

**Oral History Interview**  
**Robert Gawroniak**  
**WH090**

(written transcript and digital audio)

On October 22, 2010, Robert Gawroniak was interviewed at the Henry Inman Library by Brenda Velasco at 10:00 A.M.

*Brenda Velasco:* I have the good fortune today, on this bright sunny day, of interviewing Bob Gawroniak of Fords. Some of you may recognize the name. He was former Board of Ed, former Councilman and heavily involved with selling insurance in Fords for a number of years: basically a lifelong resident of Fords.

**1. Identify individual-name, section, date of birth.**

*Robert Gawroniak:* I'm Bob Gawroniak and I live in Fords.

**2. How long have you lived in Woodbridge/Fords?**

*Robert Gawroniak:* We moved to Fords in 1942 and that makes sixty-eight years I've been residing there. Approximately in 1967 I opened a business in Fords and for thirty-four years I ran the **Regal Agency** which was real estate and insurance. I'm a real estate broker and insurance broker and agent. I had a good business until I was age seventy and my wife said it's time to stay home once in a while.

*Brenda Velasco:* She had a to-do list for you; that's what it was. She needed things done.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Getting longer all the time.

*Brenda Velasco:* It always does; I know the feeling. Now when were you born?

*Robert Gawroniak:* August 20, 1931. I was born in Edison and at that time I think there was a mid-wife on the scene and I lived in Edison for eleven years until we moved to Fords.

**3. Why did you or your family originally move to Woodbridge/Fords?**

*Robert Gawroniak:* I often wondered why we moved to Fords but I'm sure it was for a larger home. I had one sister and no other brothers; there were two children, and the home was very nice. It was larger, of course, than where we lived and it was a nice manicured one acre property with large vegetable gardens that my mother loved.

*Brenda Velasco:* What was the address? Do you recall the address where you first lived?

*Robert Gawroniak:* It was on Oak Avenue and, you know, I don't recall the number.

*Brenda Velasco:* And it was one acre?

*Robert Gawroniak:* It was an acre of property and it was a very nice well manicured property. It was in an area that has disappeared off the map. It was called Lafayette Heights in Fords. As many people know there is still a Lafayette Road in Fords where the horse betting parlor is now located and Lafayette Road went across the highway, Route #1, into Edison and extended all the way down to Amboy Avenue in the Clara Barton section of Edison, Lafayette Road.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, we also have the Lafayette Estates now.

*Robert Gawroniak:* You wonder why it was named after that, don't you?

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, of the school over there.

*Robert Gawroniak:* It was there the Lafayette Estates. Of course that was the big change, a very rural area. It was the change around 1950 when the developers found Woodbridge and we had Shorecrest Development in Fords and in Colonia, Colonia Gardens in Port Reading, Menlo Park Terrace, which we now call Iselin, years ago it was part of Fords, and so forth. But the developers came in and changed the whole complexion of our town which required new schools. In one year, we opened five schools in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* So this was after World War II.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* This was that post-World War II boom and Woodbridge wasn't alone.

*Robert Gawroniak:* It went from thirty thousand people to about a hundred thousand people. At the time I was always interested in community affairs and in 1970 I ran for the School Board and spent six years on the School Board.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so we're going to talk about that because that was at the height of super large enrollment.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Twenty-three thousand five hundred.

*Brenda Velasco:* I remember that.

*Robert Gawroniak:* I graduated from Woodbridge High School in 1949. The high school was not yet completed but we graduated in the stadium. Football was a little more important than the academics so they made the stadium first and the rest would come later.

*Brenda Velasco:* Football has always been prominent in Woodbridge.

**4. *What physical changes have occurred over the years in the area you lived? -houses, streets, services, stores, houses of worship, schools, etc.***

*Brenda Velasco:* When you lived specifically in Fords you didn't have the developments until much later in the 1950s you said.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes, right.

*Brenda Velasco:* Did you have paved streets?

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes, we did.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you had well water?

*Robert Gawroniak:* We had well water.

*Brenda Velasco:* How about sewers? Did you have sewers?

