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Introduction

Previously studded with estates and grand hotels, the quiet, year-round villages in the Towns of Babylon and Islip today suggest little of the past and the seasonal frenzy of social activity that was the “Hidden Gold Coast” on the South Shore of Long Island. To many who pick up this volume, the concept of an estate area, a “Gold Coast,” in this section of the South Shore of Long Island will be a new concept. In truth it is an old reality; preceding the development of Long Island’s North Shore Gold Coast by some forty years. Spending the Spring and Autumn months in this area of western Suffolk County on the land that slopes down to the Great South Bay with the Atlantic Ocean visible on the horizon beyond Fire Island was such a social phenomenon that the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and local newspapers announced the rental intentions and seasonal arrivals of families. When houses were sold; when houses were renovated; when new houses were built, that was news.

The South Shore estate owners built their homes, generally more modest than those that would be built in the estate area of the North Shore, conveniently close to the main roads and actually financed railroad spurs to serve the South Shore communities where their homes were located. The plank roads gave way to gravel roads which eventually gave way to paved roads. Families who had moved their households in wagons and carriages and boats soon had automobiles. The arrival of fleets of moving vans heralded the summer season. The seasonal visitors enjoyed the congenial socialization of the seaside environment so much that families who rented soon became families that owned homes to which they escaped from the very different world of the city. Coming out to the Island primarily from Brooklyn and Manhattan, they tended to build near their friends thus establishing streets of country homes that could almost be labeled as “Manhattan streets” and “Brooklyn streets.”

The North Shore Gold Coast extended eastward along the Island’s North Shore from the Queens / Nassau boundary for approximately twenty five miles to the Village of Centerport in Suffolk County and some fifteen miles southward from the shoreline of the Long Island Sound, an area of approximately three hundred and seventy-five square miles. The South Shore Gold Coast began at the Nassau / Suffolk border and extended eastward about sixteen miles to the Bayport / Blue Point village boundary and about one mile southward from South Country Road to the shore of the Great South Bay, an area of approximately sixteen square miles. The expanse of the North Shore area and the relative exclusivity of its residents created a significantly different social structure from that of the South Shore.
A closely knit, but ethnically and religiously diverse and tolerant, social and business community evolved on the South Shore as families settled in for the season. They were predominately sugar plantation owners and sugar refiners, merchants, shipping magnates, attorneys, capitalists, and investment bankers. Curtiss–Wright aeroplanes, the New York Central Railroad, Gulden mustard, Domino sugar, Entenmann bakery, Moran tugboats, Adams and Chicle chewing gum, Doxsee clams, Lorillard and American Tobacco, deMurias and Bachia cigars, Abraham and Straus, Arnold and Constable, Singer sewing machines, Bon Ami cleanser, Republic Pictures, and Pinkerton National Detective Agency are names still recognizable today; they were the businesses of South Shore families.

With the notable exceptions of William Collins Whitney, Benjamin Sumner Welles III, August Belmont, Perry Belmont, George Scott Graham, Meyer Robert Guggenheim, Sr., Walter Hines Page, Sr., Regis Henri Post, Sr., Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Sr., George Campbell Taylor, and Landon Ketchum Thorne, Jr., few South Shore Gold Coast residents served in national politics. Unlike their counterparts who lived in the North Shore’s Gold Coast area, those living on the South Shore were more likely to serve at the local level.

Their sons and daughters grew up along the shore, socialized, and married. They, in turn, brought their families to the South Shore. Today, many of their descendents still live on the South Shore, having chosen to live on Long Island year-round; the island so aptly described in Hal B. Fullerton’s promotional campaign for the Long Island Rail Road as the “Blessed Isle.”

Raymond E. and Judith A. Spinzia

Endnotes

Fortescue, Granville Roland (1875-1952)

Occupation(s): military - member, Rough Riders – wounded at San Juan Hill; saw action in Philippines, 1898-1901; served as President Theodore Roosevelt’s military attaché in Japan; special agent, Cuban Rural Guard; active duty in France, 314 Field Artillery, during World War I
journalist - war correspondent, London Standard, during Riff War in Spanish Morocco; war correspondent, London Daily Telegraph during World War I; editor, Liberty Magazine (fiction)
writer - At the Front with Three Allies: My Adventures in the Great War, 1914; Russia, the Balkans and the Dardanelles, 1915; What of the Dardanelles? An Analysis, 1915; Forearmed: How to Build a Citizen Army, 1916; France Bears the Burden, 1917; Delor, 1915 (a play); Love and Live, 1921 (a play); The Unbeliever, 1925 (a play); Frontline and Dead Line: The Experiences of a War Correspondent, 1937

Marriage(s): 1910-1952 – Grace Hubbard Bell (1883-1979)

Address: McConnell Avenue, Bayport
Name of estate: Wildholme
Year of construction: c. 1873
Style of architecture: Eclectic with Italianate elements
Architect(s):
Landscape architect(s):
House extant: no; destroyed by fire in 1958*

Historical notes:

In 1873, Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Sr. purchased the two-hundred-acre farm of Daniel Lane and remodeled its farm house into his country residence Lotos Lake. It was subsequently owned by Granville Roland Fortescue, who called Wildholme.

Granville Roland Fortescue was the only Roosevelt to be buried in Arlington Cemetery. He was the illegitimate son of Robert Barnwell and Marion Theresa O’Shea Roosevelt, Sr., who resided at Lotos Lake in Bayport. His brother Kenyon, a bachelor, resided in Sayville. His sister Maude married Ernest W. S. Pickhardt and resided in London, England.

Grace Hubbard Bell was the daughter of Charles John and Roberta Wolcott Hubbard Bell of Twin Oaks in Washington, DC. Grace’s sister Helen married Julian Ashton Ripley, Sr. and resided at Three Corner Farm in Muttontown.

Granville Roland and Grace Hubbard Bell Fortescue’s daughter Marion married Daulton Gillespie Viskniskki, the son of journalist Guy Thomas and Virginia Gillespie Viskniskki of Montclair, NJ, and resided in Canterbury, OH. Their daughter Helen married Julian Louis Reynolds, heir to the Reynolds aluminum and tobacco fortune. In 1966, the Reynoldses’ twenty-nine-year-old son Richard accidentally walked into the moving propeller of a plane that he was inspecting for possible purchase.


