

An ABC Journey through The Last Green Valley

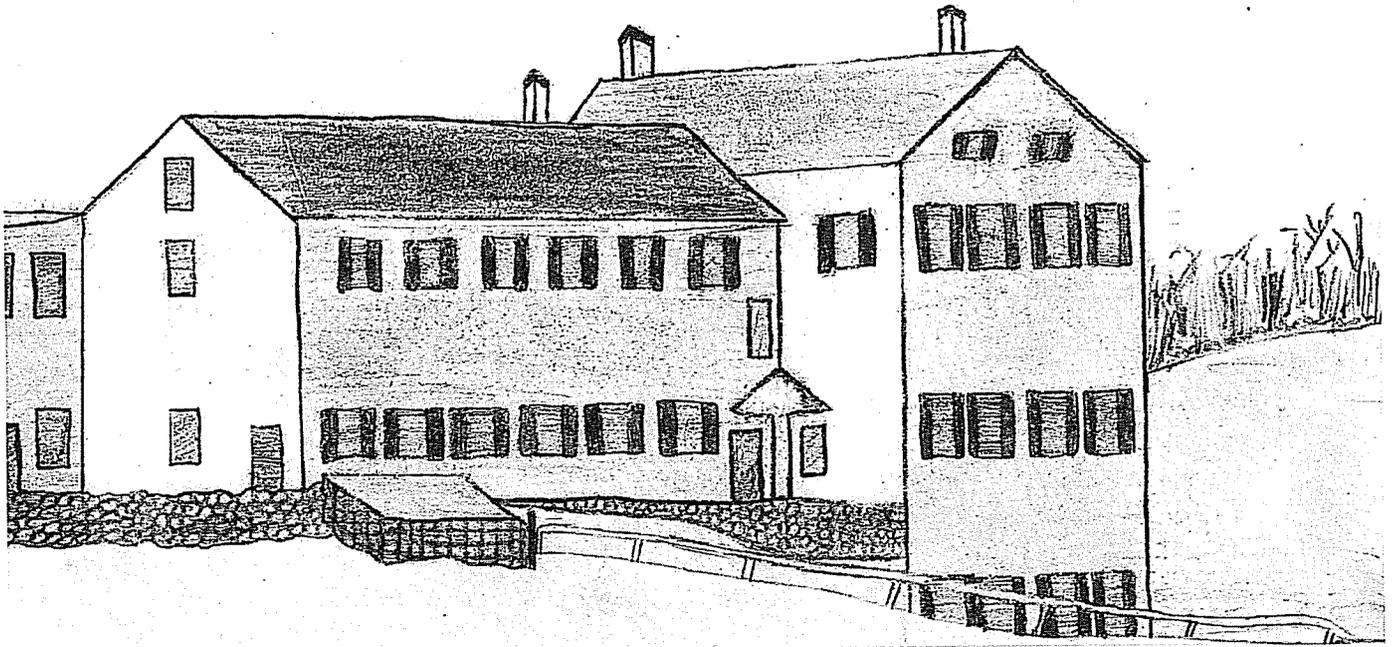
This alphabet book was created to highlight the history and culture of Connecticut towns in the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor. Called The Last Green Valley because of the lush green forests and grassy valleys, it includes thirty-five towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Although a large portion of the valley is agricultural, much of the history revolves around mills.

This book was written and illustrated by fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students as an EASTCONN service-learning project. It was made possible by interdistrict and service learning grant funds. Students and teachers from Coventry's Captain Nathan Hale School, Pomfret Community School and Windham Middle School worked collaboratively on this project.

Students want to share their awareness of events, places to visit and activities in The Last Green Valley for visitors. They also want to show the region's influence on our nation's history.

The topics and illustrations were chosen by the students. The choices were at times difficult because there are so many worthwhile landmarks and people, but only twenty-six letters in the alphabet! Our hope is that as you read *An ABC Journey through The Last Green Valley*, it will be only the beginning of your quest, and that you will continue to discover all that is wonderful and special about the region.





This book was researched, written and illustrated by the students from Captain Nathan Hale School in Coventry, Pomfret Community School in Pomfret, and Windham Middle School in Willimantic.

This book is a service-learning project, funded by an interdistrict grant from EASTCONN. We would like to thank EASTCONN, and the students' teachers, Al Scopino, Scott Rhoades (Coventry), Bruce Young, Donna Young, Paula McNally (Windham), Donna Dufresne, Amie Densmore (Pomfret), and the three schools' administrators, for without whom this project would not have been possible.

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Cover design - student painting from an aerial photograph with permission from the photographer, G. Leslie Sweetnam (www.glsweetnam.com)

B is for BUILDINGS



There are many beautiful buildings in The Last Green Valley. They represent various styles of architecture. Colonial architecture was the most popular style in the United States from its beginning to the early eighteenth century. Called colonial because it evolved during that historical period, it is still popular today. New England's first colonists built mostly one room deep, two-story houses with a central chimney. In the 1700s, more room was added to the back of the house to give more space. These homes were called saltboxes. Later, homes were symmetrical

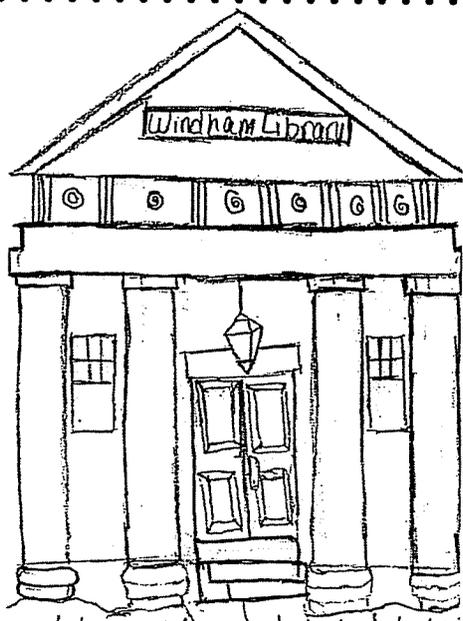
with two windows on either side of a central doorway. Colonial homes can be seen throughout the Quinebaug-Shetucket Corridor. Samuel Huntington's house in Scotland and the Leffingwell house in Norwich represent colonial architecture.

The Industrial Revolution brought changes in architectural style. In 1840, the Victorian era began. There are a variety of Victorian styles, each with its own features. A Victorian home may incorporate a variety of forms and colors. Some homes were built with a combination of stone and shingles, and may have included bay windows and wrap around porches. These homes were built for mill owners and merchants. Roseland Cottage in Woodstock is an example of Victorian architecture.

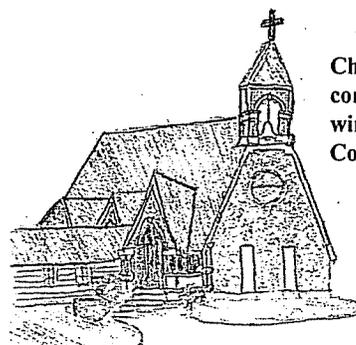
In order to attract a work force, mill owners built homes for employees. These homes also had land, and gardening was encouraged as a break from tedious mill work. The construction of these "mill villages" was conceived by William Barrows, president of the Willimantic Linen Company. The Linen Company also built a school for workers' children, and a social center for plays and dances. Amos Lockwood laid the groundwork for a similar model in Wauregan. This entire community was built by the mill owners. The company owned 104 homes and provided low rent for its workers.

In Brooklyn, the Tiffany family built brick mill housing grouped in squares for social organization. Named Quebec Square, families could also plant in a community garden.

Mill architecture can still be appreciated in the area. It is a reminder of our industrial past when bell towers announced the beginning and end of each work day.

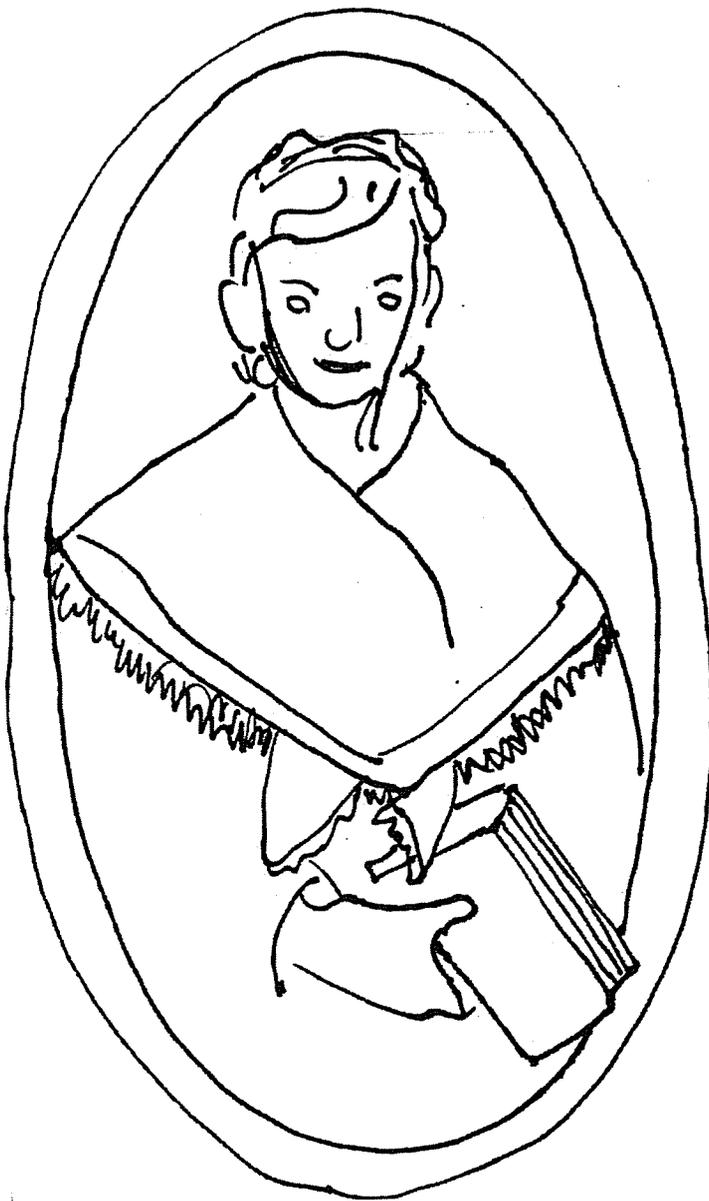


Big, beautiful buildings are booming with business.



Christ Church in Pomfret contains six stained glass windows by artist Lewis Comfort Tiffany.

C is for CRANDALL



Prudence Crandall is Connecticut's special state heroine. Prudence was born full of pride, gumption, and spirit into a Quaker family. She was raised strongly as an abolitionist and a fighter. She felt very strongly that education was important for all people. Prudence Crandall thought that girls should get a better education, other than just reading, sewing and cooking. She taught her girls geography, astronomy, writing, arithmetic, and science. However, the adults in the community had reacted strongly against Prudence when she admitted a black girl, named Sarah Harris, and they took their girls out of the school.

In 1833, Prudence closed her school for white girls and opened a school for black girls. Her school was called "The Prudence Crandall School for young misses of color." The state of Connecticut created "The Black Law" making it illegal to teach blacks from out of district, and Prudence Crandall was arrested for breaking the law. She went to trial three times. After the third trial an angry mob attacked the school and destroyed all the windows in the first floor. After the school closed, Crandall left Canterbury for good. She lived in Illinois for a while then moved to Kansas where she died in 1890. Because of Prudence's courage, determination, and fortitude, she is still remembered today as a heroine among the people of Connecticut.



Prudence Crandall Museum

Sarah Harris was the first black girl admitted to the Prudence Crandall School. She grew up to be a successful teacher who raised eight children, one of whom she named Prudence.



Crandall creates chaos in Canterbury concerning color.

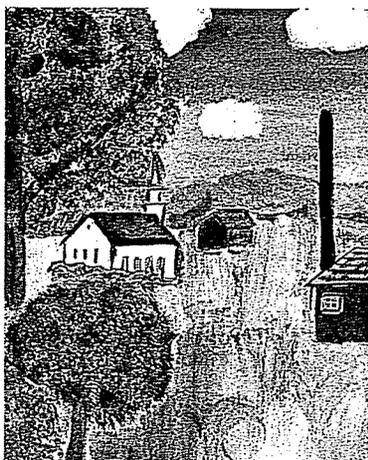
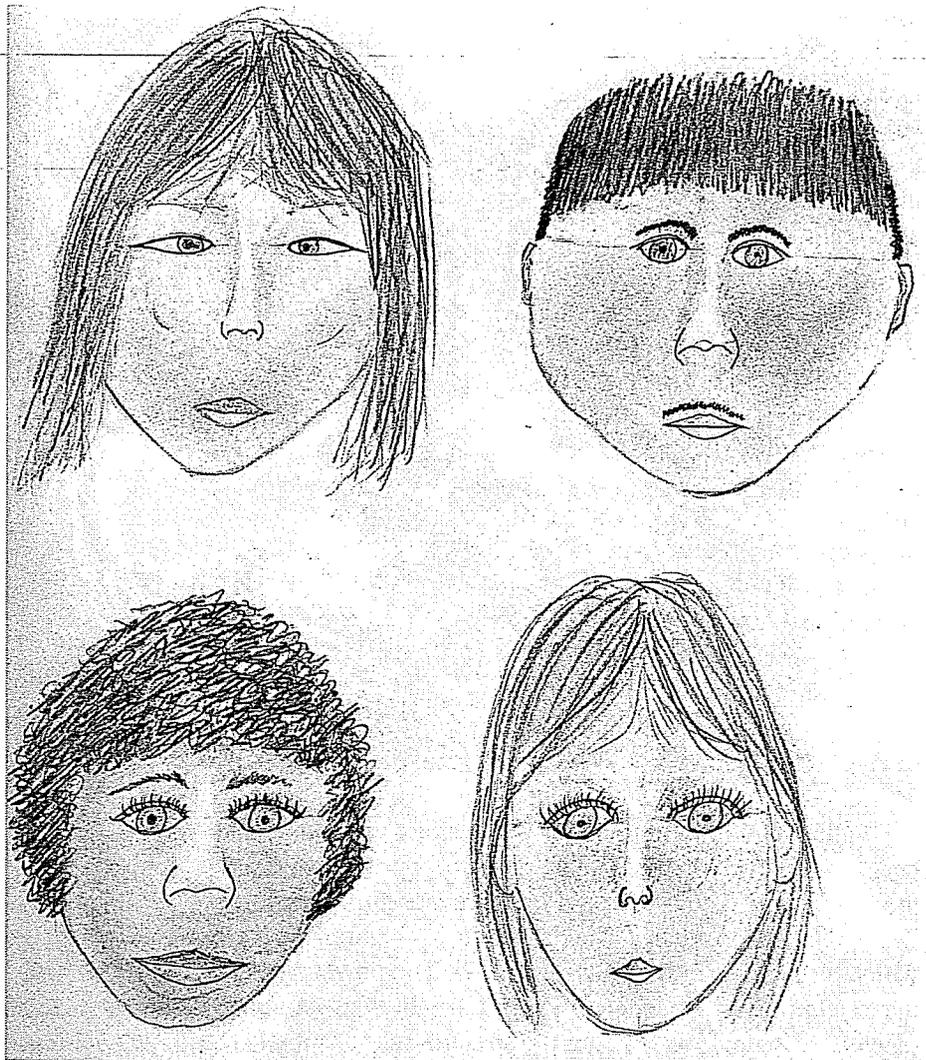
D is for DIVERSITY

The Last Green Valley of Connecticut is a region of great diversity. The first settlers, the Mohegans, moved here from the Hudson River Valley. Other tribes, like the Pequots, migrated to the area as well.

