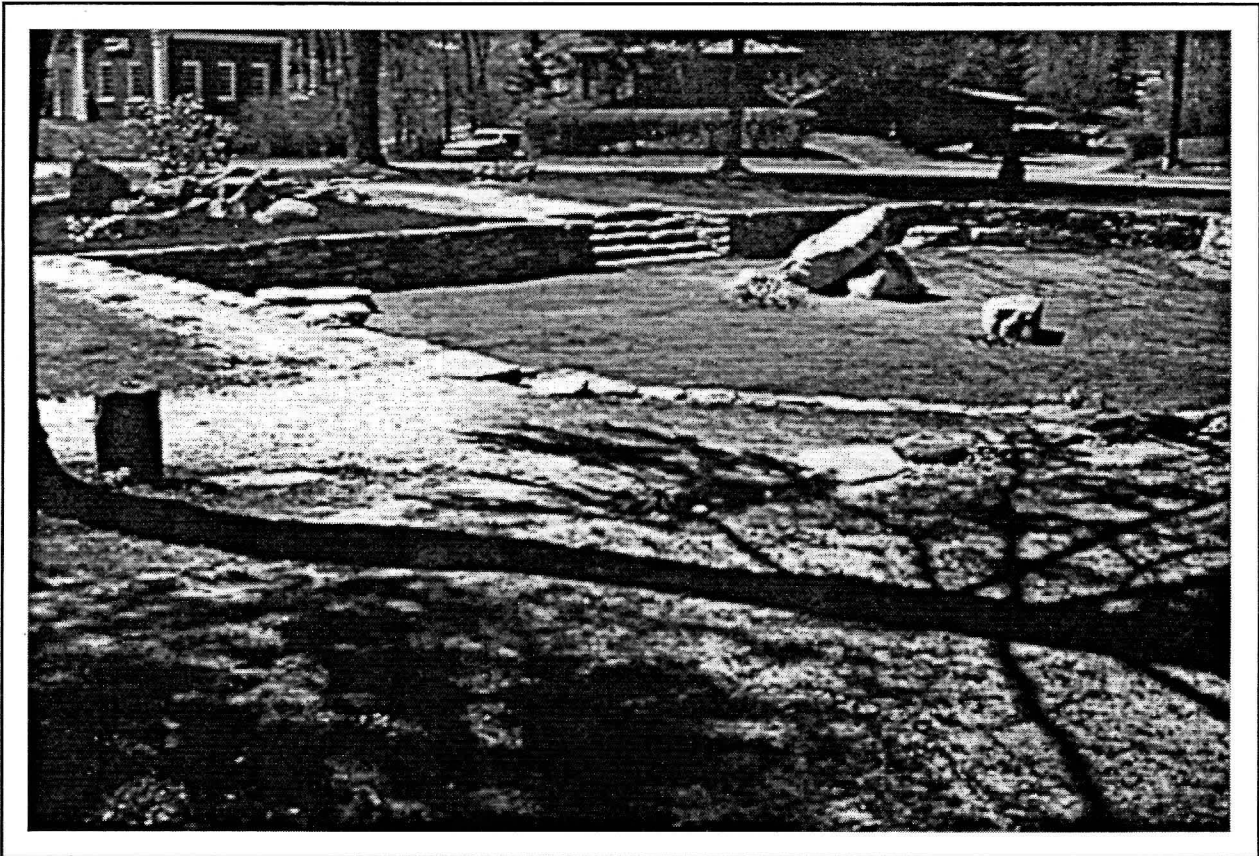


The Granville Citizens' Park

Dedication



This park in the center of Granville was built by volunteer citizens, financed by voluntary donations of money, equipment and time on land given to the town by the Woodger family in memory of George Woodger who exemplified the Granville citizen volunteer.

Granville citizens have kept their community running for over 200 years by giving of their time and energies to serve on boards, emergency services, and civic organizations. This park is meant as a living recognition of the volunteer's invaluable work.

