

A Celebration of Women's History Month

Women of Wilton: Artists, Authors, and Entrepreneurs

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



Doris Bass Andrews

Artist
1920-2003

Jeannie K. Schaeffer

Artist
1911-1987

Meredith "Mike" Neuffer

Artist
1922-1993

Clara A. Willard

Author
1823-1856

Marian Hyde Olmstead

Author
1830-1920

Almina Davenport

Entrepreneur
1853-1916

Ruth Campbell Bigelow

Entrepreneur
1896-1966

Elizabeth Raymond Ambler

Entrepreneur
1919-1998



Women of Wilton: Artists, Authors, and Entrepreneurs A Celebration of Women's History Month

March 2024

Hillside Cemetery is the final resting place for some of the most remarkable women of Wilton. To celebrate Women's History Month, please enjoy a self-guided walking tour highlighting notable women of Wilton.

With this annual tradition, Hillside recognizes local women and their significant contributions to Wilton and beyond. This year you will meet artists, authors, and entrepreneurs.

The walk is both educational and inspirational. Remembering these special women reminds 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 life, someday someone in the future may stand in the exact same place where you are standing today!

Visit Hillside Cemetery for **Women of Wilton: Artists, Authors, and Entrepreneurs**. Printed guides are available at the Wilton Congregational Church office.

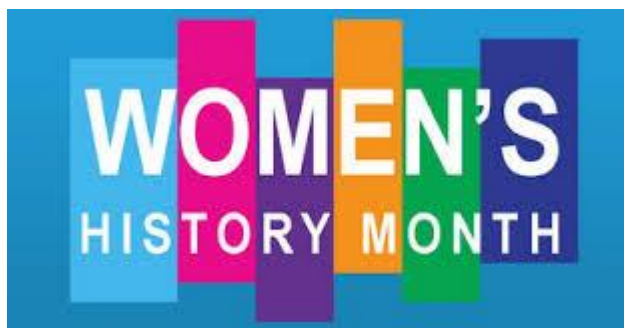
Enjoy the tour!



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

Where: Hillside Cemetery, 165 Ridgefield Road, Wilton.

How: Look for the Women's History Month logo at each gravesite.





Doris Bass Andrews

Artist | 1920-2003

Doris Andrews and her husband Sperry were the last residents of Weir Farm. Doris specialized in watercolors and pen and ink. During her lifetime, Doris saw many developments spring up around the farm's borders, and she became concerned that Weir Farm would also suffer that fate. Along with Cora Weir Burlingham, Doris organized the group Citizens to Preserve Weir Farm. She also took to her typewriter, writing letter after letter to lawmakers, artists, and art historians, heralding the importance of saving this site. In 1990, Doris achieved her goal when Weir Farm was designated a national historic site. She, and her husband Sperry Andrews, lived out the rest of their years in the house, enjoying the site that she had worked tirelessly to preserve.

Source: www.nps.gov/wefa/learn/historyculture/dorisandrews.htm



Jeannie K. Schaeffer

Artist | 1911-1987

Jeannie Schaeffer was a member of the Drum Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, and a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy.

An artist, she was formerly associated with the Silvermine School of Art, with many of her paintings having been shown at various art galleries.

Source: *Wilton Bulletin* 2/11/1987





Meredith “Mike” Neuffer

Artist | 1922-1993

Meredith Neuffer was an artist who helped popularize Oriental brush painting in the United States. She was one of 16 Americans chosen to study at the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts in China in 1985. She had worked as editor of arts and crafts for American Home national magazine. In 1987, she received the Grumbacher Gold Medal Award, and in 1990, the Wayne Shaeffer award. Her paintings are in private and public collections, including the Smithsonian Institution.

