

Hillside Cemetery presents...

Champions of Change: A Celebration of Women's History Month

Visit Hillside Cemetery for a self-guided walking
tour honoring notable woman of Wilton.



WOMEN OF WILTON

Mercy Comstock

Revolutionary War Patriot
1741-1816

Polly Wakeman

Abolitionist
1793-1873

Alice Merwin Eakland

Suffragist
1893-1967

Bessie C. Fischer

Justice of the Peace
unknown-1947

Gladys Marhoffer

Community Activist
1900-1993

Elizabeth Neuffer

Journalist
1956-2003

Champions of Change: A Celebration of Women's History Month

March 2023

Hillside recognizes local women and their significant contributions to Wilton and beyond. You will meet a patriot, abolitionist, suffragist, community activist, Justice of the Peace, and journalist. We have so many special women to celebrate here at Hillside!

The walk is both educational and inspirational. Meeting these special women remind us that within each of us is the power to help make our community the place we want it to be now and in the future.

While some of the women buried at Hillside were once legendary public figures, others may only have been known and missed by a few family members. Hillside is an important place to realize the value of one's own life by understanding that someone in the future may stand in the exact same place where you are standing today.

Enjoy the tour!



Pamela Brown, Executive Administrator
Hillside Cemetery
Sharp Hill Cemetery
Wilton Congregational Church



Mercy Comstock

Revolutionary War Patriot | 1741-1816

Mercy Comstock was the wife of Samuel Comstock, Captain of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment.

On April 28, 1777 during the battle known as Tryon's Raid, British Troops were marching through Wilton. In order to avert destruction, Mercy "set her table with tempting food and wine, buried her silver, and hid herself on the hill behind the house. When the British arrived, they partook of the feast and left the house undisturbed."

Source: Wilton Connecticut Three Centuries of People, Places, and Progress by Robert H. Russell



Polly Wakeman

Abolitionist | 1793-1873

Polly Hurlbutt Wakeman and her husband William Wakeman operated an Underground Railroad relay system on the New York-New England route. Mr. Wakeman was the secretary of the Georgetown Connecticut Anti-Slavery Society. He and Polly collaborated with other Baptist abolitionists on slave rescues. The Wakemans lived at 36 Seeley Road from 1826 to 1847.

Source: The Underground Railroad: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Operations By Mary Ellen Snodgrass





Alice Merwin Eakland

Suffragist | 1893-1967

Alice Merwin Eakland was a Wilton teacher and Girl Scout leader. She was in the Wilton Red Cross during World War I and supported the Wilton League of Women Voters. Alice was one of the first women that registered to vote in 1920.

Source: Wilton Library History Room



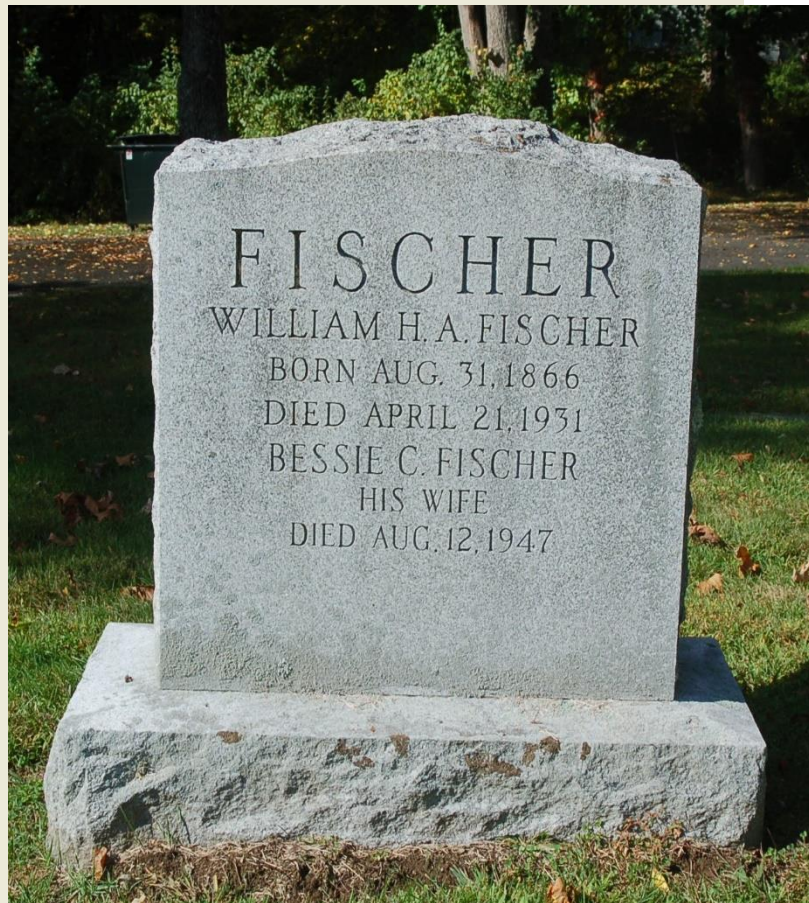
Bessie C. Fischer

Justice of the Peace

unknown-1947

Bessie Fischer was Wilton's Justice of the Peace from 1924 to 1934. She then worked with the state welfare department from 1934 to 1946. Often lawyers from other towns would appear with the idea that the court in Wilton, presided over by a woman, would be a pushover, but Mrs. Fischer was never intimidated. "Whether a man respects the woman or not," she said, "he has to respect the court."

Source: Wilton Connecticut Three Centuries of People, Places, and Progress by Robert H. Russell





Gladys S. Marhoffer

Community Activist | 1900-1993

Gladys Stannard Marhoffer was a prolific Wilton volunteer and champion of causes. She was one of the original organizers of the Public Health Nursing Association and Wilton League of Women Voters. A community activist, she founded Minks to Sinks, and served on many school committees. She was a member of the Daughters of the Revolution, Salvation Army, Norwalk Hospital Board and American Legion Auxiliary.