Dedication Ceremony

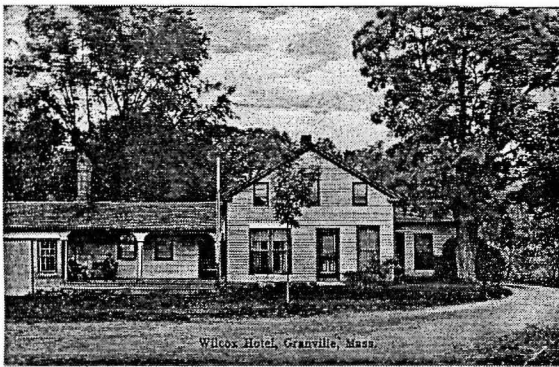
October 3, 1999

11:30 a.m.

A Brief History of the Area of the Park

The area known as the Stacker property after Dorothy Stacker who lived in the white house that stood just to the left of the park's stone steps has been the subject of much speculation. The distinctive high stone walls (which have been rebuilt in their approximate original locations) might have been part of a revolutionary war redoubt, according to one theory. Another describes them as the corral for the Wilcox Hotel that stood on the site of the current town green.

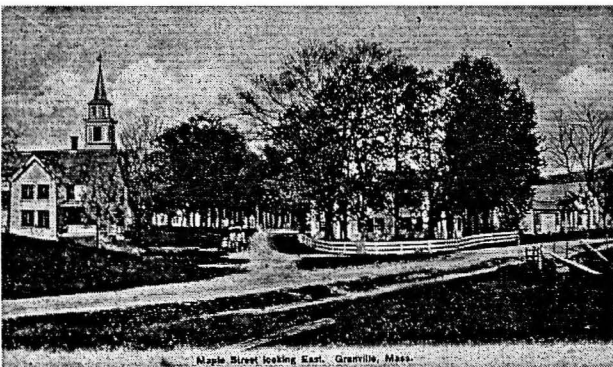
Both the green and the park occupy land once known as Jockey Corners. Granville historian Wilhelmina Tryon picks up the story from there.



The Wilcox Hotel on the Green was torn down in 1972.

"There were those who disliked referring to the village as "Jockey Corners." They were teased about it. However, where the name came from is a mystery. It was assumed that it came from the horse racing of Columbus Wilcox who had the hotel on the green and raced horses. Rob Roy was one of his most famous. The horse must have been a great winner because there were posters of the horse everywhere.

"However, from some diaries Mrs. Duris borrowed from Yale University, there is an entry by a young



The Stacker house and Maple Street in 1924.



The Granville Store in horse drawn days.

couple who had married in Westfield around March 1794 and said they had stayed overnight at the hotel in Granville at Jockey Corners. This occurred years before Columbus Wilcox.

"Since the 1700's there was always some hotel that had a license to sell spirits, so there may have been others who raced. There was a race track where the village school now stands. Several taverns were built on the green and were torn down before Samuel Wilcox built the large hotel with the large horse barn on the north side.

"When the hotel was standing, there was a carriage road running from Route 57 by the back door of the hotel to the Gibbons store. On the east side was a little hill with a row of linden trees. Where the present green is now (east side) was the Holcomb Brothers blacksmith shop. The Holcomb Brothers had many shops, mostly on Water Street.

"Until the Grange made the green, there were for many years cellar holes there and a large iron watertrough directly in front of the Federated Church.

"Around 1830, Barlow and Spellman built the house on the park site long known as the Milo Seymour house. The second house on the property was built around 1900 possibly adding onto an earlier structure. The houses were bought around 1950-51 by the Stackers. When they bought the white Seymour house they didn't know that many of the town records were in the attic because the Seymours had been inveterate town office holders. Max Stacker took them all to the dump and set fire to them. He operated a gas station across the road and sold candy, papers and other items. He later married Dorothy who was from Hartford. After Max died, Dorothy operated the gas station where town boys hung out in the evenings. She joined the ladies auxiliary and marched in parades. Affectionately known as 'Ma Stacker,' she died in 1991."

How the Park Was Built

In November 1995 Granville Selectman received an offer from a private party to purchase the Stacker property and donate it to the town for a park on the condition that public funds not be used to remove the by-now dilapidated two houses and a partially collapsed barn, grade the land, and make the conversion to a park. A committee of private citizens formed to see if there was enough volunteer interest in the town to do the considerable work required to raise the money and carry out the work for making a park.