*Robert Gawroniak:* No, we had a septic system. Water and sewers didn't come until about the 1960s, I guess.

*Brenda Velasco:* Did you have garbage pickup back then?

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes, we did.

*Brenda Velasco:* That was from the township, not private?

*Robert Gawroniak:* As far as I know, yes it was from the township.

*Brenda Velasco:* How about the stores, do you remember any stores that were there?

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes, we had all the facilities in Fords. Fords, Iselin and Woodbridge Proper, which I'm most familiar with, they all had their own movie house.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, you had your own movie house in Fords.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Iselin had their own movie house and Woodbridge had the **State Theatre**. We had, of course, our fire company and we had the first aid. There was a library in Fords right on New Brunswick Avenue. (Corielle StreetP

*Brenda Velasco:* Was that run by the Fords Women's Club?

*Robert Gawroniak:* I believe it was.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where was the shopping that you did for food and.....

*Robert Gawroniak:* Well we didn't have the big supermarkets so there were many small stores. In Fords we had an **A&P**. In fact the building that I own to this day had the **A&P** located in it.

*Brenda Velasco:* And this is **Regal Agency** and what is the location of that?

*Robert Gawroniak:* 540 and 538 New Brunswick Avenue. We had many small stores, mom and pop stores. Of course we had a few places to get a cold beer in the summertime and some of those are now closed. The local taverns sort of ran out of customers with the new laws and the liability in drinking and so forth. We were self contained. We had the Fords Park, we had the Fifth Street Park and when I was young all the young boys I guess after ten years old you played baseball. No Little League assisted. You played baseball until you were out of high school. I mean baseball was a very important thing. Today the kids start when they're four and five and they quit by the time they are ten.

*Brenda Velasco:* They're burned out.

*Robert Gawroniak:* When they should be doing things to occupy their time and efforts it's all gone but that's another story.

*Brenda Velasco:* But you were far from Fords Park though.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes, I used to play basketball at School #14 and we lived near Route #1. I used to play basketball and run to the school. It was large wooded areas between where we lived and Fords which is now occupied by Fords Junior High School on Fanning Street; that was all wooded area. Believe it or not I used to run through the woods for a mile and then play basketball at night and then run home again and thought nothing of it.

*Brenda Velasco:* So that was your main means of transportation, your feet.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes, and walked many times. In high school I played in the band. I was the band president at Woodbridge High School and many times we got a ride to School #14 and had to walk home for roughly a mile and thought nothing of it.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well, you got you exercise. You didn't have obesity as a problem back then did you?

*Robert Gawroniak:* No, that's right.

*Brenda Velasco:* Everybody walked, alright how about houses of worship?

*Robert Gawroniak:* We had just about the same churches we have now today. The Catholic Church is Our Lady of Peace. We had an Episcopal Church on Hoy Avenue and another church.....

*Brenda Velasco:* You have a Lutheran Church.

*Robert Gawroniak:* A Lutheran Church right across the street from **Flynn's Funeral Home** on Ford Avenue and Fourth Street. They were all there by that time and they're still there today.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and schools that you had?

*Robert Gawroniak:* We had No. 14 School in Fords and No. 7 School in Fords. No. 7 School is now closed but No. 14 School is still existing but there are rumors that it may close, sad to say. But where I lived in Lafayette Heights it was a different school designation and we used to take a school bus, right on Route #1, and it would take us back to Iselin where we picked up all the Iselin children and came to No. 11 School in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Robert Gawroniak:* It was quite a chore. But in between Iselin and our area and an area up on Route #1 in Iselin, which is now solid homes, there was a large unsettled area in there; large fields. There was a small community up where the Woodbridge Circle was and they had the Woprite's and the Cherry's and like a dozen kids there and the Capraro's.

*Brenda Velasco:* Woodbridge was quite different back then when you were growing up.

*Robert Gawroniak:* It was very rural but very nice. Woodbridge was different from other towns in so far as that there were no pockets of what we call urban life today. I mean everybody was sort of on an equal blue collar working family. I mean Perth Amboy had their sections that were not as nice as others. And Rahway had their sections but Woodbridge was all primarily a pretty common area for everyone. I mean we had our nicer areas in Woodbridge Proper. You had the Barron Avenue section where there were the large homes and Colonia still had their big homes.