*In 1953, the house and its furnishings were severely vandalized. In 1954, it was sold to real estate developer Maurice Babash. While he was demolishing it, the house was destroyed by fire.
Guggenheim, Meyer Robert, Sr. (1885-1959)

Occupation(s):
- industrialist - member, executive committee, American Smelting & Refining Co.;
- secretary and vice president, U. S. Zinc Co.;
- director, Guggenheim & Sons;
- director, Guggenheim Exploration Co.
- diplomat - United States Ambassador to Portugal, 1953-1954*
- financier - director, American Smelting Securities Co.

Civic Activism:
- trustee, National Symphony Orchestra, Washington, DC;
- trustee, Guggenheim Foundation

Marriage(s):
- M/1 – 1905-div. 1915 – Grace L. Bernheimer
- M/2 – 1915-1928 – Margaret Gibbs Miller Weyher (b. 1896)
- M/3 – 1928- 1937 – Elizabeth Bross Eaton (b. 1903)

Address: Deer Park Avenue, North Babylon
Name of estate: Firenze Farm**
Style of architecture: Colonial Revival

Historical notes:
The Long Island Society Register, 1929 lists Colonel and Mrs. M. Robert Guggenheim as residing on Deer Park Avenue in Babylon.

He was the son of Daniel and Florence Shloss Guggenheim, who resided at Hempstead House in Sands Point. His brother Harry, who resided at Falaise in Sands Point, married Helen Rosenberg, Caroline Morton, and, subsequently, Alicia Patterson. His sister Gladys married Roger W. Straus and resided in Manhattan.

*Guggenheim’s diplomatic career was a disaster; his ambassadorship lasted barely a year. Known within State Department circles for “not having anything above his shoulders,” he was also generally known for his indifferent work habits, gambling, habitual womanizing, and social faux pas. In his first ambassadorial speech he insulted his Portuguese guests by saying that his preference for an ambassadorial posting would have been for Great Britain but Portugal would do. A few months later, at a state banquet, he began flipping utensils at the dinner table. When a piece of silverware landed in the cleavage of an elderly guest, Guggenheim reached over and retrieved it from the between the dignitary’s breasts. [Irwin and Debi Unger, The Guggenheims (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2005), pp. 186-89.]

Grace L. Bernheimer Guggenheim was the daughter of Jacob Bernheimer of Manhattan. She subsequently married Martin E. Snellenberg of Philadelphia, PA.

Meyer Robert and Grace L. Bernheimer Guggenheim, Sr.’s son Daniel Guggenheim II suffered from heart disease, as did most of the male line of the Guggenheim family, and died at the age of eighteen while a student at Phillips Exeter Academy. Their son Meyer Robert Guggenheim, Jr. married four times. His first wife Helen Claire Allyn was the daughter of Alfred Warren Allyn of Montreal, Canada. His second wife was his secretary and his fourth wife was Shirlee McMullen.

Guggenheim’s conversion to Catholicism and his Roman Catholic ceremony marriage to Margaret Gibbs Miller Weyher, the daughter of Casper F. Weyher of Scranton, PA, stunned the Jewish community as did his subsequent marriage to Elizabeth Bross Eaton, the daughter of James Waterbury and Elizabeth Bross Eaton, Sr. of West Islip. Their Lutheran church wedding was devoid of guests. Elizabeth Guggenheim’s brother James Waterbury Eaton, Jr. married Matilda Brown and resided in Cold Spring Harbor.

Rebecca Pollard Guggenheim was the daughter of Andrew W. Pollard. She had previously been married to William Van Lennep, Jr. After Guggenheim’s death she married John A. Logan.

**Guggenheim’s Babylon and Washington, DC, houses and his four yachts were all named after his mother, as was his parents’ estate in New Jersey.

***In 1933, the house, which was located on 531 acres, was damaged by fire.
Gulden, Frank, Sr. (1879-1961)

Occupation(s): industrialist - chairman of board, Charles Gulden, Inc. (manufacturer of mustard)

Civic Activism: president, board of trustees, Southside Hospital, Bay Shore; trustee, St. John’s Hospital, Brooklyn; chairman, executive committee, Episcopal Church Charity Foundation; trustee, Berkeley Divinity School, New Haven, CT; vice-president, Boys Club of New York; trustee, Hofstra University, Hempstead; chairman, local chapter, New York State Temporary Emergency Relief Committee during the Depression; member, Emergency Committee of the Red Cross during World War II

Marriage(s): 1902-1961 – Augusta Henes (d. 1969)

Address: 137 West Bayberry Road, Islip

Name of estate: 
Year of construction: 1899-1900
Style of architecture: Moorish*
Architect(s): Grosvenor Atterbury designed the house (for H. O. Havemeyer)
Landscape architect(s): Nathan F. Barrett (for H. O. Havemeyer)**

House extant: yes; but substantially altered
Historical notes:

The house, originally named Bayberry Point, was built by Henry Osborne Havemeyer as his own residence in his “Modern Venice” development.

It was owned by Gulden from the late 1920s to the late 1940s, at which time he relocated to 117 West Bayberry Road.

He was the son of Charles and Mary C. Kellers Gulden, Sr., who resided at Netherbay in Bay Shore. Augusta Henes Gulden was the daughter of Julia Henes.

Frank and Augusta Henes Gulden, Sr.’s daughter Augusta married Carrick F. Cochran, the son of Dr. Robert W. Cochran of Sarasota, FL. Their son Frank Gulden, Jr. married Louise Guastavino and resided in Islip and Bay Shore. Their daughter Julia married Eric Gordon Ramsay, Sr. and resided in Brightwaters. Their son Charles Gulden II, who married Samantha Gaynor Isham, Faith Hollins, and, subsequently, Mary Faran Bulkley, resided in Islip and, later, in Cold Spring Harbor.

[See other Gulden entries for additional family information.]

