift, Chimney ( <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> )	Woodpecker, Red-Headed ( <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> )
Tanager, Scarlet ( <i>Piranga erythromelas</i> )	Wren, House ( <i>Troglodytes aedon</i> )
Thrasher, Brown ( <i>Toxostoma rufum</i> )	Wren, Winter ( <i>Nannus hiemalis</i> )
Thrush, Hermit ( <i>Hylocichla guttata pallasi</i> )	Yellow-throat, Maryland ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )
Thrush, Water ( <i>Seirus noveboracensis</i> )	
Thrush, Wilson, or Veery ( <i>Hylocichla fuscescens</i> )	
Thrush, Wood ( <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> )	
Towhee or Chewink ( <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> )	
Titmouse, Tufted ( <i>Beolophilus bicolor</i> )	
Vireo, Red-eyed ( <i>Vireosylva olivacea</i> )	
Vireo, White-eyed ( <i>Vireo griseus</i> )	
Vireo, Yellow-throated ( <i>Laniavireo flavifrons</i> )	

A bird census, taken on Christmas Day, 1915, at a feeding station on the grounds of Carl M. Vail, Ridgewood, N. J., with sky overcast, ground snow-covered, light south-west winds, temperature 40 degrees to 45 degrees, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. shows the following birds:

Hairy Woodpecker	1
Blue Jay	Several
Purple Finch	2 (Male and Female)
American Goldfinch	1
English Sparrow	Many
Chipping Sparrow	1
Tree Sparrow	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	Several
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Downy Woodpecker	Several
Starling	Many
Redpoll	4
Pine Finch	Several

*RIDGEWOOD, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY*

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White-throated Sparrow .....	2
Slate-colored Junco .....	Many
Titlark .....	Several
Black-capped Chickadee .....	Many
Hermit Thrush .....	1

TOTAL—Eighteen species; individuals too numerous to count.



## CHAPTER III

### CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

#### POLITICAL DIVISIONS

ON March 12, 1663, Charles II. granted to James, Duke of York, a large tract, including the present State of New Jersey.

In 1664, on the 24th day of June, the Duke of York made a conveyance to John Berkely and George Carteret of the entire Province of New Jersey. This instrument was the first wherein the boundaries of the present State were defined. The consideration for the conveyance was ten shillings. The conveyance defined the property as being all that tract of land adjacent to New England and lying and being to the westward of Long Island and Manhattan Island: bounded on the east, part by the main sea and part by the Hudson River; and hath upon the west, Delaware Bay or River and extendeth southward to the main ocean as far as Cape May at the mouth of Delaware Bay; and to the northward as far as the northernmost branch of said bay or river of Delaware, which is forty-one degrees and forty minutes of latitude, and worketh over thence in a straight line to Hudson's River; which said tract of land is hereafter to be called by the name or names of "Nova Cesarea" or New Jersey.

In 1675, John Berkely offered his half interest in the Province of New Jersey for sale and the same was purchased by John Fenwick, in trust for Edward Byllinge, for one thousand pounds.

The title of the whole of New Jersey was thus vested in George Carteret and Edward Byllinge. They agreed upon a partition of it, July the first, 1676. The trustees of Byllinge conveyed to Cartaret their interest in all the land lying east of a line drawn "from the East side of Little Egg Harbor, straight North through the Country, to the utmost branch of the Delaware River; thus dividing the Province into two parts, known as East and West Jersey."

Carteret by this conveyance became the sole owner of East Jersey.

Carteret died in 1679 and left a will, dated December 5, 1678, whereby he ordered that the Province of East Jersey should be sold to pay his debts. This conveyance was made by his widow and executors, February 1, 1682, to twelve individuals styled as the Twelve Proprietors. Subsequently during the same year the Twelve Proprietors each took a partner and conveyances were made vesting the title in them common with the original twelve. These with the other twelve were the Twenty-four Proprietors, or the Proprietors or owners of East Jersey.

The Province of East Jersey was divided into four counties, March 7, 1682, viz.: Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, and Monmouth.

Bergen County at this time extended from the Hudson River to the Hackensack River, and the Town of Bergen, now a part of Hudson County and situated in the vicinity of the Dutch Reformed Church of Bergen on Bergen Avenue, was the seat of government.

The division of counties in 1682 caused great dissatisfaction among the people. They complained that the counties were too large, that the distances between their homes and the county seat were too great, and that traveling such long distances over bad roads in all sorts of weather interfered with their pursuits and subjected them to great expense and bodily discomfort. They petitioned the legislature from time to time for relief, and on January 21, 1709, the legislature passed an act entitled "An Act for dividing and ascertaining the boundaries of all the Counties in the Province."

The bounds of Bergen County in this act were described as follows: "That in the eastern division, the County of Bergen shall begin at Constable's Hook and so run up along the Bay and Hudson's River to the partition point between New Jersey and Province of New York; and so run along the partition line between the provinces, and the division line of the eastern and western division of this Province to Pequaneek River, and so to run down to the Pequaneek and Pessaick River to the Sound, and so to follow the Sound to Constable's Hook where it began."

By this act the entire section of the county west of the Hackensack River, which had been previously a part of Essex County, including the Village of Ridgewood, became a part of Bergen County. The county at this time was divided into two townships: Hackensack Township, including the portion of the county between the Hudson and Hackensack Rivers, and New Barbadoes Township, the balance of the county, including the Village of Ridgewood.

Franklin Township was formed from New Barbadoes about the year 1767. Ridgewood Township was formed from Franklin Township on March 30, 1876. It then covered an area of three square miles, the population of which was about twelve hundred.

In 1894 the Village of Ridgewood was incorporated. At the same time the municipalities of Midland Park and Glen Rock were formed into boroughs, thereby making the village and township lines of Ridgewood coextensive. Effective July 1, 1902, a part of Orvil Township was added to the northeastern portion of Ridgewood, while in 1915 a portion of the northwestern territory of Ridgewood towards Waldwick was annexed to Orvil Township.

#### RELATION BETWEEN VILLAGE, COUNTY AND STATE

When we say that we live in the Village of Ridgewood, County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, the statement includes more than a designation of the place where we reside. It also means that the municipal or local government under which we live is that of a village, that the corporation having charge of the county affairs is the Board of Chosen Freholders of the County of Bergen, and that our state government is that of the State of New Jersey.

The State is supreme, and the powers of the legislature are limited only by the Constitution of the State and the Constitution of the United States.

Its legislature at its pleasure can, by the enactment of laws, create

or destroy counties and municipalities and change and alter their boundaries and the powers of their governing bodies.

Villages are now formed by the passing of a special act of the legislature, designating the name of the village and describing the boundaries of the territory of which it is to be composed. This character of legislation requires public notice prior to the enactment. Upon the passage of such an act the laws relating to the government of villages apply to the territory affected. The governing body of the village has no power except such as is authorized by laws enacted by the legislature.

In the matter of raising the revenues of the state, the village is both directly and indirectly affected. The revenues of the state are derived largely from taxes upon corporations, railroads, franchises, and decedents' estates, income from riparian lands, and automobile licenses. Whether any of these taxes affect the residents of the village depends upon their interest in the subject matter of such taxation. A portion of the state school tax is raised by a direct tax on all the taxable property in the state and, therefore, affects every owner of taxable property in the village. The village receives in return from the states its portion of the state school moneys, which are derived by the state from railroad tax, rentals of riparian lands, the income from moneys derived from the sale of riparian lands, and the state school tax. The state distributes these moneys through the county collectors of the several counties to the custodian of the school moneys of the several municipalities in the county. The Custodian of the School Funds in the Village of Ridgewood is the village Collector. The apportionment of the state school moneys is based on attendance at the public schools.

The business of our county is transacted by a Board called "The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Bergen," which is a corporation of the county. It was formerly composed of members elected by the cities and townships of the county, the boroughs and villages joining in the election with the township from which the larger part of such boroughs or villages were formed. Since January 1, 1916, the Board has been composed of seven members elected by the voters of the county at large. The principal officers of the Board of Chosen Freeholders are Director, Clerk, County Collector, Counsel, County Engineer, and County Road Supervisor. The Sheriff, County Clerk, and Surrogate are county officers independent of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, but accountable to the Board for all moneys or property coming into their hands or custody and belonging to the county. The members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders act as the directors of a corporation in the management of the county affairs. The powers of the Board are ministerial. It is the custodian of the property of the county. It is charged with the management of the Poor House, Jail, and Court House, and with the construction and maintenance of bridges and culverts. It has power to require all public officers of the county to account for the moneys and property belonging to the county and entrusted to such officers. These powers and duties have



been commonly held and exercised by the Board of Chosen Freeholders from its earliest existence.

Until about 1890 the roads were maintained by the inhabitants of the several municipalities. Many of these roads were main thoroughfares through the county and state and were of more importance for travel to the county or state at large than to the inhabitants of the particular municipalities. About this time the state began to realize that the burden of constructing and maintaining these main thoroughfares belonged more properly to the county and state, and in 1891 the legislature authorized the Boards of Chosen Freeholders of the several counties to adopt county roads and to improve the same with state aid. About the same time laws were passed authorizing the Board of Freeholders to adopt county roads and to improve them without state aid. The state and counties are now bearing a large part of the burden of the construction and maintenance of public roads.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Bergen was slow in adopting county roads. The first road improved by the Board with state aid in this county was the Paterson Plank Road, in the year 1909. Since that time, and especially about the beginning of the year 1912, the Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted a large number of county roads and improved the same, some with and others without state aid.

In our village two of the main thoroughfares, Maple Avenue and Paramus Road, were improved by the county Board without state aid and, between the boundaries of the curb lines, are now county roads, under the jurisdiction of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Nearly all the revenues of the county are derived from direct taxation. The Board of Chosen Freeholders is required not later than the first Tuesday of August in each year to make out a budget of the moneys which have been appropriated and which are to be raised by taxes for county purposes. This budget is sent to the County Board of Taxation before the second Tuesday in August in each year. The County Board apportions the taxes among the taxing districts of the county. Other moneys received by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the county are the fees collected by the Surrogate and County Clerk, and fines and penalties collected by the Sheriff. In addition to this, a portion of the automobile license money collected by the state is given to the Board for repair of county roads.

The management of county affairs is closely related to the welfare of each municipality. Economy and efficiency are shown by a comparison of the amount of taxes raised with the improvements made by the Board. In every direction the activities of the village are interwoven with those of the county. The Assessor of the village assesses the property for the state and county taxes as well as for the taxes of the village. The Collector of the village collects the state school and county taxes as well as the taxes for village purposes. The village government fixes the amount of the village taxes. The first two are determined respectively by the state legislature and by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Overseer of the Poor, a village officer, furnishes temporary relief for the poor of the village. Permanent relief

is provided by the county. The insane, tubercular, and criminal dependents are provided for by the state and county through the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The bridges and culverts on all of the public roads in the village are constructed and cared for by the same Board. County roads through the villages also are maintained by them.

The state, county, and village are so closely related in the management of the business relating to the public welfare that every citizen should take an active interest in the manner in which such business is conducted by the state and county, as well as by the village.

#### RIDGEWOOD'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT

##### *Township Committee*

In 1876, when the Township of Ridgewood was set off from Franklin Township, Bergen County was composed largely of farming communities. The nearness of its fertile acres to the cities of New York, Jersey City, Newark and Paterson made farming the chief pursuit of its citizens. There were no cities and the local governments were townships.

The original township government in this state was elementary in form and adapted to rural communities.

The most important political event in the township government was the town meeting, which was held annually on the second Monday of April. Between the hours of eleven and twelve of that day the electors assembled and chose some person to preside at the meeting. His duty was to conduct the business thereof in a regular and orderly manner and in case of dispute to determine who had the right to vote.

The law directed that if any person should behave in a disorderly manner or interrupt the person speaking by unnecessary noise or conversation, and if such person should, after notice from the presiding officer, persist in disorderly behavior, then it was the duty of the presiding officer to direct that such disorderly person withdraw from the meeting and forfeit one dollar for such offense. If he refused or neglected to withdraw from the meeting, the constables of the township were directed by the chairman of the meeting to put such person in a place of confinement where he would be detained until the meeting was ended.

Prior to 1841 the vote at the town meeting was taken by the raising of hands, separating the voters, or viva voce. In that year the legislature directed, by special act, that the voting in Franklin Township should be by ballot.

The principal objects for which money was ordered raised by the voters at the town meeting were for the support of the poor, the building and repairing of pounds, the destruction of noxious wild animals and birds, the opening, making, working and repairing of roads, and prosecuting and defending the common rights of the township.

The qualified voters of the town meeting made and ordered such regulations and by-laws as a majority of them so assembled might think proper for the improving of their common land in tillage, pasturage or in any other way, and directed the use, management and times

of using their common lands, and elected five "Judicious Freeholders" (property owners of judgment) as the township committee, which upon the first election (1876) consisted of Cornelius J. Bogert, N. R. Bunce, Peter G. Hopper, Albert P. Hopper and Thomas Terhune. The other original officers elected were Township Clerk, N. R. Bunce; Assessor, John A. Marinus; Collector, James Zabriskie; Chosen Freeholder, G. G. Van Dien; two Surveyors of the Highway, Overseers of the Poor, Constables, three judicious Freeholders of good character as Commissioners of Appeal in matters of taxation, and one reputable Freeholder as Judge of Election. In some townships the Overseers of the Highway were elected at the town meeting and in other townships by the several road districts.

The Township Committee was the governing body of the township. Its members were required to be property owners and their duties were largely ministerial. They examined, inspected and reported at the town meetings the accounts and vouchers of township officers, superintended the expending of moneys raised by taxation for the use of the township, read at the town meeting the statement of the accounts of the money expended in the township by the county Board of Chosen Freeholders, and settled disputes in reference to partition fences.

The duties of the Assessor and of the Collector were practically the same as today. The Assessor was a member of the county Board of Assessors, and as such adjusted the assessment between the various municipalities and fixed the tax rate for county and state taxes. These duties of the Assessor have in recent years been taken over by the county Board of Taxation.

The roads at this time were laid out or altered by surveyors of highways. On application to the Court of Common Pleas of ten or more freeholders, the Court appointed six surveyors of highways. These surveyors or a majority of them met and determined upon the necessity of the road and assessed the damages or benefits resulting from the laying out or altering of the road, and directed the time when the road should be opened or altered. Roads were opened and repaired by the Overseers of the Highways. The Township Committee assigned and appointed in writing to the Overseers of the Highway their several limits and division of the highways within the township for opening, working and repairing. Every person assessed for the raising of money to open or repair the highways could work out his tax or any part of it on giving notice to the Overseers within whose limits or division he resided.

The powers and duties of the township officers were such as the government of a farming community would require.

#### *Village Trustees*

The development of railroads changed the character of these communities in Bergen County from farming to suburban, from sparsely settled districts to thickly settled communities. These changes brought with them many and difficult municipal problems for solution, among which were street improvements, water supply, sewerage, police and fire protection. Although the township laws were amended from time



to time, the methods of township government were unsatisfactory and were not suited to these changed conditions and not adapted to the solution of these problems. Prior to the new state constitution of 1875, special charters were granted to cities and many other municipalities. After that date the Legislature sought by general statute to provide for the government of municipalities.

In 1878 the Legislature provided for the formation, in a township or part of a township, of boroughs not exceeding four square miles each; in 1891 it provided for the organization from a township or part of a township of villages whose population should be at least 300 inhabitants for each square mile. These municipalities were created after an election held to determine whether the territory described in the application should be incorporated as a borough or a village. Originally both the borough and the village remained a part of the township for certain purposes, notably for the election of a county Freeholder. The villages voted with the township in the election of the Collector and the Assessor. A short time prior to the year 1893 boroughs were permitted to include within their limits a portion of one or more townships.

In the last mentioned year the Legislature provided that unless a borough contained a portion of two municipalities, it could not have a Chosen Freeholder. A large number of boroughs were then formed in Bergen County, eaching taking a portion of two or more townships in order to have a representative in the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The boroughs of Midland Park and Glen Rock each had included within their territories a portion of the Township of Ridgewood. In order to prevent further reduction in the territory and to provide a more suitable government, on the twenty-seventh day of September, 1894, a petition was presented to Judge Van Valen, Law Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Bergen, to fix a time and place for an election, to submit to the voters the question of incorporating the remaining portion of the township into a village. The election was held November 15, 1895, and resulted in a vote of 277 for the incorporation and 62 against it. The township at that time was composed of about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, with an assessed valuation of real estate of about \$1,000,000 and a population of about 2,200.

The new governing body of the village was a Board of Trustees of five members, Milton T. Richardson, H. E. Hopper, Joseph W. Edwards, Dr. Geo. M. Oekford, and W. J. Fullerton, who served without compensation. The Board elected Mr. Richardson President and Mr. Fullerton Treasurer, who thus became respectively the President and Treasurer of the village. The other officers of the village, Village Clerk, Village Counsel, Street Superintendent, and Policemen, were appointed by the Board of Trustees and held office at the pleasure of the Board. The village Trustees had exclusive jurisdiction over the streets within the limits of the village and had power to lay out, widen, and vacate streets and provide for their lighting; to create a police and fire department; to construct sewers and drains and other street improvements; to license and regulate public hacks, peddlers and hucksters; and to cause to be raised by taxation every year such sums

of money as they deemed expedient for the current expenses of the village. Their important legislative power in the village was exercised in drawing up, considering, and passing of ordinances. The Assessor, Collector and Chosen Freeholder of the township still continued to act for the village, and the Township Committee performed certain formal duties within the village. In the year 1896 the legislature abolished the Township Committee for the Township and Village of Ridgewood, vesting the powers of the Committee in the Board of Trustees.

In 1912 the offices of township Clerk, Assessor and Collector were abolished and the governing body was authorized to appoint a Collector and an Assessor for the village.

The Village of Ridgewood was governed by a Board of Trustees for seventeen years. During this time many municipal propositions for the improvement and development of the village were acted upon by the Trustees. A system of sewers was constructed, public franchises for water, gas and telephone were granted, and many street improvements were made. The last Board of Trustees consisted of Frederick H. Bogert, President; George F. Brackett, John J. Lammier, Joseph H. Martin, and James H. Snyder.

#### *Village Commissioners*

The endeavor to secure greater efficiency in the administration of municipal affairs in this state resulted in the passing by the legislature of 1911 of what is known as the Walsh or Commission Form of Government Act.

Consideration of the adoption of the commission form of government is left to the voters of any community at an election called for that purpose. The Village of Ridgewood was among the first to adopt the new act. The petition for an election was presented to the village Clerk, and an election was held on the second day of September, 1911. This election resulted in the adoption of the new form of government. On the seventh day of November, 1911, Daniel A. Garber, George U. White, and Frederick Pfeifer were elected Commissioners of the Village of Ridgewood, and on the fourteenth day of November, 1911, the new government was organized.

While the Village still continues to be governed by the laws relating to a village, the methods of administration of Village affairs was changed by the adoption of the commission form of government. The number of Commissioners is determined by the population. Municipalities having a population of 10,000 or over have five Commissioners; under 10,000, such as Ridgewood, the number of Commissioners is three. The powers of the Commissioners are determined by the village act. The method of procedure remains the same as under the Board of Village Trustees except as modified by the law relating to commission governments. Some of the distinctive provisions of the new form of government are as follows:

(1) A special day is appointed for the election of Commissioners other than the general election day; preferential ballot is used and party politics practically is eliminated from the election.

(2) The Commissioners are elected for a term of four years; the terms of all Commissioners to expire at the same time. All other officers are appointed by the Commissioners.

(3) The right of Recall is exercised by the voters, who possess the right by petition to require any Commissioner, if he desires to continue as Commissioner, to run again for the office at a special election called for that purpose.

(4) The legal voters possess the right of Initiative. By petition they may require any ordinance to be passed, amended, or repealed by the Commissioners, or else to be submitted to the voters for their action.

(5) The legal voters possess the right of Referendum. By petition they may require any ordinance passed by the Commissioners to be repealed or else to be submitted to the vote of the people.

In order to safeguard this right of Referendum, no ordinance takes effect until ten days after its final passage, unless it is an ordinance for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

(6) Each member of the Board has particular work to perform.

Upon its organization, one member is elected mayor, and he thereupon becomes the presiding officer. The Mayor ex-officio is director of the department of public affairs and public safety.

By a majority vote of the Board, one of the remaining members is appointed director of the department of revenue and finance. Upon him falls, in addition to the duties of his department, the duty of acting as presiding officer in the absence of the mayor. The other member is appointed director of the department of streets and public improvements, parks and public property.

(7) In transacting the business of the municipality, every resolution or ordinance must be reduced to writing and read before the vote is taken. The yea and nay vote must be recorded and the resolutions and ordinances signed by a majority of the members of the Board.

Resolutions and ordinances providing for the appropriation of money for street improvements, and for granting franchises are required before final passage to remain on file with the clerk for two weeks for public inspection. No franchise is granted except by ordinance which must be published before final passage and receive the approval of a majority of all members.

(8) The mayor receives a salary of one thousand dollars and the other commissioners salaries of seven hundred fifty dollars each.

(9) The Board is required to hold regular meetings at least once each week. These meetings and the record of their proceedings are open to the public.

The Board of Commissioners appoint the subordinate officers and boards for the Village. The most important of the present village officials are: Village Clerk and Collector, Wilbur Morris; Assessor, Louis H. Kroder; Engineer, F. W. Simonds; Recorder, F. V. Watson; Counsel, J. W. De Yoe. The names of other officers, such as the Superintendent of Streets, Superintendent of Police and members of that department, Chief of Fire Department and members of that department, Board of Health and Shade Tree Commission, are shown in the chapter



of this book which relates to the particular department or commission. Each officer, department, and board has specific duties to perform in the successful working of the local self-government.

The commission form of government has succeeded to a large degree in eliminating partisan politics from public affairs in the municipalities which have adopted it. It is particularly successful in bringing about prompt and efficient action in the public business of the community.

#### THE MAYOR

Upon the adoption of the commission form of government by the Village and the election of Commissioners in 1911, D. A. Garber, who received the largest number of votes for Commissioner, was elected by the other Commissioners at their organization meeting as Mayor of the Village. Upon his re-election as Commissioner in 1915 he was again chosen as Mayor.

The Mayor is the chief Executive officer of the Village and it is his duty to see that the ordinances of the Village are properly enforced.

He is also the chief guardian of the peace of the Village. He has power to suppress riots and when necessary may call upon the county or state authorities for aid.

As the titular head of the Village, the Mayor represents the municipality on public occasions. Because of his position the people look to him not only to safeguard the community's present interests, but also to plan and to suggest such changes and improvements as will provide for their future civic welfare.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Under the direction of the Mayor, this department protects the lives and the property of the citizens against vice, crime, and destruction. In performing its functions, it is divided into the following sub-departments: Police, Fire, Board of Health, Shade Tree Commission, and Building Committee.

#### THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The functions of the police force are mainly, the enforcement of law, preservation of the peace, protection of life and property, the arrest of all violators of the law, and the prevention and detection of crime. Other duties are incidental; but all must be performed with energy, discretion, promptness, and fidelity.

It is the duty of the Police Department and every member of the force, at all times of the day or night, especially to preserve the peace, to prevent crime, and to detect and arrest offenders; to suppress riots, mobs, and insurrections; to disperse unlawful or dangerous assemblages and crowds which obstruct the free passage of public streets, sidewalks, parks, or other places; to protect the rights of persons and property; to safeguard the public health; to preserve order at all meetings and assemblages; and to regulate and control the movements of all vehicles in the streets and public places.

It is their duty also to remove all nuisances in the public streets, parks

and highways; to arrest all mendicants and beggars; to provide proper police regulation at fires; to assist, advise, and protect strangers and travelers on the public highways and at all railroad stations; carefully to observe and to inspect all places of public amusement and places of business having licenses to carry on a particular business; to repress and restrain all unlawful and disorderly conduct or practices; to enforce the observance of all Village laws and ordinances; and for these purposes to arrest all persons guilty of violating any existing law or ordinance for the suppression or punishment of crimes or offences.

During the early ninety's the citizens of Ridgewood were without adequate police protection and suffered to such an extent from robberies that in consequence a number of citizens, headed by Joseph W. Edwards, formed an organization called the Village Protective Association. This Association held monthly meetings. Its members furnished not only the funds necessary to hire at first one man to do police patrol work and later others, but they were subject to call for purposes of protection when need arose.

The first real police force was organized in 1892 and continued under the direction of the Village Protective Association until the Village Trustees took over their work.

Peter Pulis was sworn in as a special officer on July 1, 1897. At that time the force included James E. Houlihan and James Hammond. On October 1, 1897, Mr. Pulis was appointed Chief of Police, and on October 31st the other two men were relieved from service. Chief Pulis continued as the only member of the force until March 1, 1903, when two additional men were placed under his authority. Since that time the force has been gradually increased to a present membership of ten men, including a Police Clerk, first appointed on June 1, 1909.

During the latter part of 1915, the Commissioners, deeming it wise to place the department under a Superintendent of Police, selected for this office Robert Groves, for over thirty-two years a member of the Police Department of the City of New York and appointed him to the position to take office on January 1, 1916. Chief Pulis resigned his position on February 1, 1916.

The force at present consists of a Superintendent of Police, one Sergeant, seven patrolmen, a clerk and a German shepherd police dog. Police dogs were first used in Ridgewood in 1913.

Ridgewood's first lock-up for law-breakers was in an old stone house located on the summit of the rise on the west side of the railroad tracks and south of the present Play House. Later a small wooden shack on Rock Avenue (now Broad Street) was erected and used for this purpose. In 1898, The Village Improvement Association, as a result of complaints regarding the conditions existing in the jail, which, when unoccupied, was used as a shelter for stray dogs, aroused the citizens to provide a new building which was erected just back of the present Municipal Building. This building was equipped under the supervision of the Humane Committee of the Association. When the Municipal Building was built, rooms were provided in it for police headquarters and for the lock-up.



THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

DUTIES

The chief duty of the Fire Department is to extinguish fires. A very important secondary duty is the prevention of fires. Fire prevention is made effective in a variety of ways. A building code specifies certain principles of construction to which all new buildings must conform. Inspection of all buildings in process of construction insures observance of the building code regulations. Fire zone restrictions limit the use of wooden construction in the more thickly built up sections of the community. Periodic inspection is made of the buildings used for public gatherings with the result that the fire hazards are greatly reduced. Further service is rendered by the Department by the assignment of firemen in uniform to attend public gatherings so that any emergency of fire or panic may be promptly and effectively handled.

EARLY FIRES

The history of the Fire Department of Ridgewood, like that of other departments of the community, is the story of a gradual development as the needs of the community have demanded increased service.

Ridgewood in its existence as a municipality has suffered from only five serious fires. All occurred before the department was placed upon an efficient basis.

The first fire of importance was the destruction in 1876 of the Ridgewood Avenue Hotel, which stood on the site of the Rouclere House.

On March 9, 1881, a fire, starting in a barn used by J. J. Bogert for the storage of hay and located just northwest of the present Municipal Building, destroyed the adjacent Franklin Hotel facing on Ridgewood Avenue. Sweeping west on Ridgewood Avenue, it also destroyed a blacksmith and wheelwright shop on the site of the present Ryerson Building. Continuing southward on Broad Street, it destroyed several small out-buildings and Whritnour and Colfax's store located on the site now occupied by the feed and grain building of E. B. Van Horn. The Masonic Hall of those days occupied the upper floor of Whritnour and Colfax's building.

The next fire occurred in April, 1889. It started in a small building in the rear of the Shuart Building, now the site of the Hutton Building. After destroying the Shuart Building, it consumed Cronter's Meat Market, adjoining, and two feed stores on Broad Street at the rear of the Zabriskie (now Moore) Building, which was also slightly damaged.

A row of one-story stores, commencing at the present site of the Post Office on Prospect Street and continuing to the corner of Hudson Street, was destroyed by fire on March 11, 1899.

The last fire of serious consequences occurred on March 21, 1900. It originated in a coal cellar in the rear of Tice's Drug Store located in the Pioneer Building (a three-story brick building) at the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Chestnut Street. It destroyed the Pioneer Building and the next two on Ridgewood Avenue, a three-story and a one-story frame structure.



Ruins of Fire, March 9, 1881.

*Courtesy E. L. Zubriskie*

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT

The fire of 1881, followed by the one in 1889, aroused the citizens to discuss the need of better protection against fire. The only method of combating fire in vogue at that time was the volunteer bucket brigade.

Some years later a meeting, on the evening of March 3, 1896, fruitful of results, was held in the Opera House. The meeting was attended by George R. Young, J. H. Christopher, I. E. Hutton, R. M. Bridgeman, Frank Baxter, Dr. G. Ockford, J. I. Bogert, E. A. Breusch, George Blauvelt, J. Houlihan and W. H. La Fetra. Committees were appointed to plan the organization of a fire department and to examine apparatus with a view to its purchase.

Subsequent meetings were held and on March 25th an ordinance organizing a fire department was presented to the village trustees and was adopted by that body on May 13th. An appropriation of two thousand dollars was authorized at a General Election of the citizens held in April for the purchase of fire-fighting apparatus. The first Chief of the Department, Dr. Walter Van Emburgh, was appointed on October 7, 1896.

The Department was formally organized during the early part of January, 1897, as Protection Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, with sixty-eight members enrolled. In 1905, the word "Protection" was dropped from its name and it has since been known as Hook and Ladder Company No. 1.

Following the organization of the company, plans were discussed for a building properly to house the apparatus and to serve also as a meeting-place for the members. A contract for a two-story building on the present site of the Municipal Building on Hudson Street was awarded on July 12, 1897, to George E. Ferguson. Its cost was twelve hundred and forty-six dollars. This building, when completed, served as the home of the company until the erection of the present Municipal Building, when quarters were provided for the company on the ground floor.

During the following August, the first fire fighting apparatus was received. It consisted of a hand-drawn hook and ladder truck equipped with ladders, buckets, and small tools. The water supply throughout the Village at that time was obtained from private wells. When a fire occurred, water was obtained from the nearby wells or streams.

The first fire to which the department responded was in a barn in Glen Rock, owned by J. W. Edwards. The first fire attended by the department within the Village was in a house on Irving Street occupied by a Mr. Lawrence. Despite the efforts of the firemen, the house was destroyed.

A second piece of apparatus, a hand-drawn Chemical Engine, was placed in commission by the Village on March 11, 1899. It is now held in reserve at the headquarters in case the present automobile apparatus is out of commission or a fire occurs which requires additional apparatus.

A hand-pull fire alarm bell was purchased in the early part of 1898 and installed in the Fire House on Hudson Street. It remained in



use there until superseded by the present Gamewell Alarm System. It was then moved to the quarters of Hose Company No. 1, and placed on a tower in the yard of C. A. Swarn, Kenilworth Place. Later the bell was moved to the Circle Avenue home of Hose Company No. 1, and afterwards equipped with an electric striker. The Gamewell bell was at first mounted in the tower of the Opera House (Town Hall) but was transferred to the roof of the Municipal Building when the latter was erected.

Eagle Hose Company No. 1, was organized in January, 1900, as the result of agitation on the part of residents east of the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook. The first apparatus of this Company consisted of a carpenter's wagon filled with ladders, buckets and other fire-fighting tools. This company later dropped the word "Eagle" from its name and has since been known as Hose Company No. 1.

The apparatus of both companies in the early days was drawn to fires by hand or by teams that happened to be in the neighborhood of the fire stations when an alarm was sounded.

Arrangements were made on March 20, 1900, with E. B. Van Horn to furnish a team on alarm for the use of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. This arrangement continued until the Village purchased its own team to be used both by the Fire Department and by the Department of Streets. Hose Company No. 1 continued to use such teams as might be available for some time thereafter. Finally the Village furnished them with a team which was also used by the Department of Streets.

The installation of the Gamewell Fire Alarm System in July, 1900 (the first alarm during its test being sent from Box 14), and the construction throughout the Village of a modern water-supply system (which was officially tested by the Fire Department for fire protection purposes on December 29, 1900) placed the Fire Department for the first time in a position where it could effectively combat the dangers of a serious conflagration. The department has since this time been able to confine all fires to the buildings in which they started.

The officials of the department and of the Village have endeavored to keep the department equipped with modern apparatus. In 1908 the present Hook and Ladder Truck of Company No. 1 was purchased and put into commission, and the original truck was sold. The present Automobile Combination Chemical and Hose Car was purchased in 1912.

The department, consisting entirely of volunteers, has always been known throughout the community for its efficiency and the high character of its membership.

Succeeding the first Chief of the Department, Dr. Walter Van Emburgh, and in the order of their tenure of office, the Chiefs of the department have been: J. Calvin Bogert, Edwin Nickerson, D. J. O'Neill, Dr. J. B. Hopper, George W. Courter, and the present incumbent, H. A. Tice, who was appointed on March 2, 1915.

#### PRESENT ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

The department now consists of a Chief, H. A. Tice, two assistants, Wm. Van Dien and Jesse Van Wagenen, a Superintendent of Fire

Alarm Telegraph, two Captains, two Lieutenants, and twenty-four men.

The department headquarters and Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, are located on Hudson Street in the Municipal Building; while Hose Company No. 1 is located on Circle Avenue.

The equipment of the department consists of one Locomobile, single tank combination chemical and hose automobile; one double tank horse-drawn chemical engine; one horse-drawn hook and ladder truck; two hose wagons and four horses; and the necessary working equipment.

The fire alarm system is under the supervision of Frank A. Harrison, Superintendent of Fire Alarm Telegraph, and consists of twenty-eight fire alarm street boxes, five special boxes located in schools, twenty-two miles of hard-drawn copper wire, one two-thousand pound bell in the Municipal Building, and one one-thousand pound bell in the Circle Avenue house, with automatic strike attachments, indicators, and tappers where required.

There are one hundred and thirty-six public hydrants and five private hydrants in use for fire purposes.

#### THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health is charged with the responsibility of protecting the health of the citizens, and is empowered to make rules and regulations, such as do not conflict with those of the State Board of Health, to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, and to take such other steps as may be deemed necessary to protect and conserve the health of the community.

The records show that a Board of Health was established by the Village Trustees on July 15, 1895, though its members were not at once appointed. As a matter of fact, safeguarding the health of our Village was considered within the province of duties of the Board of Trustees, who thus constituted themselves a Board of Health. The history of the Board of Health, therefore, is the history of the Village Trustees until February 1, 1906, when the first recorded meeting of a separate body was held for the purpose of organization.

During this time, however, The Village Improvement Association, through its Sanitary Committee, investigated complaints regarding the sanitary conditions of the Village and became active in related duties. This committee was notably successful in ending the practice of dumping garbage, ashes, and other refuse indiscriminately, and, in 1897, it established a regular service for the collection of garbage and ashes, the supervision of which was assumed by the Village officials in 1903.

Through the efforts of The Village Improvement Association, in 1897, an unsanitary open ditch, which ran between Ridgewood and Franklin Avenues from a point near Broad Street to the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook, was filled in.

In 1900 it established the practice of placing signs upon all homes which held cases of infectious disease.

The first Board of Health consisted of the following members: President, Frederick W. Gardner; Secretary, Dr. John T. Hanks; Dr. H. A. Willard, Dr. John B. Hopper, and Wm. H. Moore. Dr. C. A. DeMund was appointed Health Officer, Wm. H. Moore, Plumbing In-



spector, and J. Blauvelt Hopper, Registrar of Vital Statistics. These officials met once a month in the old Fire House until the following June, when the Board began holding two, and sometimes more, meetings a month. By-laws were adopted February 6, 1906, when J. Blauvelt Hopper was appointed Clerk. On March 6th of the same year, Judge David D. Zabriskie was made Counsel to the Board; in August, George H. Soult took the office of Plumbing Inspector, in place of Mr. Moore; and in October, Dr. H. H. Pettit became Health Officer, superseding Dr. DeMund. John B. Zabriskie was appointed Counsel in January, 1907, succeeding Judge David D. Zabriskie. On May 7, 1907, owing to the death of Mr. Gardner, Edward T. White was appointed a member of the Board, and Dr. Hopper was elected President. On January 5, 1910, Mr. White became President.

The first garbage and ash collector was J. I. Van Blarcom, who was appointed in February, 1906. Dr. Hopper superseded him in June, 1907, and upon his retirement in November of the same year, the Faber brothers, who operated the Ridgewood Disposal Works, were granted a license to carry on the garbage and ash collection work.

The Board moved into the old Wilsey Building in November, 1908. In February, 1909, Mr. Soult became Registrar of Vital Statistics, succeeding Mr. Hopper. On March 16, 1910, Doctors W. L. Vroom and C. A. DeMund were appointed members of the Board, taking the places of Doctors Hopper and Willard, while Clarence A. Demarest was appointed Clerk.

The first ordinance passed by this Board June 27, 1906, was that relating to nuisances, privy vaults, and cesspools; scavengers, contagious diseases, burials, etc. This ordinance is still in force, with an added amendment regarding scavengers, made effective in 1908. Before this, however, in March, 1904, the Village Trustees enacted Ordinance No. 54. This dealt with rules and regulations relating to plumbing, water supply, and ventilation of buildings. It was superseded in June of last year, however, by the present Plumbing Code. In 1907, the Board passed an ordinance dealing with proper sewer connections of houses and other buildings; and in 1908, an ordinance was passed regulating the handling and sale of milk. This was supplemented in 1910 by a provision for the licensing of persons, corporations, or associations of persons to deal in milk. In 1909, the Board enacted an ordinance directing the elimination of breeding-places of mosquitoes; and in 1911 one regulating proper care and cleaning of stables and the disposition of manure.