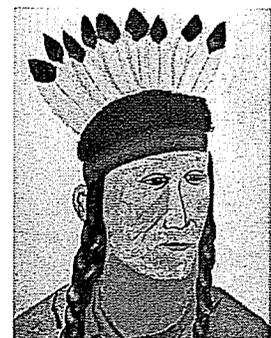
In the 1600s, the English began settling in northeastern Connecticut. The French Canadians followed the English. They were followed by the Scots, Irish, and Germans. Many of these immigrants were forced to leave their native lands. Many came due to the Potato Famine, war, and economic hardships. Some became farmers in The Last Green Valley. Others found new jobs digging canals, laying railroad tracks, tending machines, and establishing small businesses. By the late 1800s, many immigrants worked in textile factories that dotted many towns in the area.

Between 1915 and 1945, African Americans living in the South traveled to the North in what was called the Great Migration. They were in search of a better way of life. Some settled in eastern Connecticut. Later in the 20th century, many Puerto Ricans began to migrate to The Last Green Valley. Today, over 194,443 Puerto Ricans live in Connecticut, many of whom reside in The Last Green Valley.

The Last Green Valley has become home to many different peoples. The diversity of its population adds a multicultural feature to the region.



Diversity deals dividends through the decades.



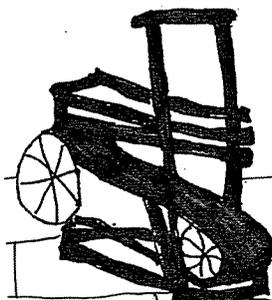
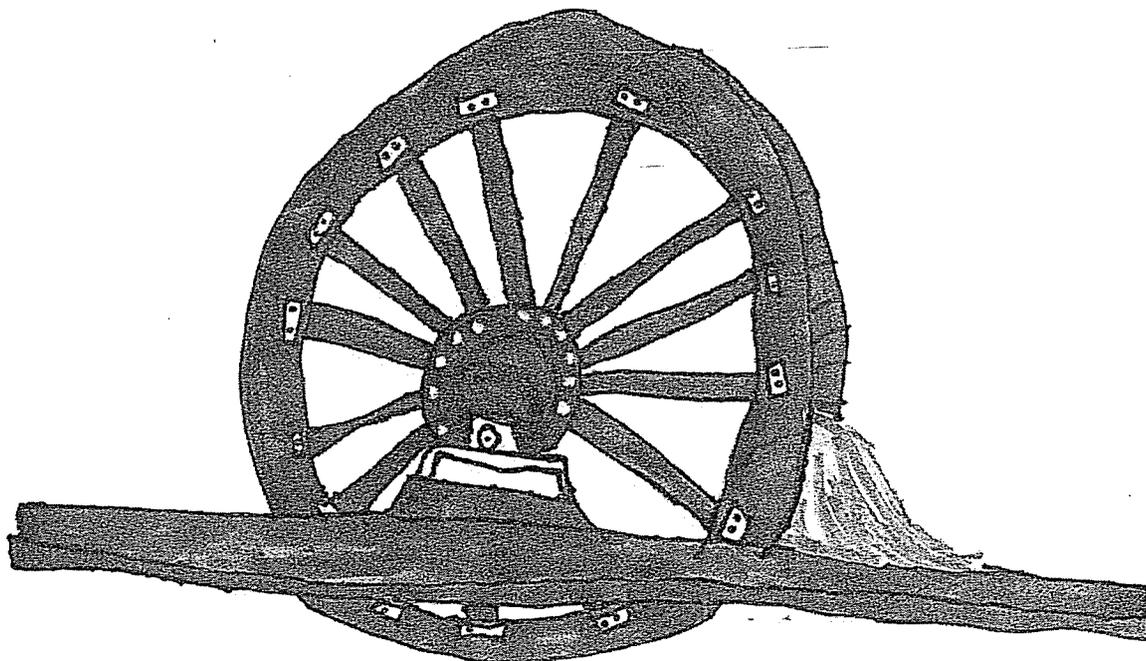
Native American Indian Chief, Colonial Period

Diversity thrives in Connecticut's The Last Green Valley, home to many of the 10,511 Native Americans in the state.

E is for ENERGY

The geology of The Last Green Valley attracted many early industrialists who realized that the fast-running streams and rivers could turn water wheels to provide energy. Later on, people learned to harness waterpower by using turbines in hydroelectric plants that provided electricity. But the most interesting source of energy we found was evidence that local dairy farmers used animal power to churn butter.

In the 1800s churning butter was a chore that took a great deal of time to complete. The whole family participated, even the family dog! The dog would run on a treadmill that turned a wheel attached to a dash. The dash would move up and down, which turned the fresh cream into butter. The power from the treadmill was dependent upon the weight of an animal (such as a dog or goat) but not the strength of the animal. The dog would simply climb onto the treadmill, get into his or her position and gravity did the rest of the work. To train the dog to run on the treadmill, the farmer would place a bowl of food in front of the dog. The dog would then run for the food, causing the treadmill to turn.



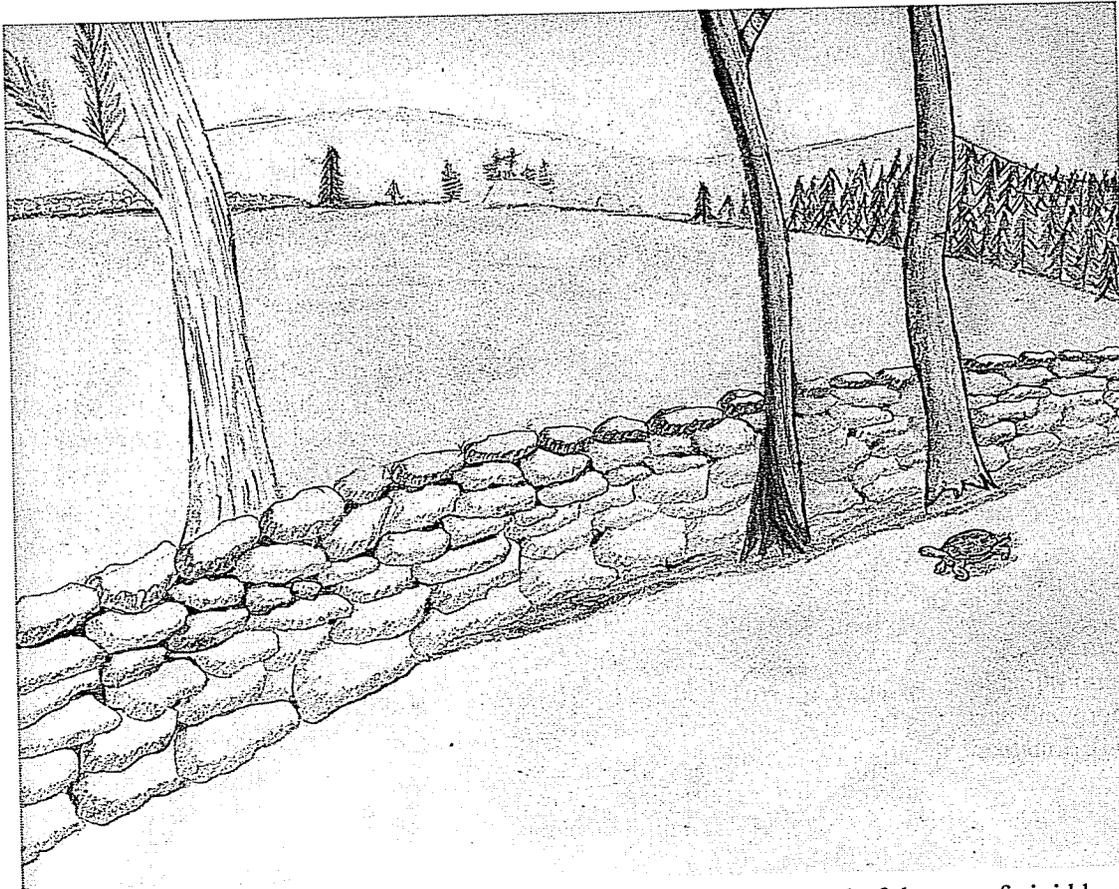
treadmill

You can see an actual treadmill churn at the Mansfield Historical Society. "Folks would come from miles around to watch a dog named Ring churn butter by the pound." From "Butter Churn Reel" by Donna Dufresne



Edison engaged enduring and effective energy to equip electricity for everyone.

G is for GEOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY



The Last Green Valley consists of twenty-six small towns in Connecticut, including Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Lisbon, Mansfield, Norwich, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Windham, and Woodstock. These towns boast of many farms, state forests, rivers, and lakes. The autumn foliage is something to

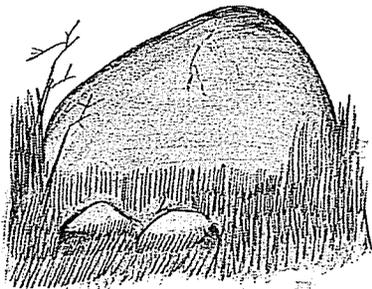
behold. The reds, yellows, oranges, and browns mix together in a wonderful array of vivid beauty. The weather varies to a great extent, promising four beautiful seasons filled with color.

A unique characteristic that appears in this region includes the ubiquitous stone walls. In the past, these walls marked the borders of farms, and in some cases, are simply eye-catching, artistic masterpieces. They also served as trail guides, helping to keep travelers on safe paths. The vast number of rocks came from glaciers of the Ice Age. These stones were the remains after the glaciers had taken off most of the top soil. This debris was known as Glacial Till.

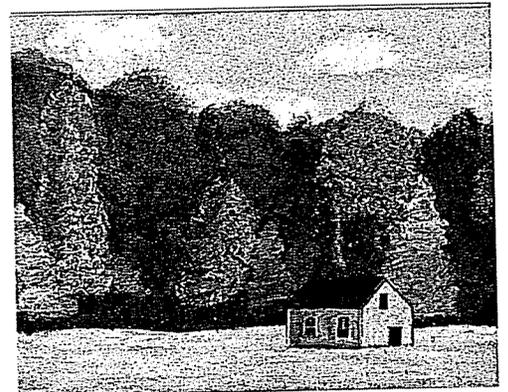
Hills cover this region of the state. There is a vast expanse of woodland as well, including the Natchaug State Forest, the James L. Goodwin State Forest, Nipmuck State Forest,

Nathan Hale State Forest, Pachaug State Forest and the Shenipsit State Forest. The main waterway in The Last Green Valley is the Quinebaug River, which flows right through the center of the area.

Without its fascinating geography and geology, The Last Green Valley couldn't claim the title it so proudly boasts.



Glaciers carried a number of rock sediments to The Last Green Valley from different areas of North America, and left a mix of everything from clay to giant boulders when they melted.

