Set close to the east side of Main Street, the Root Homestead stands on a small, landscaped lot which slopes off to the west. Overgrown hedges trim the facade and a driveway borders the south elevation. The surrounding neighborhood contains other historic dwellings dating from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries.
Capped with a ridge-to-street gambrel roof, the Root Homestead exhibits a five-bay facade and three, shed-roof dormers. A large, brick, center-chimney rises from the roof. The original central entry door has been removed and replaced with a small, diamond pattern paired window. The lean-to addition which extends from the rear elevation gives the roofline a "saltbox" appearance. An exterior brick chimney has been added to both the north and south elevations. A "coffin" door is found on the southwest corner. A number of large additions have been incorporated onto the rear elevation and include two, nineteenth-century buildings which originally stood a short distance to the south.

While the building's construction date can not be clearly determined through the land records, the house may have been erected as early as 1690 by Joseph Root or his brother, Caleb Root. The early land records are confusing and difficult to interpret. It appears that both men owned dwellings along the east side of Main Street. In 1720/1 Samuel and Elizabeth Warner sold Joseph Root a three-and-a-half acre parcel on which "said Root's house standeth" (FLR 3:541). Joseph (d. 1739) was the second youngest son of John Root I, one of Farmington's earliest proprietors. He married Elizabeth Warner in 1690 and later after her death, married the widow Ruth Smith in 1727. Caleb Root was the youngest son of John Root I. In 1693 he married Elizabeth Salmon. Upon Caleb's death in 1712 he willed one-half of his house to son, Caleb, Jr., one-quarter to daughter, Elizabeth and one-quarter to daughter, Mary (HPR #4627). Caleb, Jr. in 1724 sold Samuel Lee a one acre parcel of land with dwelling house "near and southward of my uncles (Joseph Root) homelott" (FLR 4:230). Lee sold the house to Joseph Root in February of 1725 (FLR 4:242). Joseph Root now owned two dwelling houses next door to each other on the east side of Main Street and it is impossible to determine which one is the house at 157 Main and which no longer stands. Joseph Root willed the homestead to his son, Joseph Root II in 1739 (HPR #4633). Joseph II (1699-1751) married Hannah Wadsworth (1700-1741) in 1726 and after her death he married the widow Dorothy Andrews. Seven children were born to the first marriage. In 1752 the homestead was distributed to Joseph's (II) surviving children: Joseph III, Abigail, Phelix, and Mary (HPR #4634). In 1773 Joseph III sold his portion to Capt. Solomon Cowles (FLR 19:563; 21:107). Phelix (Felix), who had married David Sherman (see contr.P8.)

of Woodbury, Connecticut, sold her share to Capt. Cowles in 1783 (FLR 25:409). Shortly thereafter Cowles acquired Mary's portion (FLR 25:85). It is unclear what happened to Abigail's share of her father's estate. Cowles who resided at 149 Main Street, just to the north, sold the entire property "formerly belonging to Joseph Root" to Levi Clark in 1784 (FLR 25:274). Little is known about Clark and in December of 1839 his estate sold the house to Asa Wilcox (FLR 47:288). A year later, Wilcox transferred the property to his son Jeremiah Wilcox (FLR 48:154). In 1840 Jeremiah Wilcox purchased the house next door to the south and later in 1845 purchased the house at 163 Main Street. These three buildings are attributed to Wilcox on the 1855 Map. By 1869 he had erected a fourth building on the lot. Wilcox transferred title of the the property to his wife, Eliza in 1867 through a third party (FLR 60:555,556). Eliza Wilcox willed the "four dwelling houses and two barns" to her granddaughter, Harriet W. Field of Newton, Massachusetts (FLR 66:205). In 1881 Henry M. Wilcox of Sandisfield, Massachusetts, purchased the lot (FLR 66:144). In 1901 carpenter Henry O. Wilcox acquired the property from the Estate of Henry M. Wilcox (FLR 74:76). He sold 163 Main Street to Daniel Janes in 1910 and used one of the other dwellings as a workshop (FLR 77:354). The Farmington Savings Bank took title through a certificate of foreclosure in 1919 (FLR 79:107). Shortly thereafter George D. Chase purchased the house (FLR 79:108). Chase sold the property to Arthur Douglas Dodge in the fall of 1919 (FLR 80:118). It was Dodge who attached the other two small dwellings on the lot to the main house. The property remained in the Dodge family until 1967.

