

History of Valley Stream  
By Robert M. Dibble

While I have lived in Valley Stream only since 1893, or 35 years; my ancestors lived here for some 85 years.

Going back some 85 years, we find Valley Stream was so named by my grandfather, Robert Pagan, who moved to Valley Stream about 91 years ago. He so named it, he said, on account of the many hills to the north of her, and of the abundance of small streams in the vicinity. Someone has said to me "That wasn't much of a name to give it, but it answers the purpose. It enables us to receive mail from anywhere in the universe, and I think that alone is a service." Previous to this, it was necessary to go to Hempstead for the mail, for the entire surrounding country. And, I think we are very well satisfied with the name.

At that time, virtually, the center of Valley Stream was about the location of this present building. The Merrick Road at that time not being in existence, and there being no railroad to the south, the people used what is now known as the Hempstead Turnpike which was a plank road, by going up Corona Avenue, then called Mill Road, or through Dutch Broadway, now called Hempstead Avenue, then through Central Avenue, called at that time Sand Street.

The main industries at that time, besides farming, were a saw mill located on Corona Avenue, opposite Morris Parkway, just north of here; a grist or flour mill, located on Corona Avenue, just about where it turns into Franklin Avenue, on what was called the upper pond, and another mill on what is now known as the Mill Pond, south of the railroad. The two former mills were owned by the Wright family and later sold to the Fowler family. The latter was owned by the Cornell family; David and Horton and Passwell Cornell. My

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grandfather conducted a general store on his property on what is now Hendrickson Avenue, near Henry Street. He drove to Brooklyn to obtain his stock and supplies.

On the premises now occupied by Mr. James Hay on Corona Avenue, there was formerly the only tavern in the village. This was owned by one of the Smith Combes' who sold the property to the McKinley's, who then used it for private purposes. Practically all the land from the present location of the Hempstead Branch of the L. I. R. R. west to the Millers brook was owned by the Cornell and Hall families. Further west, we find the Hendrickson's and Pflug's. Also Mr. Anton Bruns had a farm on which he also kept a combination grocery store and saloon on Central Avenue. The old green house which was on his property is still standing. North of these lands were farms owned by the Cammon family, Joseph Mott, Captain Carter, Robert Elderd, Samuel Stillwell and Albert Hendrickson, the grandfather of William H. Hendrickson, our present Town Constable, who owned the corner of Henry Street and Hendrickson Avenue.

My grandfather's property ran from what is now Hendrickson Avenue from the brook into the big pond to the west brook which is now the north line of the Phillips Development Company.

The only church at that time was in my grandfather's home, on his property on Hendrickson Avenue, and from this was formed the Chapel, located where the beautiful School District 13 building now stands. This chapel was sometimes called "Sinners' Hope."

The only other church at that time, within miles, was what was known as the "Sand Home" Church on the property where the cemetery at Merrick Road and Ocean Avenue, between Lynbrook and Rockville

Center, is now located. This was a very old church site. There are tombstones in that graveyard which bear inscriptions dating back to 1700. The church building burned down twice and was twice rebuilt. Then the church burned down a third time, and the site was abandoned for a church, and a new site was procured on Vincent Avenue, Lynbrook. Besides these two churches there were no other churches outside of Hempstead, there were about two or three churches.

Then, on site of this building, just west of the Chapel, was built a one room, frame school building. It was in this building, 69 years ago, that my father Marshall C. Dibble, taught school, at a salary of \$600 a year. So you see, it was in this immediate vicinity that we had the "makings" of a village--a church, a school, a store and a tavern--which at that time comprised a "real village".

From the Chapel was formed the present congregation of the Grace M. E. Church.