*Brenda Velasco:* But that was only one area of Colonia.

*Robert Gawroniak:* One small area, the acreage area. I know when I was in high school and Charlie Terzella, the bus company, brought the children to Woodbridge High. They only had one high school on Barron Avenue, and when the bus from Colonia came in everybody clapped and cheered. They made it one more time because it was like a rural area all in between. I served with Charlie Truzella on the Town Council interestingly later on.

*Brenda Velasco:* What schools did you actually attend in Woodbridge?

*Robert Gawroniak:* I started in sixth grade when I was eleven years old at No. 11 School on Ross Street. From there I went to Woodbridge High School. We had no junior high at that time; that came later.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, you started sixth grade and then went to eighth grade on Ross Street.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes. Then when I went to high school in '45, I believe, and then I graduated in 1949.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you said you were in the band there as well.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes.

**5. What public buildings/property were there?-post office, library, parks, firehouse, schools, etc.**

*Robert Gawroniak:* The same ones that are there today. The post office is there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where was it located, do you recall?

*Robert Gawroniak:* The post office was on New Brunswick Avenue but it was about two blocks west of where it is today. Of course we had the firehouse on Corrielle

Street, now the firehouse is on King Georges Post Road. We had Fords Park which had all wooden stadiums and everybody played baseball there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Were there any other parks?

*Robert Gawroniak:* I think Fifth Street Park still existed and all the kids played on the school lots: No. 7 School and No. 14 School. They had large playgrounds and a lot of the younger kids played ball there and spent their time close to home.

*Brenda Velasco:* And we mentioned the library was run by the Fords Women's Club.

*Robert Gawroniak:* And the Fords Women's Club is still existing today.

## **6. What did you do for recreation?**

*Robert Gawroniak:* We made our own recreation. There was no unified or coordinated township system. We did play basketball through a basketball league in the wintertime at No. 14 School but that again was when I was in high school already. We did a lot of rural things. We fished at Roosevelt Park.

*Brenda Velasco:* How did you get to Roosevelt Park?

*Robert Gawroniak:* That bicycle I had had many, many miles on it. We were not too far from Roosevelt Park and we ice skated there in the wintertime. We did a lot of hunting in the area, if you liked to hunt. And everyone hunted at that time in the '40s and '50s.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where did you hunt then?

*Robert Gawroniak:* All over. Where Kensington Gardens is today, I remember shooting a fox over there and we had all kind of game. I must say we have more deer today than we ever had.

*Brenda Velasco:* I'm seeing that too because when I first moved into Colonia we had the raccoons but now you're seeing more deer. We had a bear the other year. It just came down through the waterway.

*Robert Gawroniak:* We had deer in the back of my house the other day.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow, I Fords!

*Robert Gawroniak:* Across from **Wegmans, Hess Oil** has a big grass area where the helicopter comes down and there are maybe six deer that live in that area and you see them all the time grazing out in that field. They're all fenced in there and there is water there. It is just amazing how many deer there are! It's unfortunate.

*Brenda Velasco:* It's also unfortunate if you hit them: a lot of damage to your car. Did you go on picnics with your family?

*Robert Gawroniak:* Not too much, we didn't do too much of that but I don't recall much of that picnicking area. It was a rare time when we took a Sunday afternoon ride with the family or went down the shore to Lawrence Harbor, that was the shore. Boynton Beach was already over by that time in the '40s: Boynton Beach in Sewaren. That was a very famous place, I guess, in the '20s and '30s.

*Brenda Velasco:* And even earlier.

## **7. What was the focal point of your community at that time?**

*Robert Gawroniak:* Everything was sort of localized. We had a lot of activities through the church. Of course the newspaper brought us all the news about Woodbridge Proper but there wasn't much community activity.

*Brenda Velasco:* What church are we talking about?