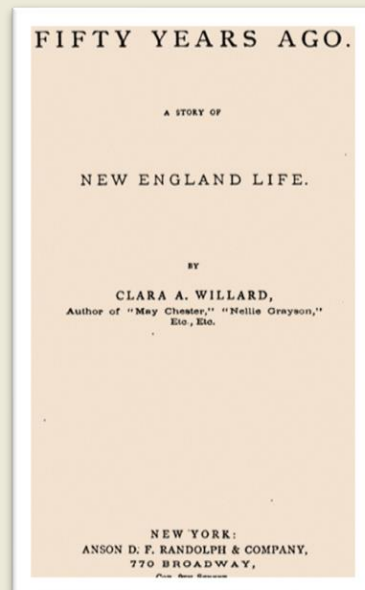
Source: www.findagrave.com/memorial/79788791/meredith-bowman-neuffer



Clara Willard

Author | 1823-1856

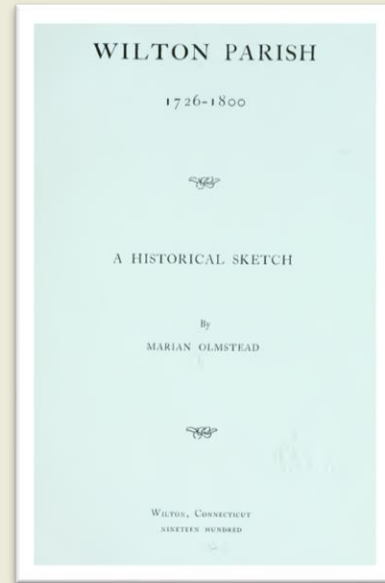
“Fifty Years Ago, A Story of New England Life”



Marian H. Olmstead

Author | 1830-1920

“Wilton Parish, A Historical Sketch”

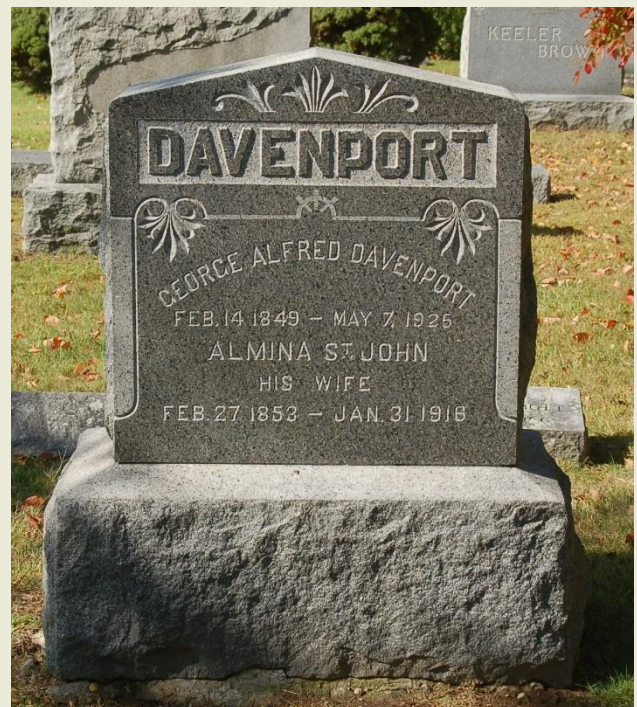


Almina Davenport

Entrepreneur | 1853-1916

Almina St. John Davenport and her husband George Alfred Davenport owned and operated a glove factory. The New England Glove Company was established in Wilton Center in 1898. Later it was moved to a site on Ridgefield Road east of the Congregational Church. The Glove Company produced heavy work gloves. A suffragist, Almina was also one of 36 Wilton women to register to vote in October 1912.

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





Ruth C. Bigelow

Entrepreneur | 1896-1966

Over 60 years ago, Ruth Campbell Bigelow changed the way we drink tea in the United States. An avid tea connoisseur, Ruth thought tea drinkers would enjoy a more zestfully flavored tea. Happening upon a special colonial recipe that called for tea to be blended with orange peel and spices, she decided to try and recreate what she felt sounded like a wonderful idea. After much trial and error in the family kitchen, she finally hit upon what she thought was the best tasting tea recipe. After sharing samples with family, friends, and acquaintances, one of them reported back that Ruth's new tea had caused nothing but constant comments. Thus the "Constant Comment"® name was born.

Source: <https://www.bigelowtea.com/pages/our-story>

Elizabeth R. Ambler

Entrepreneur | 1919-1998

Elizabeth R. Ambler was a lifetime resident of Wilton. Earlier in her life, she had been a sales manager in the advertising business, but her real love was managing the family farm and homestead in Wilton which she did up to the day she died. Wilton residents will recognize this special place as Ambler Farm. Betty was also a member of the Cannon Grange in Wilton.

Source: *The News-Times*, June 23, 1998



Doris Andrews Bass



Meredith "Mike" Neuffer



Ruth Bigelow



Ambler Farm





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