

Committee to Study  
Memorials Street Listing

Town of Medfield

**Committee to Study Memorials Street Listings for the Town of Medfield as researched by Richard DeSorgher:**

- Submitted to the Planning Board- 2008. The Planning Board would have to add the name Street, Road, Avenue, Way, etc after the researched name as they so see fit.
  - The Committee to Study Memorials is also available to do additional research for a particular part of town where a developer may be putting a road. It is the hope of the Committee to Study Memorials that they will be consulted on any proposed developments/streets so that such research can be presented to the Planning Board before street names are finalized. Those additionally researched names would be in addition to the below list.
1. **Straw Bonnet**-named in recognition of the largest and most important industry in Medfield in the 19<sup>th</sup> century into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The hat factory, making straw bonnets was the second largest in the United States
  2. **Garrison**—These were prominent structures in Medfield during our Colonial history. There were five such garrisons built here in Medfield to help repel Indian attacks on the town. When Medfield was attacked during the King Philip War, many lives were saved as a result of the citizens taking shelter in these garrisons
  3. **Hinsdale** (early Medfield family name) Robert served as a selectmen the first six years the board was organized. He was one of the first thirteen settlers of the town. He was later slain with his three sons in 1676 in the Bloody Brook Massacre in Deerfield. The homestead was off North Street by North Brook Family members were here in Medfield into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, others help found the town of Deerfield.
  4. **Ellis**-( early Medfield family name) John was a leading citizen and served for seven years as a selectmen. He was one of the first thirteen settlers. Hannah was the first white female born in Medfield. Many family members served as selectmen, another as town treasurer other as town businessmen and merchants. Ellis family members remained in Medfield into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  5. **Bullen** –(early Medfield family name) One of the first thirteen settlers of the town and original signer of the town compact. They were the first European family to live in Medfield. Homestead was on Philip Street near the football field and was burnt during the attack on Medfield. Family members served as selectmen. Moses Bullen was an ardent patriot during the Revolutionary War. Family members lived in Medfield until the 19<sup>th</sup> century
  6. **Barber** (early Medfield family name-settled when town was first incorporated in 1651) George built the first mill in Medfield on Mill Brook off Elm Street. He was the principle military officer in the town, selectmen for ten years, Town Clerk for twenty-three years and representative to the General Court. He was one of the foremost in founding the Town of Medfield. Other family members served as selectmen and Town Clerk; others as deacons in the church. Family members lived here in Medfield into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

off Dale

~~7. Rockwood.~~ (early Medfield family name -settled when town was first incorporated in 1651 ) Homestead was on Bridge Street and was burnt during the King Philip War. Family members were selectmen and played an active part in Medfield into the 18 century.

~~8. Chenery~~ Isaac settled on South Street. (early Medfield family name -settled when town was first incorporated in 1651 ) Family members were selectmen, prominent members of the town, Patriots and served in revolutionary and Civil War- see list of three Chenery boys killed in the Civil War.

9. **Smith-** Henry Smith settled on South Street by Pleasant Street. (early Medfield family name -settled when town was first incorporated in 1651 ) The Smith family played an important part in Medfield history well into the nineteenth century.

off North

~~10. Clover-~~ John settled on North Street opposite Pine Street. (early Medfield family name -settled when town was first incorporated in 1651 )

11. **Alby(also spelled Albee).** Benjamin settled on Bridge Street. He was on the first Board of Selectmen. (early Medfield family name -settled when town was first incorporated in 1651 )

12. **Bowers.** John settled on Bridge Street. (early Medfield family name -settled when town was first incorporated in 1651 )

~~13. Lovell-~~ Alexander settled on Bridge Street. Lovell family members served as selectmen and were prominent in town affairs. (early Medfield family name -settled when town was first incorporated in 1651 )

14. **Fussell-** John settled on bridge Street and was killed in the native-American attack on the town during the King Philip War. (early Medfield family name -settled when town was first incorporated in 1651 )

off Brook Street

✓~~15. Thurston-~~ (early Medfield family name-settled when town was first incorporated in 1651) John was a selectmen for 8 years and served on many town boards. He was on the committee laying out the first highways. He was one of the first thirteen settlers. The homestead was on Main Street about one half mile east of the center of town and in the Pound Street area. He also owned meadow land along the present Norfolk town line near Stop River. Other family members were school teachers, , representatives to the general Court. Thomas's house was burnt during the attack on Medfield and two of his children were killed

16. **Lincoln-** (Harding, West Mill Street area) Lincoln Inn was a well know landmark located at that intersection