The plank road, now known as the Merrick Road, was opened about 70 years ago, this being the first move south. In laying out this road at Valley Stream, it was necessary to go through the land of James Payan, who owned from the present High School site down to what is now known as Valley Stream Boulevard. It also crossed the land of John and Matthew Cornell, whose farms ran from brook to brook. I personally do not remember much about this road, except that as a boy, I went with my father and mother to camp meetings held at Merrick for the Methodist churches of the surrounding villages, and some of the city churches. Here were erected tents for living quarters for the travelers, and a very large tent for church services. Most of the participants at these meetings used the Plank Road to go to these meetings, and it was from this, that the road was named

Merrick Road. After some time the road was planked, in bad spots, over a width of 8 feet on the north side of the road. This being the right side of the road for any one going to the city, it was necessary for anyone traveling eastward, meeting someone going to the city, to turn out and go through sand hub deep, on the south side of the road. Along this road were toll gates; the toll was one cent a mile; (six cents from Valley Stream); one between Freeport and Merrick, one between what is now Lynbrook and Valley Stream, and one between what is now known as St. Albans and Jamaica. There was a stage coach which ran from Babylon to the city, along this road, every other day.

The oldest existing building south of Merrick Road, is that on the westerly side of Franklin Avenue, between Jamaica and Hawthorne Avenues, now owned by Lewis C. Elderd, built about 150 years ago by the Wright family who owned from Emerson Place, south of Merrick Road, near the branch of the L. I. R. R. for about 500 feet along the railroad, to Central Avenue and west of this to the City line was owned by the Rasweiler and Lindner families, and Reuben Shaw. The farm of about 90 acres, where our present Rockaway Avenue and business section are today, was owned by a Mr. Nostrand, and joined the land of Abram F. Foster whose home was built about 150 years ago. The Nostrand farmhouse was located on what was then known as Rockaway Road, now called Roosevelt Avenue. The next farm to the south was that of Jerome Abrams, afterwards owned by Augustus Abrams, who developed Catherine and Miriam Streets, Forest Avenue and Sylvan Place. Across Rockaway Avenue was the land of Daniel Hewlett. Further south along Rockaway Avenue was quite a farm owned by the Schreffer

family, and adjoining the Schreiber farm was the Horton farm, then the Doxsey farm, which has now been taken over by the Village of Lynbrook. The farm adjoining the Hewlett farm was owned by Remsen Hendrickson, who finally sold the farm to Anton P. Hoefner, and moved to Jamaica. The Reising and Reisersts moved here at a later date.

Until about 65 years ago the nearest railroad station was at Hempstead, on the North Side Division. Then the L. I. R. R. deemed it necessary, as the villages along the south shore had begun to grow considerably, to build what was then known as the southern branch of the road, to Babylon.

The Railroad Company had great difficulty in obtaining the right-of-way. Like all public improvements, it hurt a great many people, as to the way farms were cut up, etc. But this was eventually overcome. Land at that time was cheap, and prevailing prices were about \$50 to \$150 an acre. Pearsall's Corner, quite a large piece of land at the rear of my father's property on Broadway, was cut off. He had only a small farm of about four acres. The men who obtained the options for the railroad called on all the land owners to make the best prices they could for the right-of-way. I remember my father saying that he estimated his damages at \$100. The buyer for the railroad thought it worth only \$50, and claimed it was pretty hard work to get the road built at all and people all along the line were putting up their prices on the land. However, they finally agreed with my father on the \$100 for about 3-4 of an acre of land, being a strip of land which cut diagonally across the rear of the farm.

Our adjoining neighbor, a Dr. John Langdon, who was a veterinarian, who owned approximately 40 acres (which was the average size of the farms in this vicinity.) Most of his fields were cut diagonally. Mr. Langdon claimed his damage was \$3,000. The buyers for the railroad claimed it was not worth that, and they would put through condemnation proceedings. He was finally awarded \$2,700, which shows his judgment was pretty good at that. The same condition prevailed in several places. Finally the road was laid about 64 years ago.