In 1909, with the financial help of a few public-spirited citizens, the services of a visiting nurse were secured for a short period, in a laudable effort to foster, by instruction in improved methods of house care, better living conditions in certain of our homes. The formation of the Ridgewood Relief Society was a direct result of this effort.

In the Spring of 1910, a plan for the regular inspection of dairy premises was adopted with the set purpose of inculcating and enforcing among the dairymen modern and efficient dairy methods in the production of high-grade milk. From time to time, samples of milk from the local dealers have been procured by the Board for analyses.

This requirement has had a salutary effect, and consequently high standards have been ensured and maintained. It is satisfactory to report that in a recent statement issued by the Division of Creameries and Dairies of the State Board, the condition of the Ridgewood dairies was declared as the best in the State. In addition to the supervisions of the local Board, a plan was arranged in 1913 with the State Board to have its inspectors make occasional visits to Ridgewood.

The Board has always kept in close touch with the Village water conditions. One of its accomplishments has been the installation of a regular system of tests.

The work of exterminating the mosquito has been carried on in a vigorous manner for several years. Oil has been spread on all stagnant water and in the lowlands, while many breeding places have been drained and filled. During the past year the work has been supplemented by the Bergen County Mosquito Extermination Commission, the representatives of which, in addition to much valuable work, have inspected and charted every foot of ground in the Village.

In May, 1910, the Board moved into the Trust Company Building, but later, in June, 1911, was installed in its present office in the Municipal Building. On August 9, 1911, George B. Richardson was appointed Sanitary Inspector in the place of Mr. Soult. Mr. Moore, however, temporarily acted in this capacity for a short season.

With the change in Village Government, in December, 1911, the entire Board automatically went out of office, and the Commissioners appointed a new Board naming Edward T. White as President, Dr. W. L. Vroom as Secretary-Treasurer, the other members being Edward S. Brower, John Harmon, and Robert W. Muns. These, with Health Officer Pettit, Inspector Murphy, Clerk Demarest, and Registrar Morris, constitute the present Village Health organization. Until the appointment of John J. Murphy, Frank Stevens acted as Registrar of Vital Statistics. When Wilbur Morris was appointed Village Clerk in February, 1912, he also assumed the title and duties of Registrar. Mr. Richardson, owing to the provisions of the Walsh Act, could not legally serve as Inspector and was made Deputy Health Officer, his duties combining that of Inspector. Subsequently, Inspector Robert B. Murphy, the present incumbent, was appointed and took office January 2, 1912.

In 1912, Joseph Houlihan was appointed Deputy Inspector for several weeks to examine conditions in the Village pertaining to out-houses, stables, sewer connections, breeding-places for mosquitoes, etc. He reported 72 outside privies and 73 violations of the manure ordinance.

Consideration of the control of contagious diseases in the schools and churches was jointly taken up by the School Board and the Ridgewood Medical Society in 1912, and, after numerous conferences, rules and regulations were formulated which greatly improved the quarantine system.

During 1913, the Board instituted inspections of all local ice-cream factories and noted the sanitary conditions of the Village stores. Licensed vendors were also placed under inspection.

In 1914, the new State Law restrictions required an examination for glanders of all horses removing into New York State. To comply with this regulation, over 200 horses were examined, but no trace of the disease was found.

In April, 1915, what might have proved a severe epidemic of scarlet fever was checked by the prompt action of the Board in closing certain of the public schools, Sunday-schools, and other places where children congregated.

In May of the same year the Board, with the aid of the Women's Club and the Boy Scouts, inaugurated a vigorous anti-fly campaign. Mr. J. E. Coyle, of the Boy Scouts, was appointed a temporary Special Inspector, with the boys as his active assistants.

Early in the present year an epidemic of measles broke out which became a cause of considerable concern on the part of the Board. A rigid enforcement of the quarantine, however, proved effective in holding it within bounds. Owing to the inconveniences and possible distress imposed on families of patients by long periods of quarantine, and to accord with the custom adopted in other representative municipalities, the exclusion period from school was reduced to fourteen days.

On July 8, 1916, a special meeting was held to devise methods to prevent the spread to Ridgewood of the infantile-paralysis epidemic then raging in New York. As a means to this end the Sunday-schools, the Y. M. C. A., and Play House were closed to children under sixteen, and numerous other measures were taken, which proved effective. Since then a joint meeting has been held in Ridgewood of the Boards of Health of Ridgewood, Glen Rock, Ho-ho-kus, and Midland Park, to discuss ways and means of preventing a spread of the disease. As a result all visiting children were detained, while those from infected districts were quarantined for observation for a period of two weeks. A discussion of the County Isolation Hospital followed, and a joint resolution was submitted to the Freeholders urging its early completion. It is hoped that the hospital, as well as the proposed co-operative laboratory, will become acquisitions of the very near future.

#### THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION

The first shade trees that were planted along the highways in Ridgewood are located on Maple Avenue and extend north about one-half mile from Ridgewood Avenue. They were set out during the early sixties along their properties on both sides of the street by Captain Samuel Dayton, Samuel Graydon, B. F. Robinson, A. J. Cameron, A. J. Zabriskie and Richard Van Dien.

A large number of trees were given to the Village in 1880 by I. W. England and were set out under the direction of J. W. Edwards and B. F. Robinson.

The first organized effort for the improvement of the public grounds was made in 1897, when The Village Improvement Association caused the grounds surrounding the Opera House to be plowed, grass-seed sowed, and a number of bushes planted. The association continued to care for the grounds for a number of years. Through their efforts

the Erie Railroad officials in 1901 gave flowers for beds and placed benches near the station. It was due to their efforts also that in 1897 all signs and advertisements were removed from trees and rocks in conspicuous places throughout the Village.

As the result of further efforts of The Village Improvement Association, individual property owners in 1901 furnished approximately two hundred trees and set out the present silver maple trees on Godwin Avenue as far as Melrose Place, on Franklin Avenue from Monroe Street to the railroad tracks, and along Ridgewood Avenue from the railroad tracks to North Pleasant Avenue.

Until the establishment of the first Shade Tree Commission no further organized effort was made by the citizens, although numerous trees were set out from time to time by individual property owners.

#### THE COMMISSION

New Jersey, as well as Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and other States has, by statute, made broad provisions for the care and planting of shade trees on the highways. Under these laws, in January, 1909, Ridgewood's first Shade Tree Commission was appointed. Its members were I. E. Hutton, Chairman, Maurice Fornachon and T. J. Foster. F. R. Meier was made Secretary. Soon after its organization, Mr. Fornachon removed from the Village and was succeeded by George H. Stevens.

The present Commission consists of W. H. Maier, Chairman, Louis Chable, Secretary, and A. C. Brooks. Samuel D. Graydon is Superintendent. Mr. Graydon has also served as a member of the Commission, having been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the former Commissioner J. H. Birch.

The Commission has followed a systematic plan of planting trees along all our streets; of caring properly for the thousands of street and park trees that beautify the Village; and of removing dead and undesirable trees.

#### STATUTE

To the jurisdiction of the Shade Tree Commission is committed by statute the planting, setting out, maintenance, protection, and care of the shade trees in the public highways of the Village; and also the management, maintenance, improvement, repair, and control of the public parks belonging to the Village.

#### STREET WORK

In the discharge of their duties the Shade Tree Commissioners may tentatively decide to plant trees along certain streets or parts of streets. The statute requires that notice of such intention to plant be advertised once in a village newspaper at least twenty days before a public hearing at which the final decision is made; or at least ten days before the hearing such notice may be served personally upon any owner of real estate in front of whose property it is proposed to plant or remove a tree. This advertisement or notice announces the intention to plant, and gives the date and hour of the meeting



at which final decision is to be made. At this meeting a careful hearing is given to all suggestions and objections, and such changes as then seem advisable are made in the proposed plan.

#### PLANTING

During the past four years there were set out by and under the authority of the Commission the following trees, along about eight miles of streets:—

Norway maples .....	892
Red oaks .....	153
Oriental planes .....	140
Pin oaks .....	92
Scarlet oaks .....	41
Crimean linden .....	35
Tulip .....	35
European linden .....	18
Liquidambar .....	12
Ailanthus .....	7
Lombardy poplars .....	3
Sugar maples .....	2
	<hr/>
	1,430

Of these about 30 trees were replacements. The number of new trees planted by the Shade Tree Commission within these four years is therefore about 1400.

The thoughtful citizen will realize and appreciate what an increasingly valuable asset these trees will become to the Village and how great a part they will play in making our "Ridgewood Beautiful".

The cost of statutory planting (that is, planting done under the authority of the statute creating Shade Tree Commissions) is assessed against the properties benefited and is entered upon the tax bill. Once paid, such an assessment does not recur, as the cost of any replacements of these plantings is borne by the Commission. Tree planting done by request is charged for at the time of the planting.

#### CARE

The proper care of the trees is a matter of labor and of expense that is proportionately increased with each year's planting of additional trees.

The soil about the trees must be kept by cultivation or mulching in such condition as to conserve the moisture, to protect the roots and base from winter's harmful effects, and to add plant food to the soil. In times of drought the trees must be watered. At regular intervals the trees must be sprayed.

Defective or irregular branches must be pruned, cavities must be cleansed, and branches that grow so low as to interfere with pedestrians on sidewalks or with vehicles on the streets must be removed. In zealously performing its duties, the Commission finds its reward in adding to the comfort of the public and in increasing the beauty of the Village.



#### PARKS

The Commission has recently set out a number of trees in Linwood Park, established in 1910. It has also the care of the trees on the land acquired by the Village for a Parkway along the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook. This Parkway was begun as the result of an investigation in 1908 by the civic improvement expert, Mr. Charles Mulford Robinson. When completed, it will be one of the most beautiful and attractive features of the Village.

#### STATION PLAZA

The Commission has recently been responsible, under an arrangement with the contractors, for the laying out and planting of the trees and shrubbery in the new station improvements.

#### THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

In order to safeguard the citizens against imperfect and unsafe building structures and to reduce to a minimum the fire hazards of the Village, the Board of Commissioners adopted, on the 25th of February, 1913, a building code which regulates and controls the construction, alteration, and repair of all buildings in the Village, and which provides for a Building Committee of not less than three, a Superintendent of Buildings, and an Inspector of Buildings, who are charged with the duty of seeing that the ordinances are strictly enforced.

The Building Committee consists of the three Village Commissioners. Mr. F. W. Simonds, the Village Engineer, is Superintendent and Inspector of Buildings.

#### DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND FINANCE

As its name implies, this department has to do with the entire handling of the receipts and expenditures of the municipality that has adopted the commission form of government. The laws of the State, however, particularly except the finances of the Board of Education from this control. Money for education is raised by taxation, like all the rest of the Village moneys, but it is paid over to the Board of Education for expenditure under their own control and accounting.

In January of each year the Board of Commissioners prepare a budget of the money which in their judgment is required to run the Village. This budget is adopted finally in July. The Assessor is then given the amount required and it is then his business to raise by taxation the money asked for. The appropriations for the Board of Education in Ridgewood are voted by the taxpayers at a special election called for this purpose. The budget prepared by the Board of Commissioners is not submitted to the voters for their approval.

The money required to run a municipality is spent before it is received; in other words, the revenue from taxes paid in December of each year is used to pay the expenses of that year: thus the Village is forced to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

When Ridgewood adopted Commission Government, the department of revenue and finance established a proper system of bookkeeping. Each year it is required to have a complete audit made of all books and vouchers.

Mr. George U. White is the present Commissioner acting as the head of the department, a position which he has held since its establishment in 1911.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, PARKS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

*Physical Improvements*

The first sidewalk "laid" in Ridgewood was a substantial one of wood and was built by the firm of Zabriskie & Hawes in the early 70's. This sidewalk ran from the corner of Ridgewood and Broad Streets, south on Broad Street and turning the corner of Dayton Street it continued to and across Prospect Street to the residence of Mr. Hawes, which was located in an open meadow and now stands on Dayton Street opposite the Reformed Church. The "tide of travel" quickly turned from Prospect Street to the station through the mud and the sidewalk was worn out by the general public or burned for kindling wood. Mr. Joseph W. Edwards and other residents at this time also laid wooden sidewalks along their properties which were all later superseded by stone walks.

Up to about 1880 no organized attempt had been made to improve the sanitary conditions of the Village. About that time one of our citizens felt that conditions threatened a serious epidemic of typhoid fever. The section between Broad and Prospect Streets, composed of bog and thickets of brush, was like a swamp on a hill. The cesspools and the wells kept at about the same level. The danger of intercommunication was apparent. Then occurred the first concentrated effort to better the conditions. Two owners of considerable property in that section planned to improve its value. A drain about five feet deep had previously been run through Broad and Hudson Streets across Prospect Street and through the Opera House site to Ridgewood Avenue and Oak Street, draining into a bog on the north side of Ridgewood Avenue to the region of the present Franklin Avenue and beyond, into an area afterwards occupied by the lumber yards of G. G. Van Dien. It was proposed to dig this drain to a depth of twelve or fifteen feet. This was done, and a cutting was made through the hard-pan that formed the bed and the rim of the basin of the swamp. Immediately the water in the wells dropped ten feet in level; its quality was changed and the danger that threatened the settlement was averted. Hundreds of cart-loads of dirt were afterwards dumped into the Ridgewood-Franklin Avenue bog until it disappeared.

Attention began now to be given to a better organization of the work of maintenance and improvement of the roads. All road work had been handled without any system. The "Path Master" might spend quite a sum of money on certain portions of the road, only to have his work undone by his successor, who had other ideas of im-

provement. Under such a system, consistent progress was impossible. Following the efforts of John A. Marinus, however, a plan was adopted of employing an engineer who should direct all work to the accomplishment of a fixed and unchanging purpose.

Later, through the persistent efforts of Isaac E. Hutton, Ridgewood Avenue was graded, with a cut of about ten feet at Irving Street, and with the consequent result that the surface water was drained naturally to the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook.

The people of the Village have made constant progress in improving the roads and streets. In 1866 the first Village streets were laid out. In 1888 the principal streets were macadamized. As a pioneer of macadamized roads the Village made expenditure in 1892 of \$30,000, and made its streets second to none in the State. The permanent improvement of Maple Avenue during 1915, and the laying of brick pavement in the streets about the railroad station in 1914 and 1916, are described elsewhere in this book.

### *Establishment of Department*

Previous to the establishment of an organized department of the Village to care for such matters, The Village Improvement Association, through its Street Committee, in 1898, inaugurated the use of receptacles for the disposition of rubbish on the Village streets. Six receptacles were placed on the street corners of the main thoroughfare.

During the same year the association was instrumental in securing the passage of an ordinance preventing store sweepings from being emptied upon the sidewalks and into the streets. In 1901 the association engaged a man to sweep the main street of the Village two days a week, and later started the street sprinkling system.

With the adoption in 1911 of Commission Government, the Department of Public Improvements, Parks and Public Property was established, first under the direction of Commissioner Frederick Pfeiffer, and upon the expiration of his term of office in 1915, under the direction of the new Commissioner, Dr. J. B. Hopper. Mr. F. W. Simonds is Village Engineer and Mr. J. D. Carlock is Superintendent of Streets and Sewers.

This department is responsible for the maintenance of all Village streets, of storm and sanitary sewers and of the sewage pumping plants and disposal system. It plans and constructs all new streets, sewers, curbs, gutters and sidewalks, when laid out and built by the Village. It attends to the purchase of all supplies and materials used in its work. It controls the Village yard and railroad spur on Chestnut Street. It has a steam-roller and seven horses for use in its work, four of the horses being used also for hauling the fire apparatus when called to fires. An automobile is furnished the Superintendent of Streets for use in connection with his duties.

The department is also responsible for the construction of all buildings, in accordance with the provisions of the building code, and for the care of parks and public property other than that assigned to another particular department.

*The Village Engineer*

The Village Engineer has active charge of the department and makes periodical reports to the Commissioner directing the department. He makes surveys and investigations; he designs all construction work and draws the necessary specifications; he is responsible for all contract work done for the Village and keeps a record of expenditures of the department classified so as to show actual and unit costs for all work done by the Village.

*The Superintendent of Streets and Sewers*

The Superintendent of Streets and Sewers reports to the Village Engineer and acts as the immediate head of all employes in the department. He is responsible for the carrying out of all work done by the Village in accordance with his specific instructions.

*Sewer System*

The department has in its care approximately nineteen miles of sewer pipe and two sewer plants, one located on the west side, which acts as a pumping station, and another on the east side, constructed in 1903, which contains a large septic tank to which the pipe system first conducts the sewage. Here the bulk of the organic matter is precipitated and retained. It is then subjected to a bacterial action, which disintegrates and consumes it. The overflow of water is conducted to filter beds of coke covered with crushed stone. It is there purified and is then discharged into a stream running from the Village.

Sixty-one flush tanks have been installed at the dead ends of sewers. Once every twenty-four hours they automatically flush the sewer lines to which they are connected.

The cost of maintaining the sewage system, including wages of two men on day and two on night duty, expenditure for electric power at the pumping station, and expenses of repairs and up-keep of both plants, amounts approximately to \$1.00 per inhabitant per year.

ADVISORY BOARD

With the establishment of the Commission form of Government in 1911, the newly elected Commissioners deemed it to be in keeping with the spirit of that form of government to invite the formation of a body of citizens into an Advisory Board who would meet with the Commissioners from time to time for the discussion of problems of public interest and their best mode of solution.

The present Board consists of George F. Brackett, De Witt Clinton, Jr., T. J. Foster, W. J. Fullerton, Bayly Hipkins, Frederick Pfeiffer, Franz Schwartz, J. H. Snyder, S. S. Walstrum, H. G. White, and J. D. Van Emburgh. While this Advisory Board has no legal standing in the government of the Village, the opinions and counsel of its members are of great value, not only to the Commissioners in determining the policies to be pursued in public affairs, but also to every citizen of Ridgewood, who profits by a wise and efficient administration of the public business.



ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The administration of justice, through the courts of law, is one of the most solemn and important exercises of the powers of government. The government which we have adopted in this country by the free choice of the people is based upon the absolute independence of the judicial department. The courts stand for the protection of rights, for the redressing of wrongs, for the punishment of crime. They are the great safeguards of the freedom of the people; hence we clothe these institutions with dignity and invest them with impressive formalities that they may be duly granted the respect and obedience which are due their exalted prerogatives and powers.

The judicial functions of the Village of Ridgewood are performed by three courts: The Court of Common Pleas, located in Hackensack and commonly known as the County Court; the District Court of Ridgewood, and the Recorders' Court.

*Court of Common Pleas*

Baron Van der Cappellen established a Court of Union Hill for the purpose of settling differences between the Indians and white settlers. The exact date of its institution has never been ascertained.

In 1655 Adrian Post was appointed by Van der Cappellen as his deputy to "treat with the Hackensack Indians for the release of prisoners"; later, in 1657, a treaty was made with the Indians, through another deputy, Van Dineklogen, which provided, among other things, for the "submission of disputed matters to the Courts of Justice at Hospating, near Hackensack."

For nine years, from 1652 to 1661, and possibly longer, the Court of Burgomasters and Schepens exercised active operation. A local Court, consisting of a *Schout* (presiding judge) and three *Schepens*, or magistrates, was established at Bergen in September, 1661. This Court had civil and criminal jurisdiction, and any appeal from its decisions was made to the Director-General and Counsel at Manhattan.

In 1683 the twenty-four proprietors responsible for "The Fundamental Constitutions for the Province of East New Jersey in America," decreed that neither "justice nor right should be bought or sold" and that "all tryals should be by twelve men, and, as near as it may be, peers and equals"; also that "in cases of life there shall be at first twenty-four returned by the sheriff for a grand inquest". It thus appears that our present jury system (grand and petit) was securely established at that early period in the history of American jurisprudence. Indeed it has been practically maintained without serious change, notwithstanding the constantly changing influences affecting the life of the people.

On May 14, 1688, an Act, passed by the General Assembly convened at Perth Amboy, provided for a "Court for Trial of Small Causes". This Court was to be held monthly at the house of Lawrence Andriess at New Hackensack, the name by which the settlement on the west side of the Hackensack River was then known, the territory on the east side of the river being distinguished as "Old Hack-



ensack". A similar Court convened at the house of Dr. Johannes, on the Hackensack River.

Prior to 1709 Bergen County did not include within its boundaries the territory west of the Hackensack River. In that year the lines of the county were extended, and the county lying west of the Hackensack River admitted. The Village of Hackensack became the County seat, and there the first Court house was built. This edifice stood on "The Green", near Main Street. It was destroyed by the British in 1780.

In 1704 the Supreme Court of this State was established by Lord Cornbury.

The second Court house and a jail were built in Youghpough, in Franklin Township, during the Revolution.

The third Court house of Bergen County, the first after the Revolution, was built at Hackensack, near Main Street, on property which later belonged to Richard Paul Terhune. A clerk's office was built about 1812 on the west side of Main Street, north of the Susquehanna Railroad, and remained until 1853. In 1819 the fourth Court house was built on property deeded by Robert Campbell. It was enlarged several times, and in 1892 was reconstructed.

On July 6, 1910, was laid the corner-stone of the present County Court House on Main Street, Hackensack.

The administrative system of Common Law reaching down to us from colonial times, had its origin in the Common Law of England. Though modifications in forms and in practice are made from time to time to meet the requirements of modern changing conditions, yet the fundamental principles of the law, founded as they are on inherent rights, continue substantially unchanged from generation to generation. The tendency of our day is toward simplification of pleadings and practice. In the place of the dozen judges formerly required as essential to rule our County Court a single judge now presides with marked efficiency.

In the earlier days most of the judges officiating in the Court of Common Pleas were not lawyers, but for many years it has been the invariable custom to select the presiding judge from the ranks of men who have taken their legal degree.

Ridgewood has had the honor of representation on the bench of this Court when Honorable David D. Zabriskie served as its judge from 1898 to 1908.

### *District Court*

The District Court ranks as one of Ridgewood's most useful institutions. It has jurisdiction over the whole of Bergen County and supersedes the "ancient and honorable" Court of Justice of the Peace.

There are three District Courts for the County, and these have their court rooms located as follows:

First District in the City of Englewood; Second District in the Borough of Rutherford; Third District in the villages of Hackensack and Ridgewood.

The judges of these Courts frequently exchange courtesies by holding court for one another. As the reader is, naturally, interested more particularly in what concerns Ridgewood, the Third District Court only will be referred to.

This Court was created by an Act of the Legislature of this State entitled "An Act to incorporate the Third Judicial District of the County of Bergen". This was passed April 11, 1908, and took effect January 1, 1909.

The territory assigned to the jurisdiction of this Court, as defined by the Act creating it, embraces that portion of Bergen County reaching from New York State line on the north to Garfield and Rutherford on the south, and from the Hackensack River on the east to the Passaic County line on the west.

With a view of avoiding possible inconvenience and annoyance that the extensive population over this wide territory might be subjected to, the Legislature decreed that Court should be held in two different places in this District. Hackensack and Ridgewood were thus chosen.

The Court has commodious court rooms in the County Court House at Hackensack and in the Trust Company Building at Ridgewood. At first the Ridgewood Court held its sessions in Prospect Hall but two years later moved to its present quarters.

The regular Court days are: Tuesday in Ridgewood; Friday in Hackensack. Special days for jury trials are set by the judge.

Judge Cornelius Doremus was the first judge to hold this Court. He was appointed by Governor Fort on January 18, 1909, to serve for a term of five years. He occupied the bench for the full term, and was succeeded by Judge Peter W. Stagg, the present incumbent.

The Court has civil jurisdiction only. Criminal cases are tried elsewhere.

It is a busy Court; each session lists a long calendar of landlord and tenant cases, actions for breach of contract, accident suits, actions to enforce ordinances, and similar actions other than those involving offenses against criminal laws, and equity cases. It is essentially what is popularly described as "The People's Court". Its sessions continue the year round and by its expeditious trial of cases at a minimum of cost to litigants, has well deserved its popular title.

Its reputation and importance are further evidenced by the large volume of business brought to it. The majority of the cases are tried by the judge without a jury. The court opens promptly at 9:30 in the forenoon and continues in session until all cases marked "ready" are disposed of. Frequently a court day lasts until six o'clock, often later.

The Court officials consist of a judge, clerk, assistant clerk, sergeant-at-arms, and stenographer. Judson B. Salisbury of Ridgewood has acted as clerk of the Court almost since its organization.

The old saying, "The Law's Delay", has no application to this particular Court. Usually not more than two weeks are occupied from the presentation of a case to the rendering of a decision. There are sixteen fixed rules governing the Court's procedure, besides the "General Rules of Practise" fixed by the statutes of the State.

During the first five years of the existence of the Court, upward of six thousand suits were introduced and disposed of in Hackensack and Ridgewood, and not one per cent of these were appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Court is already well advanced in its second five-year term. "The Court of the People" is one of the institutions of which Ridgewood is justly proud.

### *Recorder's Court*

This Court was established by the Village Commissioners on April 28, 1914, under the authority conferred upon them by an act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey entitled "A supplement to an act—An Act for the formation and government of Villages—approved February 23rd, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-one", approved March 26, 1914.

The act provides that "Such recorder shall have the same jurisdiction, power, and authority in criminal matters, affiliation proceedings, relief, removal and settlement of the poor, breaches of the peace, vagrancy and disorderly conduct, and violation of the municipal ordinances, as are now conferred upon justices of peace in this State".

On the date first mentioned the Village Commissioners appointed Frederick V. Watson, Counsellor-at-Law of the State of New Jersey, practising in this Village, as its recorder for a term of four years. Prior to the institution of this Court recorder's duties were exercised by justices of peace, who were elected by the people by popular vote. Dr. George M. Oekford, the present Village Postmaster, then a justice of peace, formerly acted in this capacity for this community.

The Recorder's Court has jurisdiction in all matters specifically conferred by statute, other than the above mentioned, notably for violations of the laws applying to the use and operation of motor vehicles.

The Recorder is also a peace officer. He has the power to commit to the county jail, to await the action of the prosecutor as to admission to bail or retention in such county jail, all persons charged with any serious violation of the criminal statutes of this State. Since persons charged can waive such hearing if they so desire and be committed forthwith, or they may make a statement, the recorder's duty requires him to investigate whether or not they have committed the breach of the criminal statute charged. Should he find reasonable grounds for assuming that they have committed such violation, it is his duty to commit them forthwith, and rest the final outcome upon the decision of the prosecutor and the grand jury of the county.

### *Bar of Ridgewood*

The story of the judicial institutions in which the citizens of Ridgewood are interested would be incomplete without at least some reference to those of the legal profession who have, at various times, represented our residents in the Courts.

As in other activities of the community, the legal business of the citizens was taken care of by lawyers having offices in nearby communities,

principally in Hackensack, where the County Court had been established and which offered an attractive sphere for their calling.

The increase in population and the growth of the community in the last years have brought a number of the legal profession to the Village. While a few of these maintain offices in Hackensack and New York City, those who have offices in the Village at the present time, are the following. The year recorded after each name respectively indicates the time of establishing practice.

Judge David D. Zabriskie .....	1884
Judge Cornelius Doremus .....	1887
John B. Zabriskie .....	1904
Frederick V. Watson .....	1907
George V. Halsey .....	1909
Grant C. Fox .....	1911
Lewis R. Conklin .....	1913
Clyde A. Bogert .....	1915



## CHAPTER IV

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TO one who is interested in the present public school system of Ridgewood there is a certain fascination in tracing its growth from small beginnings. Today there are six different centers, where 64 teachers are engaged in the work of educating our 1,600 children. The system is administered by a Board of Education, elected by the citizens, the present personnel of which are:—Dr. H. S. Willard, President; E. B. Lilly, Vice-President; Hadley Ford, Clerk; A. Frank Halsted, E. M. Bull and D. R. Bacon.

Standing on Harrison Avenue near the Paramus Church, a little, one-room churchlike structure, disused since the Kenilworth School was built, was for many years the place where the lamp of knowledge was kept aglow in the Paramus region by a long succession of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses.

Four other schools had preceded the present building on approximately the same site. The first, used in the year following the Treaty of Peace that established the independence of the United States, was formerly a dwelling-house. It was located about fifty feet southeast of the present Paramus Church building, a slight depression of the earth still marking the spot. This building was itself the successor of a still earlier schoolhouse built in that vicinity.

In 1810 a change became necessary and a small stone house was erected for school purposes near the sexton's house of the Paramus Church.

In 1820 a second stone school building was erected about two hundred feet east of the present structure. This, in 1845, gave place to a frame building near the same ground. It was used until 1871, when the present building was erected.

It is interesting to note that the supervision of schools rested with the church authorities until the civil powers took over their administration.

On Midland Avenue there is in present use an attractive school building the predecessor of which, a hundred years ago, stood on Paramus Road between Ridgewood Avenue and Grove Street. In these two schools, for generations, the little Dutch children from the scattered farms studied their A B C's and applied themselves to the mastery of the three R's.

Several miles to the west of Paramus, beyond the fields and wood of the Van Emburgh farm, the little Village of Godwinville had come into existence a hundred years ago on the heights just beyond the western borders of the present Ridgewood. Here, on the Goffle Road between the present Midland Park Railroad station and the brook, stood a little brownstone school where Dutch and English were com-



*Aljion Studio*

High School—Beech Street.

monly spoken. Part of a blacksmith shop, still standing, is the only trace that remains of this old school. Children of a later day were provided with more modern accommodations and better instruction in the newer Midland Park Public School and in the Dutch Christian Private School.

A part of a brick building, erected in 1770, just south of the residence of Garret L. Hopper at the junction of Harristown Road and Rock Road (now used as a dwelling and within the present limits of Glen Rock), furnished a generation ago, a one-room school—the fourth. In this meagre building many of Ridgewood's citizens had their earliest schooling. It seems to have been attended mainly by the children living in that section extending from Harrison Avenue through the present center of the Village to Glen Rock, which it included.

In 1872 the four schools mentioned proved too remote to be attended by many children in the homes which had sprung up. A new school district was then formed, and a wooden schoolhouse containing two rooms was built on the site of what is now the present Union Street School. When Ridgewood Township was set off from Franklin Township, four years later, this remained the only schoolhouse in the Township, and here all the children of Ridgewood received their schooling. Later, increasing attendants made it necessary to add two more rooms. The attic was converted for this purpose. Subsequently the basement of the Dutch Reformed Church was used as an annex to provide for the ever-increasing pupils.

At this juncture public opinion ventured to assert itself. At a school meeting it was voted to buy the cornfield on the corner of Beech Street and Franklin Avenue and to build upon it a large wooden schoolhouse at a cost of \$35,000. But public opinion had not fully expressed itself—the women had not yet spoken! On the following day a petition was framed and put into circulation by the women asking the Trustees to call another meeting to reconsider the resolution and to ask for enough money to build a structure of brick, instead of frame. The Trustees complied, a meeting was called, and almost unanimously \$47,000 was voted and a brick building ordered. This building, located on Beech Street, was completed and occupied about October 1, 1895. It is still, in certain respects, the best school building in the Village of Ridgewood. With eight good-sized classrooms, seven small rooms, and an assembly hall on the third floor, the building afforded a welcome relief from the crowded conditions of the Union Street School. The use of the latter building was discontinued, and later it was torn down to make way for the present Union Street School building.

When completed, the Beech Street School was deemed second to none of its size in the State. It was constructed during the administration of Mr. D. W. La Fetra as President of the Board of Education. This worthy citizen has always taken an active interest in public school work and, for many years, has been a telling influence in educational matters in the Village. It may be interesting to note that the idea of "The Graded School System" which was incorporated into a law by the State of New Jersey originated with Mr. La Fetra.



Though the plan was introduced in the State Legislature by Dr. Thomas G. Chattle of Long Branch, it was suggested by Mr. La Fetra to Dr. Chattle, while a teacher in the early fifties under the latter's incumbency as School Superintendent of Ocean Township, New Jersey.

The progressiveness of the Ridgewood of twenty odd years ago is indicated by the fact that in 1894 a kindergarten class under Miss Ivy W. Green was established in connection with its school. This was one of the first public kindergartens in New Jersey.

In 1895 the nine years' elementary course was remodeled into an eight years' elementary course, followed by a three years' high-school course. That same year, Sewing, under Miss Sara Denison; Manual Training, under Mr. B. C. Wooster, and more advanced Art and Mechanical Drawing, under Miss Maggie Vreeland, were made a part of the school curriculum. Those were pioneer days in the introduction of handwork in the public schools. Under the leadership of Mr. Wooster, Ridgewood became one of the pioneer school communities in industrial education.

During the ten years from 1895 to 1905, the Beech Street School building housed all the Ridgewood school children.

In 1905 Ridgewood met the increased needs of its school children by constructing three four-room school buildings: The Kenilworth Place, Union Street, and Monroe Street schools.

During the year 1905-1906, under the superintendency of Dr. Wm. T. Whitney, the high-school course was extended to cover four years, and the work of extending and modernizing the school, which Mr. Wooster had begun, was greatly advanced. The high-school graduates of that year began to enter college and normal schools. Each succeeding year has seen their numbers increase.

In 1906 four rooms were added to the Union Street School.

The schools grew so steadily for the next five years that, in 1911, the pressure of need demanded the immediate erection of a new building. The Harrison Avenue School was begun. At the same time work of extension was started upon the Kenilworth Place and Monroe Street buildings. To each of these buildings seven rooms and assembly hall, were added.

In 1912 the growing educational needs of the section known as Upper Ridgewood prompted an appropriation for the purchase of a plot on Erie Avenue, corner of California Street, containing 2 acres, and for the erection thereon of a one-story portable building.

In 1913 the High School grew almost to the limits of the capacity of the Beech Street building. Only one room remained unoccupied. To cope with other demands for space three portable schoolhouses were placed on the adjacent grounds to provide, temporarily, for three grammar grades. In the same year the citizens of Ridgewood voted to purchase as a site for a new High School building and an athletic field the property of Captain John A. Edwards, situated on East Ridgewood Avenue, corner of Heermance Road, and the field fronting the same formerly known as the White Star Baseball Field.

The hill on which it is proposed to erect the building comprises a



plot of 518 feet by 346 feet. With the athletic field it covers a total of approximately nine acres.

The old Edwards house was removed, and the large barn was placed on the Athletic Field at the north end and has been renovated and put in first-class condition, making an attractive club house for the use of the High School athletes. Set in among fine old trees, it presents an attractive appearance which is much enhanced by the large flagpole, erected on the ground adjoining, presented on July 4, 1915, to the school children by the Independence Day Association of Ridgewood. A large American flag, for use on this pole, was also presented on the same day, by Bergen Council, Junior Order of American Mechanics.

The High School on this hill, where the building will be easily visible from a considerable distance, and the Athletic Field facing it, forming a natural amphitheatre, will together provide a site unsurpassed in the State and will, no doubt, stimulate emulation among school authorities in other communities.

This property cost the town \$28,500. Five thousand dollars has been expended since to raise the Athletic Field to a higher level. Earth from the Station Improvement was used for this purpose. The street passing through the property and marking the line between the school site and the Athletic Field has been gratuitously deeded by Mrs. Martha Edwards to the Board of Education.

By 1914 the High School required and occupied the entire Beech Street edifice. It made use of every available nook and corner in the building. Two attic rooms were finished off to serve as cooking and sewing rooms. Three cellar rooms were put into use as a Manual Training room and laboratories for Physics and Chemistry. Meanwhile the over-crowded conditions of the classes in the Beach-Union Primary and Grammar Schools caused the arranging of four of these classes on part time, despite the accommodations afforded temporarily by the three portable one-room buildings.

In 1915 a four-room school building to cost \$17,500 was authorized to replace the portable structure on the Upper Ridgewood School site. This building, since completed, has been in use since school opened in October, 1916. The design is of the mission type. It is one story in height, and contains four regulation size classrooms and teachers' room. It is furnished with the most modern of plumbing, heating and ventilating equipment. This school is the only example of its type anywhere in the vicinity and, besides offering every advantage in lighting, good ventilation, and practicability from an administrative viewpoint, it is in proper harmony with the group of artistic homes surrounding it in that locality, and is as pleasing to the eye as one could desire. The building is constructed so that other similar units may be added as occasion may require. It is designed to provide for a full eighth grade and kindergarten grammar school, with a large assembly hall accessible from all corridors. Besides being in daily use for school purposes, the building has become the community centre for all forms of civic and social gatherings and has proved a most valuable adjunct to the community it serves.

During the same year (1915), a proposition to issue bonds to the extent of \$150,000 for the purpose of erecting a unit, at least, of a new High School building was vetoed by the citizens, the time being considered as most inopportune for the expenditure of such a sum. After several months of agitation and efforts to educate the people in school requirements, an appropriation of \$225,000 was voted, in January, 1916, to build a modern High School building. The firm of Tracy & Swartwout, of New York City, was selected to design the new group, and contracts have been signed and work already started upon what bids fair to be the most beautiful as well as the most practicable series of buildings for educational purposes in the public school system of this or any neighboring State.

The plans provide for a group arrangement of buildings. The advantages of increased light and air and the unusual opportunities afforded by the natural contour of the site, make such a design practical, pleasing to the eye, and economical in construction. The aim to conserve the beautiful grove of trees was another determining factor in the arrangement of this architectural ensemble. According to the proper artistic standards a group of low buildings with exterior lines broken up and steep pitched roofs were essential to give the requisite picturesqueness. The lay-out of the buildings was so carefully planned that except for the removal of one useless hickory and a few apple trees, the stately elms, pines, birch, and other beautiful trees were preserved entire. Few public school sites offer such wonderful natural advantages.