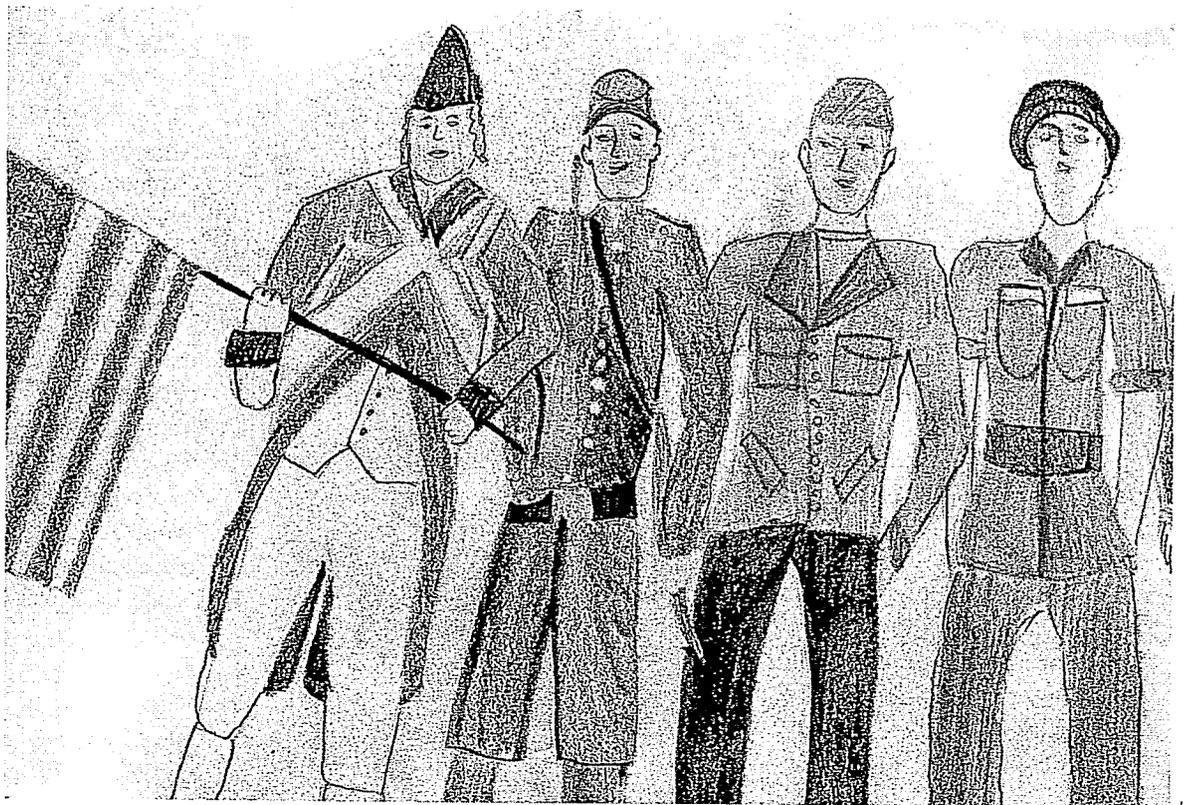


Gorgeous geography draws the genial gaze of grateful generations.

H is for HEROES

The Last Green Valley is well known for its many heroes who have served this state and country.

Thomas Knowlton was an American patriot who fought in the French and Indian War (1756-1763) and also served as a Colonel during the American Revolution (1755-1783). Knowlton is considered



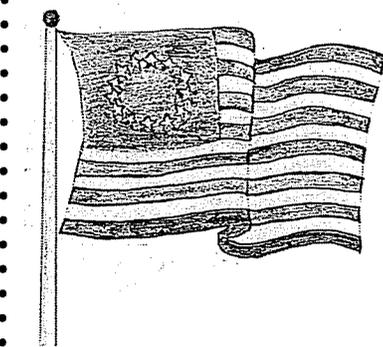
America's first military intelligence professional. His unit, known as Knowlton's Rangers, made a significant contribution to intelligence gathering during the early years of the Revolutionary War. The motto for this group became "Always Out Front!". At the age of thirty-three, he served as the selectman of Ashford, Connecticut.

Captain Nathan Hale was born on June 6, 1755, in Coventry, Connecticut. While a member of the Knowlton's Rangers, he became a spy for the Americans. At twenty-one years of age, he was captured and executed by the British in New York, on September 22, 1776. He is remembered for his famous quote, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

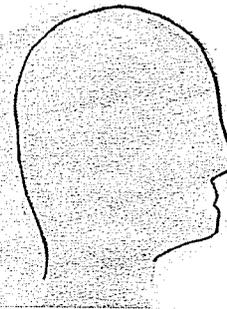
General Israel Putnam was born in Salem Village (Danvers, Massachusetts) on January 7, 1718, but lived most of his life as a farmer in Connecticut. In 1756, during the French and Indian War, he joined Rogers' Rangers, an effective unit which operated on the western frontier. He was eventually promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. On one occasion during the war, he was captured, tied to a stake, and was about to be roasted alive, but was saved

by a French officer just in time. He joined the Continental army and was appointed colonel of the 3rd Connecticut Regiment, and later served as a brigadier general for the Connecticut militia. By the end of the Revolution he had become a fairly wealthy farmer and tavern keeper.

Another famous hero was Benedict Arnold who had distinguished himself in the Revolutionary War at Fort Ticonderoga in 1775, and at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777. During the middle of the war, he changed sides and helped the British for the rest of the conflict. He retired to England after the war.

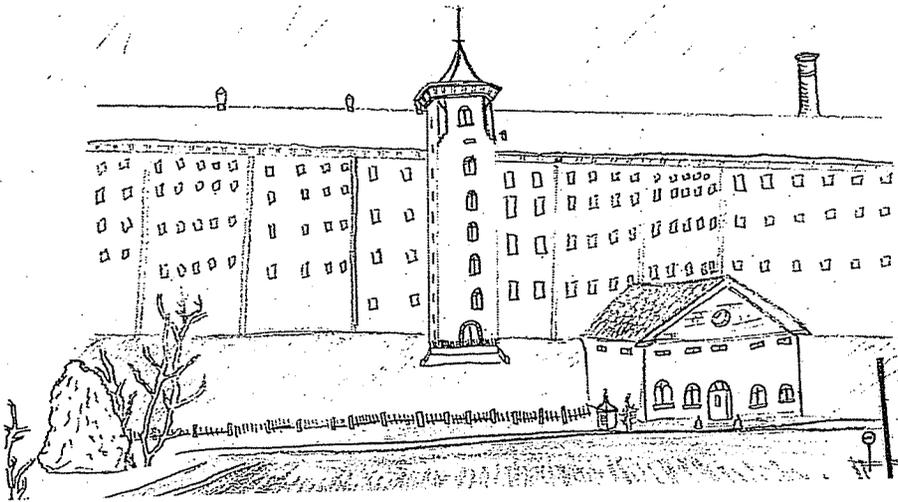


Heroic hearts are hailed at holiday happenings.

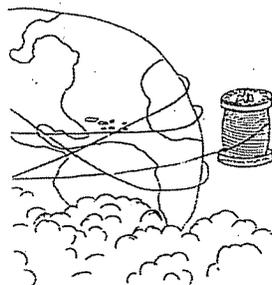


The Hale Homestead in Coventry contains the only known picture of Nathan Hale — a silhouette carved into a door.

I is for INDUSTRY



Grist mills, saw mills and fulling mills were the only industries in the Last Green Valley in the 1700s. Most people farmed. All this changed when machinist Samuel Slater immigrated to the United States in 1790. He built a water-powered cotton mill in Rhode Island. Soon, his manufacturing methods spread to the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley. River power attracted industry and investors during a rapidly exploding manufacturing era. "Cotton Fever," the production of cloth and thread, had arrived. Many mills were built in the region and, they used the "Rhode Island System," Slater's organizational method of manufacturing. Northeast Connecticut would become the most industrialized region in the state and home to some of the largest textile mills.



In the 1890s the Willimantic Linen Company produced 85,000 miles of thread each day. It was enough to wrap around the world

three times. It gave Willimantic the nickname, "Thread City."

Putnam's Cargill Falls, named for mill operator Benjamin Cargill, attracted Samuel Slater's brother-in-law Smith Wilkinson. Wilkinson selected the site, and in 1806, established the first mechanized cotton mill here in Windham County, and the third in the United States. Wilkinson raised the frame of the mill on July 4, and provided free punch to the citizens. He also gave the town a building to be used as a meeting house.

In 1865, Edward Taft came to an area called Taftville and used the power of the Shetucket River to build the Ponemah Mills. Built on farm land along the river, the mill grew to become the largest under one roof in the United States. Company housing across the street accommodated many of the 5,000 workers.

Charles Tiffany, father of famous New York jeweler Lewis, built a cotton mill in Brooklyn. Later, Tiffany sold his mill to Amos Lockwood who also built a mill further down the Quinebaug River. He named the mill "Wauregan," Native American for pleasant valley.

North Grosvenor Dale was home to a cotton mill, managed by physician turned manufacturer William Grosvenor. The nearby "Three Rows" was built for its

workers. Mills in Central Village also produced textiles.

The Willimantic Linen Company, which later became the American Thread Company, once produced 85,000 miles of thread per day. At one time, it was the largest employer in Connecticut.

Silk was also produced in Willimantic. The silk industry had its beginnings in nearby Mansfield because of its many mulberry trees. Silkworms eat the leaves of the trees, and when unwound, the cocoon can be made into thread. Women in Mansfield and Chaplin reared silkworms.

Windham's Colonel Jedidiah Elderkin had a mulberry orchard and his factory produced silk stockings, handkerchiefs and vest patterns. The silk industry eventually moved to Willimantic because of the many workers. The Natchaug Silk Company's fishing lines won numerous prizes at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.

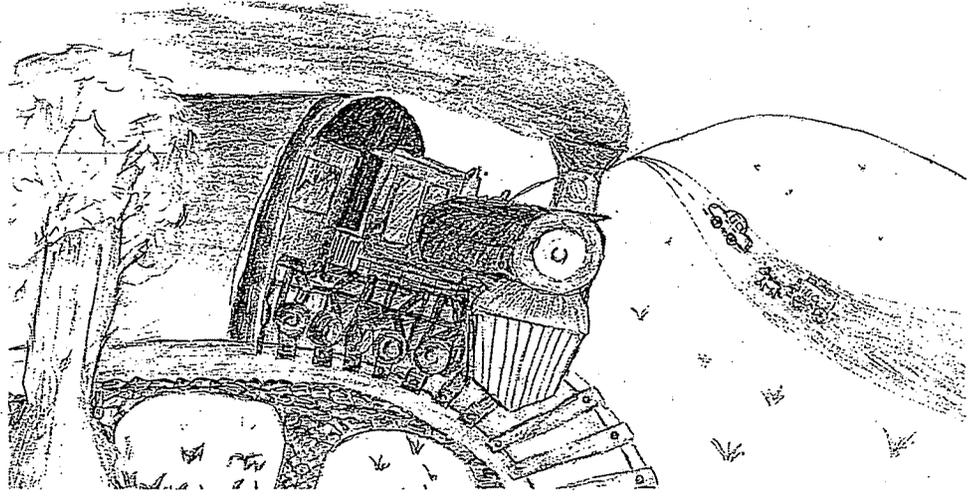
The textile industry declined in the region when mill operators found it cheaper to move to southern states. Today, we see new uses for the former mills. Some are used as apartments and condominiums, office space and businesses.



Industrialists created ingenious inventions.

J is for JOURNEY

The first roads in The Last Green Valley were paths used by Native American's and settlers. They traveled by foot, horse and carriage. Stagecoaches were used as transportation even in the nineteenth century. As cities grew, highways became necessary to help trade. Turnpike companies were formed to help. Toll gates on the roads resembled the medieval weapon turnpike, so the name was adopted. The tolls collected paid for road maintenance. The first turnpike was built in 1792, between Norwich and New London. The



Windham Turnpike Company improved a trail from Windham to Canterbury to Plainfield in 1799. It became known as the "Great Road" because it took travelers to Providence.

As manufacturers needed to move their products more quickly, railroads were built in The Last Green Valley. Trains were also a more comfortable method of transportation. The Norwich and Worcester Railroad was open in 1840, and served Windham County. Completion of this rail line made the region a unified transportation corridor. With the Norwich Line of steamboats on the Thames River, it provided faster travel between Boston and New York.

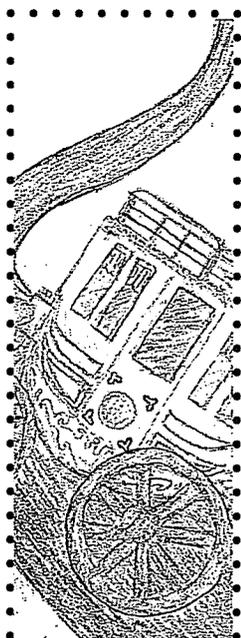
In 1849, after lobbying by Willimantic manufacturer William Jillson, the New London, Willimantic and Palmer Railroad was opened. Because of its location, Willimantic became the center of New England's railroad network. By the 1900s, fifty trains came through the city each day. Thirty trains passed through Putnam, bringing materials for the mills and carrying passengers.

The most famous line was the Airline Route, an express that carried passengers from Boston to New York aboard the New England Limited. This luxurious train was nicknamed "The Ghost Train" and "The White Train" because of its white exterior, and because it resembled a ghost as it sped through eastern Connecticut at twilight. It won national attention and President Benjamin Harrison came to ride it. Author Rudyard Kipling also rode the train and wrote a short story mentioning it.

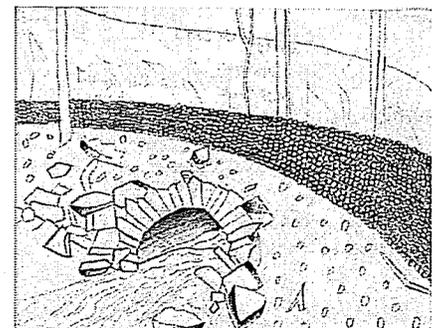
Trolley cars also provided transportation in the 1900s. The People's Tramway traveled through Danielson. The Willimantic Traction Company took passengers from Norwich to Willimantic with stops in Baltic, Franklin and Taftville. Trolley service ended when the lines were bought by the New Haven Railroad.

By 1950, the only passenger train in northeast Connecticut was the New York, New Haven and Hartford because of the popularity of the automobile. After the floods of 1955 damaged the bridge in Putnam, rail service ended.

Visitors to the region can still find railroad stations, such as the Chaplin Railroad Station, housed at the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum. Because of the "Rails to Trails" efforts, visitors can also hike former rails, including the Airline trail.