At that time no station was located at Valley Stream. The trains would only stop to let passengers off, or to take on passengers, upon their signalling with a pocket handkerchief. The stop was made at what is now known as Franklin Avenue. A number of years after, the present station building was erected. The road did not pay very well at that time, as the population was so scattered. Freight rates were high, but, as the roads were poor, the merchants found it cheaper to have their goods shipped by freight. And right here, I wish to say that one of our greatest blessings today is our good roads.

It was about 50 years ago, about this time that Mr. Anton Bru moved down opposite the station and established the first hotel south of Merrick Road.

A number of years later when the railroad deemed it necessary to put in the branch to Far Rockaway, there was much competition between Pearsall's Corners (now Lynbrook) and Valley Stream, as to which of these two places should be the junction of these lines.

It was finally decided by the railroad company to come to Valley Stream. A number of years after the building of the Far Rockaway Branch there was demand for a branch to Hempstead. This was built at Valley Stream largely because the railroad wanted all their branch lines together. This was finally abandoned and we have today a new line to Mineola.

Where the road was changed, considerably to the east, as the old road where the village of Malverne is at the present time was about a half a mile to the north. The first road did not pay very well, and was built principally by a large merchant, the late A. T. Stewart, and afterwards fell to his executors, a judge Hilton. Stewart and later Hilton practically owned all of the right-of-way from Hempstead to Valley Stream. The rights were taken up, and the Hilton heirs sold a great deal of the land to the farmers and also some of the adjoining building lots to Valley Stream people. I purchased the land on Scranton Avenue, now owned by Moses R. Cornwell, where he now conducts a brick yard. The same condition prevailed along the right-of-way. In building the new road to Mineola, the railroad made a more direct line, and now stop at all the small villages between here and Mineola which is a great service to the people going to court and serving on the jury, etc.

The train connections were not of the very best, the people having to wait sometimes for hours to take the train to the Rockaways. They would very often stop at the Hotel then conducted by Riley which was afterwards owned by Christopher Schreiber, and is now conducted by Charles Pitney, for a meal and give the town the once over during their waits.

Oliver Cholick was the first president of the Long Island Railroad. As the road did not pay, it was sold into hands of a Receiver, Colonel Shark, a Southern man, who ran the road successfully. It was Colonel Shark who reduced the fares to \$.50 for a return trip to Long Island City, Brooklyn, where the road terminated. Then the late Austin Corbin bought the road from the Receiver, and became the President of the road. I believe it was Austin Corbin who first prophesied that when the railroad once laid out to Montauk, that there would be steamboats and large ships dock at that point, as it would save a lot of time to dock there rather than to go into the Narrows at New York City. This was always his dream, but he did not live to see his dream realized. But, I think this will come before a great many years, as there is a strong feeling that this will happen within two years. As we know, Carl Fisher, the Florida developer has spent about six million dollars developing Montauk, and has already a hotel large enough to accommodate 250 persons. It was at this hotel that our Realtors Convention was held last year. The Long Island Railroad is now owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which is contemplating and are completing plans for the elimination of grade crossings, and, thereby, the saving of a great many lives, and in reality, a service to humanity in this section. This they propose to do by elevating the tracks. This will cost them, in Valley Stream along about \$4,000,000. The plan for Valley Stream is now on exhibition at the village office, and was displayed in the window of my office for some time. The arches will be high enough to take in Central Avenue. The members of the Village Board are trying to have it go far enough east to take in Satterie Avenue so that the trucks

from Brooklyn Avenue fire house could go across at that point, in case of a fire in the northerly end of the village, without going into the Lynbrook territory. This improvement has been considered a great asset to the people all over Long Island.

We now come down to the matter of Schools in Valley Stream. Outside of the very ancient history I will confine myself as much as possible, to School District No. 24, as I believe Mr. Biddulph is in a better position to tell you the recent history of School District No. 13, having served on the Board of that school for a number of years.