The finished structure provides for a capacity of one thousand pupils. The unit now under construction will accommodate between six and seven hundred. Expensive material will not be employed to produce the desired artistic effect. Construction will be fire-proof throughout; the exterior walls will be of reddish-colored brick trimmed with cast stone, while the roofs are to be of slate.

The main building will contain nineteen class and recitation rooms together with complete laboratory equipment for the sciences; ample space is provided for the manual training and domestic science departments, as well as for those of art, stenography, and bookkeeping; there are to be, in addition, a hospital and administrative room, while provision is also made for a lunch-room, and for storage facilities. In the basement will be placed the boiler plant, toilets, etc.

The Auditorium, which is to be a separate building, will have seating accommodation for one thousand persons. It will be connected with the main building and will serve also as an assembly room and study-hall. The interior of the Auditorium will be done in brick and plaster with an ornamental vaulted ceiling.

The Gymnasium, located near the Athletic Field, will be provided with thoroughly modern equipment. The shower, locker rooms, etc., will occupy the basement. Later, it is intended that this building shall connect directly with the main building. The unit at present contracted for, it is hoped, will be ready early in 1918. Our school plant now consists of the following buildings and grounds:

1. Beech Street School, known as the High School, on plot of land

at corner of Beech Street and Franklin Avenue, containing fifteen rooms and assembly hall. Three of these rooms are used for administration purposes.

2. Harrison Avenue School, located at Harrison Avenue and Fairview Place, containing seventeen rooms and assembly.

3. Kenilworth School, on Kenilworth Place between Ridgewood and Spring Avenues, containing twelve rooms and assembly.

4. Union Street School, containing ten rooms.

5. Monroe Street School, on Monroe Street between Franklin and Godwin Avenues, containing twelve rooms and assembly.

6. Upper Ridgewood School, a new and modern one-story structure, containing four classrooms. The design of this school represents quite a radical departure from the other school buildings in this vicinity.

7. Four one-room portable buildings, upon the Beech Street plot. These were erected for the purpose of relieving congestion in the High School and to provide proper laboratory accommodations.

The estimated value of land, buildings, and equipment of the above schools, together with the cost of the new High School site and present buildings thereon, amounts to \$309,100. With the completion of the High School, the total will approximate \$550,000.

With the completion of the Athletic Field, an added stimulus will undoubtedly be given to the development of our high school athletics. This is a feature already well known, and not without reason is it considered as rating high in the neighboring communities. For a long time baseball, football, track athletics, and general physical training have been given a full share of attention in our school activities. The new facilities will add further opportunities for the physical betterment of our youth; and there is every reason to believe that our boys and girls will grasp the advantages of laying a healthful and strong physical foundation upon which to build the mental super-structure.

The educational features have been notably progressive and fit in with the latest ideas of pedagogy. Yet with all the advanced methods of the present time, who shall say that the training of the child in the little country schoolhouses of one hundred or of fifty years ago was not as adequate to the needs of those times as of our own day? We must not forget that the men whose shrewdness and keen business judgment laid the foundation of Ridgewood—and laid it well—were indebted to those same little schoolhouses for the early impulses which made possible their subsequent development and successes. Indeed, volumes could be written of the later achievements in the world of letters, business, and the professions of the children of our early rural schools.

RIDGEWOOD—that is, the Ridgewood of to-day as we know it—made its educational début in the little two-room Union Street School where, under the guidance of Mr. B. C. Wooster, now County Superintendent of Bergen County, and those faithful workers who labored with him, the fame of Ridgewood's superiority and progressiveness early began to attract attention. From that humble beginning to the present Ridgewood has continued, under the able management of Dr. W. T. Whitney and then Mr. I. W. Travell, our present Superinten-

dent, to forge steadily ahead until now the school system is proclaimed an achievement second to none in our State for thoroughness and efficiency. Our schools stand as a monument to the high character and generosity of the citizenship of our town. In its gift to its youth the latter quality has been expressed freely—almost lavishly—time after time.

So important has been considered the preparation of the youth of Ridgewood for their ultimate entrance as men and women in the affairs of the world, it would appear to hold a pre-eminent thought in the minds of our citizens. A desire for such worthy associations has, no doubt, attracted many persons to settle in Ridgewood.

#### PRIVATE SCHOOLS

A history of education in Ridgewood which contains no reference to the private schools would be assuredly incomplete. In fact, our village would compare unfavorably with the best suburban life, if it had no private school system to record since the choicest suburban communities, generally, have well-established and well-authorized private schools.

Private schools had their beginning in Ridgewood, in 1868, when Mr. Frederic Kidder opened the large house on North Van Dien Avenue, built by him the year before, as a boarding and day school. This house is now owned and occupied by Mr. M. T. Richardson.

It is likely that the disappointment which may have attended the failure to secure a single boarding pupil was somewhat mitigated by the presence of a Mr. Jolly as principal of the few day pupils. For about three years, until the school closed, Principal Jolly, assisted by a Miss Smith, took care of the boys and girls in attendance.

It is of interest to add that Judge Zabriskie, Mr. Edward Chapman, and his brother, Mr. Charles Chapman, were among those who attended the Kidder Academy, as it was called.

In 1868, the well-known authoress, Amelia E. Barr, upon her arrival in New York City from Texas, after the death of her husband, came to Ridgewood as tutor to the three sons of William Libby, Esq., father of Professor William Libby of Princeton University.

In the early part of 1869, the tutorial work developed into a school for boys and girls located in a house on North Van Dien Avenue, opposite Linwood Avenue. There were six pupils in the beginning and the number varied, at times reaching ten or twelve. The school lasted for about a year and a half and was discontinued when Mr. Libby's sons became students at Princeton.

It is interesting to know that while conducting this short-lived school, Mrs. Barr was engaged in writing a novel, and that it was at Mr. Libby's suggestion that she entered upon her literary work. Mrs. Barr's verbal description of incidents connected with her life in Texas had so impressed Mr. Libby that when she faced the problem of her future existence, after the discontinuance of her school, he induced her to write a description of one of the incidents, which he placed in the hands of a New York publishing house. The story was accepted and shortly afterward Mrs. Barr removed to New York City to continue



what was to be her life work. Before leaving Ridgewood she began her novel "Margaret Sinelaire's Silent Money".

From the time Mrs. Barr's school closed until 1879, there seems to have been no private school in Ridgewood. Then Miss Rebecca W. Hawes of 36 Corsa Terrace came to the relief and added to her very busy life as the village music teacher, the equally arduous work of conducting a school for young children. This school assembled in a room over the furniture store of Theodore V. Terhune, at the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and South Oak Street. Beginning in March, 1871, and for about twenty years thereafter, Miss Hawes was the only music teacher in the district extending from Allendale to Hawthorne. She was engaged in this work for twenty-three years and during that time took part in the first public concert ever given in Ridgewood, as well as furnished the music for the first kindergarten class and the first dancing class.

It is extremely interesting to hear Miss Hawes tell of her work in connection with the school held in that upper room. Often this busy, music-loving teacher, enlivened the routine of the school room by singing, or reading aloud, or, on beautiful days by recess periods under the oak and hickory trees in the fields through which Oak Street was afterwards opened.

Among those who were first taught to read and write and sew at Miss Hawes' school were John Hawes, Howard Maltbie, Edgar Watlington, Howard, Robert, and Willie Walton, Jos. Jefferson, Jr., Mary Dobbs, Elizabeth Hawes, Carrie Buck, and Louise Maltbie, all of whom were then less than ten years old. Two older boys who received special instruction, were George Totten, now a noted architect of Washington, D. C., and John Terhune (Harry Rouclere).

Two years after the establishment of her school, Miss Hawes disposed of her good will to Mrs. John A. Marinus, who continued the school for several years at her home on East Ridgewood Avenue. During this period Mrs. Buck also opened a boarding and day school for children, on the property of B. F. Robinson, on Cottage Place. A small building was placed in the rear of the residence and used for the class work. Here were held the first kindergarten and the first dancing classes of the Village. Mrs. Buck was succeeded in the management of the school by her daughters—Miss Helen D. Buck and Miss Caroline Buck.

Other educational ventures, of unquestionable worth to the community but of short duration, were made by Miss Josephine Rowland about 1893, in a room in the rear of Tice's drug store, then on the corner opposite its present location; by Miss Florence de Z. Patton in 1893 and 1895, at the corner of Spring and Maple Avenues; by Miss Ives, near the office of Dr. Vroom, Ridgewood Avenue; and by Miss Martha E. Smith in 1897 on Franklin Avenue.

A larger school, which included both primary and college preparatory courses, was established by Mr. James B. Parsons in 1902, on the large property on Ridgewood Avenue, familiarly known as Elmhurst. Mr. Parsons was encouraged to enter upon a project of this scope by

the patronage and influence of such men as E. LeB. Gardner, Charles H. Eddy, Duncan D. Chaplin, George E. Boreham, Charles A. De Shon and others who wished private school advantages for their children. As the years passed the venture prospered and former pupils of the Ridgewood Preparatory School can now be found among the graduates of various colleges and occupying responsible and useful positions in business and society. In 1912 it was decided to divide the property occupied by the school into building lots, Mr. Parsons, believing an elevated site in a quiet and beautiful residential section to be the best place for the development of boys and girls, secured property on Heights Road where a thoroughly modern school was built. With well-furnished rooms and library, with all conveniences and modern sanitation, it is doubtful if another suburban town has a private day school equal to that of Ridgewood.

In this connection it may be said that Ridgewood's private school system represents the highest development of this type of education. It is a system by no means rivaling that of the State, but rather deserving the reputation of being a faithful ally of the public school. The latter is unquestionably best fitted for children of some types, but its failure with others is due to what may be described as mechanical methods which permit of but slight discrimination on account of personal temperament. Doubtless this is necessary in the handling of large numbers of pupils, but it is in this particular point that the chief merit of the private school lies. It provides a flexible system which is adapted to the individual boy or girl, helping them to find themselves. Individual supervision in a co-operative environment is the key-note. The school, in short, must be fitted to the pupil, as well as the pupil to the school.

The Victoria School for little children, opened October 5, 1916, is the latest addition to the educational institutions of Ridgewood and is named after the authoress, Metta Victoria Victor. Remembrance of her many years' association with the early historical and social development of Ridgewood was the incentive which prompted her daughter, Vivia Victor, its Principal, to name this school after her.

The purpose of the Victoria School is the laying of a solid foundation for the child's advancing experience in life; the right environment, individual instruction along the best educational lines, and recognition of the special needs of little children. Centrally and very pleasantly located on West Ridgewood Avenue, this school expects to fill a need of the parents of Ridgewood and to exert an ever-increasing influence on the future development of the Village.

The first sewing school in this vicinity was opened with five pupils in the Hawes homestead, Ho-Ho-Kus. After the establishment of an Episcopal Mission Sunday School in the first public school of Ho-Ho-Kus, the classes were held in that schoolroom on Saturday afternoons. There was always a large attendance, some of the pupils coming from Ridgewood. After the present Waldwick Public School was completed the meetings were held alternately in the two places, and still later a Saturday morning class was started where the older girls were taught

to cut and make their own dresses and children's garments. Directions for work and a book of "Sewing Songs" were obtained from New York and the classes continued for more than three years, the number of workers increasing to fifty. Two New Year's trees and one Christmas tree, filled with gifts, were given by Ho-Ho-Kus friends and at the close of the work an exhibit of the handiwork was held in the Parish House of Waldwick Methodist Church, the older girls wearing dresses made by themselves. The teachers during this time were Mrs. and Miss R. W. Hawes and Miss Lucy Hawes.

It was this work which later interested the citizens of Ho-Ho-Kus, Waldwick and Ridgewood in the petition for full school suffrage for women and brought a letter from the County Superintendent of Education thanking them for the "valuable work" they had done in the public schools in many ways.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Village Improvement Association was organized in 1897, and among its projects for promoting the best interests of Ridgewood was the establishment of a public library.

Many of the residents of Ridgewood will remember the old Zabriskie Building, now remodelled and occupied as the real estate office of Messrs. Stevens and Teter.

The rent of this building was given for three years, and a "Book Shower" was held. The books received were of all kinds and conditions, but the committee of twenty selected a sufficient number to place on the shelves for circulation and subscribed for ten periodicals to be used in the reading room. Among the first books received—some of which are still in use—were a number which had been accumulated by the members of the "Tuesday Book Club", an organization of women of the Village established a number of years before. At the end of three years, the room became too small for its purpose, and in 1900 the library was established in its present quarters over the First National Bank.

To meet the increased expense, the room was sublet to various organizations and according to the law regarding libraries and free reading rooms, the Village trustees in 1903 appropriated \$300.00.

There are now on the shelves 4,800 volumes and 33 periodicals are to be found in the reading room. In the year ending October, 1916, there was a circulation of 20,000 books.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** *Although announced after the date of the publication of this book and during the early part of 1917, the gift by will of Mrs. Gertrude Pease Anderson of the sum of \$100,000 for the erection of a free library in Ridgewood, and also the sum of \$50,000 both in trust for its maintenance, in loving memory of her father, George L. Pease, to be called the "George L. Pease Memorial Library," assures the continuation of a public work established by the women of our community and it is peculiarly fitting that one of their members should make its future life so splendidly possible.*

## CHAPTER V

### RELIGIOUS INTERESTS

WHILE the church life of Ridgewood dates back two centuries to a period when the American Indian was still roaming over hill and dale of the beautiful Paramus, it is the purpose of this article to sketch briefly the history of the several religious organizations that were in existence or came to life during the last fifty years. The early colonists came here to secure fuller opportunities than were to be had across the sea. They brought with them their religion and their love of liberty.

#### REFORMED CHURCH OF PARAMUS

The story of the last fifty years of our churches may consistently begin with references to the oldest church organization in our community—that of the Reformed Church of Paramus (The Congregation of Paramus). But the last half century seems short when we remember that the church services were begun in 1725, and with the exception of brief intervals have been held on the same site for nearly two centuries.

The present church was built in 1800, and the chapel was purchased and moved into its present location about 1874.

Great changes occurred in the affairs of the church during the fifty years that began when the echoes of the Civil War were just passing away. The Rev. Dr. E. T. Corwin served the church during the Civil War period, from 1857-1863, and he was succeeded in 1864, by the Rev. Isaac S. DeMund, who served for six years. He was the grandfather of Dr. C. DeMund, now a practicing physician of Ridgewood.

In 1871, the Rev. Dr. Goyn Talmage began his ministry in Paramus and during his incumbency the church building was renovated and a new parsonage built.

The Rev. John C. Van Deventer followed Dr. Talmage in 1879 and remained until 1886.

In 1887, the Rev. William H. Vroom, D.D., was called to become the minister and during his time the church was again renovated and a fine organ installed through the loyalty and generosity of a leading member, a lady well-known but seeking no prominence.

The period of readjustment to the modern urban life of the Village of Ridgewood was then beginning and in the natural course of events great changes occurred in the life and membership of the congregation.

In 1907, the Rev. Henry D. Cook, the present pastor, was ordained and was installed during the succeeding year and is a worthy successor of eminent predecessors.

The Paramus Church has been directly the mother of several other churches of Ridgewood. Christ Episcopal Church, the Reformed





*Aljian Studio*

The Reformed Church of Paramus.

Church of Ridgewood, Park Ridge, Westwood, and Ho-Ho-Kus have among their membership those once worshipping at the Paramus Church, and the latter has furnished charter members for at least four of the other churches mentioned.

No financial incumbrances and balances on the right side of the ledger indicate the generosity of the people.

#### CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christ Church has the distinction of being the first religious organization to be established in the center of the Village. A committee was appointed to form a parish in 1860, but the Civil War prevented definite action until February 6, 1864.

The first church, a wooden structure, was on the west side of Van Dien Avenue, just beyond the residence of M. T. Richardson, the corner-stone being laid in March, 1865. The first services in the new building were held May 13, 1866. Up to that time the congregation was ministered to by the Rev. Mr. Farrington of Hackensack, the Rev. Mr. Waite of Paterson, and the Rev. Mr. Smith of Passaic.

On November 4, 1866, the Rev. L. R. Dickinson began his rectorship, which continued for fifteen years. The church was consecrated by Bishop Odenheimer on June 23, 1867. On Sunday, November 10, 1872, a new organ, costing \$2,273, was first used. In 1907 this organ was sold to the Presbyterian Church at Ridgewood and Pleasant Avenues.

The church building was moved in August, 1873, across the fields from Van Dien Avenue to the present site at Cottage Place and Franklin Avenue. The second rector, the Rev. T. S. Cartwright, began his ministry in 1882 and resigned two years later. He was succeeded January 1, 1885, by the Rev. Louis A. Lanpher, who remained until January, 1890. Six months later, on July 1st, the Rev. George Clarke Cox became the rector of the parish.

The Rectory on Cottage Place was built in 1891.

The Rev. Mr. Cox resigned in August, 1893, and was followed by the Rev. E. H. Cleveland, who began his ministry in March, 1894.

By that time the old Gothic structure had become inadequate for the demands of the growing parish and a movement to secure a new edifice, which was started in 1895, resulted in the building of a new stone church and a frame parish house in 1900. On November 1, 1904, Rev. Mr. Cleveland was called to another field of service and was succeeded on March 1, 1905, by the Rev. Leslie E. Learned, who resigned in 1908.

The Rev. Philip C. Pearson was next secured as rector in 1909. He served until April, 1916. The Rev. Edwin S. Carson, the present rector, assumed his duties on November 1, 1916.

The church is now free from debt and will be consecrated June 23, 1917, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the consecration of the first edifice.

The parish contains over 300 families and the list of communicants contains 424 names.

## PAST AND PRESENT

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### THE KENILWORTH COLLEGIATE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### *(Christian Reformed)*

What is familiarly known as the "White Church", on the south-east corner of Ridgewood and Pleasant Avenues, is the second oldest church in the township of Ridgewood and was organized December 20, 1870.

The members were formerly affiliated with Paramus Reformed Church, but about 1823 there arose a dissension in regard to the doctrines and practices which caused the secession from Paramus Church of a considerable number of people. These formed what was once called "The True Reformed Church", the title being later changed to that of the Christian Reformed Church.

The church building was located at Waldwick until the year 1858, when it was removed to the present site. It is now known as The Kenilworth Collegiate Presbyterian Church.

In 1894, during the pastorate of the Rev. Harvey Iseman, the minister and people came to realize that by the development of real estate interests and the consequent influx of many new families not in sympathy with the policy and practices of the Christian Reformed Church, the religious life of the community would be better served under other ecclesiastical conditions.

After legal procedure, approved by a majority of the members, the congregation in 1898 became affiliated with the Presbyterian order.

The church is now collegiate with the West Side Presbyterian organization on Monroe Street and Franklin Avenue, having for their pastor the Rev. Dr. I. J. Lansing, D.D.

#### FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

This church was organized May 24, 1875, with nine charter members. Three came by certificate from the Paramus Reformed Church and the remaining six from churches in New York and Brooklyn. It was the outgrowth of a Union Sunday School, which met in a lodge room of the Odd Fellow Order, known as Wilson Hall. This was in a building used as a general merchandise store. Whritenour and Colfax, proprietors, standing on the lot where Mr. E. B. Van Horn's feed and grain store now stands.

The small congregation, averaging 75 people, for two years held its services in the lodge room and as the non-churchgoers gradually became interested in the institution, a larger room and a more desirable location became necessary. After heroic efforts, the fifty communicants secured by the gift of Mr. Frederick Kidder, long since deceased, the plot of ground on the corner of Union and Dayton Streets for a church site.

The first church was occupied on Sunday, November 4, 1877, while the interior was still without walls and the exterior was covered only with sheathing boards.

About 1891 the church building was enlarged and renovated thor-

oughly, new pews being installed, and the cabinet organ being replaced by one of the vocalion type.

Again in 1900 an extension was made at the back of the church in order to provide accommodations made necessary by the regrading of the Bible School and to furnish more modern conveniences for the various societies of the congregation. At the same time a recess was provided for a new Widmer pipe organ, valued at \$4,000, which was installed in 1901.

In 1913, at a special meeting called for the purpose, a movement was inaugurated to furnish a church house that should have every convenience and accommodation called for, in order that service might be stimulated and all departments of the church's life strengthened. The church house was dedicated in 1915.

A parsonage was built in 1881 and occupied by the pastor's family in October, 1882. The lot, 115 x 122, was the first sold from the tract of six acres, covered with a splendid growth of oak and chestnut, fronting on Prospect Street and Woodside Avenue.

A recent improvement, the concreting of the grounds around the front of the church property and the laying of cement sidewalks, is an evidence of the continued generosity and progressiveness of the congregation.

The constituency of the church is strong in numbers and influential in the community and promises much more for future generations of Ridgewood people.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Van Neste, great changes in the personnel of the church have naturally occurred. Many who were prominent and loyal in earlier days have left behind works "which yet speak" of sacrifice and service.

The present and only pastor of the church during forty-one years has welcomed a large number of communicants into the church, there being now about 500.

During the last Classical or Synodical Year, closing in May, 1916, the census shows that \$2,700 was disbursed for the stated benevolences of the church, while, in addition, over \$300 was given for general purposes. The current expenses of the church amounted to \$6,700.

Charter members have gone to the Glen Rock Reformed Church and several are now connected with Upper Ridgewood Society (Reformed).

#### AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH (COLORED)

The colored people of Ridgewood have by no means neglected their religious development. For a number of years, one denomination has been organized under the title named above. About 1882, the Rev. J. A. Van Neste, pastor of the First Reformed Church, was requested by District Superintendent White of the A. M. E. Zion Church, to meet with a few colored citizens in an old house that occupied the present location of Mr. Morgan's plumbing shop on Godwin Avenue near the railroad tracks.

This meeting resulted in an organization with seven charter members. For a brief period, meetings were held in the basement of the



Episcopal Church located on Cottage Place, under the Rev. Mr. Cleveland's incumbency, and a small building for a place of worship and other purposes incidental to church life was subsequently erected on Rock Avenue.

The present church and parsonage on Broad Street and Highwood Avenue were built in 1907-1908, largely through the liberality of one white man, who has always evinced a great interest in the welfare and progress of the colored people.

In the conference year of 1915-1916, the people contributed \$135 for mission work in the Southern States and, in addition, secured \$1,465 for current expenses.

The following pastors have served the church in the order named: Rev. Moses Thomas Anderson, Rev. Elijah Hammett, Rev. George N. Ray, Rev. J. R. Dangerfield, Rev. J. H. Huggins, Rev. H. C. Van Pelt, and the present incumbent, Rev. G. E. Ferris, who took up the work on May 1, 1913, and whose wise management and quiet zeal have inspired the confidence of his own people and have won the sincere regard of the community in which he labors.

#### CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

The parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was organized by the Roman Catholics of the Village in the year 1889. The Rev. Father Nevins was the first resident pastor. Owing to rapidly failing health, his administration was of short duration. He was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Mull, through whose courage and energy the church on Union Street was built in 1890.

In 1892, the Rev. J. A. Sullivan took charge. A man of brilliant attainments and charming personality, he did much in his five years as pastor to further the instruction of the people and the improvement of the church property.

From 1897 to 1901 the parish was in charge of the Rev. E. A. Kelly, who labored four years with untiring zeal in ministering to the spiritual needs of the people confided to his care.

The Rev. P. T. Carew came in 1901 and, besides caring for the church interests at Ridgewood, began missions at Wyckoff and Ramsey. In 1907 Father Carew was transferred to Dover and the Rev. J. A. Kelly was sent as pastor to Ridgewood remaining, however, but a few months and being succeeded by the Rev. D. F. McCarthy, whose term as pastor was also of short duration.

The present pastor, the Rev. E. M. O'Mally, was appointed in September, 1908.

From the very beginning the parish has increased steadily in numbers and influence and from a few sturdy Catholics, twenty-five years ago, it has grown to include more than 800 active members. The various church societies are active in both the temporal and the spiritual affairs of the parish. The debt on the old church property has long since been liquidated and the building itself, having served its purpose, has been abandoned as a house of worship.

On March 5, 1912, the church acquired title to the Suckert prop-

erty on Prospect Street. A new stone church, with a seating capacity of more than 500, was begun in July, 1914, and dedicated with solemn ceremony on Sunday, July 4, 1915, by the Rt. Rev. J. J. O'Connor, D.D., Bishop of Newark.

#### EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Emmanuel Baptist Church was organized in November, 1891. The first meeting place was a barn near Ridgewood and Brookside Avenues. After remaining here for some time, the meetings were held in the residence of A. H. Dunton on Van Dien Avenue, then in the parlor of Mrs. John McGuinness's home, and finally in the "Tabernacle", the enclosed horse-shed on their own lot, which was utilized until the building, then in course of erection, was finished.

This first building was dedicated in November, 1892, on the first anniversary of the organization of the church. The Rev. John C. Shrive was the first pastor, serving from May 1, 1892, until June 25, 1893. He was followed by the Rev. George E. Rines, whose pastorate extended over the period from July 2, 1893, to January 1, 1897. The Rev. Franklin K. Mathiews became pastor on April 22, 1897, and remained until April 1, 1906. The Rev. F. V. Atkinson was pastor from March 1, 1907, to November 1, 1908. The Rev. Charles O. Wright became pastor on January 1, 1909, and is still serving with much benefit to the members.

In October, 1909, after a thorough discussion of the needs of the field, the church voted unanimously and enthusiastically to build a new house of worship. On Sunday, January 2, 1910, subscriptions amounting to \$21,000 were received and the Trustees were named as a Building Committee and instructed to have plans prepared for submission to the church. Messrs. Upjohn and Conable of New York were selected to prepare the final drawings and specifications. The contracts for the buildings were awarded to Mr. H. T. Walthery and Mr. W. C. Banta. Mr. M. T. Rogers was given the seating contract.

On Memorial Day, 1911, ground was broken for the new building in the presence of a large company of people. The corner-stone was laid on Sunday afternoon, October 1, 1911, after an appropriate and inspiring address by the Rev. Robert E. Farrier, D.D., of Passaic.

The style of the new building is the decorated English Gothic, this style being chosen because of its flowing lines. The plan calls for a tower to span the porte cochere. This entrance is now provided with a temporary gable. The material is field stone trimmed with artificial limestone.

There are 338 communicants in the fellowship of the church and the usual societies and guilds actively express the Christian faith and love of the people for things worth-while.

The Year Book shows gifts of \$1,300 for denominational purposes and \$6,700 for general expenses.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Ridgewood began in the spring of 1895, when several Methodist families came into

the Village, and being called into counsel, resolved to immediately ascertain the probable supporters of a church of their faith by a careful canvass of all the known adherents. This was done under the supervision of Brother Edgar W. Rogers, with the result that it was decided to build a church.

After several preliminary meetings, an organization was effected with 13 members, under the direction of the Rev. J. B. Faulks, D.D., the Presiding Elder of the Jersey City District, Newark Conference, who appointed a Class Leader. Stewards were nominated and a Board of Trustees elected July 5th, in accordance with the laws of New Jersey.

In the meantime, it had been ascertained that the schoolhouse on Union Street was about to be vacated and its lower floor was secured for religious services. The work of remodeling and properly furnishing it hastened and the first service was held on Sunday, July 7th, the Rev. W. C. James, a recent graduate from Hackettstown Seminary, preaching the first sermon to a congregation of about 90 persons. He preached on succeeding Sundays and was followed by the Rev. Mr. Beech, the Rev. R. S. Povey, and the Rev. Edwin L. Earp, the last named an ordained deacon who was finally called to the pastorate and served from 1896 to 1897. The Rev. Frank Chadwick served from 1897 to 1900; the Rev. Elam M. Garton, from 1900 to 1903; the Rev. A. C. McCrea from 1903 to 1904; the Rev. D. F. Diefendorf from 1905 to 1906; the Rev. C. S. Ryman from 1907 to 1911; and the Rev. T. G. Spencer since 1911, the efficient pastor of this influential church which has 359 full members, 40 probationers, and 18 non-resident members. The present building was completed in 1900.

The expenditures last Conference Year, were \$6,500 for local work, and \$3,000 for benevolences, both denominational and otherwise.

#### UNITARIAN SOCIETY

The first religious service was held by the Unitarian Society in the Opera House on October 13, 1895, but it was not until May 7, 1896, that a formal organization was perfected.

The first regular minister was the Rev. Geo. H. Badger, while the present minister is the Rev. Arthur Singsen.

The present church on Cottage Place was built in the fall of 1900 and was first occupied in February, 1901. The entire debt on the church and site was cancelled on May 6, 1909. The parsonage was built on the church grounds, at the rear of the church building, in the fall of 1912.

The approximate value of the church property is \$9,000. The church is self-supporting and has at present about 25 active members. The church auxiliaries consist of a Sunday School and Woman's Alliance, the latter being affiliated with the National Alliance of Unitarians and Liberal Christian Women. This alliance in 1896 opened the first Woman's Exchange in Ridgewood and operated it successfully for two years. Under the able direction of Miss Rebecca W. Hawes it paid out \$1,200 annually to women who were in need of work. It also gave the first lawn party in the community where a platform for dancing in the evening was a feature.

## *RIDGEWOOD, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY*

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### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST

The Christian Science Society of Ridgewood, N. J., was organized with ten members in 1903. Meetings were held and a Reading Room maintained in the Ridgewood Public Library and room adjoining.

On September 15, 1904, the society was incorporated as a church and continued to hold services in the Library.

In December, 1909, the lot upon which the present church stands was purchased from Mrs. Houston.

In August, 1911, at sunrise, its members assembled at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Washington Place to witness the laying of the corner-stone of their new church home. The building was completed in April, 1912, and the opening services were held on the first Sunday of May, 1912.

The Reading Room and a free loan library are now maintained in the church building.

The estimated valuation on the church building and property is \$26,800.

Benevolences are represented in gifts of money disbursed through individual members of the church.

### BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

The West Side Community along Doremus and Ackerman Avenues, leading towards Glen Rock from Godwin Avenue, was one of the earlier real estate developments.

There are many prosperous German Lutherans numbered with these residents and, together with others in different localities of our Village having the same religious faith, felt the need of a church organization that could foster the religious doctrines and policy of the powerful Lutheran denomination, which stands for Evangelical truth and practice.

The Rev. Mr. Gurechke of West Hoboken, while ministering at Midland Park, inaugurated the movement that resulted in services being held in the library room of the First National Bank, January, 1905. The Rev. S. S. Stechholz of St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Paterson continued these services, later to be followed by the present pastor, the Rev. Frederick Albert Ottman.

The church organization was effected January 20, 1907, and the Sunday School founded on November 13, 1910.

The corner-stone of the present beautiful church on Doremus Avenue was laid on September 29, 1912, and the dedication took place on March 30, 1913.

The property represents a valuation of \$10,000. There are 95 communicants and 165 adherents. In the church year ending in 1916, the congregation contributed \$400 for various benevolences and disbursed \$1,500 for current expenses.

### MOUNT BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH (COLORED)

This church was organized on January 4, 1905, with a membership of fifteen persons, by the Rev. A. J. Hubbard, who was called as its first pastor and who has since continued as such.



In March, 1907, the church was successful in purchasing a plot of ground on Ackerman Avenue, the cost of which was paid in cash.

During the same year, the present building was completed at a cost, including the ground, building and furnishings, of \$5,500, the amount of indebtedness placed upon the building being paid off during 1909.

Since its organization, 200 members have been added to its roll and the church stands today free of all debt.

#### WEST SIDE COLLEGIATE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This is the youngest of the church organizations of the Village. It is the outgrowth of a need which the west side of the town felt for a Bible school to serve the children of the community who were practically prohibited from attending the established Bible schools by reason of the dangerous grade crossing which existed until the new station improvements were under way. There had been desultory talk of establishing a new church and Bible school on the west side for many years, but it was not until the fall of 1912 that the plan assumed concrete form with the starting of a little school in the Ridgewood Preparatory School building, Heights Road near Monte Vista Place. The Rev. Isaac J. Lansing, D.D., preached a number of sermons to the parents of children in the new Bible school and after some consideration, it was determined to organize a new church.

The old First Presbyterian Church, at East Ridgewood and Pleasant Avenues, was at that time without a pastor so, by an arrangement with that organization, it was agreed to found a new church on the collegiate plan, with the Rev. Dr. Lansing serving both. The First Presbyterian Church changed its name to the Kenilworth Collegiate Presbyterian Church and the new organization of the west side adopted the name of the West Side Collegiate Presbyterian Church when it was formally organized and accepted by the Presbytery of Jersey City at a meeting in Prospect Hall on October 9, 1912. At that time, 65 persons were received into membership, of whom only seven came from other Ridgewood churches.

The plot at the southwest corner of Franklin Avenue and Monroe Street was purchased and ground broken for the initial unit of the building to be erected. This unit was dedicated on April 27, 1913, services in the meantime being held in the Ridgewood Preparatory School building. The rapid growth of the Bible school made necessary the building of a pair of units during the summer of 1915 and they were dedicated on October 3rd of that year.

At the present time the membership of the church is about 180. The membership of the Bible school is about 250 in the attending departments and 100 in the cradle roll and home departments; a total of about 350. The women's work of the church is cared for by the Woman's Guild, with a membership of 100. The guild has conducted a number of exceptionally successful sales and has contributed liberally both to the building funds of the church and its benevolences, besides being a center for social intercourse.

The Men's Club is a purely social organization which has built up a lively fraternal spirit among the men of the community. The club has established a reputation for the excellent and unique character of the entertainments it has provided.

The Christian Endeavor Society is a live organization numbering about 90 active and associate members.

#### UPPER RIDGEWOOD RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

##### *Holland Church*

About twenty-five years ago, in Upper Ridgewood, near the junction of Glen Avenue and Monroe Street, a small church was built by the Hollanders, who lived in that vicinity, in which services were conducted in the Dutch language.

The organization continued its work until a few years ago when the society disbanded. The building was torn down about two years ago.

As the church was organized by John W. Spikerboor, the locality was called, in his honor, Spikertown.

##### *The Community Church Society*

The Community Church Society of Upper Ridgewood is a mission, as yet unorganized beyond a local board of seven men selected from 40 families and 120 adherents. This body is really an Executive Committee with the usual functions, but with more extended authority than is ordinarily delegated to such a committee.

The weekly gathering of worshippers and workers is held in a neat chapel loaned by the Home Mission Board of the Reformed Church in America, from which the Society also receives supplementary financial aid in maintaining the work. The Consistory of the First Reformed Church of Ridgewood has general oversight over the organization.

There are 61 on the roll of the Bible school, of which Mr. Clarence Wyckoff of Upper Ridgewood is Superintendent.

During the last church year the Society contributed \$200 for general and missionary benevolences, and more than \$1,000 for current expenses.

On May 1, 1913, the Rev. John A. Terhune, whose residence is on West Ridgewood Avenue, was called to minister to this religious society in conjunction with the recently organized Mission Church at Ho-Ho-Kus, under the general superintendence of the Paramus Reformed Church.

The Upper Ridgewood Society, while yet unorganized as a church proper, is encouraged to anticipate in the near future the official equipment its continued prosperity warrants.

## CHAPTER VI

### BUSINESS INTERESTS

#### REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

A LARGE tract of land on the north side of Ridgewood Avenue was owned by Henry Van Emburgh. By his will he left to his son, George, the southerly half of his farm, which extended from Pear-sall's Grove to a point across the track, some distance west of Heights Road and which contained 109.57 acres. This tract was sold in 1853 to Captain Samuel Dayton and at a later date was plotted.

The northerly half of the Henry Van Emburgh farm, devised by him to his son, Peter Van Emburgh, was also purchased in 1853 by Captain Dayton and in the same year was sold to Samuel Graydon and Benjamin F. Robinson.

These purchases by Captain Dayton and Messrs. Graydon and Robinson were the earliest realty transactions in the development of the hamlet. Prior to these almost the whole of Ridgewood was owned by about twenty men, most of whom were descendants of the early Dutch settlers.

The Dayton, Graydon and Robinson families were the first residents of New York City to settle in Ridgewood. They were attracted to the hamlet by the greater freedom of suburban life which they experienced during the years 1850, 1851, and 1852, while summer residents at the old Doctor Hopper home in Ho-Ho-Kus.

About 1860 additional residents from New York City came to the hamlet, among them being William Libby, A. J. Cameron, James Keeley, and John Walton and sons. About this time Cornelius Shuart purchased a portion of the Westervelt property and was the first in the town to lay out land in building lots. While it is true that Captain Dayton was the first to plot the land, Shuart was the first to file a map.

In 1866, T. V. Terhune purchased a tract of land bounded by Ridgewood and Franklin Avenues and Oak and Walnut Streets, where in 1867 he erected the first dwelling house to be built after the Village had been laid out into streets.

The development of the Village continued and numerous houses were built until the year 1875, when a financial depression resulted in the abandonment of many homes and a stagnation of business of every kind.

In 1880, a public sale of property comprising the Kidder Estate inaugurated a real estate movement on a larger scale than the Village had ever experienced. The house then belonging to the Kidder property is now owned and occupied by Dr. J. T. DeMund. The property was purchased by several gentlemen. Mr. Peter Ackerman secured a large portion of it which he immediately began to improve and place upon the market, the Reformed Church buying the first plot of one acre uncleared.

Other lots were offered for sale and additional streets were laid out, sidewalks built, and general improvements were made.

In 1892, Thomas W. White acquired by purchase a large tract north-west of the depot, which he named Ridgewood Heights. He proceeded to develop the section and, after the opening of Franklin Avenue, the first house was built on land sold by Mr. White to Mr. Lucius Smith for his mother, Mrs. Junius A. Smith. The Smith family lived there until Lucius Smith died, when the house was rented to the present tenant, Mr. Sykes. It is still the property of the Smith Estate.