Elizabeth Neuffer

Journalist | 1956-2003

Elizabeth Neuffer was an American journalist who specialized in covering war crimes, human rights abuses, and post-conflict societies. She died at the age of 46 in a car accident while covering the Iraq War.

Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Neuffer

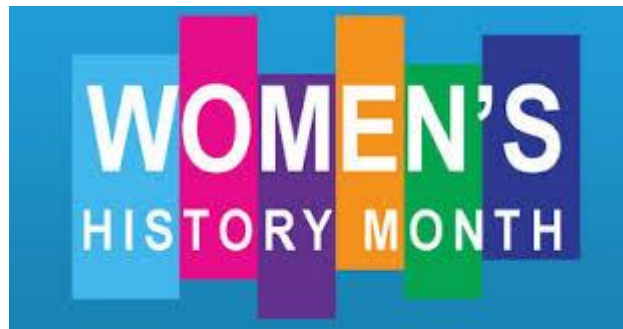


Champions of Change: A Celebration of Women's History Month

When: March 2023

Where: Hillside Cemetery, 165 Ridgefield Road, Wilton

How: Please use the attached map for your self-guided tour.
Look for the Women's History Month logo.



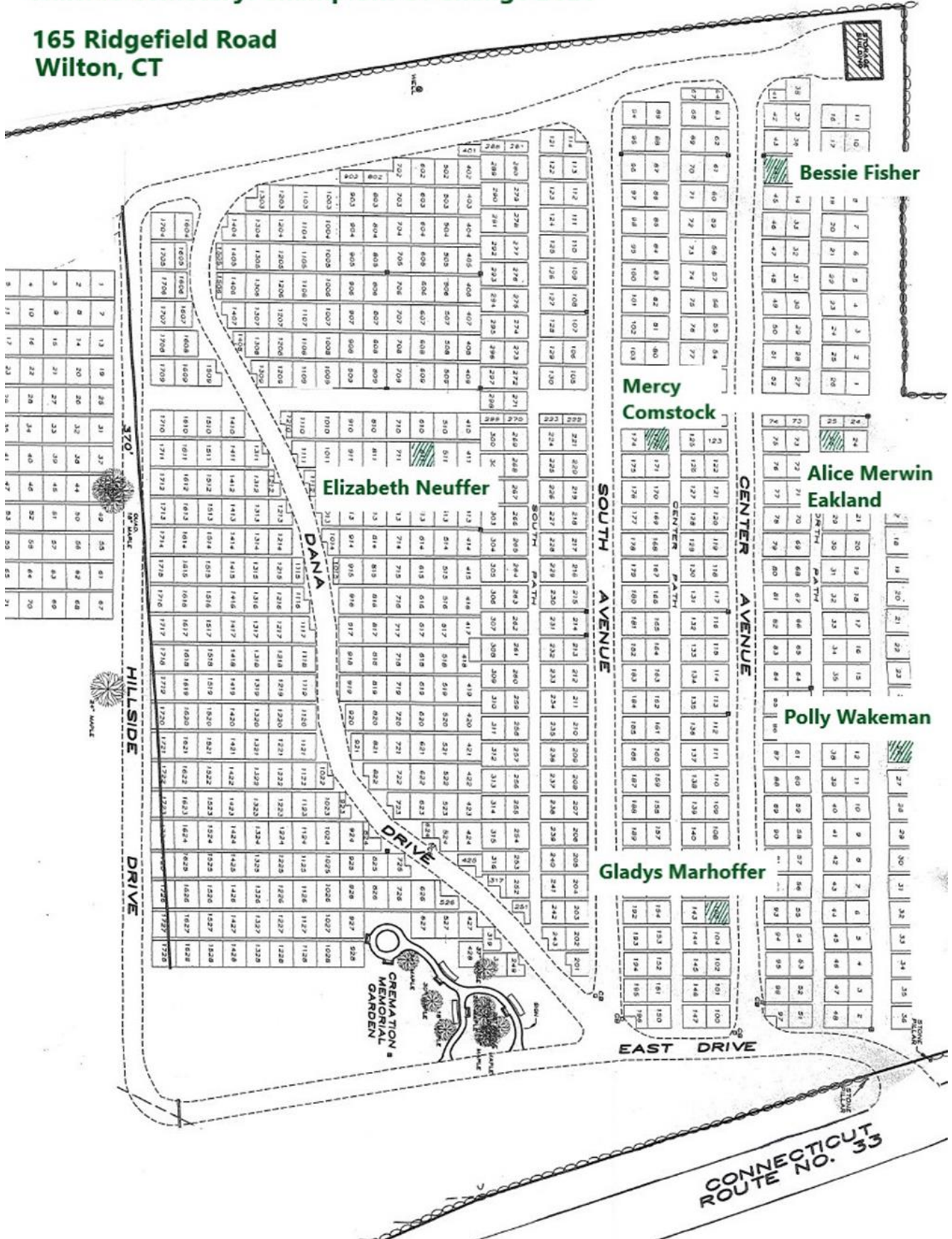
Maps are also available at the Cemetery Office located at the
Wilton Congregational Church, 70 Ridgefield Road, Wilton.

For more information contact:
Pamela Brown: 203-762-5591
cemetery@wiltoncongregational.org



Hillside Cemetery: Champions of Change 2021

165 Ridgefield Road
Wilton, CT



Bessie Fisher

Mercy Comstock

Elizabeth Neuffer

Alice Merwin Ekland

Polly Wakeman

Gladys Marhoffer

CONNECTICUT
ROUTE NO. 33



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