

Outstanding and Noteworthy Historical Personalities of Middlebury

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Mark Twain once said, “There was never yet an uninteresting life. Such a thing is an impossibility. Inside of the dullest exterior there is a drama, a comedy, and a tragedy.”¹ While all Middleburians are interesting, there are some whose stories seem particularly noteworthy.

Middlebury has produced and been host to many outstanding individuals throughout its 200 years of existence. Even before Middlebury had formally become a town on October 8, 1807, there were women and men working hard, giving to others and helping their community grow. Most today know Middlebury as a place where you can still count on your neighbors for help and assistance and to be there when needed. A few, however, are noteworthy for ignominious reasons. These thumbnail sketches are an attempt to begin to list a few of the many people who have made a significant difference in our community and the places to which they migrated. More research is in progress, but it must, for now, be an incomplete list, and I invite readers to submit other names. I have avoided, as much as possible, highlighting those who are still with us. Time has a way of telling us which neighbors were truly noteworthy, so we will have to wait on the present generation to see what history says.

Most of the people on this list were born or lived in Middlebury. The names of Middleburians, women and men, who served in the armed forces of the United States, deserve high praise, and are on our town monuments, engraved in stone as they should be. It is they who have secured the liberty we have today which allows us to be able to celebrate 200 years of security in our own homes in our beautiful town.

I sometimes wonder why Middlebury was not named “Bronsonville,” because our town was settled by members of the **Bronson** family. The family of **Isaac Bronson Jr.** (1670-1751) and **Mary Morgan** (1682-1749) settled in the West Farms of Waterbury, now Middlebury, in the very early 1700’s. Their house, built around 1702, was reportedly the first in this area. The family went on to distinguish itself in service to our community through its church and government. Their son, **Isaac Bronson III**, was reportedly the first white child born in what is now Middlebury, in 1707. He was married to **Eunice Richards**, and they had three sons.

Titus Bronson (1751-1820), one son of **Isaac Bronson III** and **Eunice Richards**, was the husband of **Hannah Cook** (1755-1841). He was a Middlebury attorney held in great esteem, as his obituary attests: “In health he was useful – in sickness patient – in death peaceful. – The wife has lost a faithful and pleasant companion – the child an able guide – the brother a safe counselor – the bar a benefactor – the missionary cause a constant supporter – and the world a friend.”² Their son, **Titus Bronson** (1788-1853), born in Middlebury, was the eccentric founder of the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1829, originally called the village of Bronson.³

Another son of **Isaac Bronson Jr.** and **Mary Morgan** was **Lieut. Josiah Bronson** (1713-1804). Because medical care was still in its infancy, many people died far before their time, as did his first three wives. He was married four times: to **Dinah Sutcliffe** (died 1736/7); **Sarah Hurd**, with whom he had eight children (she died 1767); **Rebecca** (surname

unknown, died 1797); and **Huldah** (surname unknown). His family lived on Breakneck Hill Road, and their house is still standing today! **Josiah's** family were benefactors of the Congregational Church and a silver Communion Service beaker, given by him to the church in 1800, can be seen on display, as well as his portrait. Do you know where?†

Dr. Abel Bronson (1743-1805), a son of **Josiah Bronson** and **Sarah Hurd**, was the husband of **Esther Hawkins** (ca. 1745-1823). In the eighteenth century the world was beginning to experiment with smallpox inoculation, a practice imported from Africa. Medical leaders such as **Zabdiel Boylston** (1676-1766) in Boston initiated the procedure against much protest. **Dr. Abel Bronson** established in 1792 what we now call the Poc House or Pest House, a kind of quarantine house here in Middlebury, where residents from around the area came to be inoculated. Some survived, but others did not. Two doors for this house, bearing the carved names of many who stayed there, are on display in our area. Do you know where?†

Silas Bronson (1788-1867) was born in what is now Middlebury, the sixth of nine children born to **Elijah Bronson** and **Lois Bunnell**. He became a successful businessman and millionaire in New York, importing and jobbing dry goods; and he left, by will, \$200,000.00 to the City of Waterbury for a library now bears his name, one that has served the area's needs for almost 140 years.⁴

A recent **Bronson** with whom many in Middlebury are familiar was **Delia Bronson** (1897-1987), a school teacher, one of our first librarians, our first woman police officer, town historian, and founder of the first 4-H Club in Middlebury in 1935. She was born **Delia Allen Driver** in Prospect, Connecticut, in 1897, daughter of **Ralph Leslie Driver** (1851-1933) and **Anna Seward Scovill** (ca. 1861-1897). Her mother died two months after she was born and she was raised by her uncle and his wife, **Willis Scovill** and **Cornelia Somers**, of Woodbury. She married **Wheaton Bronson** in 1929, a descendant of the same **Bronson** family which settled Middlebury. When he died in 1935, she dedicated herself to her teaching and service to her community. She was a stern disciplinarian, but all agree that they learned much from her.