*The sales brochure for “Modern Venice” states that the Moorish–style architecture was suggested by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

**The sale brochure also states that “Modern Venice” would be devoid of trees and vegetation and that Nathan F. Barrett was the landscape architect.

The house was subsequently owned by Dr. David Dodge Moore.

front facade, 2006
Roosevelt, Robert Barnwell, Sr. (1829-1906)

Occupation(s):
- attorney
- publisher - owner and editor, *New York Citizen* (a political newspaper)
- capitalist - trustee, Brooklyn Bridge
- politician - congressman from Manhattan, 1871-1873; a founder and president, New York Fisheries (which became New York State Department of Environmental Conservation)
- diplomat - United States Ambassador to The Netherlands
- writer - *Game Fish of the Northern States of America*, 1862; *The Game Birds of the Coast and Lakes of the Northern States of America; The Striped Bass, Trout, and Black Bass of the Northern States*, 1866; *Superior Fishing*, 1865; *The South Bay of Long Island; Game Fish of the Northern States of America and the British Provinces; Love and Luck: The Story of a Summer’s Loitering On The Great South Bay*, 1887

Civic Activism:
- president, New York Association for the Protection of Game;
- advocate, organic gardening;
- advocate, protection of wildlife;
- president, Founders and Patriots;
- president, Holland Society

Marriage(s):
- M/1 – 1850-1887 – Elizabeth Thorn Ellis (1830-1887)
- M/2 – 1888-1902 – Marion Theresa O’Shea (1849-1902) (aka Mrs. Marion T. Fortescue)*

Address:
- McConnell Avenue, Bayport

Name of estate:
- Lotos Lake

Year of construction:
- c. 1873

Style of architecture:
- Eclectic with Italianate elements

Architect(s):
- Lotos Lake, sketch by Henry N. Betemann, 1958

Historical notes:

In 1873, Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Sr. purchased the two-hundred-acre farm of Daniel Lane and remodeled the farmhouse into his country residence *Lotos Lake*.

He was the son of Cornelius Van Shaach and Margaret Barnhill Roosevelt, Sr. of Manhattan. His brother Theodore, the father of President Theodore Roosevelt, married Martha Bullock and resided at *Tranquility* in Oyster Bay Cove. His brother Silas married Mary West. His brother James married Elizabeth Norris Emlen.

His brother Cornelius Van Shaach Roosevelt, Jr. married Laura Horton Porter.

Elizabeth Thorn Ellis Roosevelt was the daughter of John French and Elizabeth Glen Thorn Ellis of Manhattan.

Robert Barnwell and Elizabeth Thorn Ellis Roosevelt, Sr.’s son Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, Jr., who resided at *The Lilacs* in Sayville, married Grace Guernsey Woodhouse and, subsequently, Lilie Hamersly. Their son John Ellis Roosevelt, who married Nannie Mitchell Vance and, subsequently, Edith Hamersly, resided at *Meadow Croft* in Sayville. Their daughter Margaret married August Van Horne Kimberly and resided in Chicago, IL.

[See Fortescue entry for information about Roosevelt’s concurrent family.]

Roosevelt purchased garish green gloves for his numerous mistresses at A. T. Stewart Department Store in Manhattan. His friends made a point of looking for the gloves while strolling Fifth Avenue and Central Park.

*The estate was subsequently owned by Roosevelt’s illegitimate son Granville Roland Fortescue, who called it *Wildholme*.

In 1953, the house and its furnishings were severely vandalized.

**In 1954, it was sold to real estate developer Maurice Babash. While Babash was demolishing the house, it was destroyed by fire.
Stanchfield, John Barry, Sr. (1855-1921)

Occupation(s): attorney* - partner, Stanchfield and Levy; partner, Reynolds, Stanchfield, and Collins; partner, Hill and Stanchfield; district attorney, Chemung County, NY, 1880-1885

politician** - mayor, Elmira, NY, 1886-1888; member, New York State Assembly, 1895-1896; New York State Assembly Minority Leader, 1896

Marriage(s): 1886-1921 – Clara Spaulding (1860-1935)

Address: Ocean Avenue, Islip

Name of estate: Afterglow

Year of construction: c. 1890

Style of architecture: Shingle

Historical notes:

The house, originally named Afterglow, was built by John Gibb. In 1909, it was purchased by Stanchfield. He was the son of Dr. John K. and Mrs. Glovina S. Barry Stanchfield of Elmira, NY. Clara Spaulding Stanchfield was the daughter of Henry C. and Clara W. Spaulding of Elmira, NY. John Barry and Clara Spaulding Stanchfield, Sr.’s son Dr. John Barry Stanchfield, Jr., an endocrinologist, resided in Salt Lake City, UT. Their daughter Alice, who inherited the Islip house, married Dr. Arthur Mullen Wright. Both the Stanchfields and Wrights continued to call the estate Afterglow.

*Stanchfield established the right of non-incrimination based on the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution in the case of Forbes vs. Taylor. The 1894 case involved Cornell University sophomores who attempted to disrupt a freshman banquet by releasing chlorine gas. The gas caused the death of a college employee in the next room. Stanchfield advised his client Taylor not to answer any incriminating questions at the Grand Jury hearing which resulted in Taylor being charged with contempt of court. Stanchfield’s position was upheld by the United States Supreme Court thus establishing a defendant’s right to “Plead the Fifth.” [The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography (Clifton, NJ: James T. White & Co., 1984), vol. 14, pp. 360-361.] In another famous court case, Stanchfield succeeded in having Harry K. Thaw, the murderer of architect Stanford White, released after Thaw had spent nine years as an inmate in the Matteawan Asylum. [The New York Times June 26, 1921, p. 23.]