Although the early history of the Root Homestead is unclear it derives architectural significance as one of the town's earliest Colonial-period dwellings. Historically it is notable for its long association with the Root and Wilcox families.
OWNER'S NAME: DODGE, A. DOUGLAS

ADDRESS: 157 Main Street

DATE BUILT: ca. 1693  FOR: Caleb Root

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: One of the houses formerly on
the property has been moved to
Tunxis St. and is now the pro-
property of Nathan Fay.
A.D. Dodge used another of the
bldgs. as an addition to the
old house, now the main resi-
dence.

ARCHITECT

MASTER-BUILDER

FORMER OWNERS: A.D. Dodge from George D. Chase 11/21/1919, Vol. 80, p. 118; G.D. Chase from Farming-
e. side of Main St., 2 1/2 acres & bldgs., n. on Anson Porter, 1/19/1901, Vol. 71, p. 76; Henry
M. Wilcox from Harriet (Wilcox) & George A. Field, 2 1/2 acres with 1 dwellinghouses, 2 barns
etc. by Quit Claim deed, 10/28/1881, Vol. 66, p. 114; Harriet W. Field from Est. Eliza
Wilcox same, by dist. of Est., 8/2/1882, Vol. 66, p. 205 (no explanation appears as to why
H.M. Wilcox received the property from H.W. Field before she had received it from her mother
except that she wished him to have it); Eliza Wilcox from Tertius N. Bishop, 3 acres & bldgs.
a warrant deed, n. on Ira Hadsell (now Warner) 5/22/1867, Vol. 60, p. 556; T.N. Bishop from
Jeremiah Wilcox, same, 5/20/1867, Vol. 60, p. 555; Jeremiah Wilcox from Mark Hadsell,

REFERENCES: "Farmington, Conn., 1906", p. 99
"Farmington Town Clerks, 1913", p. 32
"Baker & Tilden Atlas, 1869", p. 33, "J. Wilcox"
"Colonial Dames pamphlet", a ms. at Ct. State Library

OWNER: DODGE, A. DOUGLAS

AS OF: 1950
Former Owners, cont.:
3/4 acre & blds., n. on said Wilcox, w. on Main St., 12/24/1840, Vol. 48, p. 155; ALSO Jeremiah Wilcox from Asa Wilcox, 1/2 acre & blds., s. on Ira Hadsell, w. on Main St., 12/24/1840, Vol. 48, p. 154, "for love and affection"; ALSO Jeremiah Wilcox from Samuel Welton, 1 acre, 3 roods, 13 rods 6/19/1845, Vol. 49, p. 40; Asa Wilcox from Est. of Levi Clark on Main St., w. on Main St., n.e. on Solomon Cowles 2nd, s. on heirs or assigns of George Root 12/5/1839, Vol. 47, p. 288-9; Mark Hadsell from Ira Hadsell 12/7/1839, Vol. 48, p. 87; Ira Hadsell from Asa Wilcox, same, 1/2 acre & blds. 12/5/1839, Vol. 48, p. 86; Levi Clark from Solomon Cowles for 35 pounds "and is the front of the lot lately belonging to Joseph Root and contains 3 roods with a dwellinghouse and is to include the land now fenced for a garden," 4/3/1784, Vol. 25, p. 274; Solomon Cowles from Joseph Root, 3 acres "north side of the homelott where I (Root) now dwell" (now Montgomery) 12/22/1773, Vol. 19, p. 565; ALSO from Joseph Root "1/2 part of the dwellinghouse in which I now dwell on east side of town street a little south of Capt. Cowles' homelott," 1/27/1776, Vol. 21, p. 107; ALSO from Mary Root "all that homelott lately my honored father's Joseph Root's 3 acres, west on town st. n.e. & s. on S. Cowles" 10/15/1783, Vol. 25, p. 85; Joseph Root from Samuel Lee (brother-in-law) 1 acre, 20 rods, with blds. of several sorts, n. on Elizabeth Root, n. & s. on Joseph Root, w. on town st., near the dwellinghouse of said Joseph, the said Joseph to have 2/3 of the property now & the other 1/3 after the death of his sister Elizabeth Jelott, 2/10/1724, Vol. 4, p. 242; Joseph from Elizabeth 6/3/1727, Vol. 4, p. 418; Samuel Lee from Caleb Root, jr., same 1 acre, 20 rods, dwellinghouse & barn, 12/21/1724, Vol. 4, p. 230; Caleb Root, jr from father Caleb, who died 1712 leaving Caleb the eldest son, widow Elizabeth, & Mary, Thomas, Elizabeth & Samuel; Caleb Root by inheritance & gift from his father John Root, who bought this land 1664 from Rev. John and Sarah (Hooker) Wilson. It had previously & originally belonged to E. Hopkins. Caleb Root Married Elizabeth Salmon 1693 & probably built this house at that time.
157 Main Street, Farmington, Connecticut. built circa 1690