During the Revolutionary War, a young chap named **Chauncey Judd** (1764-1823), son of **Isaac Judd** and **Anna Williams**, was seeing a young lady, **Ditha Webb**, home to Naugatuck. On his return he happened upon some Tory raiders on their way from a raid on the home of patriot **Captain Ebenezer Dayton**. Fearing they would be exposed, they kidnapped **Chauncey** and held him in a house on South Street in Middlebury and elsewhere. He was rescued and the miscreants were sent to prison. In 1874 **the Rev. Israel P. Warren** wrote about this story in a book, *Chauncey Judd, or, the Stolen Boy: a Story of the Revolution*.⁵ Where can you see this book, with its wonderful illustrations?†

The Rev. Bennett Tyler, D.D. (1783 – 1858) was born in what is now the Tylertown (northwestern) Section of Middlebury, named after the prolific **Tyler** families. He was the son of **James Tyler** and **Anne Hungerford** and was married to **Esther Stone** in 1807. The following year he was ordained to the Congregational ministry. He had studied under **the Rev. Ira Hart**, the first minister of the Middlebury Congregational Church, among others, before entering Yale College. He served a number of parishes, including South Britain, and went on to serve as president of Dartmouth College between 1822 and 1828; he then served as minister of the church in Portland, Maine. In the fall of 1833, when the Theological Institute of Connecticut was formed, he was appointed president and professor of Christian

Theology, becoming one of its founders. It is today known as the Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut.⁶

After his first sermon at Middlebury, a woman repeated to him highly flattering remarks of a gentleman who had heard him. Suddenly thinking that she was injuring **Dr. Tyler** by thus feeding his vanity, she observed, "But I would have you remember, **Dr. Tyler**, that Mr. — is not a man of very good judgment." **Dr. Tyler** used to tell this story to his children and students, his whole frame convulsed with laughter.⁷

William Hawkins Abbott (1819 – 1901), one of twelve children of **David Abbott** and **Hannah Hawkins**, was born in Middlebury. The prolific **Abbott** family has many descendants today throughout Connecticut and the country. **William** worked in Watertown in the general store and married **Jane Wheeler** in September, 1845. When oil was discovered in Titusville, Pennsylvania, by **Edwin L. Drake** in 1859, he became one of the first people involved in the oil trade; he built the first petroleum refinery in Titusville in 1861 and moved there the following year; he also established the first retail coal business.

William prospered in business, and in 1891 the author of one book described him thus: "His generosity was comprehensive and discerning...a most exemplary, public-spirited citizen. To give bountifully was his delight. He bore financial disaster heroically and labored incessantly to save others from loss. At seventy-two he is patient and helpful to those about him, his daily life illustrating his real worth and illumining the pathway of his declining years."⁸ His attributes were all the more astonishing considering the fact that in 1841, when **William** was about 21, his father, **David Abbott**, apparently insane, murdered his wife **Hannah** and then tried to kill himself in what was probably Middlebury's first major crime.

In 1849 **Eliza Ann Johnson** (b. ca. 1818), wife of the **Rev. George Prudden** (b. 1815), minister of the Congregational Church, gave birth to a son, **Theophil Mitchell Prudden, M.D., LL.D.**, (1849-1924). The father was a staunch anti-slavery partisan, descended from the **Rev. Peter Prudden** and his wife, **Joanna Boyce**, some of the original members of the New Haven Colony. The **Pruddens** instilled in their children high values of culture and usefulness to others.⁹ **Theophil Prudden** became a famed bacteriologist and author of a textbook on pathology in 1897. He was professor of Pathology and Director of the Department of Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York.