**In the 1900 election for Governor of New York, Stanchfield, who was the Democratic candidate, lost. In 1901, he lost in the election for United States Senator from New York State.
Thorne, Landon Ketchum, Jr. (1913-1980)

Occupation(s): publisher - *The Rome Daily American*, Rome, Italy  
financier - vice-president, Bankers Trust Co.;  
director, United Corp. (closed-ended investment firm);  
managing director, Bankers International Corp.;  
managing director, Bankers International Financing Co, Inc.  
industrialist - president, Vorac Co. (chemical coating manufacturer)  
diplomat - United States Economic Minister, Office of Foreign Operations, to Italy;  
United States Economic Minister, Office of Foreign Operations, to Belgium  
Civic Activism: chairman of board, American University, Cairo, Egypt;  
chairman of board, YMCA–YWCA Camping Services of Greater New York;  
trustee, New York Zoological Society;  
trustee, Pierpont Morgan Library, NYC;  
trustee, American Academy, Rome, Italy;  
assistant treasurer, New York Young Republican Club  
Marriage(s): M/1 – 1936-1941 – Veronica Boswell Elliot  
M/2 – 1942 – Alice Hoadley Barry  
Address: Admiral’s Drive East, West Bay Shore  
Name of estate: The Lodge  
Year of construction:  
Style of architecture: Ranch  
Architect(s):  
Landscape architect(s):  
House extant: yes  
Historical notes:  

Landon Ketchum Thorne, Jr. was the son of Landon Ketchum and Julia Atterbury Loomis Thorne, Sr., who resided at *Thorneham* in West Bay Shore. Before moving to West Bay Shore, he had resided on Split Rock Road in Syosset and on Lake Avenue in Greenwich, CT.

Veronica Boswell Elliot Thorne was the daughter of Sir Gilbert and Lady Flournoy Hopkins Elliot of *Wolfelee* in Roxburghshire, Scotland, and a descendant of Samuel Johnson’s biographer James Boswell.

Alice Hoadley Barry Thorne was the daughter of David S. and Alice Hoadley Smith Barry of Washington, DC. Her sister Frances married B. Gordon Dickey, the son of Robert B. Dickey of Tuxedo, NY.

Landon Ketchum and Alice Hoadley Barry Thorne, Jr.’s daughter Julia married John Forbes Kerry at the Thorne’s ancestral home *Thorneham* in West Bay Shore. Kerry is the United States Senator from Massachusetts and was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States in 2004. Julia subsequently married Richard J. Charlesworth, with whom she resided in Bozeman, MT, until her death in 2006. The Thornes’ son Landon Ketchum Thorne III married Sarah Ashton Nuese, the daughter of Robert E. Nuese of *Indian Lane Farm* in Cornwall, CT. Their son David married Rose O’Neil Geer, the daughter of Garrow Throop Geer of Manhattan.

The *Social Register, Summer 1974* lists Landon K. and Miriam A. Rose Thorne [Jr.] as residing at *The Lodge* on South Country Road in Bay Shore [Admiral’s Drive East, West Bay Shore].

Miriam A. Rose Thorne had previously been married to Fulton H. Cahners.
Vanderbilt, William Kissam, Sr. (1849-1920)

Occupation(s): capitalist - president, New York Central Railroad and its subsidiaries
Civic Activism: built and endowed St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Islip
Marriage(s): M/1 – 1875-div. 1895 – Alva Erskine Smith (1853-1933)
- writer - *Melinda and Her Sisters* (suffragist opera/with Elsa Maxwell);
  *One Month's Log of the Seminole*, 1916;
two unpublished autobiographies, 1917, 1933
journalist - numerous newspaper and magazine articles*
Civic Activism: woman's suffrage -
  founder and president, Political Equality Assoc.;
  first president, National Woman's Party**;
purchased building in Washington, DC, for National Woman’s Party Headquarters [now, known as Sewall–Belmont House];
  primary benefactor and president of board,
  Hempstead Hospital, Hempstead [not the present-day hospital also named Hempstead Hospital];
established, Brookholt School of Agriculture for Women at East Meadow estate;
built and supported, Sea Side Hospital for Sick Children, a 200-bed hospital in Great River (later, Trinity Sea Side Home)
M/2 – 1903-1920 – Anne Harriman (1860-1940)
- Civic Activism: a founder, Franco–American War Museum;
donated $1 million for the establishment of the East River Home and Hospital, NYC;
a founder and director, American Woman’s Association, NYC;

Address: South County Road, Oakdale
Name of estate: *Idlehour***
Year of construction: 1878
Style of architecture: Shingle
Architect(s): Richard Morris Hunt
  designed the 1878 house
  (for W. K. Vanderbilt, Sr.)
Landscape architect(s):
House extant: no; 1878 house destroyed by fire in 1899*****
Historical notes:

The one-hundred-room house, originally named *Idlehour*, was built by William Kissam Vanderbilt, Sr. He was the son of William Henry and Maria Kissam Vanderbilt of Staten Island, NY.

Alva Erskine Smith Vanderbilt was the daughter of Murray Forbes and Phoebe Desha Smith of Mobile, AL, and Manhattan. Alva subsequently married Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont, with whom she resided at *Marble House* and *Belcourt* in Newport, RI, and *Brookholt* in East Meadow. After Belmont’s death in 1908, Alva relocated to *Beacon Towers* in Sands Point and, subsequently, to France, where she was living at the time of her death.

William Kissam and Alva Erskine Smith Vanderbilt Sr.’s daughter Consuelo married Charles Richard John Spencer–Churchill, the Ninth Duke of Marlborough and, subsequently, Louis Jacques Balsan, with whom she resided at *Old Fields* in East Norwich, in Southampton, and in Palm Beach, FL. Their son William Kissam Vanderbilt, Jr. married Virginia Graham Fair and, subsequently, Rosamund Lancaster and resided at
Deepdale in Lake Success and at Eagle's Nest in Centerport. Their son Harold, who inherited the second Idlehour house, married Gertrude Lewis Conaway.

Anne Harriman Vanderbilt was the daughter of Oliver and Laura Low Harriman. She had previously been married to Samuel Stevens Sands, Jr. and Lewis Morris Rutherfurd. Samuel Stevens and Anne Harriman Sands, Jr.’s son Samuel Stevens Sands III married Gertrude Sheldon, the daughter of George R. Sheldon of Manhattan. Their son George married Anne Aldridge Gibson, the daughter of John Aldridge Gibson of Leesburg, VA. Both George and his brother Samuel were killed in automobile accidents. Lewis Morris and Anne Harriman Rutherfurd’s daughter Barbara married Cyril Hatch and, subsequently, Winfield J. Nichols. Their daughter Margaret married Frederick Leybourne Sprague.