Made from a zinc plate furnished to Eugene L. Swan, Jr., by Mrs. Henry M. Elliot, Jr., daughter of A. Douglas Dodge.
The main part of this house is pictured on page 99 of the Farmington Book as the Residence of Henry O. Wilcox. Two other parts of the present house are shown on the same page, one as the shop of H. O. Wilcox, and the other as the residence of Jesse J. Broadbent. A fourth building which stood on this same property is perhaps the one mentioned on the library card as having been moved to Tunxis Street, and now (1951) the property of Nathan Foy. All four buildings are grouped on the Baker and Tilden Atlas of 1869 as "J. Wilcox". The present house was written up by Mrs. Mabel S. Hurlburt in 1946 for the Colonial Dames Society as the Root-Dodge House 1693.

The property has had many changes of ownership since its title was first held by Governor Edward Hopkins as shown on page xvi as plot #51 and on page xix under the name of Edward Hopkins, in the book "Town Clerks", written by the above-mentioned Mr. Hurlburt. The library record states that the third owner was "Caleb Root by inheritance and gift from his father John Root who bought this land in 1664 from the Rev. John and Sarah (Hooker) Wilson, and died in 1684. It had previously belonged to E. Hopkins. Caleb Root married Elizabeth Salmon in 1693 and probably built the house at that time".

Governor Hopkins was the second elected governor of the colony of Connecticut. Upon his death in London in 1657, left this property to Sarah Hooker. She was the daughter of The Rev. Thomas Hooker, founder of Hartford's first church, and was born in Little Baddow, England, in or about 1630. She was also the sister of the Rev. Samuel Hooker, second minister of Farmington, who lived on the site of what is now 145 Main Street. She married the Rev. John Wilson, Jr., born in London, England, in 1621, the son of the Rev. John Wilson of the first church of Boston, and his wife Elizabeth Mansfield. They had brought their family to America in 1630. John Wilson, Jr., was graduated from Harvard's College in 1642, and he and his wife settled in Dorchester where he was ordained and was a colleague of the Rev. Richard Mather. In 1651 the Wilsons removed to Medfield where Mr. Wilson became a famous preacher and lived until his death in 1691. They had eight children, six born in Dorchester and two in Medfield. Mrs. Wilson died in Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1725.

John Root, mentioned in the second paragraph above, was the third owner of this property, and was the progenitor of the Root family in Farmington. See more regarding him in the account of the house at 158 Main Street, which was the older homestead of the Root family. Caleb Root was his youngest child.