Matthew Budge, husband of **Mary Ann Matthew**, was born in England about 1836. He became one of the earliest patent holders from Middlebury. In 1878 he was issued a patent for an improvement in dumping wagons. Since then, many other Middleburians have patented their inventions, especially on behalf of the many local industries for which they worked. Even **Mary Robbins Hillard**, founder of the Westover School, was a co-holder of a patent, issued, in 1920, for an improvement to the typewriter.

Bessie Jane Webster was born in Middlebury in 1889, the daughter of **Franklin Webster** and **Mary Corliss**. She married **William O. Wakefield**, about 18 years her senior. Working on a farm in Middlebury, she became involved with **James Plew**, 22 years her senior, with whom she conspired to do away with her husband so that they might be married. **Plew** murdered **Wakefield** in Cheshire in June, 1913. They were caught and tried, and **Plew** was hanged in March, 1914. **Bessie**, sentenced to die, had her sentence commuted to life in prison. **Bessie's** trial became a cause célèbre at the time, attracting all the major feminists of the day, who complained about the unfair circumstances around which **Bessie** was sentenced. They succeeded, for in 1933, **Bessie** was pardoned by the state and set free.

The William and Jane (English) Cowan Family was one of the most distinguished families ever to settle in Middlebury. **William Cowan** (1832-1889) and his wife **Jane English** (1838-1931) had come from Ireland. The family had originally settled in Westchester County, New York, and had moved to Middlebury just before 1878. The **Cowans** had ten children – eight girls and two boys. **William Cowan** was struck and killed at a grade crossing in Naugatuck in 1889 while delivering milk, necessitating that the family leave their farm in Middlebury and move to Waterbury, which they did about 1892.

The last two of their daughters, **Lena Laight Cowan** and **Martha Lucinda Cowan**, were born in Middlebury. **Lena** was a teacher at Crosby High School in the Latin Department. Her sister **Martha** became principal of the Bunker Hill School, after which she served as supervisor of the practice teachers' course at Danbury State Teachers' College where her husband, **John Russell Perkins**, was principal. A sister, **Isabella Cowan**, became a physician and surgeon in Waterbury after becoming principal of Long Hill School, and another sister, **Elizabeth "Lizzie" Sturgis Cowan**, began as a teacher in Middlebury. In 1890 **Lizzie** was brutally attacked by a Middleburian, **Daniel S. Webster**, uncle of **Bessie Webster Wakefield**. But she survived and was a teacher for more than 50 years and principal of several schools, including Kingsbury School. The family were all members of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Middlebury and then Waterbury.

William Paul Johnson (1871-1969) and his wife, **Mary Rosaline Igoe** (1875-1953) are names familiar to many Middleburians. "**Bill**" was a constable with the Middlebury Police Department for more than 50 years and served as First Selectman. **Mary** became a school teacher at Hop Swamp School (later the Bradleyville School) in the 1890's before she was married to **Bill Johnson** in 1903. Middlebury was fairly homogeneous as a White, Protestant community in the nineteenth century and not always open to people whom Middleburians considered "different." **Mary** may have been the first Roman Catholic teacher in Middlebury.¹⁰ A native of New Haven, she taught school in Middlebury at the invitation of **Bill Johnson**. Having left teaching to raise four wonderful girls, she later went on to serve on the Middlebury School Committee for over 30 years. The Bradleyville School was renamed the "**Mary I. Johnson School**" in her memory in 1953.

One daughter, **Sister Maria Benigna Johnson, Ph.D., D.H.L.** (1904-1999), a member of the Sisters of Mercy, was a founding sister of St. Joseph College in West Hartford. She earned a doctorate from Catholic University and was awarded the D.H.L. degree *honoris causa* from St. Joseph's College after being designated professor emeritus. She was a member of the Society of American Bacteriologists and was director of the University Research Institute of Connecticut.¹¹

John Howard Whittemore (1837-1910) and **Julia Anna Spencer** (1839-1915) built a summer home on the east side overlooking Lake Quassapaug in 1893. "**JH**", as he was known, was a successful businessman, manufacturing malleable iron in Naugatuck. Their house was designed by the most prominent architectural firm of the day, McKim, Mead & White. **JH Whittemore** was an extraordinary benefactor of the region; masterpieces of architectural beauty may be seen in Naugatuck. In Middlebury he was responsible for building roads and the Center School, which was completed in 1897, paying 75% of the total cost of \$4,000. The building was designed by architect **A. Milton Napier** (born ca. 1861), and the grounds were designed by nationally acclaimed landscape architect **Warren Henry Manning** (1860-1938).