*Mrs. Belmont donated the proceeds from her newspaper and magazine articles to the suffrage movement.
**Alva Belmont's Sands Point estate was the site of the 1920 National Woman's Party Conference.
***Anne Harriman Vanderbilt was the first woman to receive a gold medal from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for her service to France.
****According to Vanderbilt’s own stationery and the name painted on his private railroad car, Idlehour was one word.
*****In 1899, while William Kissam, Jr. and his wife Virginia Graham Fair were spending their honeymoon at the estate, the 1879 house was destroyed by fire.

*See following entry for history of 1900 house.*

Vanderbilt, William Kissam, Sr. (1849-1920)

Occupation(s): [See previous entry.]
Marriage(s): [See previous entry.]
Address: South Country Road, Oakdale
Name of estate: Idlehour
Year of construction: 1900
Style of architecture: Beaux Arts with Flemish elements
Architect(s): Richard Howland Hunt designed the 1900 house (for W. K. Vanderbilt, Sr.) Warren and Wetmore designed the 1903 bachelor annex and indoor tennis court (for W. K. Vanderbilt, Sr.)
Landscape architect(s):
House extant: yes
Historical notes:

With the destruction of the first Idlehour by fire, William Kissam Vanderbilt, Sr. built a second house on the site which he also called Idlehour.

The estate, which was inherited by his son Harold, had several subsequent owners including the firm of Edmund G. and Charles F. Burke, Inc., which, in the 1920s, was unsuccessful in its attempt to subdivide the estate’s property for a housing development. In 1937, the main residence and the carriage house were acquired by the Fraternity of Master Metaphysicians. In 1947, National Dairy Research Labs, Inc. purchased the main residence, carriage house, and twenty-three acres. In 1963, the National Dairy holdings were acquired by Adelphi University of Garden City for use as its Adelphi Suffolk campus. In 1968, the Oakdale campus became Dowling College.

In 1974, the main residence was the site of a devastating fire. The smoking lounge, main staircase, plaster friezes in the dining room [Hunt Room], woodwork and the ornate ceiling in the living room, and velvet tapestry wallcovering throughout the house were destroyed. Repairs were made to the fire-damaged main residence by the Fortunoff family; historic elements were not restored. Karl Bitter’s sculpture, “Diana, the Huntress,” in the dining room, was restored by a member of the college’s art department.

*See previous entry for family information and a history of the 1878 house.*
William Kissam Vanderbilt Sr. Estate, Idlehour [1900]

Living room, c. 1903

Living room, 1990

Section of friezes in Hunt Room (dining room)

Front entrance foyer and main staircase, c. 1903

Men’s smoking lounge, c. 1903
William Kissam Vanderbilt Sr. Estate, Idlehour [1900]

main staircase, c. 1903

main staircase, 1990

wallpaper replacement of Hunt Room friezes, 1990

hallway outside men's smoking lounge, c. 1903

hallway outside men's smoking lounge, 1990
Listed are only those statesmen and diplomats who resided in the Towns of Babylon and Islip.

**Statesmen**

**Department of Navy** (became part of Department of Defense in 1947)

**Whitney, William Collins**
- Secretary of Navy (Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison administrations)
  Islip

**Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Deputy Secretaries of State** –

**Welles, Benjamin Sumner, III**
- Assistant Secretary of State (Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration)
- Under Secretary of State (Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration)
  *Welles House, Islip*

**Diplomats**

**Belmont, August, Sr.**
- United States Charge d' affaires, The Netherlands
- United States Minister to The Netherlands
- Austrian Council General to the United States
  *Nursery Stud Farm, North Babylon*

**Belmont, Perry**
- Minister to Spain, 1887-1888
  *Nursery Stud Farm, North Babylon*

**Guggenheim, Meyer Robert, Sr.**
- Ambassador to Portugal, 1953-1954
  *Firenze Farm, North Babylon*

**Page, Walter Hines, Sr.**
- Ambassador to Court of St. James (Wilson administration)
  Bay Shore

**Post, Regis Henri, Sr.**
- Governor, Territory of Puerto Rico, 1907
  *Littlewood, Bayport*

**Roosevelt, Robert Barnwell, Sr.**
- Ambassador to The Netherlands
  *Lotos Lake, Bayport*
Diplomats (cont’d)

Taylor, George Campbell
   – Member, United States Embassy at Court of St. James (Lincoln administration)
   East Islip

Thorne, Landon Ketchum, Jr.
   – Economic Minister, Office of Foreign Operations, Italy
   – Economic Minister, Office of Foreign Operations, Belgium
   The Lodge, West Bay Shore

Welles, Benjamin Sumner, III
   – Chief, Latin American Affairs Division, Department of State, 1920
   – Ambassador to Cuba, 1933
   Welles House, Islip

Advisors and Personal Secretaries

Post, Regis Henri, Sr.
   – Auditor, Territory of Puerto Rico, 1903
   – Secretary to the Governor of Puerto Rico, 1904
   Littlewood, Bayport

Welles, Benjamin Sumner, III
   – Secretary, United States Embassy in Japan, 1917
   Welles House, Islip
The village references used in this compilation are the current (2007) village or hamlet boundaries and should not be confused with zip code designations. When the owner who contracted for the original construction of the house is known, it is indicated by an asterisk.