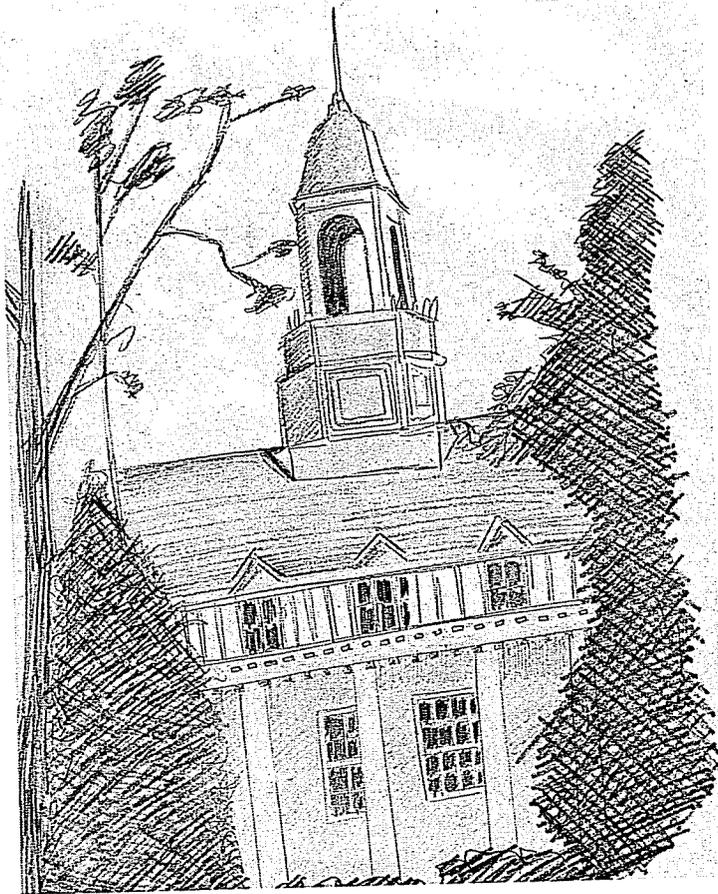


Men and women joined in arduous journeys.



Lisbon's Mill Brook Bridge is the oldest known free-standing arch bridge. It was on a stage coach route that carried mail between New York City and Boston.

K is for KNOWLEDGE



Knowledge in The Last Green Valley has become known on a national scale. With three prep schools, two universities, and two community colleges, this nook of Connecticut turns out well-rounded students from all over the country.

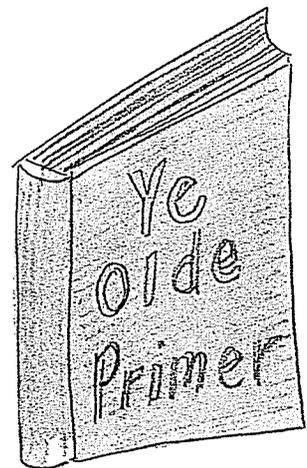
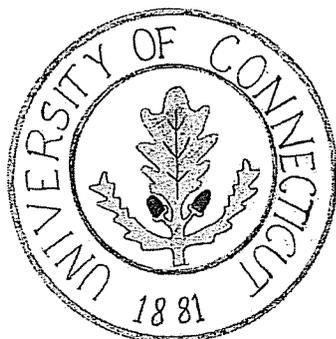
Prep schools have helped students get into colleges throughout the nation. The first prep school established in this lush valley was Woodstock Academy. Founded in 1801, this private school has prepared men and women academically, fostering both a sense of pride and involvement in family, community, and the world. Another prep school located in the region is the Norwich Free Academy. It was incorporated in 1854 and has kept up the tradition of learning throughout the years. This school is located in the heart of Norwich. The Pomfret School, located in Pomfret, is a preparatory school for girls and boys from grades 9-12. For 112 years, Pomfret has primed students for higher education through its diverse liberal arts offerings, a demanding athletic program, and a community interest that promotes involvement at the local, state, and national levels. Today, as in the past, the Pomfret staff encourages students to set their goals high and to aspire to their utmost potential. Prep schools in The Last Green Valley have long served as educational resources for the region.

In addition, community colleges have promoted learning to the many communities throughout The Last Green Valley. These include Quinebaug Valley Community College (1946) in Danielson and Willimantic, and Three Rivers Community College (1992) in Norwich.

One of the most popular universities in both New England and the nation is located right here in our Last Green Valley! The University of Connecticut, or otherwise known as UCONN, is located in Storrs. It was established as the Storrs Agricultural School in 1881, by Charles and Augustus Storrs. Today, the school has expanded into a four-campus college, offering degrees in many disciplines. Another school of higher learning is Eastern Connecticut State University. It was founded in 1889 in Willimantic.

Knowledge in The Last Green Valley has always been important. These schools provide countless opportunities for students and scholars across the nation.

The Last Green Valley is home to UCONN, a flagship university that boasts NCAA athletics.



Keys to knowledge are kept in The Last Green Valley.

L is for LEGENDS

Windham was settled back in 1675, where the famous Frog Pond lies, and there on the bank of that pond, is where the famous legend of the Battle of the Frogs took place. One dark, cloudy, steamy night in June, long ago in Windham, a few hours after people had gone to bed, they were rudely awakened by loud and terrifying noises. The noises appeared to be coming from the gloomy skies above. Some people thought they were being attacked by Indians, while others



had sleep-filled minds and didn't know what to think. But they all rushed into the street anyway. The confused people of Windham stood in the street all night because of the noise. None of them slept, for they couldn't locate where the

noise was coming from. Not until sunrise did they find the cause to all of their fears. The old mill pond had nearly dried up from the summer's heat, and all of the bullfrogs there had fought for the last, precious drops of water. There were dead frogs all over the shore for the battle had been fierce between the frogs. Ever since that gloomy night in 1754, the pond has been called Frog Pond.

If you go to Willimantic today, you will see the fabulous Windham Frogs represented by huge statues on the Frog Bridge, which crosses the Willimantic River. Each frog sits on a spool of thread to acknowledge the rich textile history of Windham.



Luring legends linger in The Last Green Valley.



Gravestone of Dorcas Higgenbotham

Lost Village is not a village, but a homestead where the Higgenbothams lived from the mid 1700s to the mid-1800s.

M is for MUSEUMS

Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry • William Benton Museum of Art • Blue Slope Country Museum
 Brayton Grist Mill & Marcy Blacksmith Tool Museum • Brooklyn Historical Society Museum • CT Eastern Railroad Museum

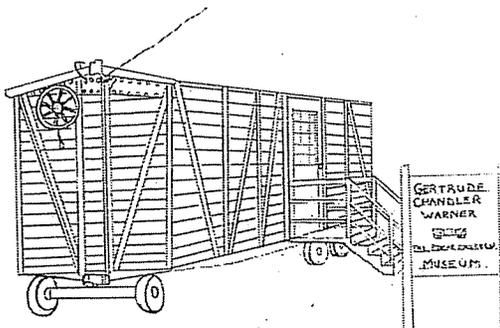
CT State Museum of Natural History & Archaeology Center • DAR Museum
 Dr. William Beaumont House • Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Museum
 Governor Trumbull House • Griswold Historical Society • Gurleyville Grist Mill



Huntington Homestead • Jilison House Museum • John Bishop House Museum
 Killingly Historical Society Museum & Visitor Center • Lebanon Historical Society
 Museum • Leffingwell House Historic Museum • Mansfield Historical Society Museum

Nathan Hale Homestead • New England Center for Contemporary Art • Prudence Crandall Museum
 Putnam Elms • Revolutionary War Office • Roseland Cottage • Slater Memorial Museum • Strong-Porter House
 Thompson Historical Society Museum • Waldo Homestead • Windham Textile & History Museum

The Last Green Valley has a variety of museums. People can visit art, historical and nature museums. The Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry in Storrs presents puppetry exhibits from all over the world. Artwork can be appreciated at the William Benton Museum in Storrs and the Slater Memorial Museum in Norwich. A visit to the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury contains exhibits on local and black history, and a look at the life of our state heroine. Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry gives a glimpse of our state hero's life. The Windham Textile and History Museum in Willimantic preserves the

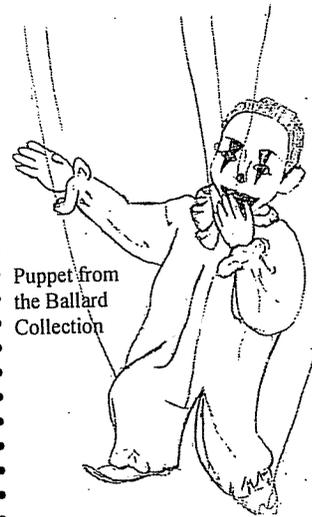


Gertrude Chandler Warner, author of *The Boxcar Children Series*, lived across the street from the Putnam Train Station. The station provided inspiration for her stories.



history of the textile mills in our region and their influence on communities. Visitors to the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History in Storrs can learn about our state's animals and minerals.

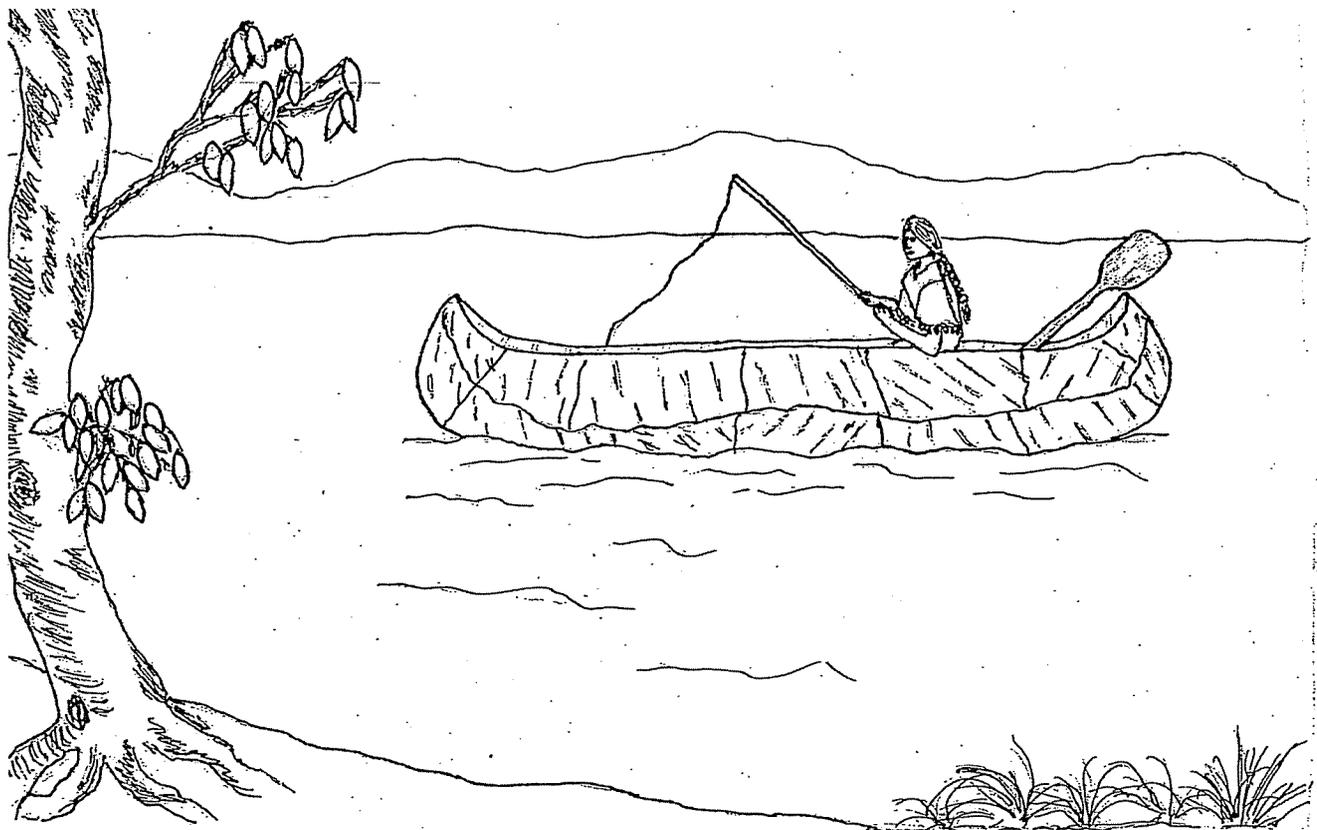
One will be amazed at the museums in the region and their proximity to one another. Visitors will enjoy the landscape as they travel to their destination.



Puppet from the Ballard Collection

Many magnificent museums exhibit mementos.

N is for NATIVE AMERICANS



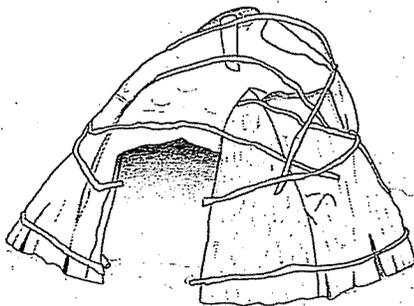
The Last Green Valley was inhabited by different Native American tribes. The Nipmuck, Wabbaquasset, Quinebaug, Narragansett, Pequot and Mohegan tribes hunted, trapped and fished the region. An area named Mashmoquet means “the great fishing place.”

The Mohegans and the Pequots were connected tribes until the Pequots, who saw their land being taken by English settlers, decided to drive the English out. The English attacked the Pequots at their main encampment, killing over 600 tribal members. The remainder were pushed out of the region. The Nipmucks joined the Narragansetts and were mostly destroyed during King Philip’s war.

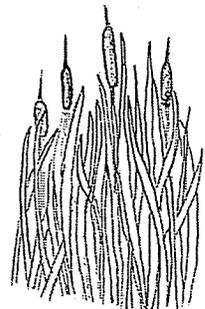
Native Americans fought each other and the English colonists for land that was rich in food. In 1675, King Philip or Metacom, a Wampanoag Chief, formed a confederation of tribes to stop the colonists from inhabiting this land. He led an unsuccessful uprising, further reducing the threat of Native American power.

Throughout these wars, Uncas stayed on the side of the English. Uncas was born a Pequot, but he and his followers broke away and formed the Mohegan tribe. Uncas announced that he was the owner of the land through which the Quinebaug flowed. Upon the death of his son Joshua Attawanhood, the land east of the Willimantic River was given to sixteen gentlemen from Norwich. Uncasville celebrates the name of this famous chief.

Native American tribes have left their imprint on The Last Green Valley. Many towns and rivers bear Native American names. For example, the towns of Oneco and Attawagan were named for Uncas’ sons. Willimantic means “land of swift running waters.”