This property has had many changes of ownership in the 315 years since its inheritance in 1657 by Mrs. Wilson. These changes will appear in chronological order and in quotation marks in each case, as taken from the abstract of title shown on the card in the Village Library.

June 16, 1972
Mrs. Hurlburt mentions this particular house on page 32 of "Town Clerks", saying "Another old house of great age, with previous uncertain parentage, is the present home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Douglas Dodge. Exhaustive and patient research points to the likelihood that it was built about 1693 by Caleb Root".

The Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, under whose auspices it was publicly shown on May 17, 1947 says that it "represents a departure in Farmington architecture, being of the small gambrel-roof type rather than the earlier high three window type. It has a barrel ceiling, exposed framing, interior sheathing, and plainly shows the extension of the roof over the ell, a later addition. The original door was in the center of the front".

Caleb Root, the youngest child of John Root, and married to Elizabeth Salmon, had the following children:

Mary 1695- , m. in 1722 John Burr, Jr.,
Caleb Jr. 1698- inherited this house,
Thomas 1702-1789, m. Sarah Dudley, lived in Kensington,
Elizabeth 1706-1746, m. in 1733 Ebenezer Orvis,
Samuel 1712-1778

Caleb Root, Sr., was married a second time, to one Gillette, but it is assumed that all his children were by his first Caleb, Sr., died in 1712.

"Caleb Root, Jr., took title from his father".

Caleb Root, Jr., was married in 1721 to Joanna Shaw of Windham, Connecticut. He lived most of his life in Southington, and most of his sons moved to Canaan. His children were:

Joshua 1723- , m. __________ Eggleston
Caleb III 1725- m. ___ Eggleston
Joanna 1728-
Simeon 1731-1810 m. Mehitable _________
Asa 1733- m. Mary _________
Phineas 1735- m. Rebecca Wing
William 1737-1823 m. Elizabeth ________
Nathaniel 1739-1821
Asahel 1741-1741 m. (1) _________ Barnes
Enoch 1743- m. (2) Hannah Cory
Became a doctor. Served in the Revolutionary War.

Aaron 1745-

"Samuel Lee from Caleb Root, December 21, 1724".

"Joseph Root from Samuel Lee, brother-in-law...........
two thirds of the property now and the other one third after the death of his sister Elizabeth Jelott".

June 16, 1972
The writer can find no record of a marriage between the Root and Lee families at this point, which would result in a Samuel Lee being a brother-in-law of a Root, nor of a mention of an Elizabeth Jelott. One Joseph Root, #2834, 1699-1751, was the son of Joseph #2807 and Elizabeth Warner, and was the cousin of the Caleb Root mentioned on the previous page. Joseph Root #2834 did have a sister Elizabeth, 1692-1777, but the Root Genealogy says nothing of her marriage, nor that she was married at all.

"Joseph(Root) from Elizabeth, June 3, 1727".

Joseph Root #2834 was married twice. His first marriage, in 1726, was to Hannah Wadsworth, probably the daughter of William Wadsworth of what is now 107 Main Street. She died in 1741 and his second wife was the widow Dorothy Andrews. All children were by the first wife, who perhaps died at or shortly after the birth of the last two children who were twins. Children were:

Mary 1727-1797 unmarried,
Felix 1730- m. David Sherman (?)
Ezekiel 1732-1735
Abigail 1730-1807 m. 1764 Timothy Andrews. It was their son Asa Andrews who in 1804 built what was later known as the Deacon Simeon Hart house at 93 Main St.,
Joseph 1738-1783 m. Martha Moore
Ezekiel 1741- twins
Hannah 1741-

Joseph Root #2904, 1738-1733, was in a colonial war for a time in the campaign of Fort William Henry in 1757. He was married in 1760 to Martha Moore, 1741-1811, said to have been of Watertown, Connecticut. On June 12, 1778, one Joseph Root advertised in the Courant that "I have undertook to ride post for the Town of Farmington taking letters to General Parsons' brigade in the Revolutionary Army". He would pick up letters at designated places in Southington, New Britain, Salmon Brook, Simsbury, New Hartford, Winchester, West Hartford and Hartford, in addition to those left at his house in Farmington. See Farmington Papers, page 85. Children of Joseph and Martha were:

Seth 1762- , m. Tryphosa Warner,
Salmon 1764
Oren 1766- , m. Ruth Eddy,
Joseph 1768-1823, m. Hannah Eddy,
Hannah m. Moses Hills,
David
Abel m. Polly Roberts of Bristol.