Before School District No. 24 was organized, school was kept in a one room, frame building, in the rear of what is now the building in which Daniel Bergen's hardware store is located. This was a very poor building, and a hard building to keep heated.

The late William P. Horton, who was one of the Trustees acted sometimes as janitor to keep the stove functioning properly. One of the teachers in this building was Rufus Brower, a former Judge of the Town of Hempstead. He would quite often close the school for a day to go to the Democratic Convention.

The present School District No. 24 was organized at a meeting held in what was the Annex in School District No. 14 of Hewlett and Woodmere, on September 11, 1894.

The building was a new frame, one story, and contained no furniture whatever. A table, chairs and a few kerosene lamps were borrowed to conduct the meeting of the taxpayers. The building stood about where the present flag pole is. There were 48 people who attended the meeting. The District was erected and formed under James

S. Cooley, who was a physician, and Commissioner of Schools of Queens County, having defeated John B. Merrill, who had advocated the erection of this school district,

John B. Merrill, Dr. Cooley's predecessor, who is still living, was a lawyer who had a large practice, chiefly in Queens County. He devoted a great deal of time to advocating the building of better school houses. He went around to a great many of the different villages and would ask the trustees to call a public meeting, of his own accord, if he thought it was necessary to build more up-to-date school houses in the vicinity. This he did to educate the citizens to the need of better schools. Very often most of the persons he addressed could neither read nor write, but enjoyed his talks very much, and they were interested in having their children taught better than they had been, and were willing to pay the increased taxes the new schools would bring about. Mr. Merrill would also very often form new school districts for the accommodation of the children, so that they would be nearer to the schools. This was one of the chief reasons for forming the School District No. 24. in Valley Stream-as the next district to this District 13, was District No. 14 in Hewlett and Woodmere.

Doctor Cooley, seeing the justice of Merrill's acts, followed on the same lines of his predecessor, and erected this school district. The first district meeting was called by Abram F. Foster, who had legally notified all resident taxpayers that such a meeting was to be held. Of the original 48 voters only 16 are now living. James Bayan; Abram F. Foster; and Frank J. Armstrong; R. M. Dibble, clerk; and David W. Horton, collector of taxes.

As all the districts erected in the State of New York by any

school commission had to be first organized as a common district school, on the advice of School Commissioner Cooley, the Board here advised to form a union free school, as it would be greatly to the advantage of the school in the future; as we could bond the district for one or more buildings if necessary, and that the bonds could be floated for a longer period than in the case of a common district school. So on Monday, January 2nd, 1895, a special meeting was held for that purpose, with James Payan as president of the Board and myself as clerk. This was carried.

Another notice of a special school meeting was given at the legally required time, to vote upon the purchase of the present site. This property was bought principally from the late Anton Bruns, and included 22 lots in all, two of which he gave, and the balance of his holdings he sold at \$50 each. It was a wise move when the entire block was purchased.

Later the new two story frame school house was erected. This had a hall in the center, with one class room on each side and two class rooms upstairs. This building was erected under contract by John H. Abrams and myself, who comprised the firm of Abrams & Dibble. The award was given our firm as our bid was \$18 lower than the next highest.

On August 2, 1898, at the annual meeting of the inhabitants, Abram F. Foster resigned, and I was elected trustee in his place for two years.

On January 23, 1907, at a special meeting, it was resolved to place in "The Register," which was the only newspaper published at that time in the district, a notice of a special meeting to be held,

to vote on the proposition for the erection of a new brick school building. At a meeting held on February 27, 1907, the resolution was passed with 98 votes in favor and 20 opposed. The contract for the new building was let to Chas. A. Schiffmacher at \$30,000. The building contained eight rooms. The heating was a hot air arrangement. This was afterwards changed to steam heat. This did not include the moving of the four room frame school house. Three thousand dollars were appropriated for this purpose, and for the building of the foundation and alterations necessary. The members of the school board at that time were Christopher Schreiber, president; Edward Miller and myself. Wallace Payan was clerk and Frederick E. Hill, treasurer.