On January 22, 1996 the committee held an open meeting to see if citizens would donate to the cause and would support the removal of the buildings. The response at the meeting was overwhelmingly enthusiastic, though not without opposition from some who wanted to try to preserve the houses. This proved not to be feasible and February 12, 1996, the town voted 101-11 to accept the gift of the anonymous donor and fulfill the terms to clear the land for a citizens' park. Within a short period, the committee collected over \$6,000 in monetary donations for the project as well as numerous pledges to provide labor, equipment and materials.

In due time, the descendants and relatives of the late George Woodger, a longtime member of Granville's Select Board, revealed themselves as the anonymous donors of the land.

In the spring of 1996, the ad hoc committee took bids for removing the houses. One resident salvaged parts of both houses for use elsewhere and the rest of the material was carted away using the collected funds and donated trucking and demolition equipment. Members of the committee held a tag sale of items donated by citizens and salvaged from the two houses. By the end of that summer the debris was removed from the area.

The next year was taken up with a searching discussion of what the park should look like. Options were put before the town at a meeting in the fall of 1996. Finally the committee concluded that the best solution was to retain the walls and sunken garden look of the area but to make the drops considerably shallower. This idea was approved by town residents at a meeting in March 1997.

The next year was devoted to drawing up a detailed landscape design. In the fall of 1997 wall builders began to remove the old wall, fill and grade the area and start the new wall. This work picked up again and pressed ahead vigorously in the summer of 1998. Painstakingly, the walls went up following the new design. The wall building team began to sense a kind of

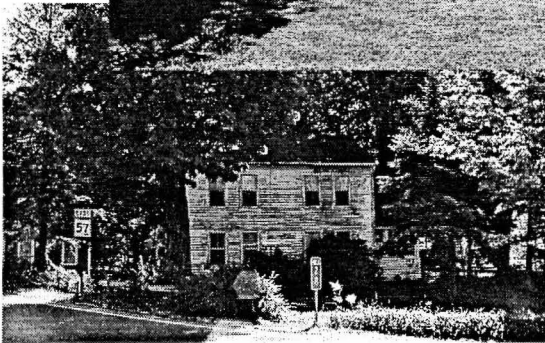
magic going on as citizens appeared out of the blue throughout the summer to volunteer equipment and time. You could never tell who might show up on the site to move rocks.

By the end of the summer and into the fall, Village School students were building the gravel path and teams were agonizing over the work of using a backhoe to turn large boulders into rock sculptures for the gardens, sitting areas and centerpiece. Grass seed was sown after the October Harvest Fair.

In the spring of 1999 the garden club went to work putting in many of the plantings. The park was already in full use.



Part of the wall building team.



Stacker property in 1995.



Granville students making the path.

Volunteer Efforts that Built the Park

Phase 1--Planning, Clearing the Land

Doris Beaulieu (tag sale, labor)
Linda Blakesley (tag sale, labor)
David Blaze (equipment, labor)
Roxanne Blaze (labor)
John Briggs (planning, labor)
Matt Berndt (dismanteling of the houses)
Teddi Daley (planning, labor)
Mark and Susan Dargie
Len Elie (planning, labor)
Eric Forish (excavation and trucking equipment, demolition labor)
Joy Fraser (planning)
Herbert Hiers (planning)
Clint Jensen (planning)
Cindy Meaney Massai (planning)
Emily Patterson (tag sale, labor)
Kay Swiatek (planning, labor)
Cindy Tavernise (design for the park)
Silvio Tavernise (planning, finances)
Wilhelmina Tryon (planning)
Jim Wackerbarth (labor)
Lin Wackerbarth (labor)
Fran Wackerbarth (planning, labor)
Pam Wood (planning, labor)
Charles Woodger (planning, equipment, labor)
Richard Woodger (planning, equipment, labor)

Phase 2--Building the Walls

Bill Armstrong (trucking)
Paul Falcetti (stone steps, wall building)
Andy Gogol (equipment)
Ed Gogol (equipment, labor)
Ernie Hodur and the Granville Country Store
(sustenance to keep the wall builders going)
Mike Lafleur (wall building)
Mike Patterson (wall building)
Bob Rahn (labor)
Art Smith (wall building)
Robert Sullivan (equipment)
Kay Swiatek (wall building)
Jamie Wackerbarth (wall building)
Jim Wackerbarth (planning, labor)
Lin Wackerbarth (labor, plantings)
Charles Woodger (equipment, labor)
Nate Woodger (wall building)
Tim Woodger (wall building)
Richard Woodger (equipment)