"Solomon Cowles from Joseph Root..... December 22, 1773"

This Solomon Cowles was very likely the Solomon Cowles who lived next north of here, at what is now 149 Main Street, perhaps purchased as an investment.

"Levi Clark from Solomon Cowles, April 3, 1784".

The writer has no information regarding Levi Clark.

June 18, 1972
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"Asa Wilcox from Estate of Levi Clark.... Dec. 5, 1839".

"Ira Hadsell from Asa Wilcox.... Dec. 5, 1839".

"Mark Hadsell from Ira Hadsell December 7, 1839".

"Jeremiah Wilcox from Asa Wilcox.... December 24, 1840, 'for love and affection' ".

"Jeremiah Wilcox from Samuel Welton.... June 19, 1845".

"T. N. Bishop from Jeremiah Wilcox May 20, 1867".

"Eliza Wilcox from Tertius N. Bishop.... May 22, 1867".

Eliza Wilcox died in 1871.

"Henry M. Wilcox from George A. Field and Harriet (Wilcox) Field...... October 28, 1881".

"Harriet W. Field from the Estate of Eliza Wilcox by distribution of estate August 2, 1882". Note that Harriet had deeded to Henry a year before she herself had received title.

"H. O. Wilcox from the Estate of Henry M. Wilcox of Sandisfield, Massachusetts...... April 19, 1901".

Henry Wilcox and his wife Elvira Brewer appear to have had four children:

Brian H. born 1909
Earl Myron 1912
Doris Eveline 1914
Dorothy E. 1919

Mr. Wilcox advertised as "Carpenter and Builder" in the Farmington Magazine of 1900 and 1901. Henry Wilcox is well remembered as a carpenter and builder, as stated in his ad, several houses built in his day are credited to him, and one of his carpenters was Charles Neuhauser, one of the Neuhausers of Scott Swamp Road. From the next entry in the land records it would appear that he had financial difficulties however.

"George D. Chase from the Farmington Savings Bank, July 31, 1919" and "from the bankrupt estate of Henry O. Wilcox November 5, 1919".

The next entry was to begin an ownership by the Dodge family which would last for forty-eight years. This entry was:

"A. Douglas Dodge from George D. Chase, November 21, 1919".

June 18, 1972.
The background of Arthur Douglas Dodge is interesting in that he came from the two families that had earlier formed the Phelps-Dodge Corporation, later to become quite a power and force in the metals field.

We shall start this with Sergeant John Phelps, born 1652, and with Thomas Phelps, born 1711, who married Margaret Watson. These were Simsbury people. The son of Thomas Phelps was Lt. Thomas Phelps, born 1741, who married Dorothy Lamb Woodbridge. He had a half interest in a combination saw and grist mill on Hopmeadow Road, and was employed for a time in the fortification of Newgate Prison. He began his Revolutionary War service in 1775 under Capt. Abel Pettibone of Weatogue, and ended it in 1780 under Colonel Baldwin.

The son of Lt. Thomas Phelps was Anson Greene Phelps born in Simsbury. His mother died when he was twelve and he selected Thomas Woodbridge Phelps to be his guardian. In 1806 he married Olivia Egleston of Middletown. Anson Phelps moved early in his life to Hartford and went into business. His first venture was the manufacture of saddles, which he sent to the Southern states and sold. Other ventures in Hartford were also successful and he built the Phelps Block on North Main Street. In 1812 he and his family moved to New York City. He went into the metal business with Elisha Peck as Phelps, Peck and Company. Later he entered a partnership with his son-in-law William Earl Dodge, who in 1828 had married Anson's daughter Melissa.