*Robert Gawroniak:* Our Lady of Peace. Since I had open heart surgery in 1997, and I recovered very well, I try to make mass every morning at 8:00 A.M. It's been an important part of our whole life and I still appreciate everything that all the churches do in our community. There's a good base and people are very much connected to their churches. Some of them still have schools to try to educate the youngsters. It's a very important part of some people's lives. But life went on and I was through with high school. There was a very interesting thing I don't know if I should talk about what happened when I was a freshman in high school.

*Brenda Velasco:* Let's do that when we go down to Question #9.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Okay.

*Brenda Velasco:* So it was mostly local-family oriented and church oriented activities?

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes.

### **8. What did you like about living in your section of Woodbridge?**

*Robert Gawroniak:* I guess it was the rural atmosphere. There were wide opened spaces. The friends that we had in our particularly area were all very close friends. We had about a dozen children that got on the bus on that location every morning and everybody was very, very close. In the wintertime all the kids went ice skating together.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where did you pick up the bus to go.....

*Robert Gawroniak:* Right on Route #1.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right on Route #1.

*Robert Gawroniak:* It came down from Iselin and that's where it meets Edison Township right near Menlo Park shopping center and the bus would turn around and pick us up and go all the way back. There was not another stop until Iselin.

*Brenda Velasco:* Was this a public bus or paid for by the Board of Education?

*Robert Gawroniak:* Paid by the Board of Education. Sonley, people named Sonley owned the bus. There were about six different bus companies that handled different areas. Terzella was Colonia. Everybody had their own little empire until the '70s when Dapper took over the whole project. We had another thing that used to happen in our area. There were three horse stables and there was horseback riding.

*Brenda Velasco:* And where was this?

*Robert Gawroniak:* One of them was Varady's Grove in Fords and the horses used to leave Varady's Grove, cross over Route #1 because you had to wait for one car to pass. They would have maybe six or eight horses out at a time, go over to Roosevelt Park, make a complete circle around the park and come back which took about an hour. In Edison, on Parsonage Road where the Menlo Park shopping center is today, there were two horse stables. People named Frye had one and on the other side of Roosevelt Park on Parsonage Road near Route #27 there was another horse stable.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Robert Gawroniak:* So there were four different horse stables. Growing up we knew the owners and we used to do what we called escorting for them. So whenever they had an overload of riders they would call the house and see if Bob was available. We used to take this group of people around and escort them and bring them back. We loved to ride horses for free and we never got paid.

*Brenda Velasco:* But that's okay.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Oh we loved it!

*Brenda Velasco:* What a great opportunity you had. It was better than living in Woodbridge Proper because you didn't have the horse stables in Woodbridge Proper.

*Robert Gawroniak:* They had them in Colonia.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, I know. They still had them when I was here. Wow, what an opportunity.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Some of the things we did.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you still have all those good memories of growing up there.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes, very fond memories.

**9. *Did you experience any significant happenings in Woodbridge-construction, accidents, sports events, riots, discrimination, etc.***

*Robert Gawroniak:* The one thing that sticks in my mind. In 1945 I was a freshman in high school and freshman of the high school band and we went to a football game in Perth Amboy. Perth Amboy was winning the game 6-0 until about the last two minutes when Joe Nagy, our end for Woodbridge, intercepted a lateral and went for a touchdown and Woodbridge won the game 7-6. A riot ensued, they got us on to our bus and the bottles were being thrown, windows were breaking and one of our friends, Paulie Benyolik had a bad cut over his eye. We were lucky to escape Perth Amboy. Monday morning the Perth Amboy high school students were marching on to Woodbridge and they had to close Amboy Avenue, barricade Amboy Avenue, and the railroad tracks that came from Perth Amboy that exist today, there were large number of students marching on Woodbridge to retaliate for losing the football game.

*Brenda Velasco:* Unbelievable!

*Robert Gawroniak:* Schools were closed for a couple of days and that sticks in my mind.

*Brenda Velasco:* Woodbridge won.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Woodbridge won 7-6 but it was a terrible thing. It just got out of hand. Of course, the 1951 train accident is my mind.