As I have said the only paper at that time published in the district was known as "The Register." This was edited by a Mr. J. C. Emerson, who had moved here from Lynbrook. Besides looking up all the "ads" from the business men, he could get, he spent special time in trying to run the affairs of the school in his paper. His criticisms were quite noted at the time for he was a writer of quite some fame. He was given especially to rhyming, and could tell very nicely how much the trustees would make out of the contracts for building, etc., and often had his little jokes on some of the trustees.

In July, 1913, the old frame building which was until then located in the rear of the grounds, was sold at public auction to F. Stanhope Phillips for \$345. Then in August of that year, the bid for an addition to the brick building. Now the school on Brooklyn Avenue has 24 rooms.

In 1925, the Franklin Avenue addition to District 24 was built. This building has eight rooms and a large assembly hall.

When I moved here 35 years ago there was no running water, and there was no fire department of any kind in the village.

The largest fire we had was where the Capie Building, as it is now called, stands. The building was occupied as a bakery, conducted by a Mr. Bergman. The building was completely destroyed by the fire. In the cellar were 30 tons of coal, which continued to burn for over a month.

It finally came to the attention of the people in general that we should organize a fire department. Mr. E. H. Golder was elected first foreman of the department. I was assistant foreman, and we held the monthly meetings in an old building which had been the coal yard office, where Ferber's drug store is now located. Our first venture after organizing was to buy some apparatus to help in extinguishing fires. We bought a truck through local subscription, which came from Canarsie. This we purchased for \$150. It was one which was hand drawn. This was equipped with ladders and buckets. In case of a fire, the "Bucket Brigade" was the system used, the men passing the filled water buckets along a line from the man at the pump or stream, to the one at the fire. The only alarm we had was the school house bell, which the janitor would ring in case of fire in the day time, or at night, the first one to get to the school who had a key would ring the bell.

This went on for some years until the Fire District was formed. Then the fire house of the Nassau Hook and Ladder Company was built on Corona Avenue. The land for this building was bought very reasonably from the Royal Lang Company, and the contract let to John Abrams for building the same. The cost of the property and the building

was paid by local subscription. The truck was then kept in this building. It was so arranged that it might be drawn by a horse. In case of a fire the first man to get to the fire house with a horse, hook him to the truck, and go out with it was paid \$5 for his service.

When the running water was installed in the district, a board of fire commissioners were elected. Doctor J. M. Foster was the first chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners; Joseph Koelbel, secretary and Joseph F. Felton and Louis H. Buck, as the other members of the board served with him. They arranged for the purchase of the land for the present fire house on Merrick Road. The plot was 25 feet in width and ran from Merrick Road through to Lincoln Avenue. Bonds were floated for the erection of that firehouse. This was the first building for fire purposes paid by the village as a whole.

After Dr. Foster's three year term, Joseph F. Felton became chairman of the board, and I was elected as the other member of the board. At this time Daniel J. Bergen was secretary. It was then that we began to consider motorized apparatus. Two Selden trucks were bought, one to be kept in the house on Corona Avenue, and one on Merrick Road. The Volunteer Fire Department grew rapidly. In my time of office as chairman of the board, with Mr. Biddulph as secretary, and John H. Abrams, Christian Schmidt and Benjamin Siegman as members of the board, the LaFrance trucks were purchased and the Gamewell Fire Alarm System installed.

Under our contract with the water company 63 hydrants were installed. Now we have our 200 hydrants. The original 63 hydrants were purchased at \$20 each per year, and today we must pay \$40 for each hydrant.

On July 1, 1927, the Board of Fire Commissioners was taken over by the village, and the village trustees now have the power to appoint a board of fire commissioners consisting of three members instead of five as we had formerly.

From the old "Bucket Brigade" our fire department has grown to now four companies, each of which has a fire house, and, as you all know, the erection of a new building in the West End is now taking place, controlled by the village officials.