**AMITYVILLE**

Haight, Gilbert Lawrence, Jr.
Ireland, Rufus J., Sr.
Thorn, Edward Floyd−Jones

**BABYLON**

Blagden, Crawford, Sr.
Bromell, Alfred Henry
Brownlie, George, *Willow Close*
Cox, George, Jr.
deMurias, Fernando Enrique
Evers, Cecil C.
Ford, Malcolm W.
* Foster, Jay Stanley, II
Haff, Albert D.
Hawley, Edwin
Hayward, William Tyson, Jr.
Hepburn, Henry Charles, Jr., *The Firs*
Hepburn, Henry Chester
Howell, Elmer Brown
Howell, Elmer W.
Kalbfleisch, Franklin H., *Larklawn*
Mc Kee, Henry Sellers, II
Morris, Stuyvesant Fish, III
Morse, William Otis
Moses, Robert
Murdock, Uriel Atwood, II
* Post, Henry, *Postholme*
Reid, John Robert, *The Towers*
Reid, Willard Placide, *The Towers*
Remsen, Jacob, *The Harbor*
Shortland, Thomas Francis
Snedeker, Charles V.
Strong, James H. S.
Tappin, Charles L., *Twin Oaks*
Walbridge, Ernest A.
Walbridge, George Hicks

**BAYPORT**

Allen, Theodore
Baruch, Bernard Mannes, Sr., *Strandhome*
* Behman, Louis C., Sr., *Lindenwalt*
Cox, Stephen Perry, *Arcadia*
Dahl, George W.
* Delaney, John Hanlon
* Edwards, Edward, *White House*
Ely, John R.
Ennis, Thomas
Fortescue, Granville Roland, *Wildholme*
* Foster, William R., Jr., *Strandhome*
Kobbe, George Christian
Koehler, Robert H.
Liebman, Julius
* Macconnell, John B.
Manton, Martin Thomas
Mc Kee, John
* Meeks, Joseph W., Jr.
Melville, Frank, Jr.
Morgan, Charles, Sr.
* Morgan, John, *Idle Hour*
* Payne, Albert
Post, Charles Alfred, *Strandhome*
Post, Charles Kintzing, *Strandhome*
* Post, Regis Henri, Sr., *Littlewood*
[Post owned a second house in Bayport.]
Post, Waldron Kintzing, *Strandhome*
Post, William Kintzing
* Purdy, Charles Robert, *Edgemere*
* Roosevelt, Robert Barnwell, Sr., *Lotus Lake*
* Rubinstein, Ira, *Cheap John's Estate*
Seaman, Frank
Smith, Fred D.
Snedecor, James H.
Staples, Cyrus E.
Stoppani, Charles F., Jr.
* Stoppani, Charles F., Sr., *Arcadia*
* Stoppani, Joseph H., *Liberty Hall*
Suydam, Charles
Suydam, John R., Jr., *Edgewater*
* Suydam, John R., Sr., *Edgewater*
* Todd, William H., *Lenapes Lodge*
Zerega, John Pierre, Sr., *Littlewood*

**BAY SHORE**

Adams, John Dunbar, *Woodlea*
Aldrich, Spencer, Sr., *Windermere*
Allison, William Manwaring, Sr.
Ash, Dr. Charles F.
* Asten, Thomas B.
Bachia, Richard Augustus, Jr.
Ballard, Frederick E., Sr.
Bates, William Graves, *Evergreens*
Baxter, John Edward
Bedell, Walter Ellwood
Belmont, August, III
Blum, Edward Charles, *Shore Acres*
Villages

BAY SHORE (cont’d)

Blum, Robert Edward
Burchell, George W.
* Carroll, Dr. Alfred Ludlow
Catlin, Dr. Daniel, Sr.
Ceballos, Juan Manuel, Sr., Brookhurst Farm
Clarkson, William Kemble
Conover, Augustus Whitlock, Sr.
* Conover, Daniel D.
* Covell, Charles Heber, Sr., Villa Avalon
Dillon, John Allen, Sr.
Drummond, Howard, Little House
Eastwood, John H.
Elder, George Waldron, Sr.
Fairchild, Julian Douglas
* Frank, Emil H., Sr.
Frothingham, John Sewell
Garner, Thomas, Jr.
Garner, Thomas, Sr.
Garner, William Thorn
Gibb, Lewis Mills, Jr., Cedarholme
* Gibb, Lewis Mills, Sr., Cedarholme
Gibson, Frederick E.
Gibson, John James
Gibson, John Joseph
Gordon, Edward
* Guastavino, Rafael, Jr.
Gulden, Charles, Sr., Netherbay
Gulden, Frank, Jr.
* Gunther, William Henry, Jr.
* Havemeyer, Harry Waldron
* Havemeyer, Horace, Sr., Olympic Point
Hodges, George W., Sr.
Hubbard, Harmanus B., Oakhurst
Huber, Frederick Max, Sr.
Hutton, Edward Francis
Hutton, Franklyn Laws
Hyde, James R.
* Hyde, Richard
Hyde, William J., White Cottage
Johnson, Effingham Lawrance

Kelly, James P., Awixaway
Kempster, James H., Westbeach
King, Dr. George Suttie
Kleinman, David E.
* Knapp, Edward Spring, Sr., Awixa Lawn
Kobbe, Gustave
Lawrence, Charles Lanier, Manatuck Farm
Lawrence, Francis Cooper, Jr., Manatuck Farm
Lawrence, Francis Cooper, Sr., Manatuck Farm
Lawrence, Chester B.

Lemmerman, Fred C.
* Lester, Joseph Huntington, Lestaley
Lester, Maxwell, Jr.
Lester, Maxwell, Sr., Four Hedges
Livingston, Henry Beckman, Jr.
* Low, Chauncey E., Seaward
MacLeod, Thomas Woodward, Sr.
Macy, George Henry
Maxwell, Henry W., Scrub Oaks
Mildeberger, Elwood, Oakelwood
* Mollenhauer, John
* Mollenhauer, John Adolph, Homeport
* Montgomery, Richard H.
Myers, Nathaniel
O’Donohue, Charles A., The Moorings
* Oelsner, Rudolph
Oppenheimer, Julius
Owens, Joseph Eugene, Sr.
Page, Walter Hines, Sr.
Parsons, William Decatur, Restina Cottage
Peck, William L.
Pinkerton, Allan, II
Pinkerton, Robert Allan, Sr., Dearwood
Poillon, John Edward
Quinn, Michael
Ranft, Richard, Jr.
Riggio, Frank Vincent, Riggio House
Robbins, Josiah
* Robbins, William H., Sr.
* Rothschild, Simon Frank
Ryan, John T.
* Sharp, H. Cecil, Millcreek
* Shea, Timothy J., Sr., O’Conee
Slote, Alonzo
Slote, Daniel, Jr.
* Smith, Charles Robinson
Snow, Frederick B.
* Strong, Theron George
Sullivan, Dr. Raymond Peter, Sr.
Tenny, Charles Henry, Sr.
Thorne, Francis Burritt, Jr.
* Thurber, Fred C.
Underhill, Edward Beekman, Sr.
Wagstaff, George Barnard
Ward, Edwin Carrington, Wake Robin
Weld, Philip Balch
Wood, Henry Duncan, Jr.
Woolley, Dr. James V. S., Sr.
* Wray, William H., Whileaway
* Young, Albert, Whileaway