The Dodge family also had been of Simsbury, Daniel Lowe Dodge and his wife Sarah C. Cleveland. Their house on Sand Hill Road, Weatogue, still stands, now housing the Simsbury Convalescent Home. It was their son William Earl Dodge, born in 1805, who in 1828 married Melissa Phelps, born in 1809, and was taken into partnership with his father-in-law.

The Phelps-Dodge Company, primarily a metal importing firm, was originally only interested in tin, but went into other metals, especially copper, and became an extremely large and powerful company with their largest copper mines probably being in Arizona, and their smelter at Bisbee being the one man-made thing which the astronauts can see on earth.

After the death of Anson Phelps in 1853 the business was inherited by William Earl Dodge, the junior partner, who then became manager and head of Phelps-Dodge. William E. Dodge died in 1883, funeral services being conducted by the Rev. George L. Prentice in his Mercer Street Church.

June 19, 1972
Simsbury — After operating 20 years, the Simsbury Convalescent Hospital on Sand Hill Road went out of business Friday.

The 65 patients have been transferred to other convalescent facilities and efforts were made by owners Harald G. Gurland and his brother, Irving C. Gurland, to find jobs for the 45 employees in similar hospitals.

The convalescent hospital, oldest of three in Simsbury, closed down because the state said it could not afford to conform to strict federal fire and safety codes.

The Gurlands purchased the large wood-frame building in 1952 from the former Abby Preparatory School and converted it into a nursing home on the 10-acre site.

The facility is one of several around the state that have shut down because of the federal regulations.

Complaints

Gurland and company said the tighter federal controls were adopted in 1968 but it took four years for the state to enforce them.

"We were given only two months or so to make the changes required under the federal regulations Gurland said. "We just weren't given enough time and the expense made it prohibitive."

Karen A. Monsam of Granby, a registered nurse who worked at the hospital for eight and one-half years, criticized state officials for waiting four years before getting around to enforcing the federal code.

"Why Now?"

"Why now?" she asked.

"When there are four new facilities completed this year, are they enforcing the federal code and forcing us to close? We never had a fire in 20 years our hospital was in existence, but now this old building with a sprinkler system is a fire hazard."

Many of the patients left in tears of some of them having been at the hospital nearly as long as its founding. The staff also was saddened by the closing, some of them having been with the hospital since it started in 1952.

Mrs. Monsam pointed out that one patient, who has been with us for 14 years, born and brought up in Collinsville, is going to Meriden because she has no relatives to fight for her to stay in this area.

Sad Farewell

Harold G. Gurland, left, and his brother, Irving C. Gurland, right, co-owners of Simsbury Convalescent Hospital, say goodbye Friday to their staff. The facility closes Friday after 20 years because of strict federal fire and safety code (Kirk Hatsian Photo).
Arthur Murray Dodge, born in New York City in 1852, was the ninth and last child of William and Melissa Dodge. He was a Yale graduate of 1874, but since the Phelps-Dodge empire was ruled wholly by primo-geniture and he did not fall heir to it, he went heavily into the lumber business in the Great Lakes area, as did others of his family. His holdings were principally around Waubaushene, Ontario, but he resided in New York City. He was married in 1875 to Josephine Marshall Jewell. Their sons were:

- Marshall, Yale 1898
- Murray, " 1899
- Arthur Douglas, born 1879, " 1903
- Jeffrey, lived in Paris, " 1908
- Percy, moved to Detroit, " 1914

It was Arthur Douglas Dodge, known in Farmington as A. Douglas Dodge, who came here and bought this house. He had lost one eye when a youngster. He served during World War I driving an ambulance in France for the American Field Service. He was still single when he came to Farmington, a friendly and pleasant man, easy to know, the owner of a flashy car and quite a good golfer, very fond of the sport. He sometimes took his friends to visit his old family home in Simsbury on Sundays. It appears that some of the houses used by the Ethel Walker School when starting in 1917 were formerly of the Dodge family. Several burned in a fire in the early thirties. An ancient Phelps house is said to have stood on the grounds also.