Compared with other villages on the South Shore, for the past 40 or 50 years, Valley Stream was really the last village to grow to the size it is at present.

When we first moved here from Lynbrook 35 years ago, Valley Stream had a population of less than 800. At present it is claimed to be over 10,000. This growth took place largely within the past eight years.

Going as far east as Merrick, for which our famous Merrick Road known all over the United States, was named, we find a village that did not grow any faster than Valley Stream. It consisted of large farms, and since then it has grown in a fair proportion with some of the other village.

About 42 years ago, I was employed in Brooklyn by the firm of Randall & Miller, who were builders and developers. Mr. Randall, the head of the firm, asked me what I knew about real estate in the villages on the south side. He claimed he did not wish to go out further than Freeport. He and I spent several days looking over farms in this vicinity. We went to Mr. Charles L. Wallace, of Rockville Centre, who was practically the only real estate agent in this section

from Jamaica to Amityville, and from Elmont to Far Rockaway, where there were probably a few agents. He did quite a large business in farms and houses. His brother attended to the legal end of the business. This was the late George Wallace, who was an Assemblyman for the Queens County District for several terms. Mr. George Wallace was the father of Archer B. Wallace, who is at present the secretary of the Nassau South Shore Chapter of Real Estate Boards. In Valley Stream, Mr. Wallace worked very hard to sell some of the large farms, but did not succeed until in 1890 when he sold several large farms here to the Royal Land Company.

Getting back to Freeport, after Mr. Randall had looked over the villages in the vicinity, he seemed most impressed with Freeport on account of the water facilities at the Bay. He became one of the largest holders of real estate in Freeport, and developed what was known as Randall Park, just north of the station. His partner, William G. Miller, moved from Brooklyn to Freeport a few years afterward, and they together developed over 500 acres of land in the village of Freeport. Mr. Randall afterwards dissolved with Mr. Miller, and cut up into lots a great deal of meadow land in Freeport; today it is one of the largest villages we have in this section of the Island, due largely to his efforts.

Coming to Baldwin, we find its growth very slow, and, like Valley Stream, it did not improve very fast except during the last ten years or so.

Rockville Centre had a fair growth and property began to increase considerably in value there about 35 years ago. The late John Lyons, the first comptroller of Nassau County, was about the only

lawyer some years ago in Rockville Centre. He did most of the legal work in the real estate business for the real estate agents in this locality. You will find that about every lawyer now practicing in Rockville Centre, and too, Chas. Schweitzer, of Lynbrook, at same time worked in the office of Mr. Lyons. It was he who did most of the legal work for the school hereabouts. Rockville Centre kept up its steady growth until today, while the population is not nearly as large, it is a fair rival to Freeport.

Lynbrook had only one development in 50 years up to about 30 years ago. This was known as the D. E. Elmendorf Map, which he had bought from an old gentleman named Henry Pearsall, who was the Justice of the Peace of the Town of Hempstead for 24 years. His house is still standing on the corner of Earle Avenue and the Merrick Road, at Lynbrook. Lynbrook's roads were deplorable, and it took on very little growth for some time due to this fact. About 25 years ago some of the larger farms, both north and south of the railroad, began to be out into building lots. The growth from that time was gradual and I should say about that time when the village was incorporated some 18 years ago, it began to grow fast, and is today almost on a line with Rockville Centre. In fact, in roads it is probably the best village of those mentioned, at the present time. Lynbrook has concrete roads in almost every section of the village.

Going south, we find that all along the branch railroad, Hewlett, Woodmere, Cedarhurst and Lawrence, having a steady, gradual growth.

Going north, we find the growth was, and is still rather slow, although property is improving there also.