*Brenda Velasco:* Were you there?

*Robert Gawroniak:* I was there. I got close to it but I had to park the car. I was about seventeen at the time and I walked down and I just couldn't believe it. It was a dreary wet winter evening and the odor I can remember clear as a bell, the odor of burned skin and things.

*Brenda Velasco:* It was one of the worst accidents.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Ever, yes, and we still talk about it and of course our historical society has video tapes made by our members interviewed which you probably heard about already.

*Brenda Velasco:* And I think Gordon (Bond) is writing a book on the accident. He's the one who wrote about James Parker so now he's concentrating on the broker on the train accident.

*Robert Gawroniak:* He also wrote another book, he's a member, Gordon Bond, of our Historic Society. He did a study on cemeteries and he has a book, I don't know if it's published yet, but it's particularly interested in the headstones of years ago where the families could not afford a stone headstone and they made their own either out of

wood or concrete. St. James cemetery here in Woodbridge has some concrete crosses that were made by families. But he was doing a study of all of Middlesex County. It should be very interesting.

*Brenda Velasco:* Of course.

*Robert Gawroniak:* The Parker book is a very interesting book. I took it with me two years ago with me to Florida, we go to Florida every winter; it was over six hundred pages. It was so interesting because I knew all the streets where Parker lived and Ben Franklin came to Woodbridge many times to stay with him. I found that book extremely, extremely interesting.

*Brenda Velasco:* Anything else that you recall as you were growing up? You mentioned the sporting events, the riots, the accident was a train accident in 1951 and construction. So you were still living in Fords when you saw Fords also explode.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Just boom, everything boomed. I was in the service until 1953, in the Air Force. By the way I was in an Air Force band, the 512<sup>th</sup> Air Force Band. I found that very interesting. When I came home these developments were sprouting up all over. Wherever we had beautiful woodlands and fields there were now bulldozers and workmen. So it changed the complexion of the town tremendously. Of course you had to have new stores open up. The **A&P**, in 1967, moved from New Brunswick Avenue up to Lafayette Road. The **A&P** was there for many years which is now the State of New Jersey horse betting parlor. But developments came and then stores followed to service the public.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you were also on the Board of Education because when the people move in they don't have the babies and then it exploded. What were some of the problems you faced then?

*Robert Gawroniak:* Woodbridge High School was the only high school in the town. Of course there are three now, but we were on double session; I went to school in double session. The freshmen and sophomores went in the afternoon and the seniors went in the morning because it was preferred to be in the morning. It worked out quite well. I don't recall any great problem because of double sessions but it was necessary because we just didn't have the room. As the explosion happened and schools were planned and financed and built that's when we opened five schools in one year.

*Brenda Velasco:* Do you recall what year that was?

*Robert Gawroniak:* No I don't.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, I can look that up. (1960)

*Robert Gawroniak:* Sometimes I had trouble remembering what I had for breakfast yesterday.

*Brenda Velasco:* You're doing good with this interview, I'll tell you that. And you were on the Board at that time?

*Robert Gawroniak:* It was the late sixties when the schools opened and I ran for the Board because of all the activity. I was very interested in community and I was going to Rutgers University. When I became interested in the town, I graduated from Rutgers in 1957, and I ran for the School Board. I was elected and I served six years, two terms, from 1970 through 1975. Then I decided to run for the Town Council. I served intermittently for twelve years. I was Council President for four years. I must

say, getting back to the Board of Education, when I left the Board our school budget was approximately twenty million dollars a year.

*Brenda Velasco:* And that was in 1975?

*Robert Gawroniak:* The end of '75. Today our budget has to be about a hundred and twenty-five million and there are half the number of students, there are twelve thousand five hundred. In the meantime we closed a number of schools like Hopelawn and No. 7 in Fords.

*Brenda Velasco:* And also teachers were making five thousand dollars a year. I think your daughter is a teacher now, isn't she?

*Robert Gawroniak:* No she's not. She moved to Texas about ten years ago. She was teacher of the year here.

*Brenda Velasco:* I know that.