William Henry Bristol (1859-1930) and **Elise Hamilton Meyers** (1879-1924), his second wife, lived near Lake Quassapaug. **William** was the inventor of the Bristolphone in 1915, a device which coordinated sound with motion pictures, thus establishing his place in the founding of the modern motion picture industry. He also invented the first practical pyrometer for measuring high temperatures. He held the patents for over 100 inventions and won awards around the world. In 1925 he built the **Elise Myers Bristol** Memorial Parkway, the stretch of road running eastward from the Green down to Wheeler Road, and also built Lake **Elise** in honor of his wife, **Elise**. He was responsible for damming Goat brook to produce Fenn's Pond in 1912.

Professor Bristol was totally dedicated to his work to the point of absent-mindedness. Once he stopped at his plant on his way home from New Haven with his wife **Elise** and went in intending to stay only a few minutes. His wife came in, but did not see him when he went out; and he, having forgotten all about her, drove home without her. **Professor Bristol** frequently stayed at the Elton Hotel in Waterbury, and at his last illness his physician insisted he be taken to the hospital. As he was being carried out the hotel on a stretcher, they passed the desk of the hotel. He raised himself up on elbow and inquired if there was any mail for him. The ambulance driver said he was the liveliest patient he had ever seen.¹²

Frederick Starkweather Chase (1862-1947) and his wife, **Elsie Rowland** (1864-1937) built a summer home in Middlebury called Chesham Farm. They had six children. **Frederick** was one of three sons and four daughters of **Augustus Sabin Chase** and **Martha Clark Starkweather**, all of whom made incomparable contributions to the industry and wellbeing of Waterbury and the region. **Frederick** was the president of the Chase Brass & Copper Company and completed 50 years' service with the Chase Company. The family ran companies such as Holmes, Booth & Hayden Company, Benedict & Burnham Company, The American Brass Company, Hitchcock's, U.S. Button Company and the Waterbury Clock Company. **Elsie** was an accomplished artist, frequently displaying her art at local exhibitions.¹³ She was a contemporary of **Mary Robbins Hillard** and they attended school together. **Lucia Hosmer Chase** (1907-1986), a niece of **Frederick** and **Elsie**, founded what is now the American Ballet Theatre, in 1939. Much of the city of Waterbury benefited from the foresight, generosity and dedication of **Frederick S. Chase** and his family. Buildings along Grand Street, including City Hall, the Post Office and the Chase Building are architectural works of art. Chase Parkway and three parks, Chase, Waterville and Rowland, were gifts of the **Chase** family.

William Martin Shepardson (1864-1944), husband of **Olive Gertrude "Florence" Hamlin** (1872-1946), made great contributions to our town. **William** was a landscape architect and superintendent of Tranquillity Farm, owned by the **Whittemore** family. When Westover School was built, he supervised the grading and planting, as well as the planting along the **Whittemore** road from Middlebury to Naugatuck, Hop Brook Park and the landscaping of many buildings in Naugatuck. The Middlebury Beautification Committee continues to make Middlebury beautiful to behold. He served as a selectman of Middlebury for many years; and after his death, the **Shepardson** Community Center was named in his memory in 1944, as well as **Shepardson** Haven, both in Middlebury.¹⁴

Mary Robbins Hillard (1862-1932) was the third of seven children born to **the Rev. Elias Brewster Hillard** (1825-1895) and **Julia Whittlesey** (1835-1899). She gave Middlebury the world-renowned Westover School and served as Headmistress from its founding in 1909 until 1932, when **Louise Bulkley Dillingham** (1896-1965) succeeded her.