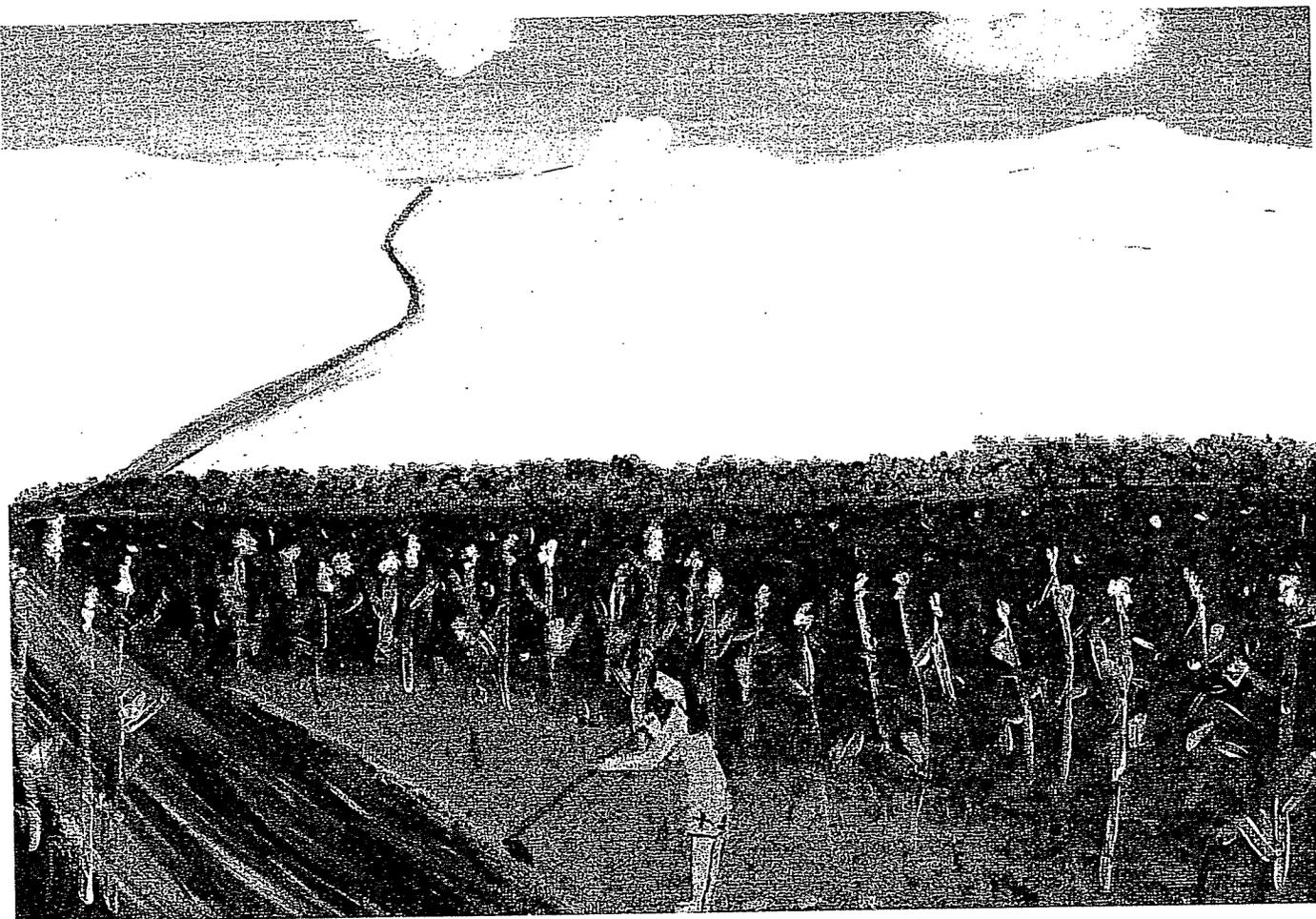


Native Americans nestled in northeast Connecticut.



Woodstock’s Wabbaquassetts wove mats from the reeds in swamps and marshes.

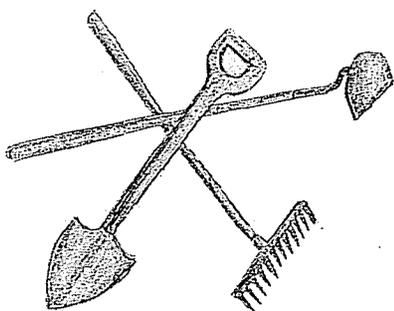
O is for ORIGINS



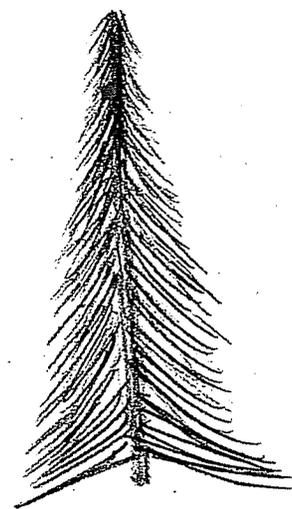
For close to two million years, the world was affected by repeated ice periods called glaciers. The frigid conditions created ice age ecosystems. Over twelve thousand years ago, as the glaciers began to melt, the land absorbed the water and fertilized it. During this time period, Paleo-Indian hunters began the colonization of southern New England. They used stone tools and made clothes out of animal skins.

Eleven thousand years ago, the forests were mostly made up of spruce trees, pine trees, birch trees, and alder trees. There were mammoths, mastodons, caribou, and beaver.

Eight thousand years ago came the settler period, and three thousand years ago trade increased. Those early settlers made ceramic pots and other storage vessels for cooking.



One thousand years ago, agriculture was introduced and maize cultivation became popular in southern New England. The first people made triangle-shaped, arrow points, created burial pits, and cleared land for farming. They were hunters and gatherers and farmed corn, beans, squash, tubers, tobacco, and artichokes.



Origins of our Last Green Valley outshine all others.

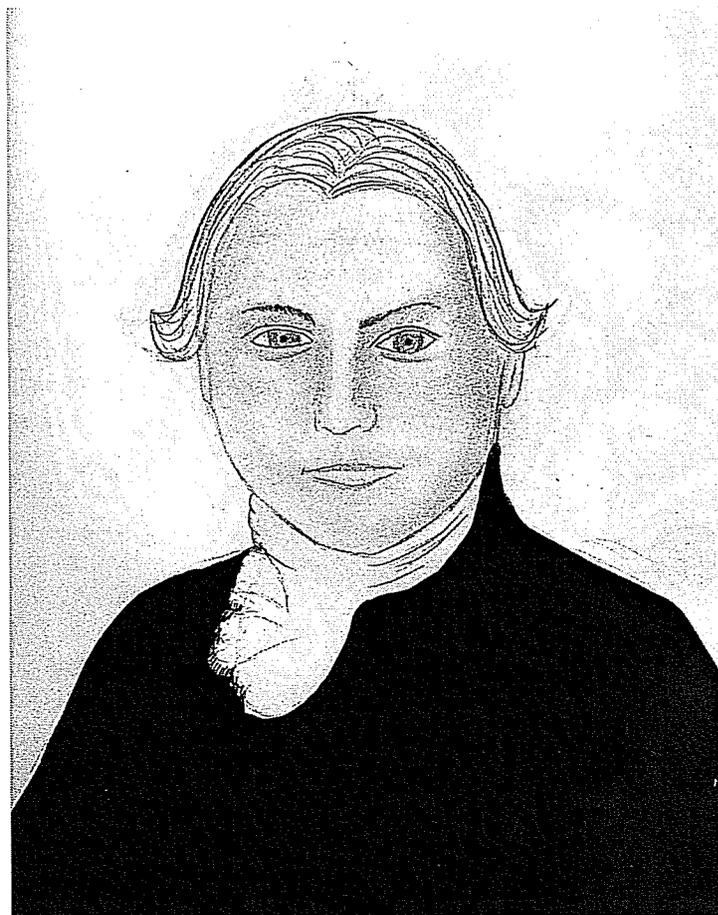
P is for PEOPLE

With teachers, inventors, politicians and painters, citizens of The Last Green Valley have made a distinct impact on the world.

Naturalist Edwin Way Teale made his home in Connecticut's Last Green Valley. Born in Joliet, Illinois in 1899, Teale entertained readers through his adventurous stories of nature, shortly after he graduated from Columbia University. As he wrote, he took pioneering, close-up photographs of insects which received positive responses. In 1959, he moved to Hampton, Connecticut. Soon after, in 1966, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction for his book *Wandering Through Winter*. Teale lived in Hampton until his death in 1980.

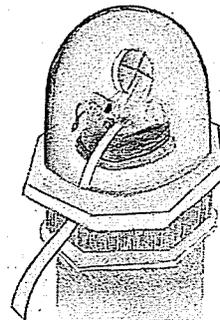
The Last Green Valley was also the summer home to impressionist painter Julian Alden Weir, a member of the art colony at Cos Cob School in Greenwich, Connecticut, and "The Ten," a group of painters who protested against the commercialism of art. Born in West Point, New York, on August 30, 1852, he studied art at the National Academy of Design in the early 1870s, and then at the *Ecole des Beaux-Arts* in France. He moved to the rural Last Green Valley in the 1880s, where he produced his most beautiful pieces of impressionism, and lived there until his death on December 8, 1919.

The valley was also home to Samuel Huntington,



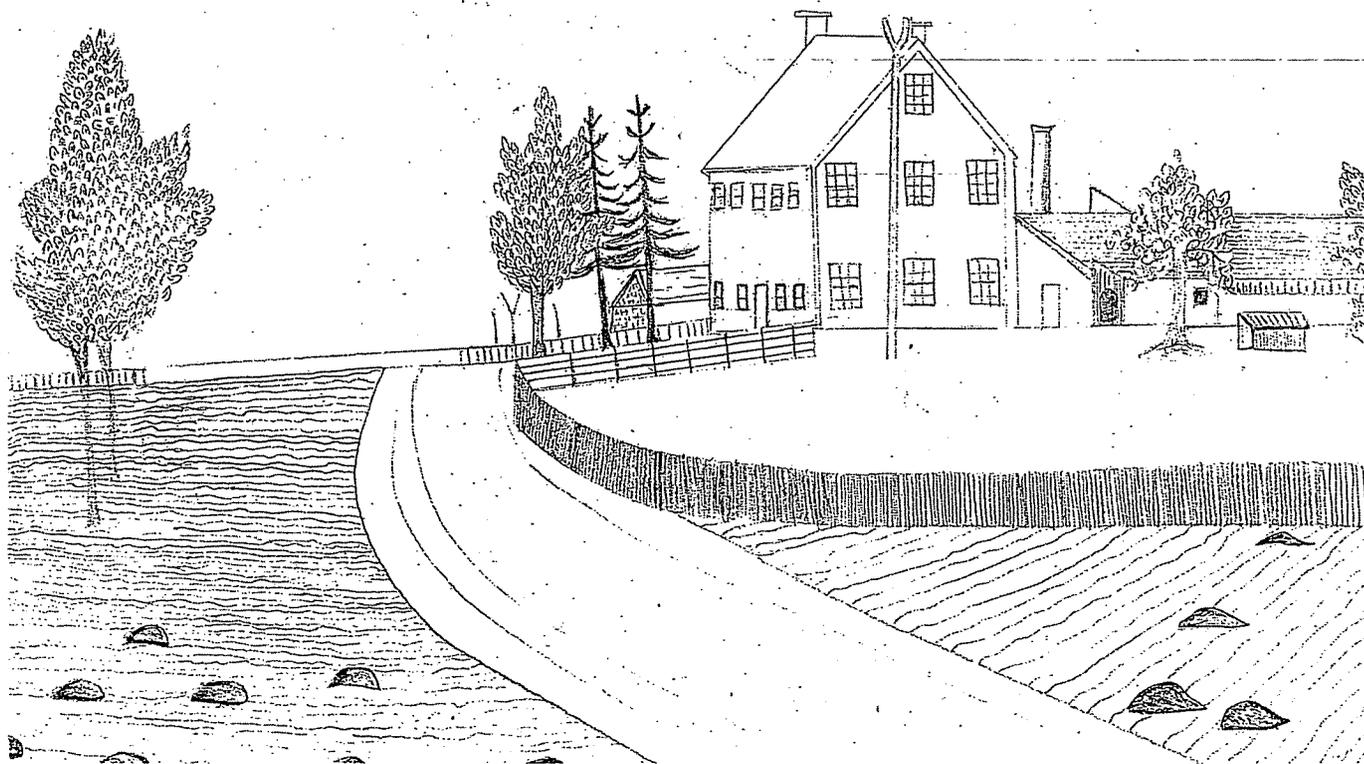
*Pleasant people perambulate
through the many peaceful
paths*

the real first president of the United States. He was born in Windsor on July 2, 1732, to a large family, which hindered his education. Nevertheless, he became a lawyer and opened an office in Norwich, where he quickly became successful due to his common sense, strict integrity, and punctuality. In 1764, Huntington began his political career when he represented the town of Norwich in the General Assembly. He later was appointed to the Office of King's Attorney, Associate Judge in the Superior Court, and then an assistant in the Council of Connecticut. While holding these offices, Huntington was not shy about expressing his independent opinions. Because of this, he was appointed to represent Connecticut in the Continental Congress in 1775, where he voted for, and signed, the Declaration of Independence. He was elected President of the Continental Congress on September 28, 1779, making him the first real president of the United States. He held this office until July 6, 1781, when illness caused him to resign. He died in his Norwich home on January 5, 1796.



Charles Dow was a journalist from Sterling, Connecticut, who on May 26, 1896, introduced the industrial average to help interpret the workings of the stock market. Today, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is an invaluable tool for investors.