The second lot of the White tract was sold to J. Bolles Smith, who built the house "The Knoll", recently purchased and remodelled by Mayor Garber on the south side of the avenue. Mr. White later built for his own occupancy, "The Oaks," now owned by Mrs. O'Neill, and it was due to his efforts that the attractiveness of this section was brought to the notice of men who bought and substantially improved several of the finest residential tracts in the Village.

Between 1907 and 1911 occurred the largest development of real estate in the history of the Village, when an average of one hundred new homes a year were constructed. During the period from 1912 to 1915, an average of thirty-five new homes a year were completed, and in 1916 about fifty more were built, the increase since 1911 having been along lines of normal growth.

In more recent land developments parts of the Village have been laid out by real estate interests in the form of residential parks. The first of these, known as Kathawood Park, is situated on the west side of the Village, south of Godwin Avenue, while south of this section is Lincoln Park running to Lincoln Avenue.

The section just west of the Erie tracks includes what is popularly and appropriately known as the "Heights", while on its western slope is Wastena Park, both sections being traversed by winding roads and adorned with a natural growth of forest trees.

Prospect Park on the southerly side of the Village consists of thirty acres of land divided into half-acre plots, and contains one of the finest beech groves to be found in Bergen County.

Woodside Park, including Woodside Avenue, Ivy Place and Linden Street, is within eight minutes' walk of the center of the Village and overlooks the valley both to the east and west.

Floral Park is on the east side of Van Dien Avenue, in the immediate vicinity of Kenilworth School and the electric road station at Spring Avenue. It commands one of the best views of the historic Paramus Valley.

Fairview Park is on Harrison Avenue near the school and trolley station and embraces fifty acres of fine sandy soil.

That part of Ridgewood lying north of Cameron Lane and west of the Erie Railroad, is now known as Upper Ridgewood and, before its development a few years ago, was mainly a pasture and woodland. Its advantages of altitude and unsurpassed views are supplemented by its proximity to the Ho-Ho-Kus station of the Erie Railroad, whose property forms the dividing line between the two municipalities.

Each of these localities may have its own peculiar charm but all



have practically submerged their individuality in the Ridgewood spirit of progressiveness which they have helped to advance. While the tangible lines of some are still in evidence and are referred to as geographical sections of the Village, there is no dividing line between the interests of any section or part of Ridgewood, the people being remarkably united in their public spirit.

#### MERCANTILE AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES

Prior to the construction of the railroad, agriculture was the principal occupation of the community, New York and other neighboring cities providing a ready market for local products.

At the time the Godwinville station was opened, there were three cotton mills in that settlement which is now called Midland Park and Wortendyke. The output of these mills together with the agricultural products provided business for the new station, the natural result of which was the drawing of the people to it as a commercial center.

The first building erected after the opening of the station, although occupied by P. J. Hopper as a dwelling, was also used by him as a general store. He was, therefore, the first to engage in a mercantile enterprise in the neighborhood. This building was located where the Hutton building now stands, near the railroad tracks on Ridgewood Avenue.

The second person to engage in mercantile pursuits was Cornelius Shuart, who built a store on the site of the Hopper building, removing the latter to the rear of the new structure and entering into the venture on a more extensive scale than did his predecessor.

Shuart later sold the business to Albert Hopper and Casper Van Dien, brother of our present oldest citizen, John B. Van Dien. They were succeeded by P. E. Hopper, Mr. Totten, Mr. Gilfillan and Mr. Cruse. The building was destroyed by the fire of April, 1889, and the site remained unoccupied until the erection of the present Hutton building.

About 1867 another grocery store was started by G. G. Van Dien and his brother, John B. Van Dien, on the site now occupied by the Wilsey building. The Van Diens also had a large lumber-yard between the railroad and Ridgewood and Franklin Avenues. They were succeeded in the grocery trade first by John Westervelt and later by James Hammond, after which the building was devoted to other purposes, and with the construction of the present Wilsey building in 1914, it was removed to its present site on North Broad Street, and is known as the Ferris building.

The first attempt to conduct a drug business in the Village was made by a German during the early sixties. He opened a store on South Maple Avenue, where the residence of Chas. Stoneall now stands, but the location was not near enough to the business center of the community and so was unsuccessful.

In 1868 a similar business was established by E. A. Wyatt, in the store now occupied by the O. K. Market, on the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Chestnut Street. In 1892 the business was purchased from

the widow of Mr. Wyatt by H. A. Tice, who remained at that location until 1897, when he moved to his present site on the opposite corner. The building he removed to was destroyed by fire in 1900 but was immediately rebuilt and is now known as the Pioneer Building.

The lumber business on the south side of Ridgewood Avenue was established by Cornelius Shuart about 1869, and about 1874 he sold it to John G. Hopper and his brother, Albert G. Hopper. It again became Mr. Shuart's property and in 1878 its present proprietor, Isaac E. Hutton, re-established the business.

In 1870, Abraham Terhune built and conducted a grocery store and meat business at the corner of Ridgewood and Maple Avenues. He discontinued this in 1874 and started the Ridgewood Avenue Hotel. This was destroyed by fire in 1876 and immediately afterward the present Rouclere Hotel was built.

In 1872, T. V. Terhune established a general merchandise and grocery business at the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Oak Street, which he conducted for a long period. The store is occupied at present by the James Butler Grocery Company.

A meat market, previously conducted by John J. Bogert, was purchased by his brother-in-law, Cornelius Crouter, in 1874. In 1889 the building was destroyed by fire but was rebuilt during the same year and Mr. Crouter continued the business until he disposed of it in 1914 and retired. The store is located on Ridgewood Avenue between the Hutton and Moore (Zabriskie) buildings and is now the office of W. H. Moore's plumbing establishment.

A short time prior to 1876, Abram J. Zabriskie erected the brick building on the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Broad Street, which is now known as the Moore Building. On its completion it was occupied by the firm of Zabriskie & Hawes, established in 1872-3 by his son, John J. Zabriskie, and Samuel W. Hawes, who conducted a grocery business in the premises now the real estate offices of Stevens & Tetor.

In the early 80's the doorsill of the main entrance to the store was used by the United States Department of Geographical Surveys for the first marker placed in Ridgewood, to indicate its elevation above sea-level. On the completion of the Ridgewood Trust Company's building, the marker was removed to the sill of the main entrance of the new building and shows an elevation of 134.55 feet. The only other marker placed by the Government in Ridgewood is on the bridge of the Erie Railroad over Cameron Lane and shows an elevation at that point of 153.97 feet.

Some time prior to 1876, Whritnour & Colfax had a general merchandise store on the site of the present E. B. Van Horn livery, grain and feed business on Broad Street, the upper floor of the building being known as Wilson's Hall. This building was destroyed by fire in 1881. The building now occupied by Ackerman Bros., the grocerymen, on the north side of Ridgewood Avenue, was put up by John B. Van Dien and was occupied by the firm then known as Edward Whritnour & Son, Mr. Colfax having previously died. Upon the death of Edward Whritnour, the business was continued by his son, Mathias (Tice) Whritnour, until succeeded by the present occupants.

After the destruction of the former store of Whritnour & Colfax, the site remained unoccupied until the early part of 1898, when E. B. Van Horn erected the present building and established his livery, feed, and grain business.

About 1876 Van Emburgh & Post operated a steam saw and planing mill on the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Broad Street, part of the building being used for the carpenter shop of C. D. Ackerman. This building was also destroyed in the fire of 1881. At that time it was being used as a blacksmith shop by Benjamin Eglin, who now conducts a similar business on Hudson Street, and as a wheelwright shop by John A. Marinus.

In 1882, the present Ryerson building was erected upon the site. This building, besides providing for stores on the ground floor, had living rooms on the second floor, and a meeting room on the third floor which was, for a long period, the home of the Masons.

The corner store now occupied by F. H. Adam, the grocer, was first occupied by John F. Cruse, also as a grocery store, and at one time contained the Village Post Office. The store now occupied by the restaurant of Caramella & Morbelli was used until 1899 by Mrs. Susan E. Ryerson and her sister, Miss Kate A. Bortie, as a dry-goods and notion store.

The coal and wood business now conducted by George R. Young and Richard Bortie, the business office of which is located in the Ryerson building, was established in 1888 by E. F. Ryerson, who conducted the business in its present location until his death. It was taken over by the present firm during April, 1897. When first established, the coal yards were located for a short time on the Broad Street property, later occupied by the feed and grain business of J. H. Blauvelt. About a year after its establishment, Mr. Ryerson moved the yards to their present location on Franklin Avenue, along the tracks of the Erie Railroad.

Some years prior to 1876, G. J. Snyder constructed a small building on the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Prospect Street, the present site of the First National Bank building, where, for a number of years, he conducted a meat business. At about the same time he erected a larger building, with living rooms above, on Ridgewood Avenue, adjacent to the corner building, the ground floor of which was used by J. Seiber as a bakery. When the First National Bank building was started, these buildings were removed to their present location on Prospect Street adjoining the present Post Office building and are now occupied, the smaller one by the Ridgewood Tire Company and the other by Koblintz, the tailor.

The first plumbing and tinsmith business was established prior to 1876 by Bergman & Duffy in the store adjoining the old Van Dien building on the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Chestnut Street. The firm also carried a small line of hardware. The business was later continued by M. C. Duffy.

The earliest nursery in the vicinity of Ridgewood was started by Henry W. Hales in 1874. At first the business was conducted on a comparatively small scale, but it soon developed to a point where it not

only took care of the local trade but supplied cut flowers to the New York market as well.

In 1876, the business interests located in what is now the center of Ridgewood consisted of three general stores, a plumbing shop, two blacksmiths, two wheelwrights, a periodical store, a butcher shop, a tailor, an apothecary, and a nursery.

The Paramus section of the Village was in a modest way a business centre about 1870 and for some years thereafter. Jacob D. Van Emburgh established a grocery store on the property just west of the old Naugle Hotel. This was successfully conducted by Mr. Van Emburgh, his brother, Henry, John E. Zabriskie, John H. Snyder, and John J. Hopper, the latter a son-in-law of J. D. Van Emburgh. Mr. Hopper at a voluntary auction disposed of his stock.

At about the same time, John J. Ackerman, later proprietor of the old Naugle Hotel, established a large business, building carriages, wagons, and sleighs, as well as doing a general blacksmith, wheelwright, and carriage painting business and employing about half a dozen men.

During the same period a harness maker and a shoemaker also established themselves in this section.

The coal and grain business conducted for the past three years by S. Nagle, Jr., on the property of W. H. Moore on Broad Street, is on the premises occupied by the grain business conducted by J. H. Blauvelt for a period of eighteen years prior to the establishment of the present business.

Since its early days the mercantile interests of the Village have developed along natural and normal lines until today every line of activity required by the life of a modern suburban village is represented. Almost all of the business interests are centered in the Village and the principal buildings erected for these purposes with the date of construction, are as follows:

*On the west side of the track:*

Wilsey Square from Franklin to Godwin Avenue,

Osman, 1913; Play House, 1913; Van Orden's Garage, 1909; two-story store and apartment block, 1916.

On Godwin Avenue, Morgan, 1903.

*On the east side of the track:*

Ridgewood Avenue, south side, from the tracks to Broad Street.

Hutton, 1898; Moore (Crouter) prior to 1874, rebuilt, 1889; Moore (Zabriskie), prior to 1876.

Broad to Préspect Streets,

Ryerson, 1882; Hopper, 1908; Ridgewood News, 1900; Ridgewood House-Hotel, 1870; Mead, 1903; and First National Bank, 1903.

Préspect to Oak Streets,

Ridgewood Trust Company, 1910; Quackenbush, 1909; Greenlaw, 1909; Waller, 1915; and Thorton, 1912.



Ridgewood Avenue, north side from Broad to Chestnut Streets, Wilsey, 1914; Hennion, 1890; Van Dien Block, 1891 and 1893; Ackerman, 1882; Duffy, prior to 1876; and Van Dien, prior to 1868.

Chestnut to Oak Streets,

Pioneer, 1895, rebuilt 1900; Hennion, 1894; Hanks Block (between 1893 to 1903); and on the opposite corner, Terhune, 1872.

Prospect Street, west side,

The Hegeman building, 1908; Post Office, 1912; and on the east side Prospect Hall Block, 1903.

#### INDUSTRIES

While Ridgewood is wholly residential in character, having no factories or other industrial enterprises employing large numbers of operatives, it was at one time the home of the "Favorite Brand" rubber packing business. This was in a two-story brick building located on the east side of North Maple Avenue, opposite Park Court and at present used by the Packer Auto Company. The building was built by the heirs of John R. Terhune in 1873, near the site formerly occupied by three other factories within a period of twenty-one years. The first building was used as a grist mill for nearly half a century, and in February, 1853, was destroyed by fire. A new frame building was put up during the same year and leased to J. J. Zabriskie for use as a cotton mill. This also was burned in 1859.

In 1866, ground was broken for a new frame structure which was leased to Edwin Taylor, of Kensico, N. Y., for manufacturing purposes. This building was burned in 1873 and, in the same year, the present building was erected and leased in 1879 to the Peerless Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of rubber goods. It was occupied by this company until about 1886 when, more space being needed on account of the expansion of their business, their enterprise was removed to New Durham, N. J. The building was practically unused until recently when it was occupied by the Packer Auto Company.

At one time Ridgewood also contained the woolen mills of G. Morrow & Son, which were established in 1853 and located at the southeast corner of the Village near the Susquehanna Railroad, just below what is now known as Van Emburgh's Pond.

In the extreme northern portion of the Village, near Waldwick, was located the paper and twine manufactory of White Company, which was destroyed by fire about 1880.

In the same locality, and on the road leading from Waldwick to Wyckoff, a factory for the manufacture of wax for artificial flowers and honeycomb was started in the early 70's by A. H. Bender, who had purchased the privilege from Mrs. M. C. McCall, of Edinburgh, Scotland. He continued the business for about ten years during which time his product received first prize at the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876, as did flowers made from it by Miss Emma Hopper, now Mrs. George W. Beckley, of Waldwick.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

*Banks*

The first effort to establish a banking institution in Ridgewood was made by The Village Improvement Association, when for a period of nearly three years prior to the organization of the First National Bank, a committee of this association had charge of the Ridgewood Branch of the Penny Provident Bank of New York, with a list of depositors approximating 100 children. Stamps representing cash were exchanged and redeemed when the amount reached \$10.00.

*The First National Bank*

In 1899 The First National Bank of Ridgewood was organized, its first officers being:

<i>President</i> .....	PETER ACKERMAN,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	H. S. PATTERSON,
<i>Cashier</i> .....	L. F. SPENCER,
<i>Teller</i> .....	W. C. BANTA.

The business was at first conducted in a building on the site now occupied by Gordon's barber shop on West Ridgewood Avenue. This was destroyed by fire in March, 1900, and the bank was removed to temporary quarters in the Banta plumbing shop in the Hutton building near the railroad. At the end of four months it was again removed to the building on Prospect Street, now occupied by Max Koblintz, the tailor. The present quarters were constructed and occupied in 1903.

*Ridgewood Trust Company*

The Ridgewood Trust Company was organized in 1906, the first officers being:

<i>President</i> .....	JUDGE CORNELIUS DOREMUS
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	JAMES W. PEARSALL,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	W. J. FULLERTON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	L. F. SPENCER.

Business was conducted for about six months in a portion of the First National Bank quarters, and later, in 1907, was moved to what is now the Weber jewelry store, on West Ridgewood Avenue. In 1910 the present building was completed and occupied.

*Building and Loan Associations*

Ridgewood has three building and loan associations, all of which have been managed wisely, economically, and satisfactorily. The business done is strictly local and hundreds of residents of the Village, who have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the associations, are today owners of their own homes, or are in a fair way to be so. With a lot paid for, a building and loan association is usually willing to advance 80% of the actual cost of building a house. This 80% is returned to the association in monthly payments for a period extending over approximately 130 months. If members do not build, the associations

provide a means of saving, with the privilege of withdrawal or of borrowing at any time.

*The Ridgewood Building and Loan Association*

The Ridgewood Building and Loan Association was organized in 1885 and is the oldest organization of its character in the Village. The first officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	JAMES N. NORRIS,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	E. F. RYERSON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	G. S. WHITTY,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	C. P. CROUTER.

*The Co-operative Building and Loan Association*

The Co-operative Building and Loan Association was organized on February 1, 1891, with the following officers:

<i>President</i> .....	JOSEPH W. EDWARDS,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	CHAS. W. LOW,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	ISAAC M. WALL,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	HUDSON CAMPBELL.

*The Glen Rock Building and Loan Association*

The Glen Rock Building and Loan Association was incorporated March 25, 1907, with the primary object of furnishing an association for the residents of Glen Rock. The office is located in Ridgewood, as a majority of its members are residents of that Village.

The first officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	N. S. CUBBERLY,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	JAMES B. CHRISTOPHER,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	G. T. HOPPER,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	JOHN A. MARINUS.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL PROFESSIONS

*The Medical Profession*

In the early history of many of the colonies, the art of healing was practiced chiefly by the clergy. The care of the sick came naturally within the sphere of their parochial duties, and many of them were distinguished for their knowledge of medicine and were authors of some of the earliest medical papers printed in America. In some instances the schoolmaster was the physician and surgeon of the neighborhood.

New Jersey had among its early medical men a few who had received their training in the schools of Europe. By far the greater number, however, having no liberal education, had lived a year or two with a practitioner of some sort, read the few available books on medicine and then, assuming the title of doctor, offered themselves to the people as competent to cure disease. They relied much upon the use of herbs and roots.

Every neighborhood seems to have had some one who could bleed and extract teeth. Occasionally a handy man would straighten a cracked

bone, and be given great credit and the title of doctor for doing so. In nearly all cases of sickness the remedies employed were the growth of the soil, very little medicine, as it is known today, being used.

Among the Hollanders of Bergen County, there was little need of physicians for many years after the first settlement began. The climate was healthy and the settlers were of a hardy and enduring type. Malaria was comparatively unknown. All of the early writers and correspondents who have described the condition of the country, either in books or in letters to their friends abroad, united in pronouncing East Jersey a very healthy country. Aside from this, the scarcity of early physicians in Bergen County is accounted for by the fact that the more wealthy of the citizens were in the habit of obtaining their medical attention from other places, such as New York, Elizabethtown, and Newark.

Holland seems to have sent forth no properly qualified physicians, although her university at Leyden was among the most renowned in Europe for chemistry and kindred sciences. The science of medicine was in its infancy all over the civilized world. What is now understood by that term has been the growth of the last 125 years. There was nothing approximating a school of medicine in America; not even a course of lectures, until the middle of the eighteenth century, when the first medical school in the country was founded in Philadelphia in 1765. Two years later New York established her first school of medicine in connection with King's College, New York City.

The year 1688 is the first in which we hear of any doctor in what is now Bergen County. Dr. Johannes, the man referred to, lived in what is now Hackensack (in the then County of Essex, which extended only as far west as the Hackensack River), Bergen County.

Dr. Van Emburgh must have practiced in or about Hackensack before 1709, as a deed was filed that year to his widow.

The next one of whom any account is found is Dr. Abraham Van Buskirk, who lived at Paramus, and was surgeon in the First Militia of Bergen County, February 17, 1776. In July of that year the Provincial Congress ordered that the treasurer pay to Dr. Van Buskirk and two others the sum of 335 pounds, 10 shillings, being the amount due for 79 stands of arms at 4 pounds, 10 shillings apiece. Before the year was out he had gone over to the British, family and all. He was leader of many Tory raids in Bergen County; one raid through Closter in 1779.

Joseph Sackett, Jr., who practiced in Paramus was one of the seventeen who signed the Instruments of Association and Constitution of the Medical Society of New Jersey in 1766, which society this year celebrated its 160th Anniversary, being the oldest medical society in this country.

Many of the early physicians covered large circuits, often being away from home for several days at a time. They rendered efficient service to the public in the days of stage coaches, spinning wheels and tallow dips. While much of their system of medication today is obsolete, it served nevertheless as a stepping-stone to modern practice, and it would be unjust to decry their methods.

At one period the country was overrun with itinerant doctors,



natural bonesetters and others of like character. Many clergymen took up the study of medicine which they practiced along with their ministry. On the tombstone of the Rev. Robert McKean, of Perth Amboy, who was also the first president of the New Jersey Medical Society, is inscribed: "An unshaken friend, an agreeable companion, a rational divine, a skilful physician, and in every relation in life a truly benevolent and honest man."

Dr. Elijah Rosenerantz, graduated from Rutgers College in 1791, studied theology for a period of sixteen months with the Rev. Peter Studdiford, whereupon he was granted a license to preach. After preaching one sermon he decided that he was not fitted for the ministry. He took up the study of medicine and in 1799 received from two judges of the State Supreme Court a license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of New Jersey. In 1800 he purchased the Hermitage, formerly the home of Madam Provost, now the Rosenerantz homestead, where he began practice. He held the appointment of surgeon to the Second Regiment, Bergen County Brigade of Militia. He died in 1832.

Dr. Garret D. Banta, born in 1792, practiced in Paramus and it is interesting to note that his wife was in the habit of accompanying him on his rounds and aiding in his professional work. Dr. W. L. Vroom has now in his possession the old mortar and pestle with which Dr. Banta compounded his prescriptions. The eagle over the pulpit of the old Paramus Church was presented by Dr. Banta in 1800.

Dr. Henry G. Banta, son of Dr. Garret D. Banta, born in 1815, followed his father in the practice of medicine and also located in Paramus. He died in 1876. It is mentioned that his rounds often required two or three days before returning home and that wherever meal time found him he would make himself welcome. Frequently, upon leaving a patient, he would take along a sack of oats or corn for his horses, this often constituting the only compensation for medical services.

Dr. DuBois Hasbrook, a cousin of Charles Hasbrook of Hackensack, was located on the Paramus Road, at the old Lane place, about 1854.

Dr. O. Blenis, located on the Paramus Road, now the Vermilye homestead, previous to 1864 and later moved to Saddle River.

Dr. John T. De Mund, born in 1840, was assistant surgeon of the 58th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry, in 1863, and began the practice of medicine in Paramus in 1864. He came to Ridgewood in 1878 and continued practice until 1914, when he retired. Upon locating in Ridgewood his office was in a small building adjacent to the site of the Wilsey Building. In 1888 the building was removed to its present site at the entrance to the grounds of his residence on Ridgewood Avenue.

Dr. George B. Parker, a surgeon of the Civil War, came to Ridgewood about 1876. He was the founder of City Point Hospital. It is related that President Grant said to him: "Dr. Parker, if there is any position you wish, I would be glad to make the appointment." The doctor in his characteristic way answered: "Thank you, Mr. President, I am a Democrat." Dr. Parker long treasured an axe with which, at the earnest solicitation of a number of officers, President Lincoln split

a rail in his tent one night, to demonstrate that he had not lost his ability in that line.

Dr. William Francis, born in England, resided in what is now the Terhune house on Ridgewood Avenue, and practiced in Ridgewood for a number of years. He died in 1888. The doctor, accompanied by a huge mastiff in his walks about town was for years a familiar figure.

Dr. Wm. L. Vroom came to Ridgewood in 1888, taking up the practice of Dr. Francis. In 1893 Dr. Vroom took possession of the old stone house on Ridgewood Avenue, which is one of Ridgewood's landmarks, being the second oldest residence. The deed embracing this property, given by the "Lords Proprietors of the Province of East Jersey" and dated 1698, is still well preserved. It is elaborately engrossed on sheepskin.

Dr. George M. Ockford was next to establish himself in Ridgewood, coming from Lexington, Ky., in 1891. He has the honor of being the present Postmaster of the Village.

Next in order are:

Dr. Charles W. Harreys, who began practice in this Village in 1898.

Dr. Harry S. Willard, who began practice in 1898, soon giving up general practice to devote himself to the speciality of the eye.

Dr. Cornelius A. De Mund, son of Dr. J. T. De Mund, began practice in 1900, following his father, whose practice he has now taken up.

Dr. Harry H. Pettit reached Ridgewood in 1906 and located on Franklin Avenue.

Dr. H. A. Bonyng, located on Prospect Street, began practice in 1907.

Dr. William C. Craig, who associated himself with Dr. Wm. L. Vroom, began practice in 1909.

Dr. F. W. Gilbert was next in order and located on West Ridgewood Avenue in 1912.

Dr. Wm. Tomkins located in Upper Ridgewood in 1912.

Dr. Walter F. Keating located on Franklin Avenue in 1915.

The Ridgewood Medical Society, consisting of the resident physicians and those of the immediate vicinity, was organized in 1911, the object being the promotion of scientific discussion and social welfare.

The Ridgewood Hospital was incorporated in 1911 with the following Board of Directors: W. L. Vroom, M.D., F. von Moschzisker, W. C. Craig, M.D., Judge Cornelius Doremus, and James M. Craig.

The hospital is located on West Ridgewood Avenue, adjoining the office of Dr. Vroom, and is conducted for the physicians of Ridgewood and vicinity in order that they may properly care for their patients who require hospital treatment.

### *The Dental Profession*

The science of dentistry embraces the treatment of diseases and lesions of the teeth and the supplying of substitutes for such of these organs as are lost. As in the early days of the Medical Profession, dentistry was practiced to a large extent by persons engaged in other pursuits and without any professional education. This was due primarily to the fact that mere tooth-drawing constituted the surgical

dentistry of the times and the operation demanded muscular strength and manual dexterity rather than anatomical knowledge or surgical skill.

The very apparent need of educating individuals for the profession resulted in the establishment of courses of studies in various colleges and institutions throughout the country. Now, under the laws of the various states, only those who can produce a certificate that the required course has been completed may take the examination for a license to practice.

In the early days of Ridgewood, dentists who had located in the neighboring municipalities of Hackensack, Paterson, and New York, eared for the needs of the villagers. The first dentist to establish in the Village was Dr. Walter Van Emburgh, who began practice January 1, 1894, and continued until June 10, 1914, when he retired.

The next to open an office was Dr. Harold J. White, who began practice on September 10, 1903.

Shortly afterward Dr. Russell Suffern opened an office, but only remained in the Village about three months.

In the spring of 1909, Dr. G. W. La Liberte began to practice and in the summer of 1911 removed to Orange, N. J.

During September, 1910, offices were opened by Dr. Walter A. Tracey and Dr. Angelo Zabriskie. In October of the same year, Dr. G. A. Wessner established an office, and Dr. W. S. H. Martin began to practice here during the early part of 1913.

#### PUBLICATIONS

Ridgewood has two weekly newspapers, one bi-monthly publication and one magazine issued every other week. The community's first newspaper was established in 1889 by William J. Tonkin and was issued monthly under the name of "The Ridgewood News."

#### *The Ridgewood News*

This paper was for some time printed in New York and its editorials and news articles were prepared by Mr. Tonkin as he traveled between the Village and the City. Six months after its establishment, the News became a semi-monthly. At the end of the year, Mr. Tonkin decided to discontinue his work as a publisher and sold his paper to Leonard N. Taft, who was then station agent at Ridgewood for the Erie Railroad. The purchase price was \$1.00. Mr. Taft immediately installed printing presses, type and other necessary materials in a room over Eglin's blacksmith shop and published *The News* as a weekly.

About a year later John A. Ackerman became owner of the paper and published it until 1892 when he re-sold it to Mr. Taft.

On September 15, 1894, Frank A. Baxter and Joseph Babcock became proprietors of the paper. Several years later Mr. Baxter purchased his partner's interest in the paper and continued to publish it until June 1, 1916, when he retired from journalistic work, disposing of his interests to Franklin Fishler, the present proprietor.

*The News* was at first non-partisan in its politics, but in recent years has been consistently Democratic.

### *The Ridgewood Record*

In 1898 Mr. Leonard N. Taft, formerly owner of *The Ridgewood News*, re-entered the newspaper business and established *The Ridgewood Record*, a weekly. After a brief period, he sold the paper to Eugene Ferrell, who published it until a fire put him out of business. Mr. Taft bought what remained of the plant at public sale and installed it in the carriage house in the rear of his residence at 76 Woodside Avenue. He then began the publication of a paper called *The Ridgewood Herald*.

### *The Ridgewood Herald*

This paper was published by Mr. Taft until August 15, 1905, when Brainard G. Smith secured possession. Mr. Smith brought to the *Herald* a ripe experience in newspaper work gained through fifteen years' service on the staff of the New York *Sun*. The editorial and news columns of the *Herald* since Mr. Smith's ownership have reflected the journalistic atmosphere which made the New York *Sun*, during Charles Dana's régime, so justly famous.

The *Herald* has been consistently Republican in politics and has been invaluable to the party in Bergen County. It owns its home, a substantial structure of concrete block, at Hudson and Broad Streets, which was completed in August, 1912, and has a well-equipped modern printing plant.

### *The Ridgewood Times*

The *Ridgewood Times* was started in 1916 by J. Douglas Gessford, who sought to establish an independent weekly newspaper of rather ambitious ideals. The first issue appeared February 19, 1916, as a four page, eight column paper. It was continued weekly until July 8, 1916, when it was permanently discontinued because the editor and his entire staff had joined the colors on the Mexican border as members of Company L, Fifth New Jersey Infantry.

### *The Arrow*

*The Arrow* is the publication of the Ridgewood High School and is devoted to dissemination of Ridgewood school news and the publication of meritorious articles, stories, poems, and papers written by students in the High School. It was the conception of the Class of 1908 and appeared originally as the year book of the class. The first issue was published under the editorial direction of Miss Nell Doremus, who had associated with her Mildred Hiler, Florence Kemp, Helen Van Buren, Lindley de Garmo, and William Ransome, the cover being designed by Edgar G. Wandless of the Class of 1910. This publication aroused so much interest that three issues were published in 1912 and 1913. In 1914, under the editorship of Olive Graham, *The Arrow* became a quar-



terly and the following year was issued bi-monthly and has so continued since. *The Arrow* presents many items of pertinent school interest which escape the attention of the newspapers of the Village. Its staff consists of twelve students of the High School with two members of the Faculty as advisors.

### *The Editor*

*The Editor*, a publication accurately described by its sub-title, which is "The Journal of Information for Literary Workers," was founded in January, 1895, by James Knapp Reeve, at Franklin, Ohio. Mr. Reeve published the magazine for ten years and then, having become associated with the Outing Publishing Company, turned the active management of *The Editor* over to Leslie W. Quirk, who continued the work until 1909, when Mr. Reeve resumed the management of the periodical and moved the plant to Ridgewood, locating in the Pioneer Building. In 1911 William R. Kane acquired the controlling interest in the magazine. In 1913 it was published as a bi-monthly and later in the same year began to appear every other week. In 1914 the plant was removed to Glen Rock, but in December, 1916, it was again located in Ridgewood and is now established at 2-4 Godwin Avenue as the *Station Place Press*. A few months prior to this change, Mr. Arthur Tomalin, of Allendale, became associated with Mr. Kane as publisher. The paper now has nearly 9,000 subscribers.

The Editor Company also published *The Threshold*, a magazine of new names and things in literature, *The Editor Quarterly*, which consists of reprints of articles appearing originally in *The Editor*, books of value to writers, and maintains a Literary Bureau to assist writers, by criticism and advice.

### HOTELS, INNS, AND TAVERNS

The old David Naugle Tavern, located about 500 feet north of Linwood Avenue, on the west side of the Paramus Road, was built about 1790, by John A. Zabriskie, originally a residence. Mr. Zabriskie later turned the house into a tavern, which was one of the stopping places on the old Hoboken-Goshen stage route. After the Revolutionary War and during the early part of the Nineteenth Century, in accordance with the custom of that time, the house was the headquarters of the citizens of the community when engaged in general military training under General Andrew H. Hopper, on what were known as "General Training Days".

In 1809 the property, including 100 acres of land, was conveyed by Christian De Peyster to John A. Zabriskie.

About 1849 it came into the possession of David B. Naugle, who conducted the premises as a hotel during the Civil War. On May 23, 1905, F. H. Bogert bought the property, at a partition sale in the Sheriff's office at Hackensack. At that time it was and for more than twenty years had been conducted as the Ackerman Hotel by John J. Ackerman, as lessee of the David B. Naugle Estate. Mr. Ackerman was permitted by the new owner to continue in possession until his death in the spring of 1913. His widow continued the business until

the expiration of her license on September 1st of that year. Although a new license was granted by the court and Mr. Bogert was offered an increased rental for the property for hotel purposes, he declined the offer and thus terminated a hotel business long conducted on the site. The building was never again occupied and soon after the property passed out of the hands of Mr. Bogert, in 1915, it was torn down, the cellar at present marking its site.

Henry Van Emburgh conducted a hotel in the building now known as "Maple Homestead", located about 1,000 feet north of the old Naugle Hotel on the Paramus Road. This business was discontinued at about the time Mr. Naugle took possession of his place.

A number of years after the Revolutionary War, a hotel was built by a man named Bogert, on the present site of the Martin property, on the north side of Godwin Avenue opposite Lincoln Avenue. During the early 40's, the place was conducted as a tavern by James Blauvelt, who was noted throughout the country-side for his efforts to discover the secret of perpetual motion, and his place was a center for the people of the neighborhood.

About 1870, J. W. Halstead built the present Ridgewood House on West Ridgewood Avenue. At that time the Village was a mere hamlet and the hotel was looked upon as a very large affair. About two years later Abram G. Hopper opened the Franklin House, on the present site of the Ridgewood News Office, and continued it until a fire swept that block. In 1885 Mr. Hopper purchased the Ridgewood House and conducted it until his death. His family carried on the business for a short time and in 1906 its present occupant, Henry Zellweger, took possession.

In 1870, Abram Terhune conducted a grocery and meat business at the corner of Maple and Ridgewood Avenues. In 1874 he obtained a license and opened a hotel known as the Ridgewood Avenue House, which burned in 1876. It was re-built at once and continued as an inn and tavern until its present proprietor, Harry Rouclere, took possession in 1893. He remodelled and refurnished it, added two stories, put in baths, toilets, and all improvements, changed the name to the Rouclere House and it soon became the best known hotel in Northern Jersey. It was a mecca for all bicycle parties and as the wheelmen at that time were numerous, the reputation of the house grew rapidly and as many as 400 dinners were often served in a day.

Mr. Rouclere, tiring of the hotel business, leased the house to Mr. Zellweger and returned to the theatrical business. Later he again leased it to Emil Meyers and at the expiration of the latter's term, returned and once more remodelled and refurnished the entire place, adding several private baths, a new grill, and a separate dining-room, which at the present time can seat more than 100 diners.

About 1891, H. A. Herbert erected a building on Maple and Spring Avenues called the Herbert House and ran it for several years. It was afterward leased to Miller & Myers and later to S. J. Topping. Subsequently it was taken over by Van Nortwick & Gillfillen and the name was changed to the Village Inn. It is still under this proprietorship.

The first license granted in Ridgewood was issued to Casper Van Dien and Albert S. Hopper, who had a grocery store on the site of the present Hutton building, and conducted the liquor business in a small building in the rear of the store.

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

### EXPRESS SERVICE

#### *Wells-Fargo Company*

About 1888 the Wells-Fargo Express Company succeeded in extending its service from Chicago to New York over the Erie Railroad. Previous to that time all express matter entering Ridgewood was carried by the United States Express Company.

Gradual improvements have been made, from time to time, and to-day Ridgewood is enjoying an efficient service with two deliveries daily covering the entire Village.

## GAS AND ELECTRIC SYSTEMS

### *Gas*

The Ridgewood Gas Company was incorporated on April 24, 1900, the first directors being: D. W. La Fetra, William R. Boyce, J. W. Pearsall, B. C. Wooster, Theodore Vietor, August P. Crouter, Lucius S. Willard, H. S. Willard, M.D., Arthur J. Hopper, Joseph P. Walker, S. W. N. Walker, W. W. Breakenridge, and F. A. Mallalien.

Of these directors the first nine were residents of Ridgewood and they elected as the first officers of the company:

<i>President</i> .....	D. W. LA FETRA,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	ARTHUR J. HOPPER,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	AUGUST P. CROUTER.

Soon after the company was incorporated, work was begun on the plant located on Ackerman Avenue near the intersection of Doremus Avenue. Construction delays interfered with the completion of the plant until the following year, when it was placed in service.

During 1903 the Board of Directors re-organized. D. W. La Fetra remained as President for two or three years longer, when he was succeeded by J. W. Pearsall. Later A. C. Brooks served until the affairs of the company were taken over by the Public Service Gas Company in July, 1910.

The first price of gas as established by the company in 1900 was \$1.50 per 1,000 cubic feet. Prior to the taking over of the company by the Public Service Gas Company, the rate was reduced to \$1.15 per 1,000 cubic feet. Before this there was a cooking rate of 80 cents and a consuming rate of \$1.25.

When the Public Service Gas Company assumed the affairs of the company, all rates were changed to \$1.15. In 1912 they were reduced to \$1.10, and on May 1, 1913, through an order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Jersey, they were further reduced to 90 cents, which rate is still in effect.

In 1910 the Ridgewood Gas Company served 864 consumers, including 200 in Glen Rock and 70 in Ho-Ho-Kus. At present the Ridgewood District of the Public Service Gas Company supplies 1,950 consumers.

The original works of the Ridgewood Gas Company are still in use as a storage plant of the Public Service Gas Company, the manufacturing of the product having been discontinued about 1907. Gas is now supplied from Paterson under high pressure, with high pressure mains encircling the Ridgewood District to maintain a proper pressure for all domestic purposes.

### *Electricity*

Kerosene oil lamps for street lighting purposes were introduced by the individual property owners in the early 70's and continued in use until the Ridgewood Electric Light & Power Company, through the efforts of E. H. Watlington, began supplying consumers between the months of October and December, 1893. The original officers of the company were:

<i>President</i> .....	J. F. CARRIGAN,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	PAUL WALTON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	E. H. WATLINGTON.