She partnered with **Theodate Pope Riddle** (1869-1946), one of America's first women architects, to design Westover, a building where one could "be quiet and let your spirit fill the buildings." **Theodate** also designed other buildings in Middlebury.¹⁵

The **Sperry** family, a number of whom settled in Middlebury, has been making contributions to this area of Connecticut for a long time, associated with area industry and other institutions. **Mark Leavenworth Sperry** (1842-1926) and his wife, **Julia Sherman Porter** (1850-1945), resided in Waterbury. His grandfather was **Mark Leavenworth**, one of the pioneer manufacturers of Waterbury. Their grandson, **Mark Leavenworth Sperry II** (1912-1979), son of **Leavenworth Porter Sperry** (1883-1958) and **Olive Smith** (1885-1966) and husband of **Virginia Welsh** (1917-1993), was vice-president of finance of the Scovill Manufacturing Company and director and trustee of many local institutions, including many non-profit organizations beneficial to all.¹⁶

Chauncey Porter Goss Sr. (1838-1918) and his wife, **Caroline Amelia Ketcham** (1842-1915) settled in Waterbury from New York. They had seven children. Their grandson, **Chauncey Porter Goss III** (1903-1964), became vice-president and director of Scovill Manufacturing Company and was a director and trustee of many area institutions. He and his wife, **Natalie Holbrook** (1906-1976), settled at Midfield, their home in Middlebury.¹⁷

George Augustus Goss Sr. (1881-1942), son of **Chauncey** and **Caroline**, was married to **Estelle Farrell** (1891-1982) and lived at Topsfield, their home in Middlebury. He had also been vice-president and director of the Scovill Manufacturing Company.¹⁸ Their son, **George Augustus Goss Jr.** (1920-1982), first cousin to **Chauncey Goss III** and husband of **Clair Leader**, was a vice-president of Scovill, Inc. He was with the 100th Field Artillery of the United States Army during World War II in France and Germany, rose to Captain, and was decorated with a bronze star. He served as director and trustee of many local institutions and as president of the McTernan School.¹⁹

Charles Hiram Upson Jr. (1899-1979) was married to **Gertrude Spencer Whittemore** (1903-1987), a granddaughter of **J. H. and Julia Whittemore**, and lived on a beautiful estate overlooking Lake Quassapaug. He was a Second Selectman of Middlebury for five terms and served as the State Representative from Middlebury for two terms.²⁰

Bronson Beecher Tuttle (1835-1903), the son of **Eben Clark Tuttle** and **Temperance Beecher**, was the business partner of **John Howard Whittemore** and the husband of **Mary Ann Wilcox** (1835-1928). Together, **Tuttle** and **Whittemore** established the Eastern Malleable Iron Company in Naugatuck. In 1897 the family began building Broadview, a Victorian-style summer home in Middlebury a few years after his son, **Howard Beecher Tuttle** (1863-1933), husband of **Jeanette Seymour** (1862-1955), began consolidating a number of farms at the south end of Bedlam Hill to create a family estate called Biscoe Farm. The main house of the farm is a splendid example of the Colonial Revival style, constructed in 1905. **Howard** was chairman in the Eastern Malleable Iron Company, the Naugatuck National Bank, and for many years the president of the Connecticut Society for Mental Hygiene. He also served as state senator in 1917. Their grandson, **Donald Seymour Tuttle** (1918-2006), husband of **Lois H. R. Fenton**, was a captain in the Marine Air Corps and was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was employed at the Risdon Company as vice president and was on the boards of several institutions and organizations.²¹

Around 1857, **Lewis Tyrrell** (born ca. 1823) built a recreation resort on Quassapaug Pond or Lake. It was purchased by a man named **Hiram Wallace** (born 1828). Although Lake Quassapaug was well known as a recreation area for most of Middlebury's history, Quassy Amusement Park was established in 1937 by **John George Franzeskakis** (born 1890) and his wife, **Vasiliki Volakakis** (1899-1991). Their son, **George Frantzis** (1927-1997), husband of **Catherine Maniatakis**, served in the Navy during World War II, held a master's degree in history, taught business organization and classical civilization at the University of Connecticut, served as selectman in Middlebury in 1964, and was president and chairman of Quassy Amusement Park.²²

Charles Lewis Larkin Sr., M.D., (1889-1967), son of **William Larkin Jr.** and **Mary Dennison**, was married to **Ruby Tuttle** (1894-1992), daughter of **Howard Beecher Tuttle** and **Jeanette Seymour**. They built High Winds in 1924 as an estate on part of the land originally belonging to Biscoe Farm. **Dr. Larkin** was a noted gynecologist and obstetrician who pioneered numerous procedures at Waterbury Hospital. Their son, **Charles Lewis Larkin Jr., M.D.** (1922-2007), was also a noted physician in the field of cardiovascular surgery, pioneering the eventual acceptance of open heart surgery in the Waterbury region. Their other son, **Howard Tuttle Larkin**, served as the Master of the Hounds of the Middlebury hunt and managed the dairy operation at Biscoe Farm. **Ruby (Tuttle) Larkin** provided much of the funding for our Middlebury Library.²³