A. Douglas Dodge apparently inherited sufficient income to suffice for his needs as he never was known to have been in business himself. He was married in 1922 to Alice Sturgis, the former Alice Rathbone Bowditch of Boston, daughter of Edward Bowditch and Lucy Rathbone. When Mr. Dodge bought this property there were four buildings on it. These were the main house, the woodworking shop of Henry Wilcox, a small house in which Jesse Broadbent had lived, and another building. The latter is said to have been moved to Tunxis Street to become the property of Nathan Foy. Regarding the Broadbent house, nothing has been found regarding Jesse Broadbent. One Charles Broadbent was a manufacturer in Unionville, and other Broadbents have lived there also. That house stood about where the present garage stands. It had been planned at one time to move this over to Hatter's Lane, through the rear yards, but difficulties due to the terrain prevented this, so the plan of attaching it, together with the shop, to the main house, was evolved. This was done, and the present house is the result. Some think that the central portion of the present house, connecting the Wilcox house with the Broadbent house, was newly built in 1922, but this appears to be in error, because that section shows clearly in the photo on page 99 of the Farmington Book. It is quite possible however, that it is of different vintage than the street-side portion. The alterations and combining of the houses is thought to have been done right around the time of the Dodge's marriage.

After the marriage Rose Flood went in with them as housekeeper and stayed for many years. Kitty Mason (Clarence Mason's widow) worked there for many years also.

June 19, 1972
The Dodges had one daughter, Lucy, a lovely girl, who was in 1947 married to Henry Melvin Elliot, Jr., born in Philadelphia, the son of H. M. Elliott, Sr., and Gladys Richter. The Ellioths have several children, lived in North Haven, Connecticut, until 1972, and recently moved, or are moving, to Albany, New York.

Mr. Dodge died in November 1963, just after having arrived in his Bermuda home, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. A. Douglas Dodge II, his nephew and wife. Mr. Dodge had been in somewhat ill health for perhaps two years prior to that time. Mrs. Dodge continued her residence in Farmington until she also died in September 1967 at the age of eighty-one.

Mrs. Elliott inherited the property and sold it in December 1968 to Graham B. Blaine, who in turn sold it on May 6, 1971, to Eugene L. and Catherine W. Swan.

June 19, 1972

Source of some of the information on preceding pages was A. Douglas Dodge II, of Clearfield Drive, Wethersfield, nephew of the A. Douglas Dodge of Farmington.
Graham B. Blaine, purchaser in 1968, is the father of Mrs. Eugene L. Swan, Jr. Mr. Blaine purchased the property as an interim transaction, holding it until his son-in-law and daughter could sell their own place and buy this, which they did in May 1971, although they have occupied it since 1969.

Eugene LaForrest Swan, Jr., is the son of Dr. Eugene LaForrest Swan and Molly Dodge Ripley. Dr. Swan was born in Franklin, Maine, and reared in Norridgewock. Miss Ripley was born in Hingham, Massachusetts, was a violinist, and Dr. Swan met her at a concert in which she took part. Dr. Swan studied medicine at Long Island Medical College, and after their marriage they moved to Brooklyn, New York, where he practiced.

Eugene, Jr., grew up in Brooklyn and Maine, where his grandfather had a cottage at Frenchman's Bay near Bar Harbor. His grandfather, Eugene Judson Swan, was in construction work. He was enterprising and resourceful and inventive. He left an album of photos of various projects and scenes in Chile and other South American countries where he had been involved in various enterprises.

Eugene, Jr., was graduated from Loomis Institute, later majored in English at the University of Virginia, and attended Columbia University for graduate work. He was employed by the Collegiate School in New York City, a school founded in 1633, to publicize its 300th anniversary and write a history of it. He found and photographed fourteen sites on which it had been located during its long life. Its present location is 241 West 77th Street. He taught there for a time.