At the time the plant was constructed on the present site of the Public Service Company's station, a 40-kilowatt alternator for house lights and a 40-are direct current generator for street lighting were installed. The street lighting system was arranged on what was known as the "moonlight schedule", while the current for house lighting was started at 5 P.M., and discontinued at 1 A.M. each day.

Originally a flat rate of \$5.00 per month was charged for current with an additional charge of 40 cents for each electric bulb furnished. On account of increased business, meters were installed in 1894, at which time bills to consumers were rendered on the basis of one cent per burning hour for 15-candle power lamps, with a step rate discount.

In 1897 arc lamps were supplied to commercial consumers at \$5.00 per month with a 5 per cent. discount. In 1899 the Gas & Electric Company of Bergen County leased the Ridgewood Electric Light & Power Company, and changed the rate to 25 cents per 1,000 watts, supplying an all-night service. The street arc lights were changed to 32-candle power lamps and a scale of discounts for prompt payments was made as follows: 20 per cent. on bills up to \$10.00, 25 per cent. on bills from \$10.00 to \$20.00, 30 per cent. on bills from \$20.00 to \$30.00, 35 per cent. on bills from \$30.00 to \$40.00, and 40 per cent. on bills of \$40.00 and over. In 1900 the rates were changed to 20 cents per kilowatt with a discount of 15 per cent. This rate prevailed until April, 1906, when it was changed to 15 cents straight.

The Public Service Electric Company assumed the affairs of the Bergen County Electric Light & Power Company during April, 1905, and continued their lease of the Ridgewood Electric Light & Power Company plant.

In January, 1908, the rate was changed to 12 cents and in January, 1910, to 10 cents, which rate now prevails without discounts for light-



ing rates but with a sliding scale for consumption of over 50 kilowatt hours, as per the existing contract.

During the year 1910 the old plant of the Ridgewood Electric Light & Power Company was taken down and on its site a modern and up-to-date sub-station was erected by the Public Service Electric Company. This sub-station contains motor volt regulators and is connected with the company's central stations at Newark, Paterson, and Marion, which are of sufficient capacity to carry whatever load the business may place upon them, thus assuring the consumers of Ridgewood a continuous service.

The Public Service Gas Company and the Public Service Electric Company also have a commercial office on Prospect Street where business matters between the companies and their consumers are conducted. Here demonstrations of the practical uses of their products are maintained and arrangements may be made at any time to visit and inspect the equipment used by the companies in rendering their service to the public.

#### THE POST OFFICE

When a post office was first established in this vicinity it was naturally near the business center, then the manufacturing establishments in the Midland Park section of Godwinville. For a long time the mail was thrown off at Ho-Ho-Kus and carried on horseback to the post office. In 1859, however, a depot was erected near where the present depot stands and the mail for Godwinville was thrown off here. With the coming of numerous New York families to Ridgewood in 1860 and succeeding years, it was found that the location of the post office was inconvenient and an effort was made to secure one more satisfactory. After a number of months of strenuous labor, the postal authorities consented to the establishment of the Ridgewood post office. This was in 1865 and the mail was marked "Ridgewood" although the railroad company did not consent to the change in name from Godwinville until 1866.

The most persistent workers for the post office were E. A. Walton and Benjamin F. Robinson, and when the post office was established, Mr. Robinson was asked to act as postmaster. He accepted the position but proved to be ineligible as he held a position in the Internal Revenue Service and the federal law would not permit him to hold both offices. He resigned the postmastership and Garret G. Van Dien, who kept a general store on the site where the S. S. Walstrum-Gordon & Forman real estate office is located in the Wilsey Building, was appointed to succeed him. Mr. Van Dien continued in the office until his death on November 1, 1884. His widow then became postmistress and held office until succeeded by John F. Cruse, in the following year.

The office was removed by Mr. Cruse to the store now occupied by Mr. Adam. After Mr. Cruse had held office for four years, Mr. Adolph Huttemyer was appointed. At that time Mr. Huttemyer was running a coal yard which was removed to make way for the Plaza. Mr. Huttemyer removed the office to his coal office. He served for four years when Mr. Cruse was again appointed and moved the office to its former location.

Mr. Cruse was succeeded in November, 1897, by Roger M. Bridgman, who removed the office to the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Chestnut Street. After the First National Bank was built, the post office was again removed across the street. These quarters soon became too small and in 1912 the office was removed to its present location on Prospect Street adjoining the First National Bank Building.

The post office at first was a small affair, the work being done by the postmaster, with the occasional help of an assistant. The nearest money-order office was at Paterson. The hard times of the years 1873 to 1878 interfered materially with the growth of the town and the development of its postal facilities. The first domestic money-order was issued from the Ridgewood office on August 1, 1889, and the money-order business grew slowly. The office frequently does more business in one day now than it did in months after its introduction. The office was designated as an international money-order office in 1900. In 1901 two rural carriers were appointed and in 1903 three carriers were appointed to serve the Village. This force was increased from time to time until now there are eight regular carriers, two of whom were added since Dr. Geo. M. Ockford, the present postmaster, succeeded Mr. Bridgman on April 1, 1914. In 1911 the office was designated to receive postal savings. The parcel post system was installed in 1913 and made necessary the employment of additional help. This work is now done by auxiliary carriers. They carry parcel post and cover the routes of absent carriers. The business of the post office has kept pace with the growth of Ridgewood and the force to-day comprises 22 persons. The quantity of parcel post continually increases and the office is in a flourishing condition.

#### THE ERIE RAILROAD

The story of the Erie Railroad, now operating through Ridgewood, starts indirectly with the war of the Revolution.

In 1779 American troops, under Generals Clinton and Sullivan, invaded the country of the confederated Indian tribes of New York State. This invasion, provoked by the Wyoming Massacre of the previous year, led the troops through the valleys of the Susquehanna and Chemung. This region was then unbroken wilderness, but General Clinton realized the importance of the valleys to the development of New York State and the influence they were to exert on the westward spread of civilization. He conceived the idea of connecting the seaboard with the Great Lakes by a thoroughfare which should pass through the southerly tier of New York counties, and among the earliest petitions to the newly organized Federal Congress was that of Generals Clinton and Sullivan for authority and an appropriation to construct a road to be known as the "Appian Way", from the Hudson River through the valleys of the Delaware, the Susquehanna, and the Alleghany, to Lake Erie. No such appropriation was made by Congress but Clinton throughout his life continued to advocate the project and after his death his son, DeWitt Clinton, kept up the agitation for this thoroughfare, although along different lines. When he came into power the

northern and central tiers of New York counties had gained predominance, commercially and politically, and in 1817 DeWitt Clinton, as Governor, brought before the Legislature a plan to construct a canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson River. This canal was completed and opened in 1825 and is known as the Erie Canal.

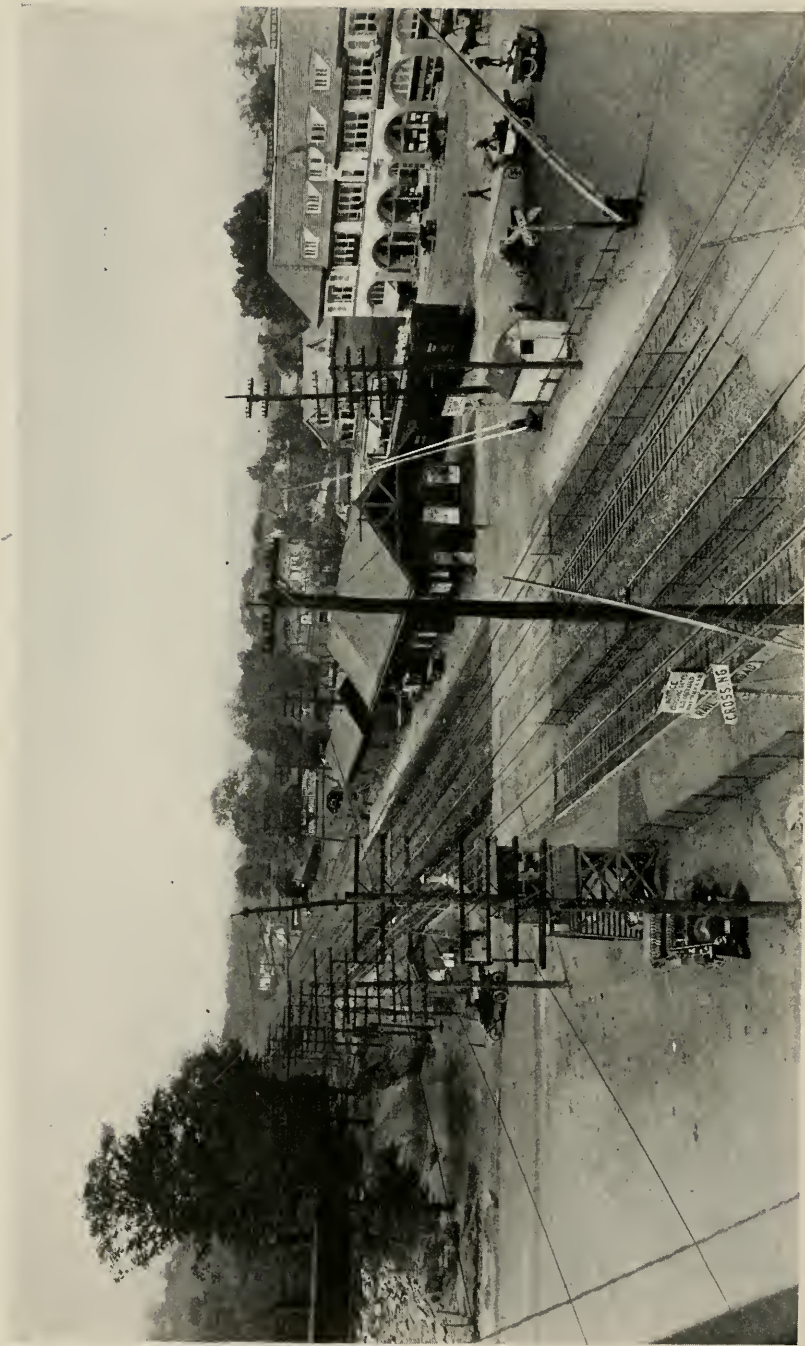
DeWitt Clinton had not, however, abandoned faith in his father's project, nor the interests of the southern tier, and during the year prior to the opening of the canal, he brought before the Legislature the subject of a state road through the Delaware, Susquehanna and Alleghany valleys. A survey was authorized and made, but the route was so influenced by political considerations that the project came to nothing.

Five years before DeWitt Clinton's advocacy of the Erie Canal, Colonel John M. Stevens of New Jersey offered to undertake the building of a steam railway in place of the proposed Erie Canal, but his offer was rejected with ridicule. A project for a canal through the southern tier was taken under consideration after the abandonment of the highway plan, but this, in turn, was abandoned upon an adverse report of Benjamin Wright, the engineer of the Erie Canal, who hinted in the same report at the practicability of a railroad.

In 1829 William G. Redfield, of New York City, issued a pamphlet entitled "A Sketch of the Geographical Route of a Great Railway, by which it is proposed to connect the canals and navigable waters of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, and the adjacent States and Territories", commencing at the Hudson River near New York City and ending at Lake Erie. His pamphlet found wide circulation and in 1831 the National Government authorized Colonel DeWitt Clinton, a son of the now deceased Governor and a member of the United States Army Engineer Corps, to make a reconnaissance of the route. This reconnaissance showed the project to be practicable. It is remarkable that, upon the report of a grandson of General Clinton, a railway was projected and ultimately built along the "Appian Way"; for, pursuant to a resolution of a convention of the southern tier counties, held in Owego in 1831, a charter was granted by the Legislature in 1832 for the construction of a railroad between Lake Erie and the Hudson River. After various vicissitudes, political and financial, this railway was constructed between Dunkirk and Lake Erie and Piermont on the Hudson River. A portion between Piermont and Goshen was completed in 1841. The whole road was completed and opened for traffic in 1851, and the opening was a National ceremonial. It was attended by President Fillmore, Daniel Webster, Secretary of State; John J. Crittenden, Attorney General; W. C. Graham, Secretary of the Navy; W. K. Hall, Postmaster General; the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of New York State, and many other prominent men, all of whom traversed the entire length of the railroad on the initial trip, traveling from New York City to Piermont by boat for the start.

The nearest station on this railroad to Godwinville, now Ridgewood, was Suffern, but, as the natural terminus for a railroad was opposite New York City, and the natural route lay through the Paramus Valley

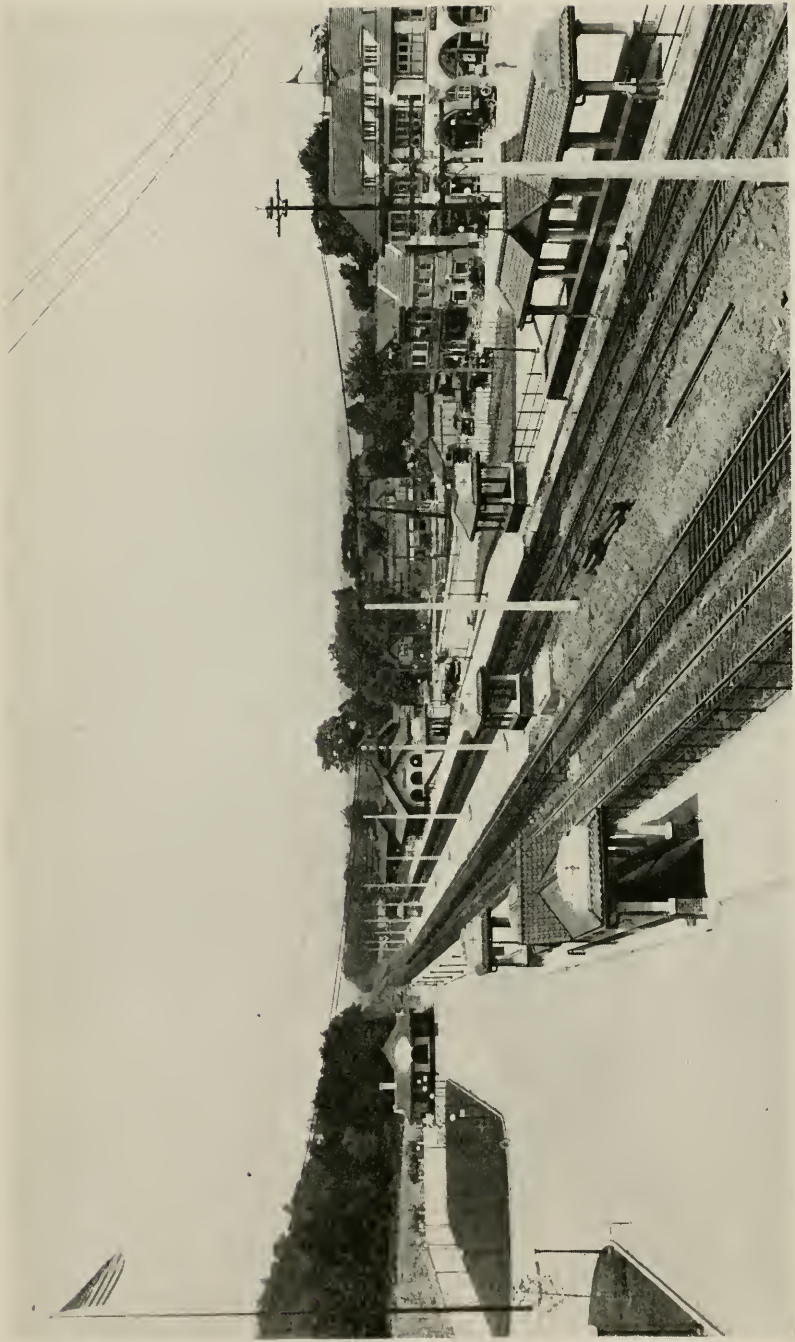




*Aljion Studio*

Station and Plaza—Before Improvements.





*Aljian Studio*

Station and Plaza—After Improvements.

to Paterson and thence to Jersey City, there was no question but that Ridgewood would ultimately be on the Erie map. There were men in New Jersey who held this belief and who were far-seeing enough to obtain charters for two railroads; one, the Ramapo and Paterson Railroad from Paterson to the State line at Suffern; the other, the Paterson and Hudson River Railroad from Jersey City to Paterson. The latter was built and opened in 1836. The former was not built until it became evident that the New York and Erie Railroad (now Erie) was to be completed. The Ramapo and Paterson Railroad was built and put in operation in 1848 as a single track road. Its terminus was only a short distance from the New York and Erie Railroad at Suffern. The charter of the New York and Erie Railroad did not permit it to connect with a railroad running into any other State, and for more than a year it ignored the existence of the New Jersey lines. It could not prevent its passengers, however, from detraining at Suffern and taking the shorter route to New York City, but it could and did discriminate against the New Jersey route by making the fare to and from Suffern the same as the fare to and from New York. Even after the passage of a bill by the New York Legislature requiring all railroads to provide proper facilities for connecting railroads, this discrimination continued. Under the new law the Union Railroad Company was formed and a railroad was built from the Erie Station at Suffern to the terminus of the Ramapo and Paterson. The New York and Erie increased the speed of its trains and boats in the hope of competing with this new connection, but ultimately gave in and in 1851 leased each of the Jersey companies during the continuance of their charters. Rockland County interests in New York State fought against this diversion of traffic from Piermont but were not successful.

The terminus of the Paterson and Hudson River Railroad in Jersey City was just north of the present Pennsylvania Station, the route to the terminus being along the westerly side of the Palisades and through the Pennsylvania Railroad cut into the city. Not until 1862 did it run through the tunnel to the present Erie Terminus in Jersey City.

Between the opening of the Paterson and Hudson Railroad in 1836 and the Ramapo and Paterson Railroad in 1848, the residents of Ridgewood and vicinity, when traveling to New York City, generally drove to Paterson and took a train from the terminus of the Paterson and Hudson River Railroad, then located at the corner of Grand and Main Streets. The locomotives during the early days were not allowed within the city limits and the trains were taken out to the city line by horses.

The second track through Ridgewood was laid in 1865 and the third and fourth tracks in 1902 and 1903.

With the opening of the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad, two stopping places were established in the vicinity of Ridgewood, one at Ho-Ho-Kus and the other at Rock Road (Glen Rock). These were not convenient, however, to the people of the vicinity, including their Paramus and Godwinville neighbors, and soon after the trains began stopping at the Godwinville road crossing. The station was called Godwinville after the nearest hamlet. Cornelius Shuart was appointed station agent

and served for a number of years. The present agent is Charles F. Bechtloff, who has served since March 11, 1896.

The first accommodation for the passengers at the new station was an old ear from the Paterson and Hudson River Railroad, with seats cross-wise like a Concord coach and with doors on the side.

Later the property south of Ridgewood Avenue came into the possession of Cornelius Mabey, who built a house in the rear of where the Hutton Building now stands. For a number of years one room of this house was used as a waiting-room by the patrons of the railroad, a few household chairs being used as seats. In 1859, however, these primitive accommodations were abandoned for a station built by the residents.

In 1866 there were three stopping places in this vicinity, Ho-Ho-Kus, Godwinville (Ridgewood) and Rock Road. The station at Rock Road was a two-story building, the upper story being occupied as a residence by the station agent, and was located on the north side of Rock Road adjoining the tracks. The road at this time and for many years afterwards was a broad gauge railroad. The cars were lighted by candles and the conductors carried lanterns at night to enable them to see the tickets. Occasionally commuters who rode with a conductor with whom they were especially pleased, would contribute to a fund to purchase a silver-plated lantern which would be presented to the popular official with impressive ceremony. Commuters were few in number and the train service was very limited.

About 1868 the first train for New York was at 6:39 A.M., the second at 7:39, the third at about 8:12 and the fourth at 9 o'clock. If a person did not take the 9 o'clock train it was necessary to wait until three o'clock, except in summer when there was a train at 11 A.M. Commutation tickets were sold only in New York. There were no block signals and no air brakes. When approaching a station, the engineer blew two whistles and the brakeman went to the platform and applied the brakes by hand. Richard W. Hawes commuted on the Erie Railroad since he entered its service on May 1, 1870, until he retired from business on January 1, 1911, with only three intervals of three winter months each while in the West and in New York City. C. M. Keyser has also been a continuous commuter since 1880, while P. W. Van Dien, who died in 1916, commuted since 1878, with the exception of two years.

There has existed between the officials of the Erie Railroad and the Village of Ridgewood during the last twenty years an almost continual agitation over crossing eliminations. Various schemes were presented and discussed at different times for the elimination of the crossings at Godwin and Ridgewood Avenues, but the question of contingent damages and the unsightliness of the proposed eliminations have always defeated the plans.

In 1903 an undercrossing at East Franklin Avenue along the lines of, but less elaborate than, the existing undercrossing was proposed but met with no favor. In 1909 an elimination at Ridgewood and Godwin Avenues was formally agreed to by the railroad company but no time was set. As the elimination was merely part of a general scheme for a low grade freight line from the Jersey Meadows to Suffern, which involved an immense expenditure and would elevate the tracks through

Ridgewood, it was never carried out. In 1915, however, as the result of negotiations between Village Commissioners D. A. Garber, G. U. White, Frederick Pfeiffer and F. D. Underwood, President of the Erie Railroad, and G. N. Orcutt, his assistant, and in accordance with a verbal understanding between the Village officials and Mr. Underwood, during a luncheon given by Mr. Orcutt at the Ridgewood Country Club, that the Village would bear one-half of the cost, a contract was entered into covering the elimination of the Franklin, Godwin and Ridgewood Avenues grade crossings and the construction of the present undercrossings, a new station and the plaza. The improvements were designed by W. W. Drinker, Principal Assistant Engineer of the Erie Railroad Company, and Frank A. Howard, its Engineer of Bridges and Buildings, both residents of Ridgewood. The work under their plans, as approved by the Village Commissioners, has been done without any material variations although the total estimated cost of \$160,000 will probably be exceeded by \$20,000 on account of the increased cost of labor and material not embraced in main contracts.

In addition to its proportion of the cost, the Erie Railroad has dedicated to the Village of Ridgewood, for street and park purposes, 101,500 square feet of land west of the tracks and north of West Franklin Avenue, and 8,640 square feet west of the tracks and south of West Franklin Avenue. The total cost of this land was \$43,529. The Railroad Company reserved the right, however, to lay two additional tracks on the westerly side of the present tracks in case traffic should ever demand it.

The following is of interest in connection with the improvements:

Work started August, 1915.  
Undercrossing opened September 1, 1916.  
Station opened September 23, 1916.  
Pedestrian subway opened November 28, 1916.  
Earth Excavation, 56,333 cubic yards.  
Concrete curb, 6,244 lineal feet.  
Concrete sub-base for pavement, 17,550 square yards.  
Catch basins, 22.  
Man-holes, 8.  
Vitrified tile drain, 3,073 lineal feet.  
Concrete sidewalk, 15,243 square feet.  
Paving brick, 17,550 square yards.

Ridgewood is the western terminus of the Bergen County Railroad, acquired by the Erie in 1881, which leaves the main line at Rutherford, and avoiding the cities of Passaic and Paterson, materially shortens the distance.

The chief advantage to Ridgewood is that it gives four tracks to Jersey City and betters the train service materially, express trains making the trip in thirty-four minutes. The schedule time of trains over the Main Line of the Erie between Ridgewood and Jersey City is from forty to fifty minutes.

In addition to the Ridgewood Station, the Ho-Ho-Kus Station on the Main Line of the Erie, two stations in Glen Rock, one on the Bergen County Branch and the other on the Main Line of the Erie; together with the Midland Park Station of the New York, Susquehanna & West-



ern Railroad furnishes every section of the Village with frequent and convenient train service.

#### RAPID TRANSIT

##### *Public Service Railway Company*

About 1899, an effort was made to secure a trolley franchise between Ridgewood and Paterson. A citizen of this community, Preston Stevenson, organized the Paterson & State Line Traction Company, securing a number of right-of-way concessions which eventually became the property of the Public Service Railway. Work was finally commenced on the line under a franchise granted by the Village Commissioners on January 24, 1914, and during the same year cars entered Ridgewood, the terminus being in the rear of the Osman Building, corner of Franklin Avenue and Wilsey Square.

##### *North Jersey Rapid Transit Company*

First surveys were made in 1908 and 1909, and in 1910 the first car ran from its terminus opposite the grounds of the North Jersey Country Club to Ho-Ho-Kus. The line was completed through to Suffern in 1911 and is now operated as an interurban road under a steam charter, by George Jackson, Jr., General Manager. The principal station in Ridgewood is at the East Ridgewood Avenue crossing.

#### HACK AND BUS SERVICE

Besides the two trolley systems which serve the people more in reaching neighboring communities than in their local needs, there are a number of automobile hacks which render day and night service, under permits granted by the Village Commissioners. In addition to this service and also under permits issued by the Village Commissioners, three automobile bus lines furnish day service to the residents, one on the east side, the Ridgewood Motor Bus, established in 1914, and two on the west side, Terhune's Yellow Bus and Jackson's Bus, established during 1916.

#### TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES

##### *Telephone*

The history of the telephone in Ridgewood is very similar to the history of the telephone anywhere, or, for that matter, the history of any new invention. It has received many hard knocks, some of which have very nearly terminated its career, but these have been counter-balanced by the appreciation of men who were able to look ahead and foretell the ultimate usefulness of the telephone and the natural realization by the public of the value of the instrument.

Nearly 2,400 telephones are now connected with the Ridgewood Central Office of the New York Telephone Company. Of these 1,800 are in Ridgewood proper, while the remaining 600 are in the various municipalities immediately adjacent. The outside local wire plant consists of 7,196.33 miles of wire in cable and 453.27 miles of bare wire. There

are also 209.55 miles of bare wire used for trunk lines. This large plant satisfies all demands of the people of Ridgewood in the quick, efficient, polite manner for which the Telephone Company is noted. The sixteen operators answer and connect about 9,500 local calls daily and over 1,800 calls are made between Ridgewood and other places each day.

The first telephone exchange in this vicinity was opened for business at Paterson on the afternoon of December 24, 1879, with eleven subscribers. In the spring of 1882 the Erie Railroad opened the Bergen County short cut and simultaneously a line was extended from the Paterson switchboard to Wortendyke, branching at Midland Park to connect Ridgewood. There were two stations on this line, C. A. Wortendyke's silk mill at Wortendyke, and the home of Garrett Van Dien, then Postmaster of Ridgewood. In the fall of 1883 Mr. Van Dien discontinued his telephone for the reason that a Paterson undertaker called him each time a death occurred anywhere in the neighborhood.

John F. Cruse came from Bath, Me., to Ridgewood in 1878 and later opened a grocery store at 252 West Ridgewood Avenue, where F. H. Adam is now located. Mr. Cruse came to the rescue and took over the lonely little telephone which had been dropped by Mr. Van Dien because of his dislike of having sad news forced upon him.

It was during the summer of 1884 that the Aeme Band of Wortendyke gave a demonstration by playing near the telephone at Wortendyke to a number of people who gathered at Cruse's store in Ridgewood and took turns listening over the telephone to the music nearly two miles away. There is grave doubt in the minds of many whether the patient listeners heard the music over the telephone or whether the wind was especially favorable on that particular day.

In 1894 the second telephone was installed for H. A. Tice in his drug store, at the northwest corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Chestnut Street, where C. A. G. Welti's market now is. From that time on, much of the telephone history of Ridgewood has revolved about Mr. Tice and his drug store.

In the summer of 1895 the single telephone in Tice's drug store was replaced by a 10-line switchboard connecting with fifteen telephones, and with one trunk line to Paterson. This switchboard then served Allendale, Waldwick and Ramsey, as well as the present Ridgewood Central Office District which comprises the Village of Ridgewood, the Boroughs of Midland Park, Glen Rock and Ho-Ho-Kus, and part of the townships of Franklin and Midland. Service was rendered on this board from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.

By 1896 this equipment was taxed to its limit and had to be again replaced by a 100-line switchboard. The first operator was Miss L. Van Emburgh. The first telephone directory covering telephones served by the Ridgewood Central Office was issued in September, 1897. The following is a list of telephone numbers and subscribers at that time:

Allendale	4 f	Aekerman, R. V. (pay sta)
Ridgewood	9	Carrigan, J. F.
Ridgewood	11	Chaplin, Duncan D.
Ridgewood	7 a	Cooper & Corsa
Ridgewood	5	Cox, D. C.
Ridgewood	3 a	Cruse, John F. (pay sta)

Ridgewood	7 f	.....Daley, James E.
Ridgewood	6	.....Gardiner, Edmund Le B.
Ridgewood	12 b	.....Haskins, R. T.
Ridgewood	14 b	.....Hengeveld, Jacobus
Ridgewood	3 i	.....Holt Bros. & Co.
Ridgewood	2 f	.....Hopper, John B., Dr.
Hohokus	4 a	.....Keiser, G. J. B. (pay sta)
Wortendyke	14 a	.....Mayhew, F. H. (pay sta)
Ramseys	4 i	.....Moffatt, P. B. (pay sta)
Ridgewood	25	.....N. Y. & N. J. Tel. Co., (pay sta)
Ridgewood	3 f	.....Ockford, George M., M.D.
Waldwick	4 b	.....Oughton, Geo. (pay sta)
Ridgewood	3 b	.....Post, John H.
Ridgewood	2 b	.....Rouclere House (H. Terhune)
Ridgewood	25	.....Tice, H. A. (pay sta)
Ridgewood	7 b	.....Vroom, W. L., M.D.
Ridgewood	2 a	.....Wall, Isaac M.
Ridgewood	8	.....West'n Union Telegr'ph Co.
Ridgewood	12 a	.....Zabriskie, David D.

On March 21, 1900, Mr. Tice's building and the telephone switchboard were destroyed by fire, but on the following day, March 22nd, service was restored by a new switchboard placed in George Winters' stationery store, on the south side of Ridgewood Avenue near Prospect Street. After about a year, the switchboard was moved back to the rear of the drug store in Tice's new building.

On October 10, 1908, the present common battery switchboard was put into service. It is now located over Tice's drug store on the third floor of the building at the corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Chestnut Street. The steady increase in business has necessitated the complete rebuilding of the outside distributing plant. In the early days the telephone wires were carried singly upon cross-arms attached to poles. As the number of lines increased, the single wires and cross-arms have been replaced by small aerial cables and in the business center of the town, underground subway cables have been constructed.

Telephonic rates in Ridgewood have been reduced from time to time for the past sixteen years. On January 1, 1900, there were two schedules applying in Ridgewood; one a message rate schedule of \$50 a year for an individual line, \$40 a year for a two-party line, and \$30 a year for a three or more party line. These rates permitted a subscriber the use of 500 messages per annum and applied to both business and residence. An optional flat rate was also in effect at this time of \$100 a year for individual line business service and \$75 a year for two party line business service. The extension station in connection with service of this type was \$30 a year. The optional flat rate for residence service was \$75 for an individual line and \$60 for a two-party line, with an extension station rate of \$20.

In November, 1901, the message rate service was eliminated and flat rates for business service were reduced to \$60, \$48, and \$36 for individual, two-party and four-party lines, respectively, while residence rates were reduced to \$48, \$36, and \$24 a year for the same classes of service. The business extension station rate was reduced from \$30 to \$20 per annum and the residence extension station rate from \$20 to \$12 per annum.

In May, 1904, the rates were again reduced by the introduction of business rates of \$48, \$39 and \$30 for individual, two-party and four-party lines, respectively, and residence rates of \$36 and \$24 for individual and four-party lines, respectively. Other small reductions have been made from time to time until the present rates were made effective in 1910, which are \$48, \$36 and \$30 for business individual, two-party and four-party lines, respectively; and \$36, \$30 and \$24 for residence individual, two-party and four-party lines, respectively.

The private branch exchange rates have also been reduced in proportion.

### *Telegraph*

Prior to 1864 only one telegraph wire was in operation over the Erie Railroad lines. While this was used by the railroad principally for operating purposes, commercial telegrams were accepted at their stations and delivered to the Western Union Company in New York City if destined to points not on the lines of the Erie Railroad.

During 1864 the Western Union Telegraph Company made arrangements with the Erie Railroad for the construction of a telegraph line along the railroad right-of-way with an exchange of telegraph traffic. The Erie Company's stations were connected with the Western Union Company's wires at that time, the date of Ridgewood's first regular telegraph service. The first telegraph operator was R. Terhune, who also acted as agent for the railroad and the telegraph company. Lew E. Weller of Otisville, N. Y., now holding a position in the Western Union Telegraph Company's New York operating room, was also one of the early operators in Ridgewood, serving in that capacity during 1865. Mr. Weller has the distinction of not only having been in continuous service of the Western Union Telegraph Company for the past 47 years, but also of being the oldest living operator who has served the Erie Railroad.

On September 28, 1913, the joint arrangement for the operation of their offices which had existed up to this time between the Erie Railroad and the Western Union was discontinued and the latter, in conjunction with the New York Telephone Company, opened an office in the Wilsey Building for the handling of their commercial affairs.

Mr. F. W. Milliken, who had been in charge of telegraph matters in Ridgewood for both the Erie Railroad and the Western Union Telegraph Company since March 11, 1896, was placed in charge of the Telegraph Company's interests and is their present manager. On April 27, 1914, the joint commercial office of the Telephone and Telegraph Companies was discontinued and since then the telegraph office has been located in the Osman Building in Wilsey Square.

### WATER SUPPLY

#### *The Bergen Aqueduct Company*

Prior to 1900, the Village of Ridgewood had no system of water supply either for domestic or municipal purposes. During that year the Bergen Aqueduct Company was organized by H. W. Corbin of



Jersey City and the company entered into a contract with the Village to construct and operate for a period of fifteen years a system of water works in the Village. A pumping station near the intersection of North Maple and Harrison Avenues and a storage tank near the intersection of Sunset and Valley View Avenues were constructed and the company commenced supplying water to the Village about January 1, 1901. The first standpipe was placed in the vicinity of Sunset Avenue and is still in service.

In 1903 the company acquired a franchise to extend its pipes from Ridgewood through Glen Rock and since then it has furnished water to the two communities.

### *The Bergen Water Company*

From 1900 to 1908 the Aqueduct Company procured its supply of water from the wells located on the Harrison Avenue plant. During this period both Ridgewood and Glen Rock had rapidly increased in population and by 1908 this supply was inadequate to the needs of these two communities.

The Bergen Water Company was therefore incorporated on August 19, 1908, by the stockholders of the Aqueduct Company and constructed a pumping station, two storage tanks, and a system of street mains in the Borough of Midland Park. The sale of water started on August 1, 1909.

At present the Aqueduct Company owns all mains, valves and hydrants in Ridgewood and Glen Rock, the pumping station, wells and land at Harrison Avenue, and the storage tank and land at Sunset and Valley View Avenues in Ridgewood. The Water Company owns the system of mains, valves and hydrants, pumping plant, wells, land and two storage tanks in Midland Park.

While the mains are continuous between Ridgewood and Midland Park, the ownership is determined by the dividing line between the towns.

The Aqueduct Company, from the time it started until the commencement of operations of the Water Company, pumped its own water by means of the Harrison Avenue plant, but after the Water Company began operations, the pumping plant at Harrison Avenue was shut down and held in reserve for use only in case of breakdown at Midland Park and during the midsummer months to carry the peak of the load. Water was then and is now purchased by the Bergen Aqueduct Company from the Bergen Water Company for distribution in Ridgewood and Glen Rock.

The Bergen Water Company also supplies its own consumers in Midland Park and since 1912 has sold water to the Village of Ho-Ho-Kus by meter. The pipe system in Ho-Ho-Kus is owned by the Village, and water rents are collected by the Village.

The supply for Ho-Ho-Kus, when the Harrison Avenue plant is not running, passes through Ridgewood by way of Lake, Godwin, Franklin, Ridgewood and Maple Avenues.

The contract between the Bergen Aqueduct Company and the village

of Ridgewood having expired by limitation on January 1, 1916, and the water supply, plants and mains owned and controlled by the Bergen Aqueduct Company and the Bergen Water Company being insufficient to meet the future needs of the communities served by these companies, the question of whether the Village of Ridgewood shall acquire the properties of the two companies, or enter into a contract with a new company to be incorporated for the purpose of taking over the properties with the development, in either case, of a new supply of water, is now receiving the attention of the Commissioners and citizens of the Village.

## CHAPTER VII

### RESIDENCES—PRESENT, EARLY, HISTORICAL—AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

#### RESIDENCES—PRESENT, EARLY AND HISTORICAL

##### *The Homes of Ridgewood*

ALL of the traditions of Ridgewood and the efforts of its people combine to make it a residential community or home town. While it is impossible to describe in a book of this kind the various types of modern houses to be found within the boundaries of Ridgewood, it may be stated briefly that, with the exception of a few within the business section of the Village, all dwellings are detached and most are surrounded by ample and well-kept lawns, with space for gardens or fruit and shade trees.

As will be seen in the foregoing pages, during the 50 years of its existence, as Ridgewood, the community has developed from an agricultural section into a modern residential village. As in other localities in Bergen County, the coming of the new type of dwelling has, in the natural course of things, brought about the gradual elimination of the houses of the early settlers, and these deserve greater consideration than has been given in the following general description of those in Ridgewood and its vicinity.

##### *Early Dutch Homes*

Bergen County having been settled principally by the Dutch, such of the early homes as remain today show a distinctive style of architecture that was the result of a slow local development, unmodified by outside influences until after the Revolution, which, so to speak, made the colonies more aware of each other's presence.