Joseph Perkins Chamberlain (1873-1951), Professor of Public Law at Columbia University, and his wife, **Elizabeth Stillman** (1876-1928), were residents of New York City. He founded the Legislative Drafting Research Fund of Columbia University where he was noted for his contribution to the improvement of American statute law.²⁴ They built a residence in Middlebury which later became the Highfield Country Club. Because of her friendship with **Theodate Pope Riddle**, **Elizabeth** had her design the structure. Noted landscape architect **Warren Henry Manning** (1860-1938) designed the grounds, as he did for the Center School, now the Middlebury Historical Society. **Manning** was a protégé of the **Olmstead** brothers who worked extensively in Middlebury due to the patronage of **J. H. Whittemore** and **Theodate Pope Riddle**.

The Rev. Joseph A. Nichols (1834-1930) was born in Middlebury on 20 November 1834; he served in the Civil War in the First Connecticut Volunteers, Heavy Artillery Division. After the war he went into the south during Reconstruction as a missionary. He entered the Methodist ministry in 1879, migrated to Nebraska and served many churches there, settling in later years in Lincoln. He was married to **Katherine** (surname unknown) and had four daughters.²⁵

The Rev. Dr. Bennett Tyler Abbott (1836-1905), husband of **Frances Augusta "Aunt Fanny" Coe** (1840-1943), was born in Middlebury, the son of the **Rev. Ira Abbott** and **Lydia Wooding**, and was named after another renowned Methodist-Episcopal minister from Middlebury, **the Rev. Bennett Tyler**. Most of the **Abbotts** were dedicated members of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Middlebury. In his many Methodist-Episcopal pastorates throughout Connecticut and Long Island, he instilled a strong spiritual awareness in his parishioners and colleagues.²⁶

"**Aunt Fanny**," daughter of **John Coe** and **Mary Hoadley**, was believed to be the oldest resident of Waterbury when she died there in 1943 at the age of 102. She and her husband remembered vividly the announcement, shouted outside their windows, that **Abraham Lincoln** had been assassinated. Her favorite book was the Bible; she was a keen

newspaper reader and listened to the radio to keep up on current events. She voted in almost all elections since the 19th amendment was passed in 1920, because, as with all women, she was not allowed to vote until then, when she was 80 years old.²⁷

The Rev. John J. Loftus (ca. 1863-1933) was a native of Danbury, son of **Thomas Loftus** and **Bridget** (surname unknown), who had immigrated from Ireland. He was ordained in the Hartford diocese, and one of his early appointments was curate at St. Patrick's Church, Hartford, where he was supervisor of the parish schools. He was later pastor of a church in Watertown and established Roman Catholic churches in Woodbury and Middlebury. For the last 15 years of his life, he had been doing missionary work among African Americans near Montgomery, Alabama, where he died.²⁸

Naum Gabo (1890-1977) was born in Briansk, Russia (now Belarus), son of **Boris Pevsner** and **Fania Azerskaya**. From 1957 until his death he lived in Middlebury with his wife, **Miriam Israels**. He was an internationally renowned sculptor who revolutionized the art form. In his youth he was influenced by the artist **Wassily Kandinsky**. In his art he affirmed the principles of "constructivism" and renounced volume in sculpture. His work influenced **Alexander Calder** (1898-1976) of Roxbury, Connecticut.²⁹

When he died in 1940 at age 88, **George T. Johnson** was the oldest pharmacist in Connecticut. Born in Middlebury in 1852, the son of **David D. Johnson** and **Sophia Stone**. At 17 he set out to join the Navy in the Norfolk Navy Yard. He went to the railroad station and asked for a ticket to Norfolk; the ticket salesman glanced at this money and decided he meant Norfolk, Connecticut. Arriving there he was disappointed in finding no ocean; but he needed money and the only druggist in town needed a clerk, and a career was launched that would last over 70 years.³⁰

Rachel Carley, Jane Gallagher and Joan Rafford contributed to this article.