Q is for QUIET CORNER



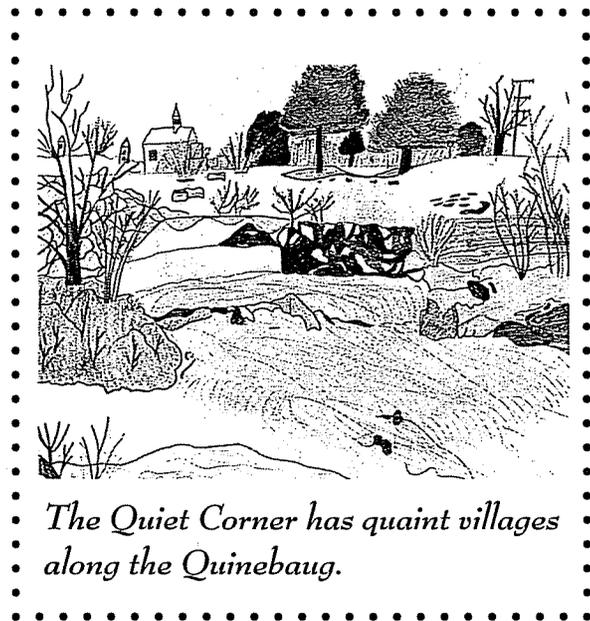
When it's dark in the Quiet Corner, and you look up and see the stars twinkling above you in a clear, country sky; you know you will never forget the sight. You can also hear the calming sound of the wind rustling through the trees. You can smell apple pie baking as you rest from a long day of picking big, juicy apples in the Quiet Corner. You can experience all of these sensations in the Quiet Corner.

The Quiet Corner is located in the heart of The Last Green Valley. The Last Green Valley, designated a National Heritage Corridor, is named because the region appears dark when viewed from the night skies.

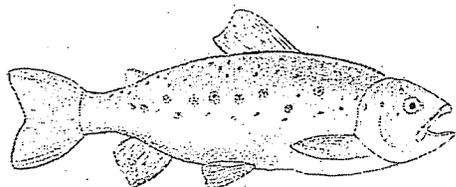
The many forests, ponds, lakes and parks continue to attract visitors during October's Walking Weekends, sponsored by The Last Green Valley. You can also take in the beautiful scenery with a drive through the region. Route 169 has been designated as a "Top 10" scenic byway by Scenic America.

There is always much to do in Quiet Corner and its 21 towns. Visitors can pick fruit in orchards, watch maple sugaring, visit a farm, fish hatchery, nursery or winery, attend a fair, buy antiques, eat homemade ice cream or go to a museum. You can also explore the mill towns and walk the town greens, or hike the many parks and state forests.

From the hills to the harbor, the Quiet Corner is an enjoyable place to visit.



The Quiet Corner has quaint villages along the Quinebaug.

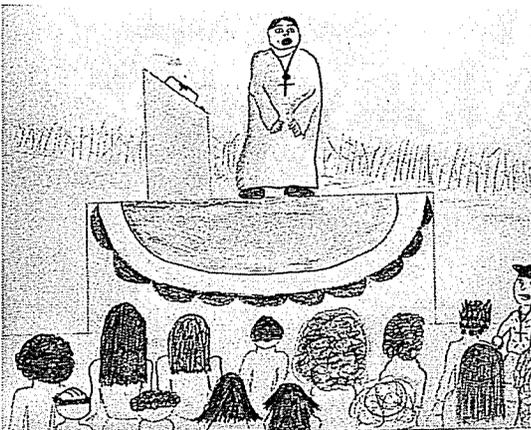
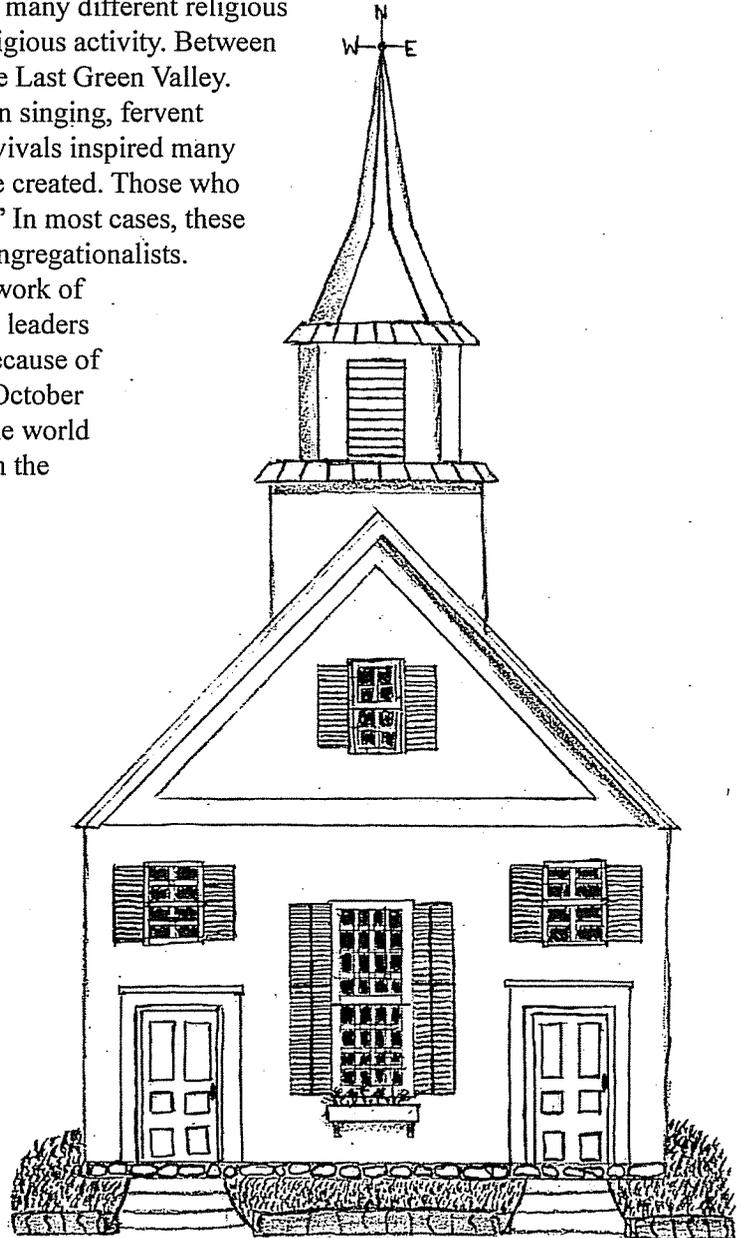


The Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery produces 600,000 trout a year for release into Connecticut's lakes, ponds and streams.

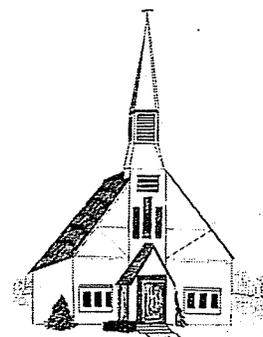
R is for RELIGION

Eastern Connecticut has long been a safe haven for many different religious groups. In fact, the area has always been a center of religious activity. Between 1720 and 1740, the Great Awakening raced through The Last Green Valley. These gatherings were marked by fiery preaching, hymn singing, fervent praying, and numerous religious conversions. These revivals inspired many to return to church. In fact, at times, new churches were created. Those who attended these new churches were called "New Lights." In most cases, these "New Lights" included Baptists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists.

The Last Green Valley also witnessed the mission work of the Reverend Lorenzo Dow, one of the most celebrated leaders in the area. He was known as "Crazy Lorenzo Dow" because of his religious enthusiasm. He was born in Coventry on October 16, 1777. He and many other preachers believed that the world needed a new, vibrant message, and he traveled through the United States and Canada preaching to large crowds. Oftentimes, he traveled many miles to reach the people in need of spiritual regeneration. He wrote many books including a journal about his thirty-eight years in public life. Dow was known for his passion in promoting religious faith. He was so popular, in fact, that he was compelled to make appointments to preach a year in advance. At times, however, his enthusiasm troubled people. Accordingly, one observer wrote of him, "For if ever there was a man who feverishly rowed his boat through the waters of life with only one oar, it is Crazy Lorenzo Dow."

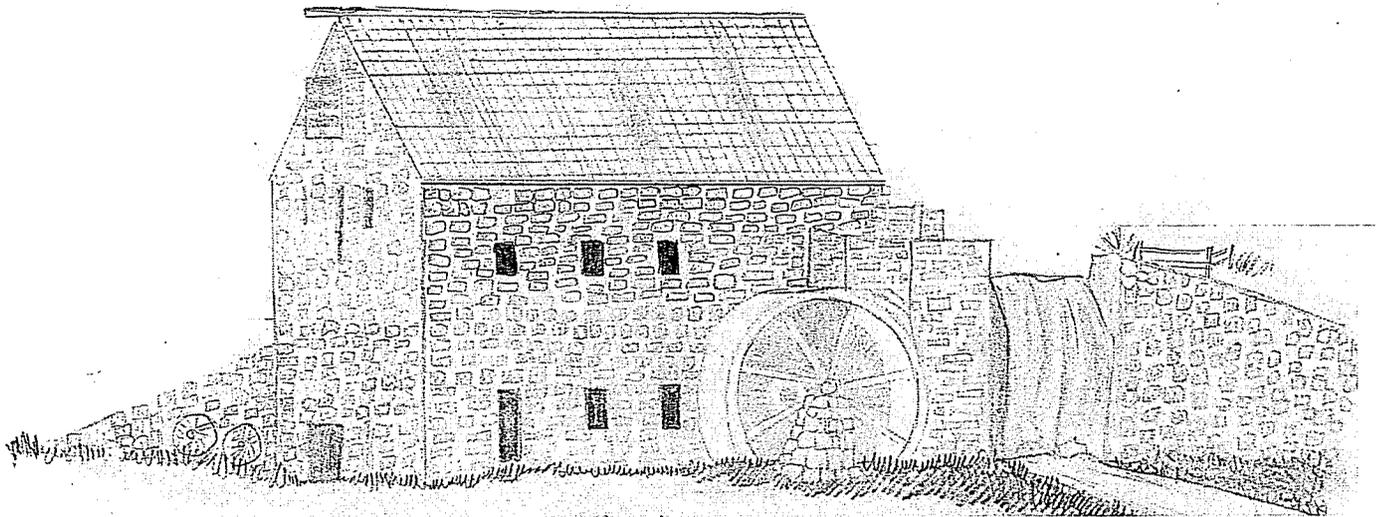


Religious rebels rallied at riveting revivals.



In the late 1600s, "Blue Laws" were created throughout Connecticut so that those who spoke against God's word were punished.

S is for SCENIC



Northeast Connecticut, a land of vast forests, flowing rivers, and rolling hills, hosts one of the country's "last green valleys." While the suburban areas off to the west and south are bustling with shopping plazas, malls, and business centers, this area is an illustration of dazzling scenic views. Seventy percent of the land is composed of dense forests of maple, oak, birch, and ash trees. From the Nipmuck State Forest to the Natchaug State Forest, these majestic areas have included some of the most gorgeous scenery in all of New England.

The land of Nipmuck State Forest, the second oldest state forest in Connecticut, is home to 7,900 acres of ponds, rivers and a stunning evergreen woodland area. This includes an unlimited amount of marvelous scenery and breathtaking views. Simply put, this is the largest unbroken forest in northeast Connecticut. In Thompson, Quaddick State Park was the site where the Nipmuck Indians fished. Its rivers also provided water power for the burgeoning textile industry.

Mashmoquet Brook State Park in Pomfret is a great place to take a walk or just enjoy the sights. The Red Trail is a pleasant walk where you can absorb the natural beauty in one of Connecticut's finest areas. Farther along the trail, comes the Indian Chair, a rock large enough to sit two people comfortably. This spot is a great place to enjoy lunch, meditate, and relax.

The contrast between seasons is a stunning and magnificent one. In spring, the colors of the environment begin to return to their full beauty after the long awaited thaw. Several flowers such as roses and tulips begin to grow to their full potential.

In summer, the flowers explode into a bright array of color. With the coming of fall, some of the most beautiful foliage in all of the country bursts forth. You can enjoy this scenery while hiking on the Nipmuck and Shenipsit trails.

Finally, winter brings a brilliant, white blanket of snow. Frozen ponds provide a venue for skating and fishing. Cross-country skiing is also a way to get exercise and enjoy scenery in the forests and atop hills.