Prior to that time, the Dutch settlers held slight communion with their English neighbors and were possessed of a marked individuality. This is responsible for their type of home, now generally referred to as Dutch Colonial. The first houses were primitive one or two-room cottages with rough stone walls and thatched, flat gable roofs without the overhanging eaves so noticeable later on. Very few houses of this type remain today.

These simple cottages continued to be built for some time, always more carefully and with better workmanship, the stone laid in courses and roughly faced. The stone, called sandstone, is a local stone, found on almost any site, ranging from light or dark tan to light brick color and of a great variety of texture.

As time went on the stonework was more carefully cut, until the 19th Century, when the precise jointing and smooth-tooled finish on the front was developed.

The walls were laid in a binding material of ordinary clay from the fields, mixed with straw, and this, while keeping out moisture, was

easily washed out of the stone on the outside of the walls by rain. It was to prevent this that the houses were later built with wide eaves overhanging the walls three feet or more.

The end walls were not so easily taken care of and were not, therefore, carried up to the peak of the gable. The space between was framed in wood covered with shingles and sometimes with clapboard, which left only a short space of stone wall requiring occasional repair.

Once the overhang was adopted, the projecting portion was curved outward to keep the roofs from coming too close over the windows, to avoid the clumsy, top-heavy appearance and, possibly, to cast the rain-water farther out from the walls.

When the original cottage became too small for its owners, a larger house was built against one end and this became the main portion of the house, the original building being used as a kitchen wing. Frequently a second wing, more or less like the first, was added on the other end of the building to accommodate a married son, who used the living quarters of the main house with the rest of the family.

Thus the symmetrical house plan of center and flanking wings was not at all a formal conception carried out at one time, as we build houses today, but simply the result of natural growth in the prosperity and necessities of the family. This gradual evolution developed a type of house that is distinctive of Bergen County. Generally speaking it may be described as a low stone dwelling, usually with one wing and sometimes two, a "Dutch" door in the middle with a fanlight above, two windows at each side, bare of columns or any other architectural ornamentation, a simple platform with plain side railings in front of the door, the walls carrying low unbroken, gambrel roofs with eaves curving out three feet more or less, the whole giving an impression of strength, austerity, harmony, and comfort. The wings were lower and covered with a plain low gable, usually with the curving overhang, while the chimneys were large and usually of brick brought from Holland or Barbadoes.

While the most important remaining groups of these Dutch houses are to be found in a district beginning about fifteen miles northwest of lower New York in Bergen County and stretching north along the valley of the winding Hackensack River from the town of Hackensack to the New York State Line, in Ridgewood and vicinity, a number still remain as follows:

#### *Ackerman-Van Emburgh House*

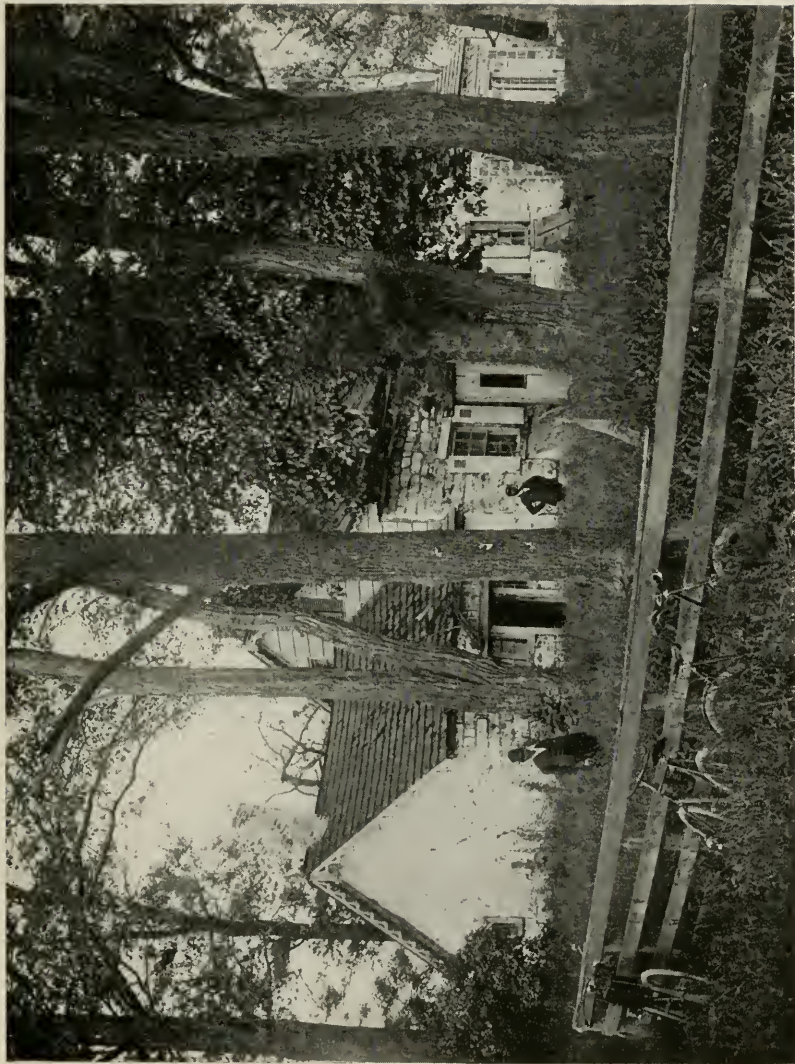
Situated at the head of Paramus Road just as it turns to cross the Saddle River is the old Ackerman Homestead. It was built by a member of that family in 1750 and came into the possession of the Van Emburgh family from the Ackerman Estate in 1800.

It is commonly known as the home of Jacob Van Emburgh and at present is occupied by Hervey Terhune.

#### *Ackerman-Nauble House*

The first house north of the Ackerman-Van Emburgh House, and standing on the East Saddle River Road with its end towards the south,





*Courtesy C. H. L. Mitchell*

The Old Ayerigg House.

and at the Junction of Paramus Road, was built by Abram Ackerman in 1760.

It has generally been known as the home of John Naugle and for a number of years, until his recent death, was occupied by Jacob Ferdon.

#### *Van Dien Home*

A few yards beyond the Saddle River boundary line of Ridgewood and on the west side of Paramus Road, just below the Blauvelt home, is the old home of the Van Dien family. Built in 1800 by Herman Van Dien, the house faces east with one wing on the south end.

It is now owned by Miss Aletta Van Dien, daughter of John H. Van Dien, and is occupied by Elmo Paxton.

#### *Ackerman House*

At the junction of Ackerman and Doremus Avenues is another old Ackerman homestead now occupied by Garret G. Ackerman. The stone part of this was built by his great grandfather, David Ackerman, over 175 years ago. It now has a wooden wing on the south side.

#### *Zabriskie-Wessells-Board House*

On the east side of Paramus Road, just below the junction of Ho-Ho-Kus Brook and the Saddle River, in Midland Township, but within fifteen hundred feet of the Ridgewood Line, stands the old Zabriskie House, now owned and occupied by Frederick Z. Board.

The house was constructed in 1790 by Andreas Zabriskie. Standing at right angles to the road, the end of the nearest wing with its little oval windows set diagonally in the gable and in perfect detail, attracts immediate attention. The remaining portion of the structure has been added to, but in such a way as to leave the picturesque effect unharmed.

A great lawn with beautiful trees and shrubbery stretches away from the rear of the house, and in front, across the drive-way, is the last of the old Colonial gardens, carefully laid out with paths and hedges. Nearby is an old barn originally constructed in 1775 and remodelled in 1823 and 1892, whose beams show the marks of British bullets fired during the Revolution.

The house has often been described in periodicals dealing with architectural matters and is referred to as one of the most delightful of the old places, both for its structural beauty and its splendid location, to be found throughout this ancient countryside.

#### *Van Dien-Van De Beek-Hopper Houses*

The foregoing houses, together with the Van Dien home on Grove Street, the Van De Beek house at the junction of Maple Avenue and Prospect Street, the old Hopper home on Prospect Street, now owned by Mrs. T. A. Strange and built in 1810 by Garret Hopper, and the stone portion of the building now used by Dr. W. L. Vroom on West Ridgewood Avenue, which was built by Peter J. Hopper, the father

of Albert P. Hopper, about 1830, are practically all of the old stone houses of the former inhabitants which now remain, their places having been taken by the modern houses of today.

While no longer in existence, the following stone houses were all excellent examples of the period:

#### *Aycrigg House*

Located on the east side of the Paramus Road about one-half mile below Grove Street, this house was built about 1730 and destroyed by fire on July 4, 1899. The house faced south with a wing on each end and with white-washed walls. In 1790 it was owned by John Zabriskie and later passed into the Bogert and then the Ayerigg families.

On the west side of the Road stands the old family burial vault built in 1786.

#### *Zabriskie-Van Dien House*

About one thousand feet north of the Ayerigg House stood the house occupied by John and Leah Zabriskie, which was built in 1790 and later passed into the Van Dien family.

#### *Zabriskie House*

Built by Christian Zabriskie in 1728, this house was demolished in 1790 by Andreas Zabriskie, who at that time built the present residence of F. Z. Board on the Paramus Road, a few yards in front of its site.

#### HOUSES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

The houses described in the preceding pages might well have been included under this caption, as they are not only surrounded by the traditions of the families which occupied them, but, as many of them existed during the stirring times of our country's infancy, they were, without doubt, often visited by both the American and British troops.

Washington and his generals, it is known, visited this section during the Revolutionary War and, judging from his orders and correspondence dated at Paramus, must have used one of the old houses in the vicinity as his headquarters. Some writers state that this was probably the place then called the Hopper Tavern, now known as the Brainard Tolles residence, in Ho-Ho-Kus, but this has never been established as a fact.

In the vicinity of Ridgewood, however, are two old landmarks which sheltered those around whom, in one case, a glowing and romantic picture might be painted, while the other still remains a fond sentiment in the hearts of friends and admirers. They may not fall strictly within the scope of this book, but their historic value is as keen to the residents of Ridgewood as it is to those of their community.

#### *The Hermitage*

On the west side of Franklin Turnpike, a short distance above the Ho-Ho-Kus Station, still stands "The Hermitage", the home of the



widow of Colonel Provost and the scene of her courtship by the dashing Aaron Burr previous to their marriage. The house, quaint in appearance and surrounded by wonderful trees, was rebuilt in 1812. It has long been occupied by the Rosencrantz family and is an excellent specimen of Colonial architecture.

### *Jefferson House*

About one mile above the old Paramus Church on the west side of the East Saddle River Road, in Orvill Township, but within a few rods of the Ridgewood line, is the old Van Emburgh Homestead, which was later the summer home of the late Joseph Jefferson, of Rip Van Winkle fame.

Here the old comedian rested from the exacting labors of his profession and here it was his pleasure to extend to loving friends a hospitality that has become proverbial.

### COMMUNITY CENTERS

One of the greatest factors in the development of Ridgewood is the interest manifested by the citizens in all matters relating to the social, recreational, educational and civic life of the community. The opportunities afforded by the churches and their various organizations, by clubs and other societies, are extensively utilized as a medium of social and civic intercourse in accordance with the preferences of those interested. Almost all of these have their particular places for holding meetings and their activities are described elsewhere in this book. The following serve the people as central gathering places for the discussing of civic and community matters as well as for the purpose of social and recreational affairs.

### *Pearsall's Grove*

On the north side of East Ridgewood Avenue, between the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook and North Maple Avenue, stands a charming grove of natural growth forest trees which follow an uprising of the land from the street level to the summit of a ridge from which there is an excellent view, the whole being admirably adapted to open air gatherings. In former days this was known as Dayton's Grove and through the courtesy of James W. Pearsall, its present owner, has served the people on a number of occasions as a gathering place for such events as Independence Day celebrations, mass meetings, and Sunday afternoon church services during the summer months.

### *The Opera House*

The idea of having an opera house started with a few public-spirited citizens who recognized the need of a suitable hall in which to hold meetings, local society entertainments, and theatrical performances. The project was presented to the citizens by means of a circular and a call for funds resulted in subscriptions amounting to approximately \$10,000. In order to carry on the work, a private corporation called



the Ridgewood Hall and Park Association was formed. The original plan contemplated the transformation of the triangular piece of ground, now occupied by the Opera House, the Trust Company, the stores on Prospect Street, and the stores on Ridgewood Avenue between Prospect and Oak Streets, the beauty spot of the Village, by planting trees, shrubs and flowers. Owing to the lack of funds, however, the Association was at first compelled to dispose of the Prospect Street frontage and later the Ridgewood Avenue and Oak Street parts now occupied by stores.

The building, when completed in 1889, had a seating capacity of five hundred and was one of the best in Ridgewood. It was built by day's work, Andrew Van Emburgh doing the mason work and John B. Van Dien the carpentry. The cost of erecting the building, including the foundation, amounted to about \$29,000, the foundation work proving expensive owing to the fact that the locality had at one time been the site of a small pond, which necessitated the construction of a drain.

When the building was designed an addition was provided for the use of the Ridgewood Club, a social organization prominent in the Village for a number of years, but which went out of existence with the formation of the original Golf Club. The building has been of great service to the Village as a place for public, social, and amusement affairs, the latter being under the direction principally of private individuals who leased the premises for the purpose.

During the early 90's the grounds surrounding the building were used on numerous occasions for carnivals and other public gatherings. For quite a period, band concerts were given every Saturday afternoon, through the generosity of the late Joseph W. Edwards.

Since the completion of the Play House and the Assembly Hall in the Wilsey Building, these places have been preferred for holding gatherings formerly held in the Opera House.

The first amateur minstrel show was given in the Opera House by members of the Ridgewood Club, under the direction of Franklin Hart on December 19, 1895. The cast included: Lucius Smith, J. B. Smith, A. S. Alexander, Walter Walton, H. M. Crowell, J. McLean Walton, J. W. Edwards, C. C. Harrison, Howard Walton, R. W. Hawes, F. A. Ross, F. C. Smith, G. C. Tompkins, John Hawes, J. W. Dunnell, with D. C. Cox as interlocutor.

One of the most notable events held within its walls was the hearty reception given to Woodrow Wilson, then Governor of New Jersey, when he addressed the people of Ridgewood on the evening of October 13, 1911, during the political campaign of that year.

On August 5, 1913, after having been purchased and renovated by the late Joseph H. Martin, the building was reopened as a photo play house under the direction of his son, Frank Martin, but this project has since been discontinued.

At the present time a portion of the building is occupied by Company L and serves not only as their headquarters but is also used by them for drills.

When the Opera House was first opened it was the scene of a carnival which continued for several days. The first theatrical performance

within its walls, which was given at that time by local talent, was entitled "The Loan of a Lover".

### *The Play House*

On May 26, 1913, the Village Commissioners, through the Building Inspector, gave the Ridgewood Play House Company permission to erect a building on Wilsey Square between the Van Orden Garage and the Osman Building. On November 21st, in the presence of a larger assemblage of citizens than had ever before gathered in an auditorium in the Village, the building was formally opened. The program included an address by His Honor, Mayor Daniel A. Garber, a response by Walter W. Wilsey, the father of the project; the presentation of Pinero's comedy in four acts "Trelawney of the Wells", by Miss Gelbart and her associates, all Ridgewood young people; and the reading of a "Dedication Poem" written by Roland Clinton.

The building, which is of fireproof construction, will seat 800 persons and was built by Ridgewood contractors. The carpenter work was done by J. L. Brown, the mason work by Thomas Vanderbeck, the plumbing and heating by W. H. Moore, and the painting and decorating by J. Uhlman. Bigelow and Maxham provided the furnishings.

The land and buildings cost the company between \$40,000 and \$50,000 and during the latter part of 1916 an orchestral organ made by the American Master Organ Company of Paterson was installed at a cost of \$5,000. The directors of the company are: Walter W. Wilsey, President; Thomas Nichols, of Nutley, Vice-President; A. B. Van Liew and A. W. Fish, of Bloomfield, and Howard Peck of East Orange, Directors. W. W. Young, formerly of Bloomfield, is Resident Manager and under his direction the company has furnished a daily program of high-class moving pictures, except when the building is used as a place of assembly for events connected with the social and civic activities of the community.

### *The Municipal Building*

During the fall of 1910 the Village determined to construct a municipal building that should be in keeping with the progressive spirit of the citizens. The building was completed and occupied during 1911.

Located on Hudson Street, the first floor is occupied by the Fire and Police Departments. The second floor, besides providing office room for the various officials and departments of the Village, contains a large assembly room which is used for the weekly sessions of the Village Commissioners and for public meetings.

The Village fire alarm bell, contained within a wooden frame, is mounted on the roof of the building.

### HALLS AND CLUB ROOMS

A history of the Village organizations is given elsewhere in this book, but their places for holding meetings are at times used by the citizens for other purposes and their development has been an important feature of the community life.

*Wilson's Hall*

In 1873 a two-story building with an outside stairway leading to the assembly room was located at about the site of the present feed and grain business of E. B. Van Horn on Broad Street, and was known as Wilson's Hall. This was the meeting place of the Masonic Fraternity until May, 1881, when the building was destroyed by fire.

*Union Street School Hall*

*Music and Theatricals*

The prime mover in athletic and musical entertainments in Ridgewood was Mr. Thomas W. White, then on the staff of the New York *Herald*. The first public concert given in Ridgewood was given for the benefit of the first Athletic Club in the hall over the Union Street School soon after it was completed. Mr. White's grand piano, then the only one in Ridgewood, was with difficulty carried to the platform. The Misses Sloman of New York played solos on piano and harp and the accompaniments to songs by Mr. White, Mr. Lucius Smith and Mr. R. W. Hawes.

*Dramatic*

In this Hall was also given the first theatrical performance in Ridgewood. The hand-bills announced:

Amateur Concert  
and  
Dramatic Entertainment  
at the  
Ridgewood School House Hall,  
Saturday, December 14, 1878.  
Mr. Tom Jefferson  
as  
Hugh De Brass  
In the laughable Farce,  
A Regular Fix.  
Tickets 50 cts.

The concert was given by the singers who appeared at the athletic entertainment. The cast included Miss Hawes as leading lady, Mr. L. A. Stout and Miss Stout, Miss Effie Orr and Mr. Robert Kueuck of Ho-Ho-Kus and Mr. Rea of Midland Park, all amateurs. It was undertaken to raise funds for one of the churches in Ridgewood. Mr. Joseph Jefferson suggested it as good practice for his son, Tom, who was to begin his professional career in New York the next week. The cast was made by Mr. Jefferson and all rehearsals but the final one were held at his house and were delightful meetings never to be forgotten by those who attended them. The performance was well attended and cleared \$100.

*Social*

A series of dances was held in the winter of 1876-1877, beginning in the homes of the residents of Ridgewood and Ho-Ho-Kus, by mem-

bers of the England Keeley, Cameron, Robinson, Walton, Bockee, Rosenerantz and Hawes families. Two were held in the unoccupied Kidder Academy on Van Dien Avenue. The music was furnished by the younger members; the dances were all square, quadrilles and lancers, closing with the Virginia reel, which was particularly enjoyed by the gray-haired members. The last of these dances was given on Washington's Birthday in the School Hall, Union Street. Guests came from New York and Paterson. It was the first masked ball given in Ridgewood, with elaborate music and refreshments and round dances.

*Ryerson's Block—Prospect Block—First National Bank Building—  
Masonic and Wilsey Building—Halls*

In 1882 Ryerson's Block was built and a hall was provided to take care of the needs of various organizations. The hall was used until the construction in 1903 of the Prospect Block and the First National Bank Building, when the assembly room provided for in the plans of the latter became the recognized meeting place and was known as Masonic Hall. The hall in the Prospect Building was used principally for political meetings and dances, while Masonic Hall continued to be the principal meeting place of the Village organizations until 1915, when the Masonic Fraternity purchased the former home of the Town Club (White Stars) on South Maple Avenue, which it improved and dedicated to its uses. Beginning with the opening of the Woman's Club Rooms in the Wilsey Building in 1914, the two last mentioned buildings have become the meeting places of a number of organizations requiring rooms of such proportions. The bank building assembly room is known as Knights of Columbus Hall.

The Woman's Club Rooms in the Wilsey Building were the scene during 1916 of two assemblages of a historic nature. One of these was the semi-annual meeting of the Federation of Woman's Clubs of New Jersey during the latter part of October. The Club rooms were used as headquarters and the business sessions were held in the Play House. The other occasion was on February 16, when 450 persons gathered at a banquet of Fidelity Lodge No. 113, F. and A. M., and talked, sang, and cheered with a similar gathering of Masons in San Francisco and Pasadena over the recently completed transcontinental telephone line of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Ridgewood upon this occasion had the honor of being the first small town to have an opportunity to test this marvelous feat of engineering. Through the greetings exchanged by Herbert R. Talbot, Master of Fidelity Lodge, and Albert G. Burnett, Grand Master of the State of California, Ridgewood was the eastern terminus of the first verbal greetings ever extended between officials of the Masonic order across the Continent.

*Country Club*

The facilities provided by the clubhouse of the Ridgewood Country Club since its completion in 1913, have given its members opportunities to enjoy the benefits which are usual in such an institution. While its short life has not enabled it to be the scene of any public gatherings



of note, it is well adapted for such purposes and history will doubtless record its part in such future achievements of the citizens.

### *The Town Club*

Formerly the home of the Ridgewood Golf Club, the present quarters of the Town Club, have been the scene of many social and public functions, the most prominent affair of a public nature being when President Taft addressed the citizens from the club veranda on May 25, 1912. This was the first time in the history of the community that a President of the United States was entertained within its confines.

Another important event in the history of the club occurred on April 8, 1915, when the citizens of the Village entertained at dinner the members of the Grand Army of the Republic living in this vicinity in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the cessation of hostilities between the North and the South. The principal speaker of the evening was United States Senator Moses E. Clapp of Minnesota.

### SPEEDWAY

About 1818, Van Dien Avenue, then known as Van Dien Lane and considered as one of the best dirt roads in this section, was used as a speedway for the best horses in the neighborhood. It was the gathering place for those interested in the sport and some lively running and trotting races were held.

### HO-HO-KUS DRIVING CLUB PARK

On Race Track Road, which separates Ridgewood from Ho-Ho-Kus, and within the limits of Ho-Ho-Kus, stand the buildings and one-half mile track leased by the Ho-Ho-Kus Driving Club from Samuel Naugle. Since 1885 the park has served the people of the vicinity, not only as a speedway and for neighborhood horse shows, but also as a place for fairs. Since the advent of automobiles and aeroplanes it has been the scene at various times of exhibitions of these machines.

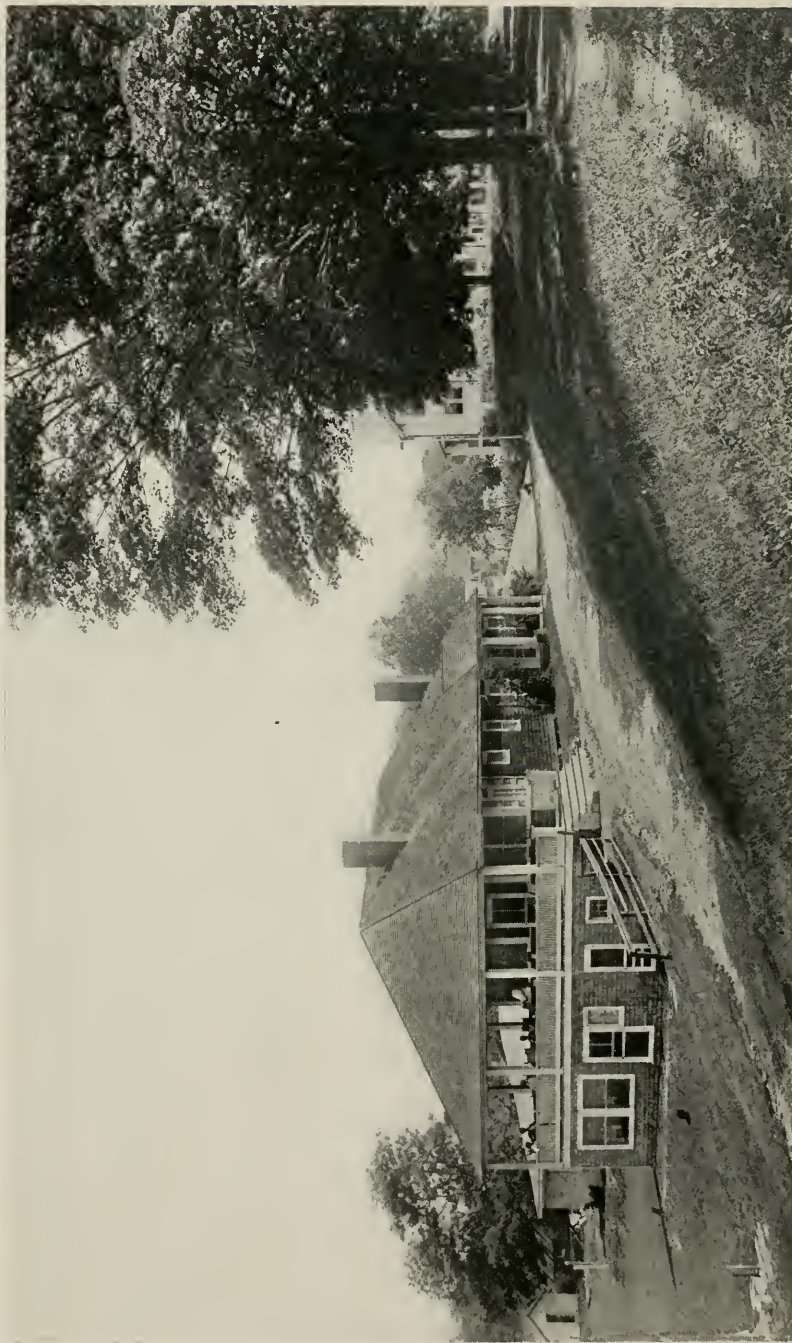
### BERGEN COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

The foregoing site was originally part of the Samuel Banta farm and was first used as a fair ground by the New Jersey Agricultural Association, organized in 1885. Jacob Bamber was its first president and served about ten years.

In 1895 this organization was succeeded by the North Jersey Agricultural and Driving Association, which constructed the present buildings, repaired the race-track, and generally improved the condition of the property.

Up to 1914, the property was used at various times for speeding exhibitions and county fairs, but during that year it was sold to Samuel Naugle.

The Ho-Ho-Kus Driving Club now rents the property from Mr. Naugle and, since 1915, has sublet the premises to the Bergen County Fair Association. Incorporated during 1915, this association has conducted a fair on the grounds for the past two years.



*Aljian Studio*

The Town Club.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

An enjoyable custom, which will probably be continued in the years to come, was established as a community affair on the evening of December 23, 1916, when several hundred school children and as many adults assembled on Cottage Place around a towering evergreen, beautifully illuminated by hundreds of colored lights. Festoons of lights also illuminated the street. The children, under the direction of the Supervisor of Music of the Public Schools, sang a number of the old Christmas carols, after which the entire assemblage sang several closing hymns. Refreshments were served at the Unitarian Church for the adults and packages of cakes and candies were distributed to the young folks at the High School Building.

## CHAPTER VIII

### CIVIC AND COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

ON account of its location at a distance from New York, where it cannot conveniently share the pleasures and activities of that city to any great extent, Ridgewood has found it necessary to provide its own entertainment, club life and civic interests.

The natural result of such endeavor has been the organization of various clubs, societies and associations, all of which have as objectives the improvement of the individual and the advancement of the Village.

These organizations may, for the sake of convenience, be grouped under several headings, each denoting the general character of the organization so classified, as follows: Clubs, Patriotic Organizations, Political Organizations, Fraternal Organizations, Musical Clubs, Welfare Associations, School Associations, Anti-Liquor Organizations, Medical Societies, Organizations for Young Men and Commercial Organizations.

#### CLUBS

The call of outdoor sports and of social intercourse has been answered by the people of Ridgewood with the organization of nine clubs, all of which are of decided advantage to the Village.

#### *The Ridgewood Club*

The Ridgewood Club was organized in December, 1893, with the following officers:

<i>President</i> .....	HENRY S. PATTERSON,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	M. T. RICHARDSON,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	W. J. FULLERTON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	PAUL WALTON.

This organization was the first of its character in the community, becoming one of the leading institutions of the Village and the center of its social life and activity. In 1900 its membership was practically absorbed by the Ridgewood Golf Club.

During its existence its aim had been to appeal particularly for the interest and support of the ladies, to which fact its growth and success were mainly attributable. Two days of each week were set apart as Ladies' Days and weekly entertainments were given throughout the season. During the winter months afternoon lectures were held in the club parlors in the Opera House Building, followed by a five o'clock tea.

The club was a member of the Whist League and the devotees of the game made it a feature of the club life.

#### *Ridgewood Country Club*

Golf in Ridgewood dates back to 1893, when the old Ho-Ho-Kus Golf Club was organized, the first in this section of New Jersey and



said to be one of the first in the country. The heir to the old Ho-Ho-Kus Club was the Ridgewood Golf Club, established in 1901, with a golf course on Maple Avenue. Out of this latter club developed the present Country Club which, on March 12, 1910, was organized as an entirely new body, with the following officers and directors:

<i>President</i> .....	J. H. SNYDER,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	C. W. STOCKTON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	W. D. LAWTON,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	H. G. WHITE.

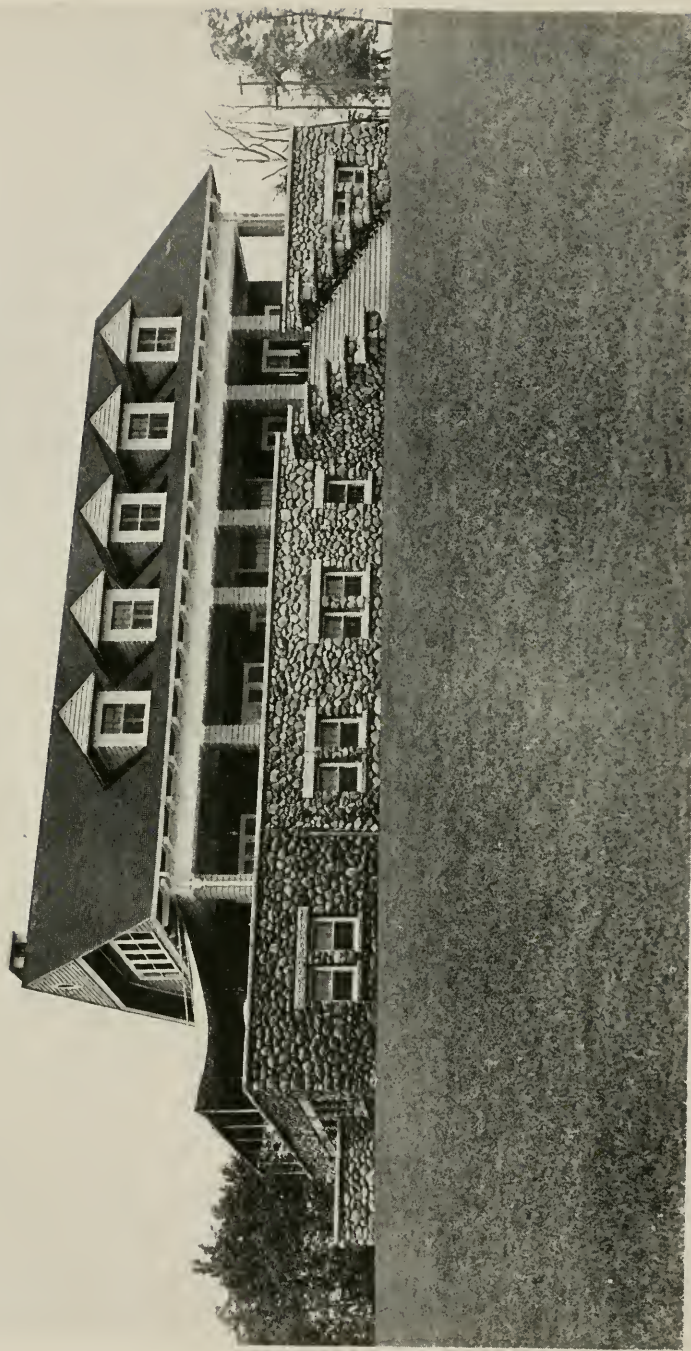
*Board of Directors*

J. H. SNYDER,	W. D. LAWTON,	J. H. DUNNING,	C. W. STOCKTON,
H. G. WHITE,	G. F. BRACKETT,	P. A. TOOHEY,	J. C. MAHLAN.
C. E. MERRIHEW,	G. E. BOREHAM,	H. S. WILLARD,	

The Ridgewood Country Club is a corporation, the capital stock of \$50,000 being owned by about two hundred stockholders. Stockholders may become regular members of the club by paying the prescribed dues; otherwise a stockholder cannot enjoy any of the privileges of the club, but may vote at all meetings of stockholders. A stockholder may have but one vote in the affairs of the club, regardless of the number of shares of stock he may hold. This is rather a unique feature, as it gives every member an equal voice in the management of the club; consequently, there is no particular object in a member owning more than one share of stock except that he receives a 5 per cent. return on his investment, provided he becomes a regular member. This provision was made so that the club might be perpetuated and to avoid the risk of a few members obtaining control and possibly at some future date selling the land at a handsome profit. Under the circumstances, there is no reason why this tract of land should not continue indefinitely to be a beautiful park and pleasure ground practically in the heart of Ridgewood.

The whole project was founded and built upon the faith in a greater and more beautiful Ridgewood and while, possibly, it was a little ahead of its time, it will, no doubt, serve as a landmark by which all future undertakings in Ridgewood may be measured. The purchase and development of the property, including the erection of the clubhouse, represent an outlay of more than \$100,000. The corporation owns 102 acres of land, most of which was used in the development of an eighteen-hole golf course. Donald Ross, the great golf professional, has pronounced it one of the most beautiful spots for a golf course in America.

There is a splendid brook, fed from natural springs, at either end of the property. Both of these brooks have been dammed on the lower side of the property, creating two beautiful little lakes stretching practically across the entire width of the property. These lakes furnish hazards for golf in the summer time and ice parks for the skaters in winter. In addition to these two bodies of water for skating, an artificial skating rink has been created within twenty-five yards of the clubhouse. There the broad expanse of hills stretching from the clubhouse to Lincoln Avenue, that furnishes a splendid variety of golf



The Ridgewood Country Club.

during the season, is a wonderful place for tobogganing and coasting during the winter.

Tennis, curling, archery and trapshooting are other outdoor sports indulged in by the members, their families and guests during the various seasons of the year.

The clubhouse contains a high-class café and restaurant, bowling alleys, billiard and pool tables and a fine dancing pavilion that furnishes amusement and recreation throughout the entire year. The views from the clubhouse veranda are of surpassing beauty. On clear days and nights the lofty buildings of New York are clearly visible in the distance and the surrounding country in every direction furnishes a panoramic picture beyond description.

The membership at present is limited to two hundred and fifty regular and special members, but the limit will, in all probability, be raised to three hundred, as there are several applications on the waiting list and experience indicates that the club can comfortably accommodate three hundred members.

### *Town Club*

The present Town Club had its origin a few years prior to 1898 in an organization then known as the Ridgewood Juniors, having for its original officers:

<i>President</i> .....	JOHN G. ZABRISKIE,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	CHARLES STEWART,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	FRANK C. SMAEK.

This organization consisted of nine members: John G. Zabriskie, J. Robert Maltbie, Frank C. Smaek, Charles Van Dien, Charles Stewart, Fred Bykeeper, Everett Hopper, William Haight and Fred Z. Board.

The Juniors grew in numbers and in 1898 termed themselves the White Stars, a little later increasing to such proportions as to warrant the renting of a home at what is now No. 23 Hope Street. Later rooms in Hutton Hall were rented.

In 1901 they were incorporated as the White Stars. The organization papers, dated June 14, 1901, specified that it was to be "An association of less than five hundred members associated for the encouragement and practice of indoor and outdoor athletics." These papers were signed by John G. Zabriskie, then President; Herbert A. Obrig, Secretary; Frank C. Smaek, Treasurer, and also by John Robert Maltbie, Joseph F. Carrigan, Jr., and Charles W. Eichells, Jr., acting for the club. Shortly afterward the club purchased the property at South Maple Avenue, where in June, 1904, the clubhouse was opened. The house has since been acquired by the F. & A. M. of Ridgewood.

Under date of July 22, 1912, the amended certificate of incorporation was filed changing the name from the "White Star Athletic Club" to the "Town Club of Ridgewood." This amended certificate was signed by the following trustees: John B. Cavagnero, Edward Maxon, William C. Siegert, Harold Dwight, Frederick Pfeiffer, Bayly Hipkins, Thomas P. Walls, A. S. Maerz, M. F. Bargebuhr and John G. Zabriskie. At that time Walter L. Dawson was President and Robert V. Bates, Secretary.



This amended certificate specified as the purposes of the Town Club the "engaging in all forms and classes of athletic sports and generally to promote and maintain social intercourse among, to encourage the literary pursuits of, and to provide entertainment and recreation for its members."

During the winter of 1912-1913, the present property on North Maple Avenue, consisting of approximately 12 acres, was purchased. Because the Town Club had always taken a lively interest in local affairs, it consented to sell the Ridgewood Avenue property previously used by the White Stars as an athletic field, to the Village to become a part of the new high school site.

Carrying out the purposes of the organization, the club now provides for its members bowling on four excellent alleys, billiards, pool, whist and other card games, library, dancing and ballroom in the clubhouse, baseball and tennis on the grounds, there being five excellent courts for the latter game. Ladies have the privilege of the clubhouse as specified by various actions of the Board of Governors, and the families of members, as well as the school teachers, have the privileges of the tennis courts. The baseball diamond and the football field have been gratuitously given over for the use of the Ridgewood High School baseball and football teams.