17. **Phoenix**- Penn name for Medfield's George Derby, Mexican-American War hero, West Point graduate and literary writer in the style of Mark Twain, engineer who designed San Diego Harbor
- ~~18. **John Chenery, James Chenery, Frank Chenery**- killed Civil War~~
19. **Joseph Hardy**-died of swamp fever in Louisiana during the Civil War
20. **William Holbrook**- killed in battle in North Carolina during the Civil War
21. **Curtis Jones**- killed Civil War
22. **John Strang and Gabriel Strang**- killed Civil War
23. **William Vennoh**- died in captivity in Libby Prison during the Civil War
24. **Daniel McMahon**- killed in the battle of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee during the Civil War
25. **Ralph Leighton**- killed WWI
26. **Herbert Paine**- killed WWI
27. **Harrison Ryan**- killed WWI
28. **Douglas Mackeatchie**- Killed WWII
- ~~29. **Fork Factory**- Main Street, Hartford Street to Dover line area)- Well know Medfield industry, made all kinds of forks including pitchforks~~
30. **Hedgehog**- local animal
31. **Possum**- local animal
32. **Otter**- local animal
- ~~33. **Deer(Run)**- local animal~~
34. **Sheep**- local animal- used extensively in paintings by local etcher John Monks
35. **Apple Tree**- local tree- important part of Medfield's economy for much of its history
- ~~36. **Blueberry**- local fruit grown all over Medfield~~
- ~~37. **Cranberry Bog**- grown in the Charles River area in much of Medfield's early history~~
- ~~38. **Blackberry**- local fruit grown all over Medfield~~
39. **Sycamore**- local tree
40. **pasture**- local landscape
41. **field**- local landscape
42. **Excelsior**- name of hat factory-largest and most prominent Medfield industry. Also name given to the hook and ladder fire company in the late 1800's.
43. **Grange**- (Pleasant Street- Metacomet Street area) site of the Medfield Grange- prominent Medfield institution in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
44. **Cass**- famous and prominent local painter
45. **Francis**-famous and prominent local painter
46. **Dingle Dell**- area name in West, West Mill- North Meadows area
47. **Great Gun**- The "great gun" was purchased to defend the town against Indian attack and was used during the attack on the town during the King Philip War. It was also fired as a warning to Dedham
48. **Emperor**- Emperor was one of many titles given noted Medfield citizens during the 1800's. Emperor, the highest of the titles, was given to Charles Onion. These titles soon replaced the person's actual name and Onion became known as Emperor. This odd town tradition took place in the mid- 1800's.

49. **Huckleberry Hill**- The hill is located in the area between Green Street and Rocky Woods
50. **Trolley** – The trolley was here in Medfield from 1899- 1924
51. **Fleetwood**- name of Medfield telephone exchange
52. **Sleepy Hollow**- A considerable depression in the land in the area around Elm and South Streets
53. **Mine Hill**- area in the Rocky Woods-Main Street, Hartford Street area
54. **Sear Tree**- level area in the Causeway Street- Noon Hill area
55. **Heard-house**- early shelters built in Medfield to use during times of grazing sheep and cattle
56. **Fairbanks**- early Medfield name and prominent businessman
57. **Barney**- prominent businessman in the 1800's. He bought and sold and moved houses all over Medfield, most noticeable in the Curve Street are, which became known as Barneyville.
58. **Harvard**- strong ties to Medfield. Early ministers all graduated there- town contributed funds to its operation.
59. **Canal**- area of former state hospital- Charles River- attempt to dig a canal in that location failed- Hospital Road was originally called Canal Street
- ~~60. **Castle Hill**- land area along North Street area opposite the Hunt Club~~
61. **Rattlesnake**- found throughout Medfield in our early history
62. **Stone Wall**- These were found throughout Medfield throughout our history
63. **Toll Gate**- These were found in the area of Hartford and Main Streets and Bridge and Main Streets. A toll was charged to use the private more improved road
64. **Hennery**- located off Dale Street area. It was a thriving poultry business
65. **Tavern**- There were a number of taverns in early Medfield and were located along the stagecoach route. They were the communication center of early new England towns
66. **Brush**- there were two different manufacturing of brushes in Medfield in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
67. **Militia**- The Medfield Militia during the Revolutionary War played an active and patriotic part in our nation's history.
68. **(Acadia) (Acadian)**- In honor or the Acadians (French Neutrals) that were sent to Medfield and other towns throughout the Colonies in the time during and after the French and Indian War.
69. **Chickatabot**- Native American who was the original owner of the lands in and around the Town of Medfield
70. **Turnpike**- The Boston and Hartford Turnpike was built in 1806 and ran through Medfield roughly along today's Hartford and Main Streets to Millis
71. **Putnam Grays**- Name of the independent military company that was organized in Medfield in the 1830's- 1840's. It was Medfield's crack military company
72. **Almshouse**- Poor Farm located in the area of West and Bridge Streets for many years.
73. **Warrior Way**- in the event the driveway going into the high school off South Street is to be named
- ~~74. **Hunt Club**- area of Norfolk Hunt Club off North Street~~