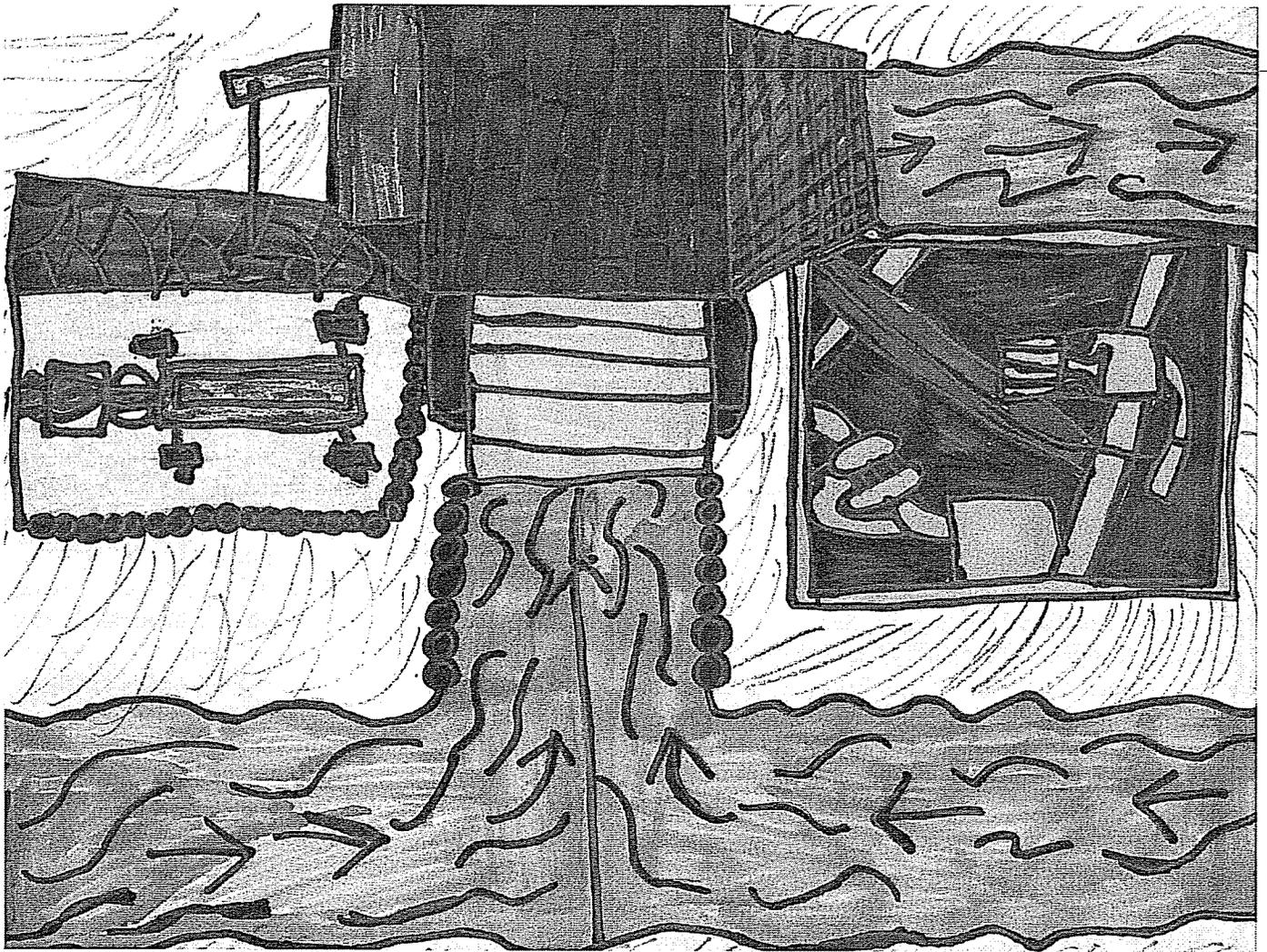
The scenery of The Last Green Valley is magnificent to visitors and those who call it home.

Hopeville Pond State Park, in Griswold, is a delightful example of Mother Nature's natural beauty.



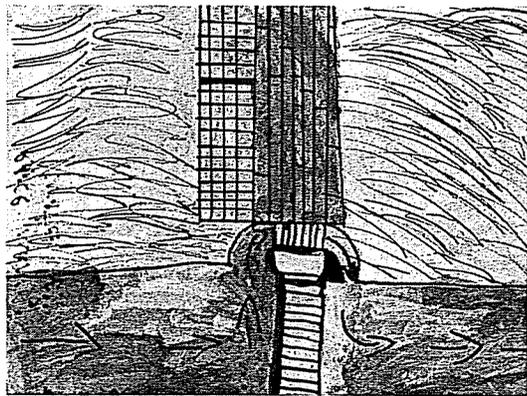
Sensational scenery spills into the souls of sightseers.

T is for TEXTILES



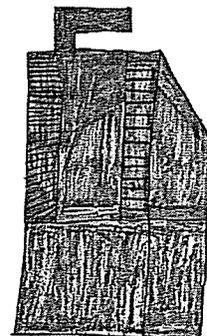
The geology of the Shetucket River Valley is the reason why textile manufacturing became so successful in northeast Connecticut. Small rivers and streams with waterfalls, and steep grades created the necessary waterpower for waterwheels and turbines that turned the belts and gears that drove the machinery of the mills.

The first textiles were produced in the home at a time when families raised sheep and spun wool for cloth on



Textiles turn triacetate into towels.

- the large “walking” spinning wheels found in every colonial
- homestead. Because cotton was too difficult to process and could
- not be grown in New England, people did not produce it at home.
- It had to be imported
- from England and
- France. But linen
- could be produced
- by growing flax.
- There is evidence of
- flax being grown in
- Pomfret in the mid
- 1700s, and a linseed
- oil mill was on
- Mashmoquet Brook.



COTTON GIN

Eli Whitney invented the Cotton Gin to separate the cotton husks and seeds from the fiber.

After the cotton gin was invented, northeast Connecticut started to produce cotton thread and cloth in larger mills.

U is for UNIQUE

There are many unique landmarks, people and places in The Last Green Valley. Did you know the red thread on baseballs was once made at the Willimantic-Linen Company? The Willimantic Footbridge, designated as an historic landmark, is believed to be the only bridge to cross over rail, river and road. Many visitors come to Willimantic to take pictures of the unique Thread City Crossing or "Frog Bridge." The frogs represent Windham's famous frog legend, while the spools represent the city's mill history.

A most unusual train accident happened in East Thompson on December 4, 1891, because of a dispatcher error. It is the only collision in American history that involved four different trains. Luckily, there were only a few casualties.

Governor Chauncey Cleveland, a Hampton native, established mandatory school attendance for Connecticut children and strengthened child labor laws.

Northeast Connecticut is the birthplace of ten governors: Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., Samuel Huntington, Jonathan Trumbull Jr., Chauncey Cleveland, Clark Bissell, Joseph Trumbull, William Buckingham, Everett Lake, John Trumbull and Wilbur Cross. Governor John Dempsey was born in Ireland, but moved to Putnam.

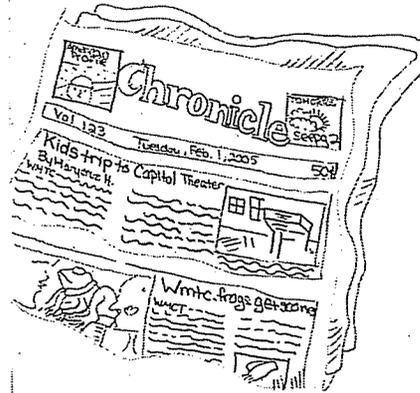
Lebanon's mile-long green, still in agricultural use, offers an example of a colonial settlement. Its association with the American Revolution has earned Lebanon the nickname "Heartbeat of the Revolution." Governor Jonathan Trumbull's contribution of supplies and manpower earned Connecticut the title the "Provision State."

Scotland's Samuel Huntington and Lebanon's William Williams signed the Declaration of Independence.

Emily Huntington of Lebanon founded the "Kitchen Garden" movement, which taught domestic skills to young girls of the working class.

State hero Nathan Hale and heroine Prudence Crandall came from northeast Connecticut.

Congregational clergyman Eleazar Wheelock of Windham wanted to educate Native Americans. Along with Mansfield's Joshua Moor, he launched Moor's



Indian Charity School in 1754. He later became president of Dartmouth College.

Norwich Free Academy is the only high school in the United States with an art museum on campus.

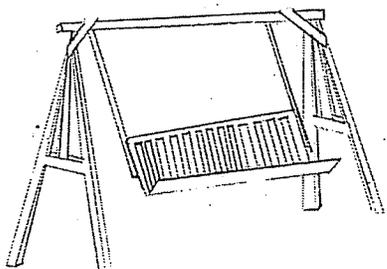
The "Great Wall" in Oneco was built for quarry owners to use up waste stone by mason Henry Sayles in the 1800s. It is 15 feet in width and many teams of horses and men were used to create it.

The "Boom Box Parade" in Willimantic is so unique that it is often covered by state and national media. Held each 4th of July, anyone can participate in this parade, and music is supplied by radios and "boom boxes." Willimantic's newspaper *The Chronicle* has been operated by the same family for 127 years.

Because of its uniqueness, the Last Green Valley was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1999, to preserve and promote its historical, recreational, cultural and natural resources.



*Experience the untold uniqueness of
The Last Green Valley.*



From 1910 until 1950, Baltic was called "Swing Town" because there was a swing in every yard in the village.

V is for VOICES

There are many famous people in The Last Green Valley who have gone down in history. Their voices and opinions have been repeated for generations. We have found famous quotes from Israel Putnam and Nathan Hale, who were Revolutionary heroes, and Benedict Arnold, who became a traitor.

In 1741, Benedict Arnold was born in Norwich, Connecticut. As a young man, Benedict joined the Connecticut Militia and became a captain. He was in charge of 1,000 men whom he led to Canada with a plan to capture Quebec. His famous quote during the battle was "Victory or Death." Benedict Arnold rode into battle saying, "Come on, brave boys, come on!"

Benedict Arnold won many battles for the American side, even though he was not provided with food and basic supplies for his men, or the promotions he thought he deserved. He became frustrated with the Continental Army and joined the British side. Unfortunately, Benedict Arnold is famous for being a traitor instead of for the great leader he was and his many victories in battle.

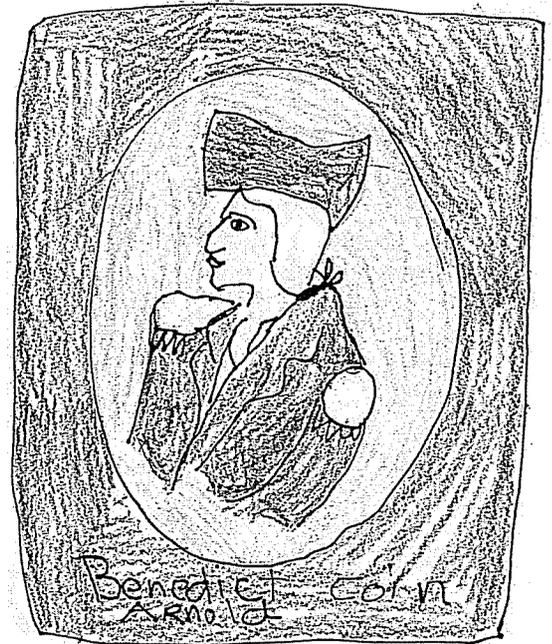
Israel Putnam was one of the colonies' veteran soldiers by the time the Revolutionary War began. Although he was born in Massachusetts, he lived most of his life in Connecticut as a successful farmer and tavern keeper. When the Revolution started, he joined the Sons of Liberty and supported the growing rebellion in New England.

He was a prominent figure in the Battle of Bunker Hill (Breeds Hill) in Boston. This attack was immortalized forever in American history because it was the first serious defeat for the British.

Nathan Hale was born in Coventry, Connecticut in June of 1755. As a young man, he attended Yale University. When Nathan graduated at age 18, he became a school teacher. By 1774, the clouds of revolution had begun to gather, and Nathan decided to leave his teaching job in New London and become a full-time soldier fighting for independence. Even though a spy could be executed if caught by the enemy, Nathan decided to become a member of a special corps of soldiers—the Continental Army's first elite, secret intelligence unit known as Knowlton's Rangers.

Nathan worked as a spy for only a few weeks, posing as a Dutch schoolmaster. His secret identity was uncovered, and he was caught and arrested by British soldiers in New York. Sadly, he was hanged the very next day, so the British could use him as an example to anyone else who was considering spying. Nathan was only 21 years old.

Even though Nathan Hale's promising career was cut short, his legacy lives on. Nathan's famous quote, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country," shows us that he was willing to serve his nation even if it meant he would lose his life.

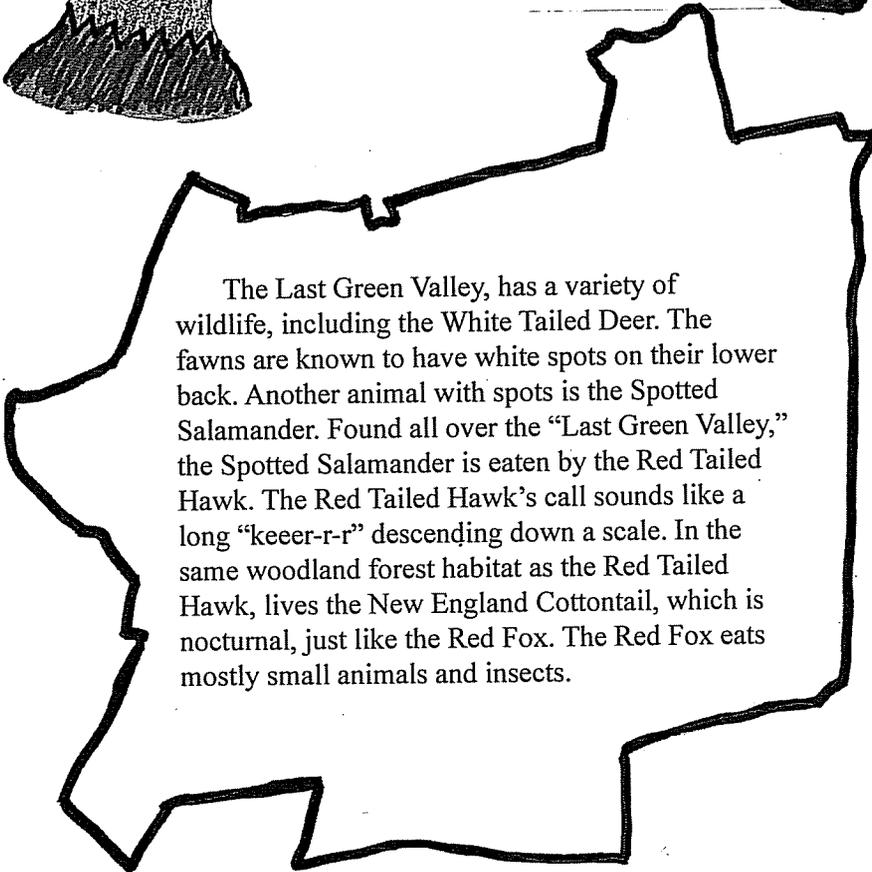
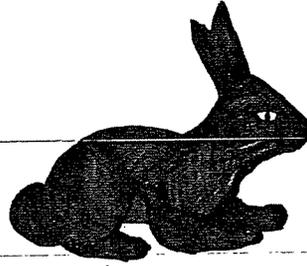
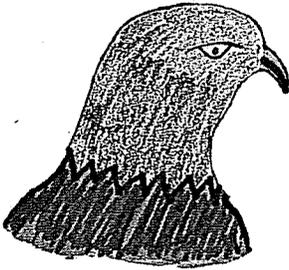


*Valliant, vivacious, violent and
verbose visionaries voiced their views
in verses.*

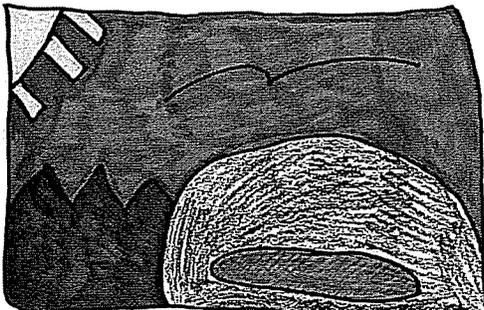
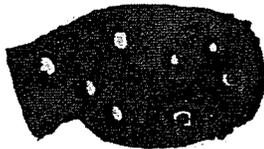
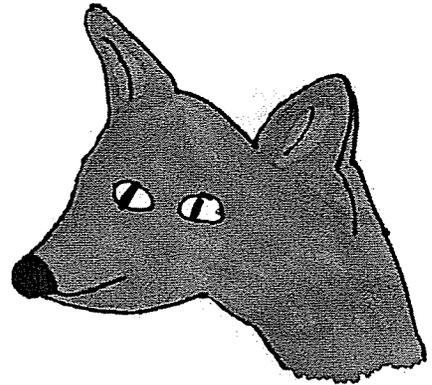
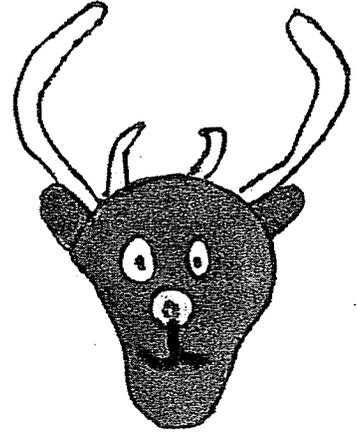


Israel Putnam shouted "Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes!" at the battle of Bunker Hill.