For further reading, Delia S. Bronson's *History of Middlebury, Connecticut*, edited by Bradford E. Smith, now fully indexed, is available for sale from the Middlebury Historical Society, the Town Clerk's office and the Middlebury Library.

† The portrait of Josiah Bronson and one Poc House door are on display at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury. The other door may be viewed at the Middlebury Historical Society building on Library Road. The book about Chauncey Judd may be found in the Connecticut Room of our Middlebury Public Library.

Outstanding and Noteworthy Historical Personalities of Middlebury
Dr. Robert L. Rafford, Middlebury Municipal Historian

Notes to the Text

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1. The bos'n, in *The Refuge of the Derelicts*, ch. 4 (1905-1906), rept. In *Fables of Man*, ed. John S. Tuckey (1972), Google book search, <http://www.Google.com>.
 2. Titus Bronson obituary, *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven, Connecticut), 30 May 1820, page 3.
 3. Wikipedia Foundation, Inc. September, 2007, <<http://www.Wikipedia.com>>
 4. *New York Times*, 30 November 1867, page 1, and the Web site of the Silas Bronson Library, located at <<http://www.bronsonlibrary.org/content/36/109/193.aspx>>.
 5. The Rev. Israel Perkins Warren, *Chauncey Judd, or, The Stolen Boy: A Story of the Revolution* (New York: Crowell, 1874). Also reprinted in Naugatuck, Connecticut, The Perry Press, 1906. Available online at the Web site of the Oxford Historical Society.
 6. The Rev. Bennett Tyler obituary, *The Hartford Daily Courant* (Hartford, Connecticut), 26 May 1858, page 2.
 7. *The Congregationalist* (Boston, Massachusetts), 05 December 1872, 2:D.
 8. John J. McLaurin, *Sketches in Crude-Oil* (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: published by the author, 1898), p. 320.
 9. Everett Gleason Hill, *A Modern History of New Haven and Eastern New Haven County* (New York: S. J. Clarke, 1918), II, 136, 137.
 10. Mary I. Johnson obituary, *The Waterbury Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), 10 July 1953, 12:2.
 11. Sister Maria Benigna Johnson obituary, *The Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Connecticut), 23 November 1999, B7:2.
 12. William Bristol obituary, *The Waterbury Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), Thursday, 19 June 1930, 1: 7.
 13. Elsie Rowland Chase obituary, *The Waterbury Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), Monday, 05 April 1937, 1: 2.
 14. William Shepardson obituary, *The Waterbury Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), 22 January 1944, 12:1.
 15. Mary R. Hillard obituary, *The New York Times* (New York, New York), 12 October 1932, page 29.
 16. Mark Sperry II obituary, *The Waterbury Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), Thursday, 19 July 1979.
 17. Chauncey Porter Goss obituary, *The Waterbury Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), Thursday, 29 October 1964, 10: 1.
 18. George Goss obituary, *The Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Connecticut), Wednesday, 14 October 1942.
 19. George A. Goss Jr. obituary, *The Waterbury Sunday Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), 21 March 1982, 10: 1.
 20. Charles H. Upton Jr. obituary, *The Waterbury Sunday Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), 15 July 1979, 4: 1.
 21. Donald Tuttle obituary, *The Waterbury Sunday Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), 09 April 2006, 13B: 1.
 22. George Frantzis obituary, *The Waterbury Sunday Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), 21 December 1997, 7B: 1.
 23. Dr. Charles Larkin obituary, *The Waterbury Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), 21 February 2007, 8B:5.
 24. Joseph Chamberlain obituary, *The New York Times* (New York, New York), Tuesday, 22 May 1951, 31:4.
 25. The Rev. Joseph A. Nichols obituary, *The Lincoln Star* (Lincoln, Nebraska), 12 July 1930, 3:2.
 26. The Rev. Bennett T. Abbott obituary, 22 April 1905, other information unknown.
 27. Frances Augusta Coe Abbott obituary, other information unknown.
 28. The Rev. John Loftus obituary, *The Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Connecticut), 17 November 1933.
 29. Naum Gabo obituary, *The Waterbury Republican* (Waterbury, Connecticut), 24 August 1977, 1:5, and the Web sit of Book Rags, founded by James Yagmin, David Liebermann, located at <<http://www.bookrags.com/biography/naum-gabo/>>.
 30. George T. Johnson obituary, *The Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Connecticut), 28 October 1940.