BRIGHTWATERS

Gibson, Gregory Martin
Howell, James Frederick, Sr.
BRIGHTWATERS (cont’d)
Moran, Eugene Francis, Jr., *Shadow Lawn*
Packer, Frederick Little
Pardee, Dwight W.
Parkinson, Thomas Ignatius, Jr.
Phelps, Charles E., *Brightwaters*
Swirbul, Leon A.
Turnbull, John Gourlay, Jr.
Yates, Richard George, Sr.

EAST ISLIP
Bigelow, Edwin Hicks
* Carlisle, Jay Freeborn, Sr., *Rosemary*
Dana, Richard Turner
Duval, Henry Rieman, *Farmouth*
Entenmann, Robert
Gregory, William Hamilton, Jr., *Creekside*
Harbeck, Charles T.
[Harbeck owned two houses in East Islip.]
* Hollins, Gerald Vanderbilt, Sr., *The Hawks*
* Hollins, Harry Bowly, Jr., *Crickholly*
* Hollins, Harry Bowly, Sr., *Meadow Farm*
Hoppin, Bayard Cushing
Johnson, Aymar, *Woodland*
* Johnson, Bradish, Jr., *Woodland*
* Johnson, Edwin Augustus, Sr.
* Johnson, Edwin Augustus, Sr., *Deer Range Farm*
[Johnson built two houses in East Islip.]
Johnson, Lee
* Johnston, James Boorman
* Knapp, Harry Kearsarge, II, *Creekside*
* Knapp, Harry Kearsarge, Sr., *Brookwood*
Knapp, Theodore J., Sr., *Brookwood*
Lawrence, Charles Lanier
* McBurney, Dr. Malcolm
Moran, Amedee Depau
Morgan, Henry, *The Stables*
Morgan, Robert Woodward, Sr.
Nicoll, William
Pinkerton, Robert Allan, II
Plumb, James Ives, *Deer Range Farm*
Plumb, Sara Ives, *Deer Range Farm*
Taylor, George Campbell, *Deer Range Farm*
* Taylor, George Campbell
[Taylor built two houses in East Islip.]
Thorne, Francis Burritt, Sr., *Brookwood*
Wharton, Percival C.
Wharton, William Fishbourne
* Williams, Percy G., *Pine Acres*
Wilmerding, Lucius Kellogg

FIRE ISLAND
Hyde, Henry Baldwin, II
Vander Veer, Dr. Albert, Jr., *Alkmaar Cottage*

GREAT RIVER
* Breese, William Lawrence, Sr., *Timber Point*
Cutting, Robert Fulton
* Cutting, William Bayard, Sr., *Westbrook Farm*
Davies, Julien Tappan, *Timber Point*
Dempsey, Joseph Francis, Sr.
* Hobbs, Charles Buxton, *River Croft*
Hutchins, Francis Sessions
Lorillard, Dr. George L., *Westbrook Farm*
* Maitland, Robert L., *Westbrook Farm*
Stewart, Dr. George David, *Appin House*
Stewart, James
* Truslow, Frederick C., *Questover Lodge*
* White, Raymond S.

ISLIP
* Atwood, Frederic Lawrence
Atwood, Kimball Chase, Jr., *Mapleton*
Baker, William Dunham
Beard, Anson Mc Cook, Jr.
* Bruce—Brown, Ruth A. Loney, *Bronhurst*
Bull, Henry Worthington
Creamer, Frank D., Sr.
Creamer, Joseph Byron, Sr.
Crothers, Gordon, *La Casetta*
deCoppet, Andre H., *The Willows*
deGoicouria, Albert V.
Dempsey, Joseph Francis, Jr.
* Dick, Adolph M.
Dick, John Henry, *Allen Winden Farm*
Dick, William, *Allen Winden Farm*
Dick, William Karl, *Allen Winden Farm*
Doxsee, James Harvey, Sr.
Egly, Henry Harris
Flint, Sherman, *Evershade*
Garben, Dr. Louis F., Sr.
Gibb, Howard, Sr.
* Gibb, John, *Afterglow*
Graham, George Scott, *Lohgrame*
Gulden, Charles, II
* Gulden, Frank, Jr.
Gulden, Frank, Sr.
[Gulden owned two houses in Islip.]
Hallock, Gerard, III
* Havemeyer, Henry Osborne, *Bayberry Point*
Havemeyer, Horace, Jr.
Havemeyer, Horace, Sr.
Heckscher, Charles Augustus, Jr.
Hollister, Buell, Jr.
ISLIP (cont’d)