W is for WILDLIFE



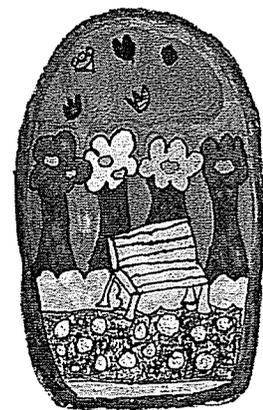
The Last Green Valley, has a variety of wildlife, including the White Tailed Deer. The fawns are known to have white spots on their lower back. Another animal with spots is the Spotted Salamander. Found all over the "Last Green Valley," the Spotted Salamander is eaten by the Red Tailed Hawk. The Red Tailed Hawk's call sounds like a long "keer-r-r" descending down a scale. In the same woodland forest habitat as the Red Tailed Hawk, lives the New England Cottontail, which is nocturnal, just like the Red Fox. The Red Fox eats mostly small animals and insects.



Red Fox

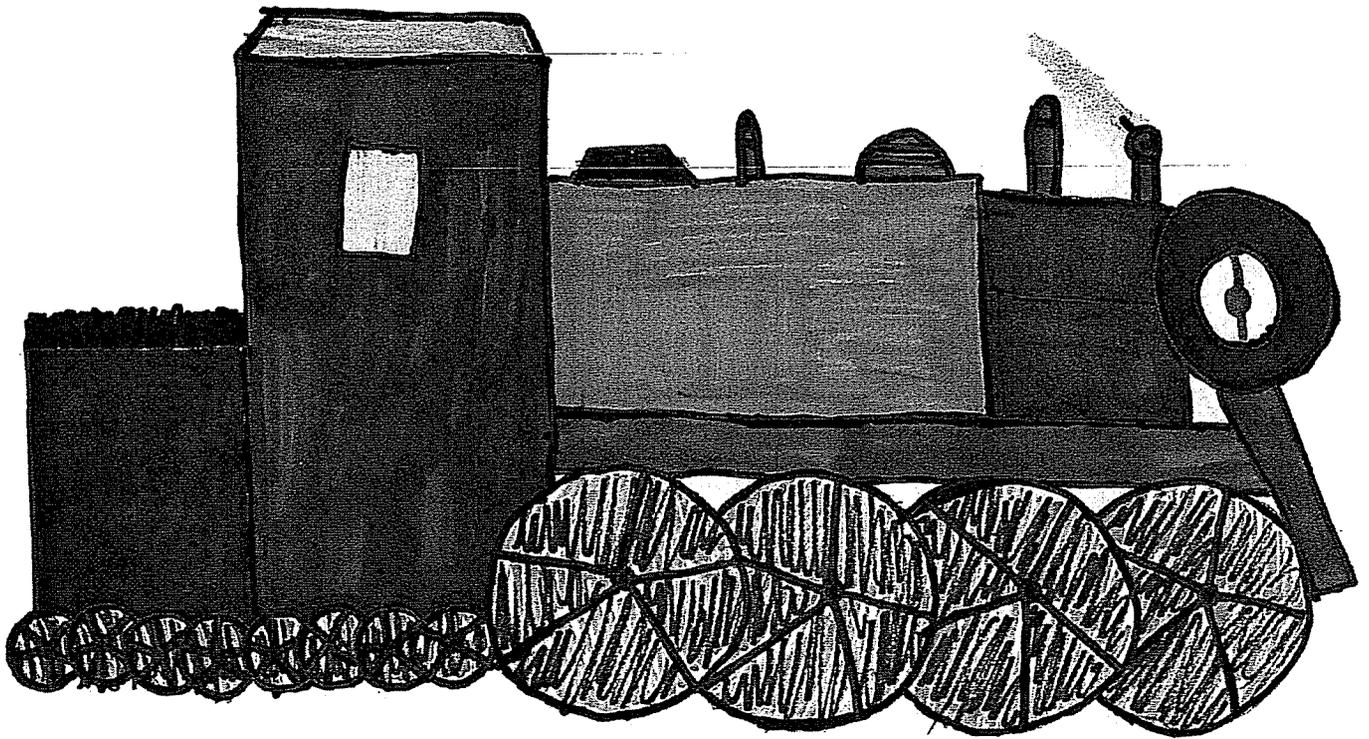
The Red Fox's den can be found in meadows and pasture edges.

It is a deep tunnel which the fox digs, sometimes using old woodchuck holes.

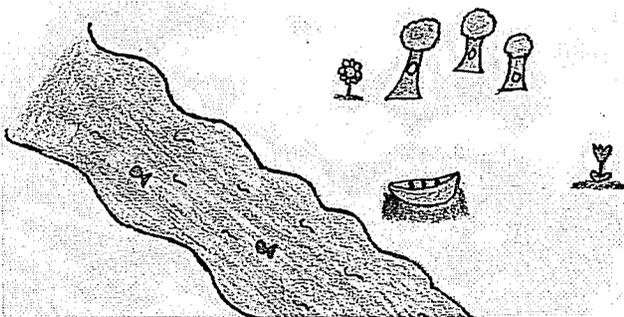


Wildlife wanders in warm weather and in winter.

X is for eXPLORATION



The Airline Trail: The Airline Trail is one of many magnificent trails to explore in the Last Green Valley. Other sites include parks, historical museums and ruins, horseback riding trails and cross country skiing. Long ago, the Airline Trail was one of the fastest railroad tracks in New England. It stretched from Boston to New York. It got its name from the idea that the railroad would follow a path as if a line had been drawn between the two cities. The railroad was completed by the 1870s, and was heavily used until 1955, when the flood of Putnam wrecked the bridge. Sadly, after that, the train had to stop running because it was too expensive to make the repairs. The railroad track has been recently transformed into a walking trail for the public to use.



*eXcellent eXplorations entice eXploratory
eXcitement*



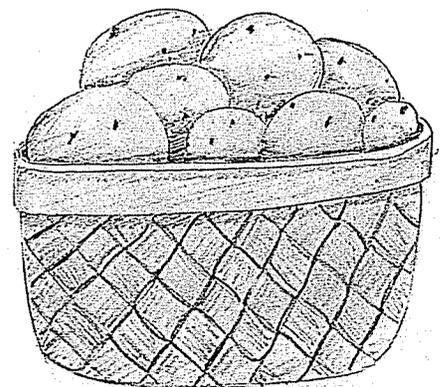
The Wolf Den

The wolf den is a hidden cave in Wolf Den State Park, where Israel Putnam was said to have killed the last female wolf.

Y is for YEAR



- 1659.....Settlers from Saybrook came to Norwich and purchased 9 square miles of land along the Shetucket, Quinebaug and Thames Rivers.
- 1690.....Settlers arrived in Lebanon.
- 1692 Windham is founded.
- 1710.....Governor Jonathan Trumbull was born.
- 1723.....Pomfret is settled.
- 1741.....Benedict Arnold was born.
- 1742.....Israel Putnam is believed to have killed the last wolf in Pomfret.
- 1750.....John Trumbull, the Painter of the Revolution, was born.
- 1752.....Mortlake name changed to Brooklyn.
- 1755.....Nathan Hale was born.
- 1779.....Samuel Huntington of Scotland became President of Congress.
- 1780.....French encampment at Lebanon Green.
- 1781.....George Washington stayed at the home of Lebanon's Jonathan Trumbull Jr.
- 1784.....Plainfield Academy established.
- 1806.....First cotton mill in Windham County was built at Cargill Falls in Putnam.
- 1810.....First silk mill built in Mansfield.
- 1813.....Cotton mills established on Quinebaug River in North Grosvenor Dale.
- 1823.....Jillson Brothers built three mills in Willimantic.
- 1827.....Tiffany Mill built in Brooklyn.
- 1832.....Prudence Crandall opened a private academy in Canterbury. Sarah Harris, a young African-American, began to attend classes.
- 1833.....Lebanon's Dr. William Beaumont, Father of Gastric Physiology, wrote a book on digestion which is still used today.
- 1846..... Woodstock native Henry Bowen, silk merchant, publisher, abolitionist, built Roseland Cottage.
- 1850.....Connecticut orchards provided apple trees to other states.
- 1850.....Wauregan Mills opened.
- 1854.....Willimantic Linen Company began manufacturing cotton thread.
- 1889.....Eastern Connecticut State University founded as a state normal school.
- 1896.....Sterling's Charles Dow introduced the industrial average.
- 1898.....Willimantic Linen Company became the American Thread Company.
- 1955.....Flood destroyed railroad bridges. Damage caused railroads to close.
- 1994.....Quinebaug-Shetucket designated a National Heritage Corridor by Congress.
- 1995.....Prudence Crandall House designated a National Historic landmark.
- 2001.....Thread City Crossing, Frog Bridge, officially opened.



*Years of toil yielded much for
Yankee yeomen and women.*

Z is for ZIP CODES

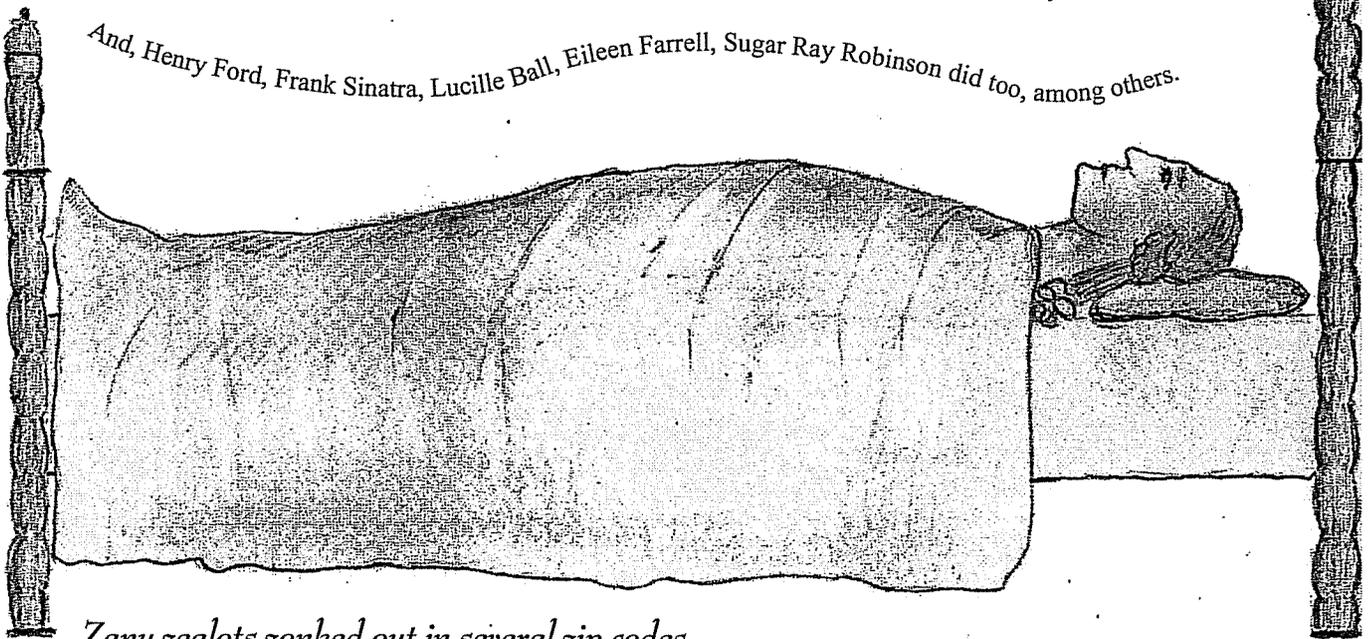
Zip Codes for Connecticut Towns in The Last Green Valley

Ashford06278	Grosvenordale.....06246	Putnam06260
Ballouville.....06233	Hampton.....06247	Quinebaug.....06262
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President Washington, President Theodore Roosevelt, President Taft, President Grant slept here.

Thomas Knowlton, Nathan Hale, Rochembeau, Captain William Kidd, Buffalo Bill, Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chaplin, also.

And, Henry Ford, Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball, Eileen Farrell, Sugar Ray Robinson did too, among others.



Zany zealots zonked out in several zip codes.

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