A limit of 250 has been placed upon the club membership as now constituted, and 238 of this number have been secured.

#### *Paramus Valley Photographic Association*

On March 23, 1903, a number of amateur photographers met in the evening in the Tower Room of the Y. M. C. A. Building—the Opera House—to consider the question of organizing. In April the Paramus Valley Photographic Association was launched with the following membership:

<i>President</i> .....	HENRY W. HALES.
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	C. H. LOMAX MITCHELL,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	I. P. LAWTON.
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	A. A. FITZBUGH.

Everet L. Zabriskie, Jos. Carrigan, Leonard A. Smith, Austin Hanks, S. S. McCready, Maurice Hopkins, P. G. Delamater, H. D. Hartley, F. H. Howland, Peter O. Terheun, Theodore Obrig, and George Ferguson. At intervals the membership was augmented by the addition of the following: G. D. Clippel, H. V. Townsend, H. W. Wilson, W. H. Moore, W. J. Tonkin, Chas. A. Throckmorton, Jos. J. Smith, Harvey Blauvelt, E. W. Cobb, Jas. J. Bailey, Geo. M. Schinzel and A. Lee Don.

The declared purpose of the association was the "advancement of the science and art of photography." Of those who were enrolled, there were a few who devoted most of their spare time to photographic work, and these were the ones upon whom the labor devolved when an outing or an exhibition was to be organized. Monthly meetings were held and were well attended.

In June, 1903, the first annual exhibition was given in the room of the Library Association, First National Bank Building. On this occa-



sion, more than four hundred photographs were shown and, in addition to the prints exhibited, there were many lantern slides and transparencies, all of which had been produced by members. The exhibition was well attended and the association was encouraged to greater effort.

The 1904 exhibit was well received and the work of the members showed much improvement both in choice of subjects and composition. The artistic discrimination was notable and the distinction between the ordinary amateur photograph of the preceding season and the later work of the members was accentuated by comparison.

In the 1905 exhibition the association conducted a competition open to all amateurs, without regard to membership. Ten solid silver cups were provided as prizes. Twenty entrants displayed more than four hundred prints in Hutton Hall. Nineteen persons entered 197 pictures in the several competitive classes. A feature of the exhibit was a collection of 33 photographs of old houses in Bergen County, all of which were of historic value. This was the work of Mr. B. H. Allbee, then Vice-President of the Bergen County Historical Society. A notable fact in connection with the display was the contribution of specimens of photographic skill by amateurs residing in distant towns and cities—Hackensack, N. J.; Detroit, Mich.; Bristol, England; Portland, Me.; Allendale, N. J., and Brooklyn, N. Y. On the evening of the second day, the exhibition was closed with the display of 225 stereopticon views, the product of home talent.

In the meantime, the association members made excursions into the regions about Ridgewood in all kinds of weather and many were the unique pictures made in spring, summer, autumn and winter. There were many requests for the loan of photos for exhibition in the fairs and entertainments of other clubs. The meetings were often enlivened by demonstrations of methods of working, from the choosing of the point of view from which to obtain the best results of light and shade, to the development of original ideas of mounting and framing the resultant print.

#### *Woman's Club of Ridgewood, N. J.*

One of Ridgewood's most valued assets is its Woman's Club which was organized in 1909, federated in 1910 and later incorporated in 1914. The following served as the original officers:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. WILLIAM F. ALLEN,
<i>Vice-Presidents</i> .....	{ MRS. CHARLES W. STOCKTON AND
	{ MRS. CHARLES A. DESHON,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	MRS. CORNELIUS DOREMUS,
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	MRS. LANSING P. WOOD
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. DUNCAN D. CHAPLIN.

The purposes for which the club was organized were the mutual improvement of its members through study and social intercourse and the active promotion of civic and social betterment. The club has departments of music, history and travel, drama and literature, and home economics. Civics and current events are also discussed.

The membership is divided as follows: Active 326; Honorary 14; Inactive 2; making a total of 342.

*The Woman's Club of Upper Ridgewood*

The Woman's Club of Upper Ridgewood was organized November 20, 1912. The original officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. CHARLES K. ALLEN,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. E. A. NICHOLS,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. E. H. PORTSMORE.

There are at present 40 members in the club.

The purpose of the organization is to promote neighborly interest, and the work done by the club has this purpose always before it in its philanthropic, social and school work.

*College Club*

The College Club was organized in September, 1913, by women graduates of colleges, residing in Ridgewood. The officers elected at the time of organization were:-

<i>President</i> .....	MISS NELL B. DOREMUS,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. THEODORE S. HOPE,
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. RUTH WOOD CADMUS.
<i>Assistant Secretary</i> .....	MISS RAENA RYERSON.

The original purpose was to aid in establishing the Woman's College of New Jersey at Rutgers, but that plan was abandoned in 1915 by the State Leaders, so at present the club is interested in establishing a girls' scholarship fund. The organization has 35 members.

*The League for Creative Work*

The League for Creative Work was organized in April, 1914, with the purpose of producing original work as writers, artists and musicians. The original officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. LANSING P. WOOD,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. JAMES B. PARSONS,
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. WILLIAM F. SROUFE.

The present membership numbers nineteen.

*Garden Club of Ridgewood*

The Garden Club of Ridgewood was organized in November, 1914. The object of the club is to broaden and increase its knowledge of growing things by an exchange of ideas and experiences at periodical meetings of its members; also to stimulate intelligent and artistic gardening.

Its membership numbers 60. Men living in Ridgewood and vicinity, having gardens in which an active interest is taken and over which a personal supervision is exercised, only are eligible for membership. Incidentally, it is the only garden club of men within a very considerable radius of New York City. Monthly meetings are held at which papers prepared by members and dealing with their own experiences, are read. Discussions of various garden problems that constantly arise are entered into and plans for the exchange of plants are perfected. Members who have been delegated to visit garden club shows and nurs-

eries report their findings to the club and professional talent is engaged to lecture from time to time. A systematic distribution of flowers to the hospitals is also a very pleasant feature of the club's work. Two shows a year are given, in June and September, to which the public is invited. These shows not only include flowers, but fruits and vegetables.

The officers of the club, all of whom have served since the organization, are:-

<i>President</i> .....	ROBERT L. ROE,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	STANLEY R. WALKER,
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	E. T. SOWTER.

### *Ridgewood Rifle Club*

The Ridgewood Rifle Club was organized in October, 1915, with a charter membership of about 20. Affiliation was at once effected with the National Rifle Association of America. The club's membership soon rose to nearly 50 and it has become one of Ridgewood's most popular organizations.

Under the guidance of the first officers,

<i>President</i> .....	DANIEL R. BACON,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	A. A. WINTERS,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	A. L. FORMAN,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	A. L. COBURN,
<i>Executive Officer</i> .....	DR. H. S. WILLARD,

the first year of the club's existence has been a most successful one. A range for indoor shooting was secured in the old cement works on Spring Avenue and many a hotly contested competition has been held there among the members and with teams from neighboring towns.

Many members who, a year ago scarcely knew what a rifle was intended for, have developed surprising expertness, so much so that to date the club team has never been beaten in a match and a number of the men wear National emblems attesting their prowess as sharpshooters or marksmen.

The club has in prospect the establishment of an outdoor range upon which the regular army service rifle may be used.

The privilege of the range is extended to students in the Ridgewood High School and a large number of the upper classmen are educating themselves in the use of firearms.

### PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS

Ridgewood has not devoted all its efforts to the securing of pleasure and amusement by means of social intercourse, but has found enjoyment in preserving the memories of its ancestors and in safeguarding the future of its children. This patriotic spirit has found expression in the following organizations:-

#### *Daughters of the Revolution*

The Society of the Daughters of the Revolution was organized in 1891, its object being "to perpetuate the patriotic spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence; to commemorate

prominent events connected with the War of the Revolution; to collect, publish and preserve the rolls, records and historic documents relating to that period; to encourage the study of the country's history; to promote sentiments of friendship and common interest among the members of the Society, and to provide a home for and furnish assistance to such Daughters of the Revolution as may be impoverished, when it is in their power to do so."

In May, 1900, a chapter called the Ramapo Valley Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, was founded in Ridgewood by Mrs. Richard W. Hawes, who being a member of the Montclair Chapter, was appointed Organizing Regent by the General Secretary in New York. The five charter members were Miss Rebecca W. Hawes, Mrs. Richard Hawes, Mrs. T. A. Strange, Miss Martha E. Smith and Miss Florence de la M. Bunce. Since the organization of this chapter there has been but one Historian-Registrar, Miss Rebecca W. Hawes, who was elected to this office for life. The first Regent, Miss Florence de la M. Bunce, served for a period of fourteen years.

The meetings are held at the homes of the members, of whom there are now forty, with the exception of the June meeting, when, in commemoration of the Battle of Bunker Hill, the chapter makes its annual pilgrimage to the Revolutionary intrenchments at Hillburn, New York, marked by them with a granite tablet.

#### *Junior Order United American Mechanics*

This patriotic order was organized in Ridgewood on February 18, 1897, with 125 charter members and with these original officers:-

<i>Counciler</i> .....	J. D. VAN EMBURGH,
<i>Vice-Counciler</i> .....	S. O. GILES,
<i>Financial Secretary</i> .....	HERVEY TERHUNE,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	J. BLAUVELT HOPPER,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	I. A. WALL.

Its objects are—

*First*—To maintain and promote the interests of Americans and shield them from the depressing effects of foreign competition.

*Second*—To assist Americans in obtaining employment.

*Third*—To encourage Americans in business.

*Fourth*—To establish a Sick and Funeral Fund.

*Fifth*—To maintain the Public School System of the United States of America and to prevent sectarian interference therewith, and uphold the reading of the Holy Bible therein.

The membership now numbers 280.

#### *Independence Day Association of Ridgewood, N. J., Inc.*

In 1910 the Independence Day Association held its first meeting and elected as officers the following:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. J. E. COYLE,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. F. F. KNOTHE,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. J. TURNER,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. W. J. TONKIN.

After two successful years, it was incorporated in 1912.



The purposes for which this corporation was formed are to discourage the general public use of dangerous firearms and fireworks; to foster and stimulate a patriotic spirit and sentiment in the citizens and children of Ridgewood, N. J., and vicinity, by observing Independence Day in a fitting manner; the same to be accomplished by parades, pageants, mass meetings, fireworks and other suitable and appropriate observances, and in general to do all things in connection with the foregoing that may be necessary and expedient.

The membership consists of the subscribers to its fund and in 1916 it numbered 238 individuals and firms and nine organizations.

*The Theodosia Burr Chapter, Junior Sons and Daughters of the Revolution*

The Junior Auxiliary of the Ramapo Valley Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, was organized in June, 1912, with the object of "encouraging patriotic spirit in citizens of the vicinity in every practicable way and to extend its influence in this direction to other places, as opportunity occurs, and to promote friendship and common interest among the members of the chapter."

With Miss Edna Bunce as Director, and five charter members, the following officers were elected:—

<i>President</i> .....	VAUGHN KEELEY,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	CONSTANCE FRENCH,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MORTON ADAMS.

In 1913, the name was changed to Penelope Von Princips Chapter, Junior Sons and Daughters of the Revolution.

In 1914, a change in the name was suggested and the Chapter is now known as the Theodosia Burr Chapter, Junior Sons and Daughters of the Revolution, Theodosia Burr being the daughter of Widow Theodosia Provost and Aaron Burr, and directly associated with this vicinity.

The Theodosia Burr Chapter now has an enrollment of 35 members, having the greatest increase in membership during the year of 1914-15 of any Junior Chapter in the State.

*Company L, Fifth Regiment, N. G., N. J.*

Company L was mustered in on February 20, 1913. The original officers were:

<i>Captain</i> .....	JOSEPH L. SMITH,
<i>First Lieutenant</i> .....	HORACE G. CLEVELAND,
<i>Second Lieutenant</i> .....	JOHN MERRIHUE.

Upon the resignation of Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Merrihew, Joseph R. Brackett became First Lieutenant and Gene E. Pattison became Second Lieutenant. Lieutenant Brackett was lost by death and Lieutenant Pattison resigned.

The company was mustered in to federal service in June, 1916, with Captain Joseph J. Smith commanding, the junior officers being—

<i>First Lieutenant</i> .....	JOSEPH C. FITTS,
<i>Second Lieutenant</i> .....	SAMUEL I. BATEMAN.

On the date of mobilization, June 19, 1916, the company had 65 men on its rolls and was sent with its regiment, the Fifth New Jersey Infantry, N. G., to Sea Girt, N. J., at which place the New Jersey brigade was to mobilize. The Fifth Regiment entrained for Douglas, Ariz., on June 13th. On its return to the East, the regiment reached Paterson November 3, 1916. After a parade in Paterson, the out-of-town companies returned to their quarters and Company L was mustered out of the federal service on November 14, 1916.

Several acres of ground on East Franklin Avenue were donated to the Ridgewood Armory Association by Mrs. Joseph W. Edwards for the purpose of erecting an armory thereon for the use of Company L. The foundation has already been completed with the aid of funds raised in Ridgewood.

At present active efforts are being made to secure the \$25,000 appropriation for this building authorized by the State Legislature.

### *Paramus Chapter of the New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution*

The Paramus Chapter No. 6, New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized through the efforts of Mr. R. T. Wilson, with 35 charter members, on December 18, 1913. Those officers elected at the first meeting were:

<i>President</i> .....	JUDGE CORNELIUS DOREMUS,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	RICHARD T. WILSON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	JOSEPH B. ROBERTS,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	L. F. HALSTED.
<i>Historian</i> .....	E. L. ZABRISKIE.

The objects of this society are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational, and include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the Government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble of the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

The Chapter has now 51 members.

### *The National Security League—Ridgewood Branch*

One of Ridgewood's newest organizations is the branch of the National Security League which was organized on April 6, 1916, through

the efforts of Mr. W. E. Remington, who was elected Chairman. With him are serving—

<i>Vice-Chairman</i> .....	B. F. SLOAT,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	GEORGE M. SCHINZEL,
<i>Assistant Secretary</i> .....	JUDSON SALISBURY,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	JAMES D. CRAIG.

The following, with the officers, compose the Executive Committee: Lewis R. Conklin, Judge Cornelius Doremus, W. D. Ferris, Joseph Fitts, T. J. Foster, J. J. Glynn, E. B. Lilly, George N. Pfeiffer, O. B. Surpluss and R. T. Wilson.

The National Security League is non-political, non-partisan and absolutely neutral. Its object is to arouse the American public to a sense of the nation's naval and military weakness, of the national menace that attends the present state of unpreparedness and, through public mass meetings, petitions and resolutions, to bring pressure to bear upon representatives in Congress to provide an adequate army and navy as determined by the expert army and navy officers.

The Ridgewood branch has more than 300 members who are also interested in increasing the membership of the American Red Cross.

### *Bergen County Historical Society.*

An organization of interest to the citizens of Ridgewood is the Bergen County Historical Society which has been extremely active in delving into the past and has brought to light much of value. In 1895 an exhibition was given in the Opera House under the auspices of this society. There were shown coins, ancient documents, weapons, clothing, implements of industry, family trifles and records, and an inspection of the articles displayed was a liberal education in the history of the past. People throughout this section responded with enthusiasm and were surprised to learn that there was here so much of interest relating to our past history.

Among the past presidents of this organization are Judge Cornelius Doremus, Judge David Zabriskie and Everett L. Zabriskie of Ridgewood, while R. T. Wilson is at present a vice-president.

### POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ridgewood is not without its political activities nor its forces which have influence for good government, as is evidenced by the five active organizations in the Village.

### *The Woman's Suffrage Association*

In 1894, as the only member in this part of Bergen County of the New Jersey State Suffrage Association, Miss Rebecca W. Hawes circulated a petition for the restoration of full school suffrage for women and obtained a hundred signatures in Ridgewood and Ho-Ho-Kus.

At a meeting of the Ramapo Valley Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, it was voted that the members in favor of suffrage should call a meeting and invite Mrs. Minnie Reynolds to organ-

ize a branch of the Woman's Political Union of New Jersey. The meeting was held at the home of Miss Hawes, Corsa Terrace, on November 21, 1913. At a second meeting held a month later at the residence of Mrs. F. F. Knothe, The Woman's Political Union was organized with the following officers:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. CARL M. VAIL,
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. C. W. MACDONOUGH,
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. FRANCES H. WALTON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. CYNTHIA MITCHELL,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. GEORGE ETESSE,
<i>Press Agent</i> .....	MRS. F. H. VALENTINE,
<i>Auditor</i> .....	MRS. F. F. KNOTHE.

In October, 1916, The Woman's Political Union was absorbed by the Woman's Suffrage Association of New Jersey.

*Ridgewood Democratic Club*

The Democratic Club was organized in 1892. Its original officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	J. B. CAVAGNARO,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	DR. G. M. OCKFORD,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	JOHN J. MURPHY,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	FRANK A. BAXTER.

The object of the organization was to promote Democracy along the lines laid down by Thomas Jefferson, to establish good government by the election of honest and efficient men to office, with the greatest good to the greatest number and special privileges to none. There are 95 members in the club.

*Voters' League*

The Voters' League was organized August 29, 1910. The constitution provides, "its object shall be to secure and maintain the maximum of efficiency in the government of Ridgewood". The adoption in 1911, by the Village of Ridgewood, of its present form of government was due to the energetic campaign conducted by the officers and members of the League in presenting to the citizens the merits of the common form of government.

Its first officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	LEWIS R. CONKLIN,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	SAMUEL S. MCCURDY,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	FRANK A. THAYER,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	S. S. WALSTRUM,

and the Executive Committee which was composed of the above officers and John T. Hanks, J. McGuinness, Jr., Edward J. Miller, Frank F. Knothe and Harvey H. Palmer.

*Republican Club*

The present Republican Club was organized in 1912 with—

<i>President</i> .....	I. E. HUTTON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	FRANK STEVENS,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	W. O. DIETRICH.



It was re-organized on January 20, 1916.

The object of the club is to carry out most effectively the principles and good government as expressed by Republicanism; to further the interests of the Republican ticket and by that means secure the election of Republican candidates. The club has about 75 members.

### *Citizens and Taxpayers' Association*

The Citizens and Taxpayers' Association was organized in 1913. The following were its original officers:

<i>President</i> .....	I. E. HUTTON,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	B. F. SLOAT,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	R. L. FERNBACH,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	F. L. DOOLY,
<i>Chairman of Executive Committee</i> .....	W. O. DIETRICH.

The Citizens' and Taxpayers' Association is a non-partisan body of voters and has about 300 members.

### FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Another result of the "get-together" spirit manifested by the people of Ridgewood has resulted in the organization of branches of seven fraternal orders:

#### *Fidelity Lodge No. 113, F. & A. M.*

The Ridgewood Branch of the Masonic Order, established in 1869, is the oldest existing organization in Ridgewood. The original officers were:

<i>Master</i> .....	JOHN M. KNAPP,
<i>Senior Warden</i> .....	ROBERT B. CABLE,
<i>Junior Warden</i> .....	JOHN A. ACKERMAN.

The present membership numbers 245.

#### *Paramus Valley Council No. 1597, Royal Arcanum*

The Paramus Valley Council No. 1597 of the Royal Arcanum was organized in Ridgewood on March 5, 1895, with the following as the original officers:

<i>Regent</i> .....	REV. E. H. CLEVELAND,
<i>Vice-Regent</i> .....	C. C. WEST,
<i>Past Regent</i> .....	C. H. EDDY,
<i>Orator</i> .....	L. F. HALSTED,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	B. C. WOOSTER,
<i>Collector</i> .....	L. N. TAFT,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	S. W. ORNE,
<i>Chaplain</i> .....	F. H. WHITE,
<i>Guide</i> .....	J. H. OXLEY,
<i>Warden</i> .....	E. B. VAN HORN,
<i>Sentry</i> .....	F. A. ROSS,
<i>Trustees</i> .....	{ ALEXANDER BELL, JOHN R. STEVENS, H. G. WHITE.
<i>Representative to Grand Council</i> .....	C. H. EDDY
<i>Alternate to Grand Council</i> .....	REV. E. H. CLEVELAND,
<i>Medical Examiner</i> .....	DR. G. M. OCKFORD,

The original membership in 1895 was 32. It has now increased to 303.

The Royal Arcanum is a fraternal beneficiary order founded in Boston in 1877. It has a membership of about 250,000 and has paid to the widows and orphans of its members \$185,000,000, of which over \$100,000 has been paid in Ridgewood.

### *The Independent Order of Odd Fellows*

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is a secret, beneficiary society, having for its purpose the elevation of human character. While sick and funeral benefits are paid, Oddfellowship is not an insurance society and this feature of the work should at all times be recognized as secondary to the great work of the organization which consists of "visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead and educating the orphan". It therefore presents a broad platform upon which mankind may unite in offices of human benefaction.

The order in America was founded April 26, 1819, in Baltimore, by Thomas Wildey, a young mechanic, and four others. It began to grow and to spread into other localities and at the present time its membership extends throughout the civilized world and numbers 2,190,000. Since the year 1830, prior to which no records were kept, \$170,000,000 has been paid out for the relief of members of the order.

Ridgewood Lodge No. 260, I. O. O. F., was instituted on the afternoon of November 7, 1900, with twelve charter members, Thomas E. English, Charles F. Bechtloff, George A. Stevens, Theodore H. Meade, William H. Fogg, John Q. Archdeacon, Frank M. Merritt, James H. Salisbury, John G. Hopper, James B. Christopher, John McCroden and George N. Winters. The first four named are the only charter members remaining at the present time.

The first officers installed at the institution were:-

<i>Noble Grand</i> .....	THOMAS E. ENGLISH,
<i>Vice Grand</i> .....	GEORGE N. WINTERS,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	JOHN Q. ARCHDEACON,
<i>Financial Secretary</i> .....	GEORGE A. STEVENS,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	FRANK M. MERRITT.

In the same evening 35 were admitted to membership by initiation. At present the membership numbers 51.

### *Branch 991, National Association of Letter Carriers*

The Ridgewood Branch of this national organization received its charter on April 22, 1904. The following served as original officers:

<i>President</i> .....	ROBERT CAMPBELL,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	PETER R. TITUS,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	ARTHUR STORMS.

The purpose of the association is to promote social and fraternal affairs, to improve and equalize labor conditions in the service and to increase the efficiency of the service.

The membership consists of the eight regular city carriers and their two substitutes.

*Ridgewood Chapter No. 39, Order of the Eastern Star*

The Ridgewood Chapter No. 39, Order of the Eastern Star, held its first meeting February 5, 1909, at which the following were the original executives elected:

<i>Worthy Matron</i> .....	MRS. M. V. TONKIN,
<i>Worthy Patron</i> .....	MR. P. G. DELAMATER,
<i>Associate Matron</i> .....	MRS. B. G. SCHINZEL,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MR. W. J. TONKIN.

*Court Midland Park No. 172, Foresters of America*

The Court Midland Park No. 172, Foresters of America, was organized on November 15, 1910, and incorporated on May 2, 1911.

The original officers were:

<i>Chief Ranger</i> .....	THOMAS POST,
<i>Sub-Chief Ranger</i> .....	LOUIS CARLOUGH,
<i>Past Chief Ranger</i> .....	JOHN MARR,
<i>Lecturer</i> .....	DANIEL M. CALKOEN,
<i>Financial Secretary</i> .....	CHARLES J. CHRISTOPHER,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	WILLIAM J. BENJAMIN,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	JOHN ROBERTSON,
<i>Senior Woodward</i> .....	NICHOLAS HEENSTRA,
<i>Junior Woodward</i> .....	GEORGE PHILLIPS,
<i>Senior Beadle</i> .....	ADAM B. GOETCHINS,
<i>Junior Beadle</i> .....	CARADOG P. MORGAN,
<i>Physician</i> .....	DR. JOSEPH PAYNE,
<i>Trustees</i> .....	{ HUBBARD FERGUSON,
	{ JOHN PHILLIPS,
	{ JOHN R. STOTT.

The organization has for its purpose the raising and maintaining of a fund for the purpose of defraying the burial expenses of members and their wives, and the rendering of assistance to members when sick and unable to follow their employment, and providing medical attendance and medicine. There are at present 75 members.

*Ridgewood Council No. 1736, Knights of Columbus*

This order was organized in Ridgewood in June, 1914. It had as its original officers the following:

<i>Grand Knight</i> .....	PAUL A. MCGOLDRICK,
<i>Deputy Grand Knight</i> .....	HENRY JOHNSON,
<i>Chancellor</i> .....	P. L. ALBERSE,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	J. B. HESKETH,
<i>Financial Secretary</i> .....	J. G. CROWLEY,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	J. MORAN.
<i>Lecturer</i> .....	W. W. O'NEIL,
<i>Advocate</i> .....	T. P. CONNOR.
<i>Warden</i> .....	J. S. HAND,
<i>Inside Guard</i> .....	J. H. TREY, JR.,
<i>Outside Guard</i> .....	W. NALLEY,
<i>Trustees</i> .....	{ W. MORAN,
	{ W. DERMODY,
	{ F. HAND,
<i>Chaplain</i> .....	REV. P. F. PINDAR.

The Knights of Columbus have as their objectives: Charity, Patriot-

ism, Unity, Education and Brotherly Love. The Ridgewood Council has a membership of about 100.

#### MUSICAL CLUBS

Ridgewood is fortunate in possessing two musical clubs, one composed of women and one composed of men. Not only do they encourage the study of music but they give four private concerts a year which always prove a delight to those fortunate enough to be present.

#### *The Orpheus Club*

The Orpheus Club was organized in 1909. Its object was to bring together the male singers of Ridgewood for mutual enjoyment and to give private concerts to be supported by the active and subscribing members.

The club was organized with ten active members. The following officers were elected for the first year:

<i>President</i> .....	G. U. WHITE,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	F. R. POWLEY,
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	F. F. KNOTHE,
<i>Librarian</i> .....	WILBUR MORRIS,
<i>Chairman Music Committee</i> .....	G. R. YOUNG.

The club chose as conductor, Mr. Dewitt Clinton, Jr., who on October 5, 1914, was succeeded by the present conductor, Wilbur A. Luyster. In the spring of 1910, Mr. Bevier Smith was selected as accompanist. Two private invitation concerts were given in May and June of 1910. The active membership had then grown to fifteen.

In October, 1910, the club began its second season by planning to give two public concerts each season. An associate membership was established. No tickets were sold for the concerts, but active and associate members received and distributed them as invitations to the concert. This practice has been maintained through the seven seasons of the club's successful history.

The active members consist of 22 tenors and 23 bassos. There is an associate membership of 140.

#### *The Cecilia Society*

The Cecilia Society, composed of women of Ridgewood, was organized in November, 1912. Its original officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. J. PURCELL,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	MRS. WILFRED KURTH,
<i>Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. HERMAN FRITZ,
<i>Librarian</i> .....	MRS. E. E. ALLEY,
<i>Assistant Librarian</i> .....	MRS. C. F. OSGOOD,
<i>Chairman of Arrangements</i> .....	MRS. W. H. HADDON,
<i>Musical Director</i> .....	MRS. ELIZABETH D. LEONARD.

The object of this society is to encourage the study of music, particularly choral and instrumental music, the study and discussion of musical literature and the expounding of such literature by its members



and various distinguished musical artists. The society has a membership of 200.

#### WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS

The people of Ridgewood have always taken an active interest in civic matters and the general welfare of the community and its citizens. As proof of this concern, there have developed within the past twenty years, eight organizations which are now doing effective work.

#### *Village Improvement Association*

The Village Improvement Association was organized by the women of the Village on November 4, 1897, for the purpose of improving and beautifying the Village. The first officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. DE L. BERIER.
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. ALLEN MACNAUGHTON,
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. I. E. HUTTON,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	MISS HOUSTON,
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	MISS CARRIGAN,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. G. U. WHITE.

Among the several committees were such as—Children's Auxiliary, Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, Street, Sanitary, Humane, Railroad, Penny Savings Bank, Park, Library and Preservation of Natural Beauties. As shown elsewhere in this book, the results of the association's efforts are prominent among the achievements of Ridgewood's citizens.

In 1904 the various committees were disbanded because several objects had been attained as, for instance, the street cleaning and the systematic removal of garbage. The Library Committee continued its work. The Village Trustees allowed the association \$300 a year for the support of the Library and the Commissioners have continued this appropriation.

The Village Improvement Association was incorporated in January, 1916, its only activity being the operation of the Public Library.

#### *The Ridgewood Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*

The Ridgewood Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was organized in 1899 with a membership of less than twenty men and women. Cases of cruelty were then tried in Hackensack. The meetings were at first held at the home of Mrs. George N. Ockford, but later a room in the Library Building was secured and was kept open for several hours each day for the purpose of receiving complaints.

The original officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. C. C. HARRISON,
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. GEORGE N. OCKFORD,
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	MISS BERTHA MILLS,
<i>Third Vice-President</i> .....	MISS F. G. VIETOR,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. F. J. WALTON,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. J. CARSHAW,
<i>Veterinarian</i> .....	DR. HOLDENBY.

On account of death and the change of residence of several members, the society at one time became inactive, but was finally reorganized

and its charter returned. Membership and activities increased so that now cases are tried in Ridgewood and the Village has turned over to the society the care of all animals.

During the presidency of Mrs. H. A. Bonyng, a drinking fountain was erected at the intersection of Spring and Maple Avenues and a shelter in the town yard was built for housing animals.

At present the society is caring for between 200 and 300 animals a year, besides handling numerous complaints. The society is also working hard, with the assistance of the Semi-Centennial Committee, to raise funds for a handsome granite combination drinking fountain, designed by Mr. H. E. Paddon, to be erected in the Plaza.

*Woman's Auxiliary to the Young Men's Christian Association*

The Woman's Auxiliary to the Young Men's Christian Association was formed for the purpose of assisting the Y. M. C. A. and its work for young men. It was organized on October 14, 1902, with the following officers:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. R. M. WINANS,
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. I. E. HUTTON,
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. C. V. R. BERDAN,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. A. P. CROUTER,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. F. K. MATTHEWS.

The membership consists of 220 mothers and women of the Village.

*Social Service Association*

The Social Service Association, originally called the Relief Society of Ridgewood, was formed as the result of the co-operation of Mrs. H. H. Palmer, Mrs. S. D. Graydon and Mr. F. F. Knothe. Mrs. Palmer had been active in relieving suffering in Midland Park and Wortendyke and Mrs. Graydon had been caring for needy families in the Village. While doing this work they conferred with Mr. Knothe, who asked several men to join him in providing a nurse to investigate and relieve conditions in Ridgewood. The result was that the Village Improvement Association called a meeting of representatives of all churches and organizations in Ridgewood and the Relief Society was formed on February 24, 1909.

As the constitution states, the objects were:

1. To foster harmonious co-operation among the various religious and benevolent organizations of Ridgewood and vicinity and to avoid the overlapping of relief work.
2. To investigate all applications for relief, to dispense adequate relief for suitable cases and to procure work for needy persons.
3. To repress mendicancy.
4. To promote the general welfare of the poor by social and sanitary reform and the inculcation of habits of providence and self-dependence.

Every department of the society's work is completely severed from all questions of religious belief, politics, and nationality.

The first officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. F. F. KNOTHE,
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. DE L. BERIER,
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. R. WORTENDYKE,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. R. W. HAWES.
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. A. C. BROOKES.

In 1912, the work of the society warranted the help of a trained social worker for part time, and the Board of Education engaged the same worker for part time as school nurse. Later each organization secured a worker of its own.

On May 6, 1913, the Relief Society was incorporated under the name of Social Service Association.

In May, 1916, there were 429 members.

### *Village Christmas Tree Association*

The first Village Christmas Tree was held at the home of Mrs. A. E. Tolkamp on East Ridgewood Avenue, Christmas, 1909, at which time she and her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Haddon, having conceived the idea, provided gifts for a few worthy children, about ten in number. A like celebration was held the following year, the number of children increasing to about twenty. In 1911 the number having grown too great to be accommodated at their home, a number of ladies were interested and Prospect Hall was secured for the festivities.

The following year the entire matter was assumed by the Village Christmas Tree Association of Ridgewood, which had been formed with the following officers:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. E. T. WHITE,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. D. A. GARBER.
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. E. S. BROWER.

The association now consists of about 35 members, embracing every church and section of Ridgewood.

The recipients, now numbering about 200 children, are barred by neither creed nor color. The work is carried on entirely through the generosity of the Ridgewood people and the energy and tireless work of the members of the association.

### *Upper Ridgewood Association*

In 1910 when a number of newcomers settled in Upper Ridgewood, they, together with a few old residents in the neighborhood, organized what is now the Upper Ridgewood Association to which every resident of Upper Ridgewood and Wastena Park is eligible. The object of the association was to improve that new residential section of Ridgewood. Meetings were held with frequency whenever the wants of the community demanded them and everyone contributed his efforts for the general welfare.

The first officers of the association were:

<i>President</i> .....	LOUIS CHABLE,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	CHARLES FAIRCHILD,
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	JOHN KOLMAR.

*Federated Men's Club*

The Federated Men's Club of the churches of Ridgewood was organized September 27, 1910, by the following delegates:—Rev. C. P. Pearson, C. S. Chapman, G. W. Martin, L. Wardell, A. E. Tolkamp, W. J. Dowling, J. W. Boylston, W. C. Zabriskie, Dr. W. T. Whitney, T. J. Foster, Rev. C. O. Wright and G. A. Schaible.

The following officers were elected:

<i>President</i> .....	T. J. FOSTER,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	HADLEY FORD,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	H. S. VINCENT,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	C. F. BROACH.

This organization has a long list of good deeds accomplished to its credit, some of which include practical attempts to better the condition of the colored population of our Village, and advocating the use of school buildings for civic, social, and educational purposes after school hours.

The organization has also been instrumental in establishing and maintaining a camp for boys from the slums of New York where they can have at least two weeks of life in the open. Mr. C. S. Chapman labored faithfully and efficiently for three years as chairman of the committee who had this camp in charge and Mr. W. U. Green has had charge of it for two years and greatly enlarged the work which has the support of all the people of Ridgewood.

This organization has ever been ready to lend a helping hand to those in distress and has labored diligently to curtail the liquor traffic evil, to foster the Big Brother movement, to complete a card index of the religious standing of the people of our town—and, in fact, have tried to do what they could to make our town a better place to live in.

*The Ridgewood Chapter of the American National Red Cross*

During 1898 the Village Improvement Association undertook to conduct during the summer Red Cross work and provided many articles for the sick and wounded, but it was not until August 16, 1916, that a Ridgewood Chapter of this national institution was organized through the efforts of the Ridgewood Branch of the National Security League.

The original officers were:

<i>President</i> .....	MR. J. H. DUNNING,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. C. H. EDDY.
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. T. J. FOSTER,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MR. W. H. HENDRICKSON.

The officers, with the following, constituted the Executive Committee:—Mrs. J. L. Averill, Mrs. H. C. Christianson, Mrs. W. D. Ferres, Mr. W. E. Remington, and Mr. G. N. Orcutt.

During the summer of 1916, the Surgical Dressing Committee, under Mrs. J. L. Averill, made 915 yards of gauze and muslin and 23 pounds of cotton into bandages.

There are 21 active members, 1 sustaining member and 1 life member.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *The remarkable result of this chapter in in-*



creasing its membership in the early part of the year 1917 to over 2,000, or 28 per cent. of the population of the Village, placed Ridgewood as holding the record for the most successful campaign for Red Cross members ever held in any city or town in the United States.

#### SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

To indicate the interest the people of Ridgewood have in the schools and welfare of their children in their educational pursuits, mention may be made of the parents' and teachers' associations which co-operate with the schools. The fact is noteworthy that this co-operation results in better work on the part of the student and a greater understanding on the part of the parents and teachers.

#### *Alumni Association of the Ridgewood High School, Ridgewood, N. J.*

Although interest in an Alumni Association was first aroused in 1902, it was not until June, 1911, that such an association was organized. At that time Everett Shutts was elected President, Edgar Wandless, Vice-President and Secretary, and Miss Grace E. Jones, Treasurer.

At a re-organization meeting held in September, 1916, a constitution and incorporation papers were accepted and a Board of Trustees was elected.

On December 28, 1916, the association was duly incorporated and a Board of Trustees was chosen. Membership in the association consists of:

1. Regular graduates of the Ridgewood High School.
2. Students who have left high school after having completed at least two years' study and who make application for membership to the association secretary.
3. Honorary members who may be elected by a two-thirds vote of the active members of the association.
4. Members of the High School Faculty and Board of Education who are honorary members as long as they are actively connected with the high school.

The general purpose of the association is to promote and stimulate an active interest in and among the members in all that pertains to the welfare and progress of the alumni and the high school body generally. The definite aim is to establish a scholarship for that member of the senior class of the Ridgewood High School who, in the opinion of the committee, deserves it most and who has fulfilled certain conditions specified by the Alumni Association.

#### *Kenilworth Parents, and Teachers' Association*

The Kenilworth Parents, and Teachers' Association was organized on February 12, 1912. At that time the following were elected officers:

<i>President</i> .....	MR. E. O. GROVER,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. G. H. NICKERSON,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. D. W. BOYD,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MR. C. WOODWORTH.

The object of the association is to provide facilities for bringing the

teachers and parents into a closer relationship, to secure more perfect co-operation in advancing the moral, intellectual and physical welfare of the pupils and in furthering the cause of education in the community. The association has a membership of 67.