Hollister, Henry Hutchinson, Sr.
Howell, Carlton Bell
Johnson, Bradish Gaillard, Sr.
Johnson, Enfin
Johnson, John Dean
Johnson, Parmenus
Knapp, William K.
Lazare, Andrew
Livingston, Robert Cambridge, III
Lovering, Joseph Sears, Jr.
Macy, William Kingsland, Sr.
McNamee, John
Meeks, Edward B.
Meeks, Joseph W., Sr.
* Moffit, William Henry, Beautiful Shore
Moore, Dr. David Dodge
Oakman, Walter George, Sr.
Pardee, Roy Edmund
* Parsons, Schuyler Livingston, Jr., Pleasure Island
* Parsons, Schuyler Livingston, Sr., Whileaway
Pasternack, Dr. Richard
Perkins, Richard Sturgis, Sr.
* Peters, Harry Twyford, Sr., Nearholme
Peters, Harry Twyford, Sr., Windholme Farm
Peters, Samuel Twyford, Windholme Farm
Pless, John Anthony, Jr.
Plumb, James Ives, Shadowbrook
* Prince, John Dyneley, II
Redmond, Roland
* Russell, William Hamilton, Jr.
* Schieren, Charles Adolph, Sr., Mapleton
Scully, Charles B., Wereholme
Spaulding, E. B.
Stanchfield, John Barry, Sr., Afterglow
Swan, Alden S., Orowoc
Tappin, John C.
Tcherepnin, Alexander
Thorne, Edwin, III
Timmerman, Henry Gerlard, Breeze Lawn
Titus, James Gulden, Sr.
Titus, Walter Livingston, Jr.
Tobey, Orville Hurd, Breeze Lawn
* Tucker, Charles A.
Tucker, Clarence
Valentine, Landon Barrett
Van Anden, Frank
Van Anden, William M., Sr.
* Waterbury, Leander
Webster, Charles D., Twyford
* Weekes, Harold Hathaway, Wereholme
Welles, Benjamin Summer, Jr., Welles House
Welles, Benjamin Summer, Sr.
Welles, Benjamin Summer, III, Welles House
Wharton, Richard, Whileaway
Wharton, Richard T., Sr., Whileaway
* Whitney, William Collins
Williams, Richard H., Sr.
* Wood, Henry Duncan, Sr., Ellenwood
Wright, Dr. Arthur Mullen, Afterglow
Yates, Douglas Thomas, Sr.

NORTH BABYLON

* Belmont, August, Sr., Nursery Stud Farm
Belmont, Perry, Nursery Stud Farm
* Corbin, Austin, Deer Park Farm
Guggenheim, Meyer Robert, Sr., Firenze Farm
Nicholas, Harry Ingersoll, Sr., Virginia Farm
Rolston, Roswell, G., Armagh
* Sutton, Frank, North East Farm

OAKDALE

Aston, W. K.
Bourne, Alfred Severin, Sr.
* Bourne, Arthur Keeler, Sr., Lake House
* Bourne, Frederick Gilbert, Indian Neck Hall
Burke, Charles Felix
Ludlow, William Handy, Sr.
Ockers, Jacob
* Robert, Christopher Rhinelander, Jr., Peperidge Hall
* Vanderbilt, William Kissam, Sr., Idlehour

SAYVILLE

Allgood, Andrew Perry de Forest
Baldridge, Harry Alexander, Sr.
Betts, Roland Whitney, Sunnehola
Bohack, Henry C.
Bossier, Charles Volunteer
Catlin, John Bernsee, Sr.
* Childs, Eversley, Sr.
* Childs, William Hamlin
Corse, Israel, S., The Swamp
Fortescue, Kenyon
* Foster, Andrew D., Greycote
* Green, Isaac Henry, II, Brookside
* Hayward, Frank Earle, Sr., Joy Farm
* Hayward, William Tyson, Sr., The Anchorage
* Jones, Frank Smith, Beechwood
McLaughlin, Dr. Daniel
Morrison, George Alexander
Otto, Thomas N.
Palmer, Elwell
[Palmer owned a second house in Sayville.]
* Powell, David B., Cedarshore
* Powell, Leander Treadwell, Cedarshore
**Villages**

**SAYVILLE** (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proctor, Cecil W.</td>
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<td><em>Ridgeway, James W.</em></td>
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<td>Robb, James</td>
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<td><em>Roosevelt, John Ellis, Meadow Croft</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Roosevelt, Robert Barnwell, Jr., The Lilacs</em></td>
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<td>Shea, David J., Beechwold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shea, David J., Wyndemoor</td>
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<td><em>Simonds, William Robinson, Wyndemoor</em></td>
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<td>Smith, Elward, Jr.</td>
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<td>Smith, Elward, Sr.</td>
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<td>Smith, Hervey Garret</td>
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<td>Smith, Jewett Holt</td>
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<td>Smith, Robert Gibson</td>
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<td><em>Watt, Dr. James, Sr.</em></td>
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<td>Westin, Clarence Frederick, Sr., Beechwold</td>
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<td><em>Wilbur, Edward Russell, Sr., Beach Grove</em></td>
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**WEST BAY SHORE**

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Adams, Thomas, Jr., Ardmore</em></td>
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<td>Bossert, Louis, The Oaks</td>
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<td>Colt, Robert Oliver</td>
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<td>Ellis, George Augustus, Jr., Ardmore</td>
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<td>Gardiner, Robert David Lion, Sagtkos Manor</td>
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<td><em>Hyde, Henry Baldwin, Sr., The Oaks</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyde, James Hazen, The Oaks</td>
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<td>Isbrandtisen, Hans J.</td>
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<td><em>Johnson, Bradish, Sr., Sans Souci</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson, Henry Meyer, Sans Souci</td>
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<td>Lawrance, John I.</td>
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<td>Puzo, Mario</td>
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<td>Richard, Alfred Joseph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thorne, Landon Ketchum, Jr., The Lodge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thorne, Landon Ketchum, Sr., Thorneham</td>
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<td>Wilmerding, George G.</td>
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**WEST ISLIP**

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andrews, William Loring, Pepperidges</td>
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<td>Arnold, Alexander Duncan Cameron</td>
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<td><em>Arnold, Annie Stewart Cameron, Clovelly</em></td>
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<td>Arnold, Edward William Cameron, Oknoke</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Arnold, Richard, The Crescent</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arnold, William, The Crescent</td>
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<td>Cameron, Edward Miller</td>
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<td>Clyde, William Pancoast, Sr.</td>
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<td>Davies, Julien Townsend, Sr., Casa Rosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>de Forest, James G.</td>
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<td><em>Dodson, Robert Bowman, Kanonsioni</em></td>
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<td>Eaton, James Waterbury, Sr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gibson, Cornelia Lott Vanderveer, Sunnymead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Havemeyer, Henry, Sr., Armory</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Havemeyer owned Sequatogue Farm, also in West Islip.]</td>
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</tbody>
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