*Robert Gawroniak:* She was a wonderful teacher. Her husband's job took her over to Texas and believe it or not she could not get a job teaching in Texas. It's a closed society. The principal does all the hiring in Texas. There are no interviews by a central administration and you have to serve as a substitute for a number of years and then they chose the replacement for the teacher.

*Brenda Velasco:* What a waste of talent!

*Robert Gawroniak:* Unbelievable.

*Brenda Velasco:* I know she was teacher of the year. I sent her a note congratulating her.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Anyway I got on the Town Council and had a very interesting ride. I must say that I found being a member of the Board of Education more rewarding than the Town Council. On the Board of Education the Board is the center of all the activity. Anything that happened, the Board members knew about and had input. On the Town Council so much is done by the Administration in setting up of Bond issues and sending out contracts for different projects. It's unknown to the Council members many times. I found that to be quite different.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well with the open bid process you get the bids people have submitted. It's far more open by the end of the 1990s and this decade. There has been quite a bit of change and I think it's to the benefit with the transparency and the bid process which is really important.

*Robert Gawroniak:* We were fortunate in Woodbridge because we had a Public Service Generating plant to give us huge taxes, Woodbridge Center came into being with big taxes. And we are the center, of course the roadway, Route #1 and Route #9 and everything so we had a lot of traffic coming through town and it was.....

*Brenda Velasco:* Crossroads of New Jersey. Location, location, location and you're in real estate, you know that.

*Robert Gawroniak:* We prospered. It was a good time to be in real estate. We had our ups and downs like we have today. It was difficult, but then everything skyrocketed again because of demand and houses that were selling originally for \$14,900.00 are now selling for \$300,000.00. So it was a great opportunity for many people who came to Woodbridge from northern New Jersey, some from New York, but mostly northern New Jersey.

*Brenda Velasco:* A lot of the Elizabeth area.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Elizabeth, Union and Jersey City. We got a whole mixture of people that came through and they all integrated.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's a nice thing about Woodbridge.

*Robert Gawroniak:* Yes, we've had it all.

#### ***10. What do you like about Woodbridge today?***

*Robert Gawroniak:* Being here so long I look back at all the wonderful things that happened in Woodbridge from General George Washington staying at the Cross Keys Tavern on his way to New York City to being sworn in as our first president and the building still exists today.

*Brenda Velasco:* Recycled, people live in it.

*Robert Gawroniak:* The Historical Association, which I am the vice president of, had that building under contract at one time. We had it inspected and historical architects came in. It's a wonderful, wonderful building. The original fireplaces are still in the bedrooms that General Washington used, the roof beams are all hand cut and it's magnificent. It's located about five hundred feet off its original site. It was moved about 1923 from the corner of Main Street and Amboy Avenue where it resides behind the **7 Eleven** and **Gerity's Funeral Home**. The owner decided not to sell. She wanted to stay there. She was a single lady and a few years later she did sell it. It's a shame because we had plans of making that into our museum.

*Brenda Velasco:* Frank LaPenta had mentioned it to me and it was such a loss.

*Robert Gawroniak:* We still think about it frequently.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well we have to go on because we can't think about the past.

Because of technical difficulties, the recording stopped and the remaining information relies on the notes.

The other historical sites that Robert Gawroniak mentioned included the Strawberry Hill Section, the events during the Revolutionary War as well as the White Church and cemetery. He also mentioned the connection between a Woodbridge resident, Janet Pike Gage and her nephew, Zebulon Pike, who discovered Pikes Peak.

#### ***11. Do you have family members still living in Woodbridge today?***

Mr. Gawroniak no longer has family members living in Woodbridge, he has many friends. Currently his sister lives in Connecticut.

#### ***12. Are there any other stories or events that you would like to discuss?***

Mr. Gawroniak stated he is a current member of the Historical Association of Woodbridge Township. They sponsored the clean up and the Soldier and Sailors Monument at the corner of Berry and Main Street. This monument faces Berry Street which was named after Woodbridge's first casualty in the Civil War, First Lieutenant William C. Berry of Company H of the Fifth New Jersey Volunteers.