### *Monroe Home and School Association*

The Monroe Home and School Association was organized in November, 1915, when the following officers were elected:

<i>President</i> .....	J. J. GLYNN,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	DANIEL R. BACON,
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	MISS ELIZABETH STURGESS.

The association has grown to a membership of 170 and has as its object the co-operation of the parents with the teachers and the school for the welfare of the children.

### *Citizens' High School Association*

On December 15, 1915, a committee of 150 citizens was organized at the high school and was known as the Citizens' High School Committee. The following officers were elected:

<i>Chairman</i> .....	GEORGE M. SCHINZEL,
<i>Secretary</i> .....	EUGENE A. SKEHAN,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	HARVEY E. WHITNEY,

and the following Executive Committee: O. B. Surpless, Frederick Pfeifer, T. J. Foster, Charles H. Woodman, Clarence Stewart, R. T. Wilson, W. J. Klug, Harold F. Dana, George H. Nickerson, Thomas P. Connor, C. D. Ireland and B. D. Forster.

Subsequently the committee resolved itself into a permanent organization and the present membership of more than 450 consists of the parents of all high school pupils and all residents over eighteen years of age who desire to join. There are no dues.

The objects of the association are to bring before the people of Ridgewood the needs of the public school system in general and the needs of the high school in particular and to form a medium by which the teachers may be brought in contact with the parents of the pupils for their mutual understanding and benefit.

## ANTI-LIQUOR ORGANIZATIONS

### *Local Option League*

In 1914, certain men of Ridgewood learned to their great astonishment that all states excepting New Jersey and Pennsylvania had passed local option legislation, by which the people through majority home rule could control the licensing of the saloon. This knowledge provoked inquiry as to whether this condition was the will of the people of New Jersey or whether it was the result of the vote having been scientifically controlled against them.

In that year a petition signed by 2,000 voters of Bergen County was presented by a delegation of Ridgewood men to their assemblymen, praying for their affirmative vote on a Local Option Bill about to come

up in the Assembly. Each of the three Bergen County assemblymen replied that he would vote as his constituents wanted him to. As not one of them recorded his vote in favor of the bill, it became apparent that the people would have to make their will known before the primaries and election, rather than to waste time and effort in attempting to do so afterward.

The subject then became a matter of votes, the all-potent factor in politics. Ridgewood citizens forthwith organized the Bergen County Local Option League—Ridgewood Branch, with the usual officers, an executive committee of 17 and a general committee of 100. The foremost citizens of the Village lined up behind the movement. The matter was carried into other sections of the county and similar leagues were organized in several municipalities, with working committees and units in still other sections. The response everywhere to the movement was immediate and aggressive.

In due time, representatives of all the leagues were brought together at a meeting in Ridgewood and a central organization known as the Bergen County Local Option League was formed and shortly afterward incorporated.

### *Woman's Christian Temperance Union*

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in Ridgewood in May, 1915, with the following original officers:

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. FRANK H. VALENTINE,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	MRS. HENRY W. BAYLIS,
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	MRS. F. L. BAILEY.
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	DR. LYNDA E. H. STAFF,
	{ MRS. WILLIAM L. PLATT,
	{ MRS. FRANK H. WHITE,
<i>Vice-Presidents</i> .....	{ MRS. HERBERT RAWSON,
	{ MRS. CHARLES G. WELTI,
	{ MRS. B. F. DECKER,
	{ MRS. J. H. WARD.

The organization has for its purpose the abolition of the liquor traffic and its kindred evils by means of church organizations, public sentiment, suffrage, literature, education and training in public schools, and the press.

There are at present 49 active members, three honorary members and three well-wishers.

### THE RIDGEWOOD MEDICAL SOCIETY

The Ridgewood Medical Society was organized in the fall of 1911 and incorporated under the Laws of the State of New Jersey. Its object, as set forth in the constitution, is "to advance medical science, promote friendly relations among its members, to educate and protect the public in preventive medicine and hygiene, and to safeguard the material interests of the profession.

"Every legally registered physician residing and practicing in Bergen County and who is of good moral and professional standing shall be eligible for membership in the society.

“Regular meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday in each and every month at 8:45 P.M. at such place as from time to time may be determined by the society.”

From its inception the society has been a success, and its value to the profession and to the community has been noticeable. At each meeting some interesting scientific topic has been discussed, many times by men from neighboring towns and cities who have presented papers and lectures, this being followed by light refreshments and general round table talk and social intercourse.

Under the able administration of its officers, the first President being Dr. W. L. Vroom; Secretary, Dr. W. C. Craig; and Treasurer, Dr. George M. Ockford; and on through successive administrations, the society has grown and developed, its membership including all the physicians in Ridgewood, Ho-Ho-Kus, Waldwick, Allendale, Midland Park, and Wyckoff.

#### ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUNG MEN

Although Ridgewood is not a place where evil flaunts itself, it, nevertheless, takes the precaution of protecting its young men. The two most excellent institutions of their kind in the country have branches in Ridgewood. The Young Men's Christian Association and the Boy Scouts of America are indeed organizations of which to be proud.

#### *The Young Men's Christian Association*

The Young Men's Christian Association, having as its objective, the spiritual, social, mental, and physical welfare of men and boys, takes up its work where everything else leaves off and utilizes leisure hours, unemployed time, and idle hands. Its work is mostly accomplished in the afternoons and evenings when the schools and business places are closed.

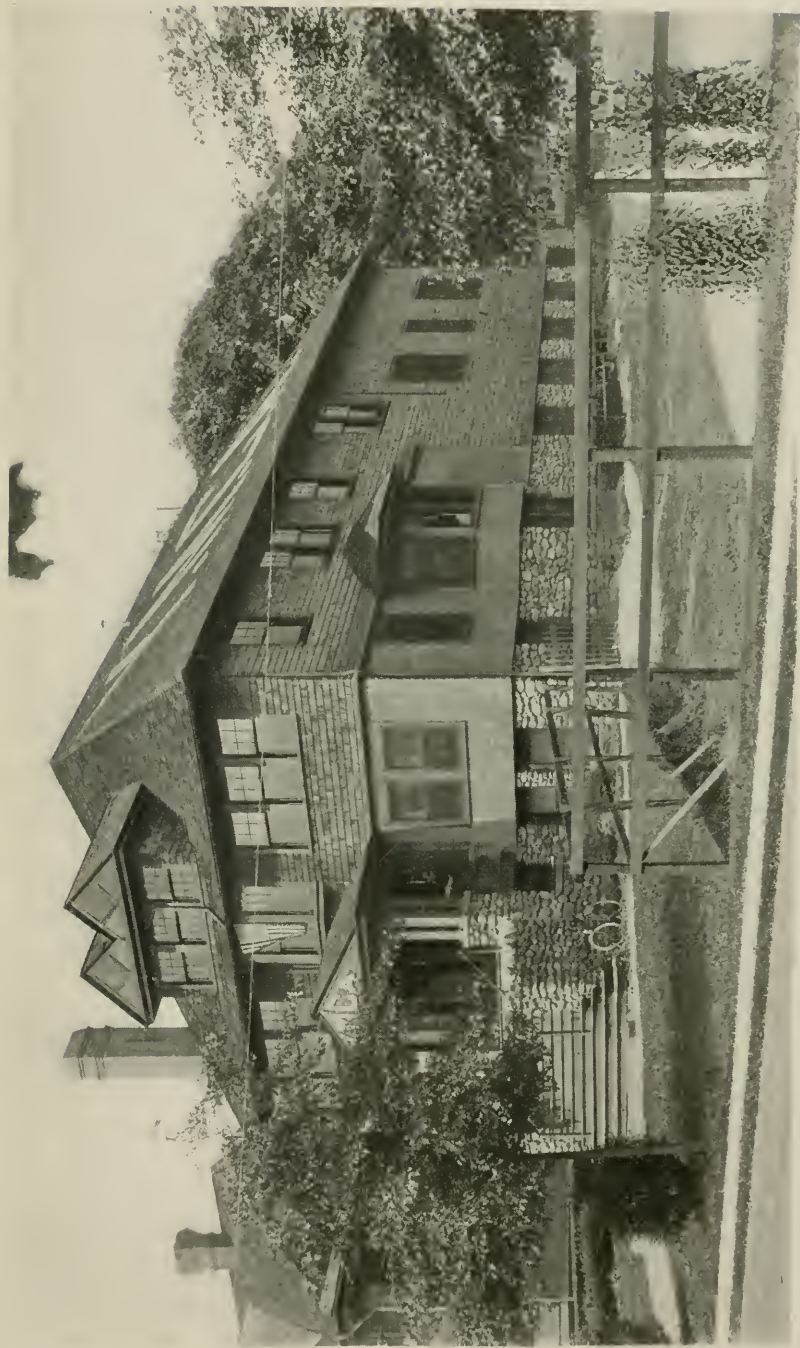
The Ridgewood Association is wielding a wonderful influence not only in our own village and county, but also throughout the whole state and is one of its strongest organizations.

It was founded in 1902 with a few members. Judge Cornelius Doremus served as its first President during 1902 and 1903, and until 1906 the association occupied space in the Old Town Hall (Opera House).

The Association has grown steadily, until it has attained, during the past four years, to the position of first rank in the State of New Jersey, in proportion to population, having at the present time 569 members, 254 of whom are between the ages of 12 and 18 years, known as juniors and intermediates.

The most notable advancement has been in the Religious Department and fully 80 per cent., of the boy membership, is enrolled in the Bible study classes. Of the 73 members taking the international Bible examination in 1916-17, all passed with an average of 95 per cent. and 13 passed with 100 per cent. This remarkable showing places our





*Aljian Studio*

Ridgewood Y. M. C. A.

association as first in New Jersey and seventh in the United States in Bible study.

The present building, erected on Oak Street in 1906, is 65 by 90 feet and with the athletic field occupying a space 225 by 500 feet lends to the various activities and serves to produce effective work in all departments. The total property investment is \$32,500 free of all debt.

The Jewell system of purifying the 20,000 gallons of water every 24 hours is a great attraction the year round and is in constant use, as it insures an absolutely clear swimming pool for the members and their friends. Aside from this great attraction are two bowling alleys where unusually high scores are rolled, the gymnasium of liberal dimensions, the pool and billiard tables, the chess and checker boards, the reading room with 37 weekly and monthly magazines, and the new library with a few hundred volumes.

The athletic field has a most excellent baseball diamond, two tennis courts, and an eight-lap track, where the games of many of the organizations in town are held. This increases the usefulness of the Y. M. C. A. and makes it a community affair.

Early in May of each year the baseball team takes up the summer activities and with its weekly attraction presents most excellent entertainment to the people of Ridgewood and vicinity. Fully 5,000 attended the games during the 1916 season. The Y. M. C. A. team is strictly amateur, but plays the strongest semi-professional teams. Its best year was 1916, when it won 15 games, tied one, and lost four.

### *Boy Scouts of America*

A branch of the Boy Scouts of America was organized in Ridgewood in 1910. The original officers were:

---

<i>President</i> .....	R. L. ROE,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	F. F. KNOTHE,
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	G. A. SCHABLE,
<i>Commissioner</i> .....	E. B. LILLY.

Through the kindness of the Young Men's Christian Association the scout work was started in their building. As the membership increased more room was needed and in May, 1916, the Boy Scout organization moved to its present headquarters in the basement of the Reformed Church, the use of which was kindly granted by the consistory. Through the generosity of their many friends, the scouts were enabled to secure proper equipment to carry on the splendid work in a much larger way.

The 70 scouts composing the organization are divided into three troops, each under the leadership of a capable scout master. Each scout is graded according to his accomplishments as tenderfoot, second class, and first class scouts.

The object of the organization is to develop the boys morally, mentally, and physically. The adherence by the boys to the scout oath and scout law are ways in which the objective is attained.

## COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

### *The Board of Trade*

The Board of Trade of the Village of Ridgewood was organized in 1904 with James W. Pearsall, President; Henry L. Patterson, Judge Cornelius Doremus and Peter G. Zabriskie, Vice-Presidents; W. J. Fullerton, Treasurer; Walter W. Wilsey, Recording Secretary; and W. L. Dooley, Corresponding Secretary.

The Publicity Department of the Board of Trade in 1905, first under the direction of M. T. Richardson and later under Collingwood Gordon, inaugurated one of the first campaigns conducted in the New York newspapers by a New York suburb. In this connection an attractive illustrated booklet, written by Henry P. Phelps, went through three editions and was distributed to about 15,000 people.

As a result of a suggestion of one of its members, I. E. Hutton, a movement was started in 1906 to secure for the Village the property now forming the east Plaza which, with property acquired by the Erie Railroad on the west of the railroad, enabled Ridgewood to pave the way for the handsome new station improvements which were secured during the administration of the present Mayor, the Hon. D. A. Garber.

Charles Mulford Robinson, a recognized expert in town planning, was engaged to make a personal inspection of Ridgewood and to suggest a system of public improvements. His report was published by the Board of Trade in 1908. This organization disbanded several years ago.

### *Business Men's Association of Ridgewood*

The Business Men's Association of Ridgewood was organized on November 6, 1916, by the following officers:

<i>President</i> .....	GEORGE R. YOUNG,
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	I. E. HUTTON,
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	HERVEY TERHUNE,
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	C. C. VAN EMBURGH.

This association, which will be incorporated as soon as the necessary papers are filed, was formed to promote friendly business relations between the business men and the public; and in a broad sense, to use its influence in any and every way to help develop and advance the best interests of Ridgewood and its people.

The membership has not yet been completed but it is estimated that there will be about 100 members.

## CHAPTER IX

### BURIAL PLACES

#### PARAMUS CHURCHYARD

THE oldest burial place in Ridgewood is that adjoining the Paramus Church, the ground for which was given to the consistory of the church by Peter Fauconier in 1730. It is not known when the first burial occurred here, though the earliest edifice having been completed in 1735 renders it probable that interments took place soon after. Many of the memorial slabs bear the marks of age and many of the inscriptions are nearly obliterated. It is here that many of the earlier settlers as well as patriots of the Revolutionary War are buried.

#### VALLEAU CEMETERY

The Vallean Cemetery occupies a plot of ground opposite the Paramus Church extending back from the Saddle River and is intersected by Harrison Avenue, Franklin Turnpike and the West Saddle River Road. The only part of it which has been used up to the present time is the section bounded by Harrison Avenue and Franklin Turnpike.

With the exception of a small section purchased from David G. Ackerman, the land embraced in the cemetery was given to the Consistory of the Reformed Church of Paramus in 1750 by Magdalen Vallean, daughter of Peter Fauconier, in whose honor it is named. At this time an exchange of land with John Ackerman became necessary to determine definitely its boundaries.

The cemetery was incorporated in 1859 and in November of that year rules and regulations affecting its management were adopted, to which the committee made additions in December of the same year. It is now one of the most beautifully appointed burial places in the county and its monuments and carefully maintained grounds bear witness to the tender memories clustering around it.

#### TRUE REFORMED CHURCH CEMETERY

On the corner of Ridgewood and South Pleasant Avenues and in the rear of the edifice of the Kenilworth Presbyterian Church is located the cemetery of the True Reformed Church, which was established by that society on a portion of the land donated to it by David Van Buskirk about the time of the building of their edifice in 1858. Since that time, however, the edifice has been sold to the Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, its present occupants.

Since its establishment the burial place has been used as a place of interment by many of the oldest families of the township.



## CHAPTER X

### SUMMARIZED FACTS, STATISTICS AND CHRONOLOGY

Average altitude .....	200 feet
Distance from New York .....	22 miles
Trains between New York and Ridgewood .....	More than 70
Monthly commutation to New York: \$7.75 or .00587 per mile.	
Estimated number of commuters to New York .....	1100
Newspapers, weekly .....	2
Number of telephones in service December 1, 1916 .....	2236
Church organizations .....	13
Schools (including High) .....	6
Schools in construction (High) .....	1
Schools (Private) .....	2
Public Library .....	1
Hospital, complete (Private) .....	1
Banks .....	2
Building Loan Associations .....	3
Y. M. C. A. (Completely equipped and free from debt) .....	1
Area of Village .....	5.66 square miles or 3630 acres

#### STREETS

Village—Improved by macadam or brick .....	29.14 miles
Village—Unimproved .....	7.94 “
County Roads .....	5.20 “
Private .....	17.22 “
Total .....	59.50 miles

#### POPULATION

1880 .....	500	1905 .....	3980
1890 .....	1047	1910 .....	5416
1900 .....	2685	1915 .....	6729

#### NEW HOMES

	Average per year		Average per year
1875 to 1885 .....	2 to 3	1907 to 1911 .....	100
1885 to 1895 .....	8 to 10	1912 to 1915 .....	35
1895 to 1906 .....	10 to 20	1916 .....	50

#### TOTAL PROPERTY VALUATION

Year	Land	Buildings	Personal	Automobiles	Total
1907 .....	\$1,258,285	\$1,938,275	\$324,975	.....	\$3,521,535
1908 .....	1,491,126	2,535,500	354,750	.....	4,381,376
1909 .....	2,457,551	2,892,525	434,800	.....	5,784,876
1910 .....	2,729,776	3,275,225	477,876	.....	6,482,877
1911 .....	2,847,100	3,514,425	493,541	.....	6,855,066
1912 .....	3,112,855	3,773,025	553,993	.....	7,439,873
1913 .....	3,354,540	4,060,175	511,807	\$102,350	8,028,872
1914 .....	3,332,283	4,274,525	526,973	106,700	8,286,566
1915 .....	3,316,305	4,418,250	586,835	149,825	8,517,300
1916 .....	3,302,760	4,520,000	614,342	165,610	8,602,712

# RIDGEWOOD, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

The taxable property in the Township of Ridgewood in 1876, the first year as such, was as follows:

Amount taxable to residents of the Township.....	\$608,710
Amount taxable to non-residents of the Township .....	175.250
Total .....	\$783,960
Number of polls .....	303
Number of dogs .....	156

Amounts to be raised in the Township:

State General Tax .....	\$1,235.07
County Tax .....	2,165.35
Bonded Debt and Interest .....	1,429.13
State School Tax .....	1,616.51
Poor Tax .....	403.89
Road Tax .....	1,000.00
Township .....	200.00
Total .....	\$8,049.95

In addition to the above, the School Districts voted to raise a Special School Tax, as follows:

District No. 61—Wholly within the Township .....	\$1,600.00
District No. 45—For the part in Ridgewood Township.....	276.58
District No. 26—For the part in Ridgewood Township.....	8.14
Total Special Tax voted by District on property in Ridgewood Township .....	\$1,884.72

## DERIVATION OF LOCAL NAMES

RIDGEWOOD—Adopted because of its appropriateness, in 1866, at the suggestion of Mrs. Cornelia Dayton.

BERGEN—Probably from "Bergen op Zoom," an important town in Holland.

GODWINVILLE—From Abraham Godwin, of Revolutionary memory.

HO-HO-KUS—One source says from Indian word meaning "cleft in the rock"; another authority, from Indian word Mehokhokus, "red cedar."

HOPPERTOWN—The former name of Ho-Ho-Kus, from the fact of its early settlement by the Hopper Family.

PARAMUS—From Indian, Peremessing, because of the abundance of wild turkeys. First white settlers called it "Peremesse."

SADDLE RIVER—Probably from Richard Saddler, a purchaser of lands from the Indians in 1674.

## A CHRONOLOGY OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

1662—The land in the Paramus section of Ridgewood was purchased from the Indians by Albert Zabrowski or Saboraweski.

1682—Province of New Jersey divided into counties—Ridgewood then part of Essex.

1687—A grant of land was made by the Lords of the Province to Samuel Kingsland, of five hundred acres, in which is now Ridgewood, between the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook and Saddle River and a portion extending westerly to the Heights.

1696—The sale of the same tract of land was made to Peter Johnson for thirty-two pounds and ten shillings.

1698—The same tract of land came in possession of Johann Van Emburgh.

1700—The first house was built by Johann Van Emburgh near Maple Avenue and was demolished about 1895.

1709—Boundaries of counties changed, Ridgewood becoming part of Bergen, township of Barbadoes.

1725—The Paramus Church congregation commenced worship in 1725 or earlier.

1730—First school established in Paramus section.

- 1735—Paramus Church was erected on land donated by Peter Fauconier. In exchange he received in perpetuity two sittings. The building was used during the Revolution as a hospital and prison. The present building was erected during the year 1800 and remodelled in 1875.
- 1750—Magdalen Vallean gave land for the Vallean Cemetery opposite the Paramus Church.
- 1767—Franklin Township, containing Ridgewood, set off from Barbadoes Township.
- 1770—A schoolhouse was erected at the junction of Harristown and Rock roads, just south of the Garret I. Hopper residence, now used as a dwelling and within the present limits of Glen Rock.
- 1775—John Feli, of Paramus, elected Chairman of Bergen County Committee of Safety.
- 1776—Washington encamped at Paramus after his victory at Monmouth, and later in the year. Again at Paramus during 1780.  
General Heath encamped at Paramus.  
General George Clinton encamped at Paramus; also in 1777.
- 1777—Colonel McClaughey encamped at Paramus.  
Colonel Aaron Burr achieved first military success near Paramus.
- 1779—Major Henry Lee—Headquarters at Paramus.  
Washington army cantoned during August from Fort Defiance to Paramus.
- 1780—Lord Stirling—Headquarters at Paramus.  
Attack on Hackensack and Paramus by British, who returned to New York City with about fifty prisoners, mostly citizens and members of the militia.
- 1785—A schoolhouse was built at the Paramus Church. It was rebuilt in 1810, 1820, 1845, and 1871, and was discontinued in 1905.
- 1800—First grist mill built.
- 1818—The present oldest citizen, John B. Van Dien, was born in Ridgewood.
- 1823—The Kenilworth Collegiate Church was organized as the True Reformed Dutch Church of Paramus. Present building erected in 1858. In 1870, reorganized as Kenilworth Church, and changed to the Presbyterian denomination in 1898.
- 1829—Locality afterward known as Godwinville—named in honor of Abraham Godwin, of Revolutionary memory. The oldest road in Ridgewood, and associated with the historic days of the Revolution, was known as the Godwinville Road. It is now called Ridgewood and Godwin Avenues.
- 1840—Center of present site of Ridgewood only contained one house.
- 1848—The Erie Railroad, then known as Paterson and Ramapo Railroad, opened through Ridgewood.
- 1850—First store started about this time near the station by Albert Hopper—near where the Hutton Building now stands.
- 1853—Captain Samuel Dayton purchased the Van Emburgh Estate, comprising a large part of Ridgewood, and started the first development and sale of plots. Other purchasers during the same year were Samuel Graydon and B. F. Robinson.  
The Van Emburgh, Hopper and Westervelt properties included almost the entire ground of the present Ridgewood.
- 1859—First railroad station built by the residents and known as Godwinville.
- 1860—First shade tree planting along Village Highways by Captain Samuel Dayton, Samuel Graydon, A. T. Cameron, A. J. Zabriskie, Richard Van Dien and B. F. Robinson on their Maple Avenue properties.  
Christ Church was organized. Cornerstone laid in 1865 on Van Dien Avenue. 1873 the building was removed to Franklin Avenue and Cottage Place. Present building completed in 1900.
- 1861—Old Glory waved on Paramus Church until close of Civil War.
- 1862—Citizens of vicinity left for Federal Service with 22nd Regiment, New Jersey Infantry. Returned in 1863 after nine months' service.
- 1865—First Postmaster was Benjamin F. Robinson, with a salary of \$10.00 per year. Present site established in 1912.
- 1866—The Birth of Ridgewood. Present name adopted because of its appropriateness at suggestion of Cornelia (Mrs. William) Dayton.  
First Village streets laid out.

- 1867—First dwelling erected, after streets laid out, by T. V. Terhune on Oak Street.  
First private school established by Frederick Kidder in house now owned by M. T. Richardson on North Van Dien Avenue.
- 1868—Amelia Barr, the authoress, established private school on North Van Dien Avenue.
- 1869—Fidelity Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, organized.
- 1870—Present Ridgewood House hotel established by J. W. Halsted.
- 1872—Franklin House hotel established on present site of *Ridgewood News*. Destroyed by fire of 1881 and never rebuilt.  
A brick schoolhouse erected on Union Street. This school building was the only school in center of Ridgewood until Beech Street building was completed in 1895. It was then abandoned as a school and rented, first to the Methodist Church and then to the Colored Church. It was torn down in 1903 to make place for the present school building.
- 1874—Ridgewood Avenue House established. In 1876 destroyed by fire and rebuilt same year. In 1893 remodeled and present name—Rouclere House—adopted.
- 1875—First Reformed Church established. Building completed in 1877.  
Extensive additions have been made in 1890, 1900 and 1914.  
First and only pastor to the present time—Rev. J. A. Van Neste.
- 1876—Ridgewood Township set off from Franklin Township.
- 1877—Private school established by Miss Rebecca W. Hawes.
- 1878—Dr. John T. De Mund first physician to practice in now the Village of Ridgewood.
- 1880—First organized tree planting on highways. Trees were given by I. W. England and set out under the direction of B. F. Robinson and J. W. Edwards.
- 1882—First telephone subscriber was Garret Van Dien, then Postmaster, at 211 West Ridgewood Avenue.  
The African M. E. Church established. First building erected in 1885. Present building erected in 1907.
- 1884—Judge David D. Zabriskie first lawyer to practice in Ridgewood.
- 1885—Ridgewood Building and Loan Association organized.
- 1888—Wells Fargo Express office established. First macadamized roads were built.
- 1889—Parish of the Church of our Lady of Mount Carmel established. First building erected in 1890—present building completed in 1915.  
Opera House (Town Hall) completed.  
First newspaper established by Wm. J. Tonkin—*The Ridgewood News*.
- 1891—Emmanuel Baptist Church organized. First church structure dedicated in 1892 and present one in 1912.  
Co-operative Building and Loan Association organized.  
Village Inn constructed and opened.
- 1892—Police Department established.  
Democratic Club organized.
- 1893—Ridgewood Club organized.  
Electric light was introduced.
- 1894—Village of Ridgewood incorporated, at which time Glen Rock and Midland Park, previously part of Ridgewood, became separate boroughs.  
Dr. Walter Van Emburgh first dentist to practice in the Village.
- 1895—Paramus Valley Council, Royal Arcanum, organized.  
The Unitarian Society organized.  
Board of Health established and duties performed by Village Trustees.  
Historical display in Ridgewood under auspices of Bergen County Historical Society.  
Beech Street High School Building opened.  
Methodist Church founded. Building erected in 1900.
- 1896—Fire Department organized as Protection Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, with Dr. Walter Van Emburgh as Chief.
- 1897—Village Improvement Association organized.  
Present system of garbage collection established by Village Improvement Association and taken over by Village Trustees in 1903.  
Junior Order United American Mechanics organized.  
Public Library established by Village Improvement Association.



## P A S T   A N D   P R E S E N T

- 1898—White Star Club organized, later becoming the Town Club.  
A second newspaper—*The Ridgewood Record*—established by L. N. Taft, later succeeded by *The Ridgewood Herald*.
- 1899—First National Bank opened.  
First issue of *Ridgewood Herald*.
- 1900—Public Water Supply, Gas, and Gamewell Fire Alarm System were installed.  
Ramapo Valley Chapter, Daughters of The Revolution, organized.  
Last fire of a disastrous character.  
Eagle Hose Company, No. 1, organized. Later changed to Hose Company No. 1.  
Practice established of placing signs on houses containing contagious diseases.
- 1901—Ridgewood Golf Club organized; later merged with Ridgewood Country Club.  
Trees planted by citizens on Franklin, Godwin, and Ridgewood Avenues, through efforts of Village Improvement Association.
- 1902—Y. M. C. A. was founded. Present building erected in 1906 and entirely clear of debt in 1916.  
Woman's Auxiliary, Y. M. C. A., organized.  
Private School established by James B. Parsons.  
Part of Orvil Township added to northeastern portion of Ridgewood.
- 1903—Sewerage System installed.  
Mail delivery by carriers was commenced with three carriers.  
Old Union Street School Building demolished and a new one erected and occupied in 1905.  
Paramus Valley Photographic Association organized.  
First Church of Christ Scientist organized. Building dedicated in 1912.
- 1904—Board of Trade organized.  
Ridgewood Branch National Association of Letter Carriers organized.
- 1905—Bethlehem Lutheran Church inaugurated.  
Mount Bethel Baptist (Colored) Church organized.  
Four-room school buildings erected and occupied on Kenilworth Place, Union and Monroe Streets.
- 1906—Ridgewood Trust Company opened.  
First Board of Health appointed.
- 1907—Glen Rock Building & Loan Association organized.
- 1908—*The Arrow*, a periodical of the Ridgewood High School, established.
- 1909—*The Editor* magazine moved to Ridgewood.  
Ridgewood Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, organized.  
Village Shade Tree Commission established.  
Relief Society was organized. In 1913 name changed to Social Service Association.  
Third District Court opened by Judge Cornelius Doremus.  
Orpheus Club organized.  
Woman's Club established. Federated in 1910 and incorporated in 1914.
- 1910—Upper Ridgewood Association organized.  
Linwood Park dedicated on Arbor Day and marked the beginning of a Park System.  
Kenilworth and Monroe Street Schools were each enlarged from four to nine rooms.  
North Jersey Rapid Transit Company trolley road was opened.  
First celebration of the 4th of July was held by the Independence Day Association.  
Voters' League organized.  
Ridgewood Country Club organized.  
Branch of Boy Scouts of America organized.  
The Federated Men's Club of the Churches of Ridgewood organized.
- 1911—Commission Government established.  
Alumni Association, Ridgewood High School, organized.  
Ridgewood Medical Society organized.  
Court Midland Park, Foresters of America, organized.  
Woodrow Wilson, then Governor of New Jersey, addressed citizens during political campaign.  
Daniel A. Garber elected first Mayor.  
Harrison Avenue School completed.

- Municipal Building erected.  
Ridgewood Country Club and Ridgewood Golf Club consolidated under the name of former.
- 1912—The Cecilia Society organized.  
Kenilworth Parents and Teachers' Association organized.  
Woman's Club of Upper Ridgewood organized.  
Republican Club organized.  
Junior Auxiliary, Daughters of the Revolution organized. In 1913 name of Penelope von Principles Chapter, Junior Sons and Daughters of the Revolution, adopted and changed in 1914 to Theodosia Burr Chapter.  
Upper Ridgewood Primary School started.  
White Star Athletic Club name changed to Town Club.  
West Side Collegiate Church organized. Present building erected in 1913, with an additional wing in 1915.  
Ridgewood entertained on May 25th a President of the United States, for the first time in its history, in the person of President William Howard Taft.  
Present Post Office Building erected and occupied.
- 1913—Upper Ridgewood Community Church Society organized.  
College Club (Woman) organized.  
Woman's Political Union organized. In 1916 absorbed by the Woman's Suffrage Association.  
Citizens and Taxpayers' Association organized.  
New High School site and Athletic Field—Heermance Place and Ridgewood Avenue, was purchased.  
Three portable school houses were placed on Beech Street school grounds.  
Paramus Chapter, New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution organized.  
West Side Collegiate Church dedicated.  
Company L, 5th Regiment, N. G., N. J., formed.  
Osman Building completed.  
Ridgewood Country Club House opened.  
Town Club moved to new quarters formerly occupied by Ridgewood Golf Club.  
Play House opened.  
Opera House rehabilitated.  
Police dogs introduced by Police Department.
- 1914—Ridgewood Council, Knights of Columbus, organized.  
Local Option League organized.  
Old elm at Ho-Ho-Kus marked by Ramapo Valley Chapter, D. R., as a route of Washington's Army.  
Tablet placed by New Jersey Society, S. A. R., in conjunction with Paramus Chapter No. 6 on Paramus Church to commemorate events of the Revolutionary War connected with its history.  
Garden Club of Ridgewood organized.  
League for Creative Work organized.  
Recorder's Court established.  
Wilsey Building completed.  
Reformed Church House completed and dedicated.  
East Side Auto Bus Line established.  
Public Service Railway Company's trolley line to Paterson opened.  
Fidelity Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons purchased old Town Club quarters.
- 1915—Citizens' dinner to members of G. A. R.—50th Anniversary of cementing of peace between North and South.  
Monroe Home and School Association organized.  
Woman's Christian Temperance Union organized.  
Ridgewood Rifle Club organized.  
Portion of northwestern part of Ridgewood annexed to Orvil Township.  
Contract awarded for new station and surrounding improvements.  
Maple Avenue improved—new Amasite roadway, Glen Rock to Ho-Ho-Kus.  
Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, new building completed, Prospect and Hudson Streets.
- 1916—Terhune's and Jackson's West Side Auto Bus Lines established.  
Community Christmas Festival established.

Citizens' High School Association organized.  
Victoria School for Little Children established by Miss Vivian Victoria and named in memory of her mother, Metta Victoria Victor, the authoress.  
*The Ridgewood Times* established by J. Douglas Gessford.  
Transcontinental Telephone Demonstration over lines of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company between Ridgewood, San Francisco and Pasadena, California. The first time in history that officials of the Masonic Order extended verbal greetings to each other across the Continent.  
Semi-Centennial Association incorporated.  
School Board reduced by citizens' vote to five members.  
Preparedness Mass Meeting by citizens under the auspices of National Security League.  
Day Nursery opened.  
Company L. Fifth Regiment, N. G., N. J., in Federal Service on Mexican Border, stationed at Douglas, Arizona.  
Infantile Paralysis Epidemic; Ridgewood afflicted with only one case, not fatal.  
Ridgewood Chapter, American Red Cross, organized.  
Grade Crossings at Ridgewood, Godwin and Franklin Avenues abolished.  
New Erie Station, Godwin and Franklin Avenue, underpasses opened to the public.  
New Upper Ridgewood School completed.  
Business Men's Association organized.  
Federation of Woman's Clubs of New Jersey held semi-annual meeting in Ridgewood under the auspices of the Woman's Club of Ridgewood.  
Emmanuel Baptist Church celebrated 25th Anniversary.  
Ground broken for new High School on Heermance Place.  
Old Railroad Station removed from former site to point below Ackerman Avenue on west bound tracks and turned into freight station.  
John B. Van Dien, Ridgewood's oldest citizen, celebrated his 98th birthday.  
Slogan adopted by Semi-Centennial Association—TO LIVE—LIVE IN RIDGEWOOD.

APPENDIX

Semi-Centennial Association

Ridgewood, New Jersey

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VILLAGE COMMISSIONERS

D. A. GARBER, Mayor

GEORGE U. WHITE

DR. JOHN B. HOPPER

ADVISORY BOARD

GEORGE F. BRACKETT

T. J. FOSTER

BAYLY HIPKINS

FRANZ SCHWARTZ

S. S. WALSTRUM

DEWITT CLINTON, JR.

W. J. FULLERTON

FREDERICK PFEIFER

J. H. SNYDER

H. G. WHITE

J. D. VAN EMBURGH

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OFFICERS

CORNELIUS DOREMUS, Chairman

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## The Semi-Centennial Songs of Ridgewood

### RIDGEWOOD MARCHING ON

Air—"Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Fifty years have we been waiting for the  
coming of this day,  
With its joy and pride and glory that shall  
never fade away;  
For ourselves and for our children have  
these blessings come to stay,  
While the years go marching on.

#### Chorus

Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
For Ridgewood's marching on.

God has given us a country that is beau-  
tiful and free,  
And the bands of steel that bind us, reaching  
now from sea to sea,  
Make us brothers of all nations—those  
that are and are to be—  
As the years go marching on.

#### Chorus

Ours the task to keep our freedom in its  
purity and might;  
Ours to grow in strength and beauty, free  
our land from every blight;  
Ours to share with weaker brothers every  
blessing in our sight,  
While the years go marching on.

#### Chorus

Let our watchword then be "Progress"  
toward the highest and the best.  
Till we reach the goal we start for, let us  
never pause to rest,  
Living, loving, working, singing, with a  
gladness and a zest,  
While the years go marching on.

#### Chorus

Sing we now for dear old Ridgewood, 'tis  
the best town that we know;  
Let us work for it and love it, wherever we  
may go;  
Ever forward, ever onward, ever upward  
may it grow,  
As the years go marching on.

#### Chorus

—Carrie E. Fobes.

77 Sunset Avenue.

### RIDGEWOOD'S NEW STATION

Air—"Marching Through Georgia."

Let us sing a joyous song, now the task  
is done,  
Sing it as we ought to sing it, fifty summers  
young;  
Sing it so the echoes shall resound our  
homes among,  
Ridgewood's new Station is splendid!

#### Chorus

Hurrah, Hurrah, just see what you can see!  
Hurrah, Hurrah, it sure looks good to me.  
So we join in one accord—no one can dis-  
agree—  
Ridgewood is proud of the Erie!

We've got a dandy Station and we've got a  
dandy town;  
We'll have a dandy High School and the  
taxes will come down;  
We need a Public Library to deck our civic  
crown,—  
Ridgewood is proud of its people!

#### Chorus

Fifty years ago to-day we hadn't much to  
boast;  
Our Dutch and Swedish forefathers were  
honored at the most;  
We never dreamed of bigness that came  
on us like a host,  
While they were marching to Ridgewood.

#### Chorus

Truly there are many here who scarce  
can hold their tears  
When they see this "crying need" we've  
hungered for for years;  
Let us all be unrestrained and greet it with  
"three cheers"—  
Ridgewood is proud of its Station!

#### Chorus

How the good old-timers swore the thing  
could ne'er be done;  
How the newer residents grew mad and  
poked their fun!  
They little knew the blarney of Virginia's  
favored son—  
Ridgewood is proud of Mayor Garber!

#### Chorus

—John J. Glynn.

Melrose Place, July, 1916.









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