Mrs. Swan is the former Katharine Blaine, the daughter of Graham Burt Blaine, formerly of Taunton, Massachusetts, and Katharine Winthrop Tweed of Vermont and New York, a descendant of Pilgrim leader John Winthrop. Katharine trained as a nurse at Physician's and Surgeon's Hospital, and was school nurse at Collegiate when they met.

In the late 1940's Mr. Swan went to Haiti where he spent some time writing a dictionary of the Creole language, the language of the peasant Haitians. He was three years there, then moved to a farm in Vermont where he tried free-lance writing.

Eugene and Katharine came to West Hartford in the very early 1950's and he re-entered the teaching profession. He was at Kingswood for five years and then transferred to Renbrook School when they added the 7th, 8th and 9th grades. He headed the upper school until 1972.

Mrs. Swan and other family members own an offshore island in Maine, on which they are restoring an abandoned life-saving station which had been built in 1876.

June 7, 1973
In 1909 Dr. Swan purchased Pine Island, in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, and the boys' camp on the island. It was his opinion as a doctor, and one who had become greatly interested in psychiatry, that camps were good therapy, and he operated the camp for the rest of his life. He was also the originator of a project to help boys, at Rockland State Hospital in Pearl River, New York.

Mr. Swan and his family have always attended Pine Island summer camp, and since his father's death they own it, operating it each summer. This past summer they celebrated its 70th anniversary, and three of the visitors who attended the celebration were men who had attended the camp as early as 1902, 1904 and 1907.

The Swans have four children.

Ripley Alton Swan II was born in New York, attended New England College at Hennicker, New Hampshire.

Katharine Winthrop Swan was graduated from Chatham Hall in 1971. She has worked for the Grenfell Mission, in Quebec with the families of poor fishermen, and in Minnesota with "Outward Bound".

Benjamin Blaine Swan, born in Waterville, Maine, just graduated from Middlesex School of Concord, Mass., has been assigned to Seaport Museum, in Mystic, Connecticut, and


June 7, 1973
An article by Mabel Hurlburt on the "Root-Dodge" house appeared in the Farmington Valley Herald recently, and it has some information not previously given. The whole article reads as follows:

"One of a very few choice seventeenth century houses still quite original, built in 1693 on Town Path for Caleb Root, Sr., was the home from 1919-1967 of Mr. and Mrs. A. Douglas Dodge.

"Exhaustive and patient research point to the likelihood that it was built about 1763 by Caleb Root. Caleb was the son of John Root who owned that land at the time of his death in 1684, it being part of the Governor Hopkins Farm willed to Sarah Hooker and sold by her as Sarah Wilson and her husband Rev. John Wilson, Jr., to John Root in 1692. Caleb Root married August 9, 1693, Elizabeth Salmon. He died in 1712, leaving a son Caleb and two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary. By several transfers, the land 'with several sorts of buildings standing thereon' became in 1724 the property of Caleb's brother Joseph, who sold it to Captain Solomon Cowles in 1773.

"Levi Clark, Ira Hadsell, Asa Wilcox, Henry M. Wilcox, began in 1881 with 'several sorts of buildings' later described as 'four dwelling houses, 2 barns, etc'. One of these buildings is the present two family house with a raised roof next south.

"For some excellent reason the original Root house existed through the years closer to the highway, the original front door being scarcely more than a step from the street.

"Going through the Dodge house a few years ago with Mr. Dodge, the cellar was interesting, showing the north side beautifully worn oak boards used between the studs as a very excellent insulation, also found in the present Cady house on Mountain Spring Road and the Munsen house on South Road. Always on the north side of the house it indicates one of the very early buildings. Also in the Dodge house, there were the foundations of the great central chimney which had been removed from the upper floors and the front doorway had also been removed by Wilcox with two small windows in its place.

April 8, 1973