Phase 3--Landscaping

T.J. Mulch (bark)
John, Bud and Mark Beckman (loam, equipment, labor, well pump)
Doris Beaulieu (labor)
Chris Besnia (labor)
David Blaze (equipment, labor)
Roxanne Blaze (labor)
John Briggs (grass seed, labor)
Kevin Brown (design)
Drew Connolly (labor)
Teddi Daley (plantings, labor)
Forest Devine (labor)

Tyler Devine (labor)
Glenn Dickinson (fill)
Richard Evans (compost)
Brian Falcetti Family (gazebo)
Doug Gladding (labor)
Bryan Hansen (labor)
Joanne Henderson (shaded bank plantings)
Laurie Hiers (plantings)
Clint Jensen (labor)
David Jensen (labor, bird house)
Eileen Jerome (plantings)
Richard Knoener (plantings)
Gabe Krause (labor)
Mike Kornely (labor)
Cory Lewis (labor)
Joanne Messenger (plantings)
Karen McLaughlin (plantings)
Don and Beth Munro (plantings)
Mike Patterson (the maze)
Carl Peterson (lumber)
Karen and Bob Rahn (labor)
Forest Ridley (labor)
Art and Ann Smith (plantings, labor)
Kay Swiatek (labor)
Bob Thompson (labor)
Wilhelmina Tryon (history)
Jim Wackerbarth (planning, labor)
Lin Wackerbarth (design, labor)
Charles Woodger (equipment, labor)
Richard Woodger (equipment, labor, compost)
Dan Woodger (compost, labor)
Rick and Ann Martin (printing)

Monetary Donations

Kenneth Adams
Betty Angell
Vaughn and Lovesta Banks
Avery Bates
Doris Beaulieu in memory of Joseph A. Beaulieu
Everett & Dorothy Bettinger in memory of William R. Schlosser, Jr.;
Dorothy P. Schlosser; Harold Bettinger
Ann Billings
William and Linda Blakesley
John and Barbara Briggs
Priscilla Buy
Elizabeth Carpenter in memory of Catherine Carpenter
Theone Christiansen in memory of Harry R. Christiansen
Ann Marie Clendenin in memory of Theresa Laptew
Jim Connors
Jim and Teddi Daley in memory of Ruth Barlow
Mark and Susan Dargie
Len and Fran Elie
Dale Florida
Joy and Malcom Fraser
Bob and Fran Gleason
Mary Jean Goff
Granville Federated Church &
Granville Lions Club (4th of July Chicken Barbeques)
Rob and Marcia Hale
Kresten and Deborah Hansen for Evelyn Handley

Nancy Hart
 Adeline Hiers for Herbert A. Hiers
 Paul and Marie Holcomb for Earl H. Tripp
 James and Gertrude Jensen
 Edward Johnson
 Liz and Matt Jones
 Joyce Jones
 Diane and Gary Lafrance
 Dana and Deborah Loomis
 William Maher
 Peter and Kathy Martin
 Cindy and Dale Massai in memory of Mac Meaney
 John and Sarah Meiklejohn
 Jack and Sue Michnovez
 Donald and Elizabeth Munro
 Marguretha Nobbs
 May Nobbs
 Daniel and Charley Oleksak

Joseph and Emily Patterson
 Rich and Mary Ann Fernandez-Pierce
 in memory of Jose Anthony Fernandez
 Walter and Catherine Phelon
 Bob Rahn
 Helen S. Ripley and Leon and Joyce Ripley in memory of
 Kenneth L. Ripley
 Elizabeth Smith
 Coralie and Bill Stevenson
 Kevin Stromgren
 Debbie and Paul Sussmann for
 Gloria Falcetti and Reinhold M. Sussmann
 Rick Vincunas
 Nancy Wackerbarth in memory of Frederic "Ted" Wackerbarth
 Pamela Wood in memory of Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Wood
 —So many people quietly contributed to the park that it was
 difficult to keep track of them. Our apologies to anyone whose
 contribution is not acknowledged.

George Woodger--Granville Citizen Volunteer

Board of Assessors 1947-1950
 Board of Selectmen 1950-1953, 1973-1983
 Finance Committee 1953-1973
 Charter member of Recreation Commission
 200th Anniversary Committee



George E. Woodger came to be known in Granville as a man who did what needed doing. His daughter, Roxanne Blaze, recalls:

"It was his service as Selectman that I was aware of as a child. Every Monday night, without fail, he would get up from the dinner table and head for the Town Hall. He was doing that for as far back as I can remember.

"He did things for the town that today would be impos-

sible. Not because the feats themselves are impossible but because times have changed. I remember stories about his 'borrowing' farmhands from my brother's dairy farm during a snowstorm to clean the catch basins. This was done, not because he'd get paid for it (he didn't), but because it needed doing and he could get it done. Doing the job this way saved the town money. That was the essence of my dad. If it needed doing, and he could figure out how to do it without paying someone else, he'd get it done. He instilled that ethic in his kids."

George was the youngest son of Walter James and Annie Keast Woodger, two English immigrants. He graduated from Pratt Institute in 1938 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He settled his retired parents in Granville and joined Pratt & Whitney in 1940, retiring in 1977. He married Phyllis Eleanor Patt in 1943.

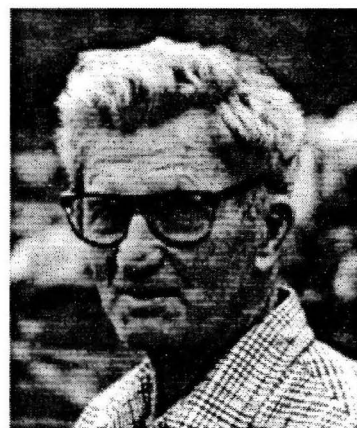
George was 6'3", with dark wavy hair, physically fit, and a good tennis player. Phyllis told her children that when she first saw him dressed in tennis whites, she knew immediately he was the one for her. The young couple lived in the Patt house (now Rockwood Farm) while they built their house on part of his parents' property on Main Road. The house building was a weekend project since both worked in the city full time.

George had an uncanny ability to concoct a fully running automobile out of a collection of broken ones. He kept his children in cars until they were on their own.

George's low-key, no-nonsense approach to the world was typified by his comments to the citizens of Granville, Ohio, when he accepted a flag at the 175th anniversary of the founding of our sister community. George told the large crowd in attendance that the people of Granville, Ohio "seem to be well organized, pleasant, warm and appear to have the town at heart."

Stricken with lung cancer, George Woodger died in 1984, instilling in his children the credo that "doing what is right is not always easy, or popular, or pleasant or easy to identify, but once you do it, you know it."

Says Roxanne, "Dad worked hard all his life to provide for his family and be a good neighbor. I think he succeeded. This brings me to the Park and why we did what we did. It was not, incidentally, one person's idea brought to the rest of the family. We'd all thought about it in various guises. Spouses had discussed it. Then someone mentioned the idea to someone else and so forth, and we discovered that we'd all been thinking roughly the same thing. What if we joined together, bought the property and donated it to the town in memory of Dad. It's the sort of thing he would see as needing doing and go about doing."



THE DEDICATION CEREMONY, OCTOBER 3, 1999

The Coming Together of the Park

John Briggs, chair of the Park Committee

George Woodger and the Citizen Volunteer

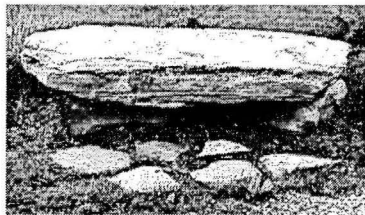
Edwin Beckwith, former Granville Selectman

Dedication of the Plaque

The Woodger Family

Acceptance of the Park by the Town

Thomas Geehern



Granville Citizens' Park

Land Donated
in Loving Memory of
George E. Woodger
1916-1984

by
His Children and Grandchildren

Richard Woodger
Cheryl Stewart
Thomas Woodger
Thurza Sillman
Charles Woodger

Roxanne Blaze
William Woodger
Daniel Woodger
Deborah Woodger
Douglas Woodger

Labor and Landscaping by The People of Granville
1996-1999