At Valley Stream, the growth within the last few years has been much more than in other villages. The reason, I believe, for its apparent standstill before this, was that the land had been sold by city developers to a number of outsiders, on the installment plan, and many who had bought never obtained title to the property, and most of the property was sold at very high prices. I have always believed that the local developers were the best for any village, as they have the interest of the village more at heart, and will see that only the right kind of houses are erected, and will be more careful as to whom they sell their property. All these land companies did for the village north of the railroad, was to lay sidewalks.

Beginning at about this location where we are now, we find that about 1907, the properties of Lester Wright, F. W. Muller and Mr. Landson, and Wm. J. Hall Estate, who owned some land north of the Merrick Road, were assembled into about 120 acres. One of my first large real estate transactions was when I happened to be the agent to sell this land to a Brooklyn concern in 1907. The Windsor Land Company purchased this property from the people to whom I had sold the property. It was the Windsor Land Company who cut up this property into about 2000 building lots. This joined the land of the Royal Land Company which adjoined the Merrick Road. They sold practically all the lots to city people on the installment plan at exorbitant prices. In 1917 this property was foreclosed under the original mortgage of \$50,000 and brought under the foreclosure, about \$66,000 which included all interest, taxes and costs.

The purchaser at this foreclosure was a Mr. Pressberger of Brooklyn. Mr. Pressberger sold it to the Valley Stream Land Cor-

poration. They carried it for a number of years, and in 1921 up to and including 1924. Arthur McDermott and I purchased about 1000 of these lots. Now, as you know, it is one of the nicest sections in the village, and it is very well built up. It was not until recently that we were able to obtain running water and fire protection for this section, on account of the lack of sufficient houses to warrant the water company laying the necessary pipe. Rockaway Parkway, a continuation of our main business street, is now concreted up to Wheeler Avenue, and will, in the future, be carried on up to Corona Avenue.

All the other sections of the village seemed to take on a like growth.

Going back a little to 1870, we find our business section was laid out on what was known as the Litchfield Map, consisting of two sections; Section 1, south of the railroad; Section 2, north of the railroad. It was on this map that two of our present churches are located. One of these is the Holy Name of Mary R. C. Church, which was the second church erected in this village, the Grace M. E. Being the first as stated before; and St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The Baptist Church, which has been built here, and was later moved to Lynbrook had also been built on the section covered by the Litchfield Map, and close to this we find the Trinity Chapel Episcopal Church.

Our main street was formerly just a dirt road and values were rather low, about \$100 a piece was a fair price for such lots in about 1875.

What was known as the Horton farm was divided into lots in 1895. This is now known as Wallendorf Park Map and extends to Horton Avenue.

and joins the Lynbrook line. This today is a very fast growing section. In March, 1903, Augustus Abrams map was filed. This was a very good development also. In May, 1904, the late Abram F. Foster, father of Dr. J. M. Foster, continued the development of Seventh Street started by the Queens County Water Company, to whom he had sold most of the property, carrying Seventh Street through to Rockaway Avenue. In October, 1919 the Norumbega map was filed. This is the section in which are located Du Bois Avenue, and Linden, Oak, Cherry and Locust Streets and Brush Drive. About six years ago, with which you are all familiar, the Gibson Corporation started developing the balance of the holdings of the Norumbega Company, which they purchased, and built almost 1200 houses.

Valley Stream is now going into its fourth year of incorporation and previous to incorporation, we were under the Town of Hempstead government. This meant, that in case we wanted to form a lighting or fire district, which we did a number of years ago, they would have to be formed with the consent of the Town.

When we were ready to incorporate the fire district lines were used for the limits of the incorporated village.

I firmly believe in all improvements such as schools, roads and every other necessary improvement, but I wish to say that on all large issues for expenditure of money, I believe the Village Board should put the same up to the taxpayers for their vote, the same as required in school districts. It seems to me that the people themselves would be better satisfied if they were consulted and not take the opportunity, which the Board has, of passing on it themselves. When we were about to incorporate, we had speakers from other villages, who said

we should incorporate; and, in a great many ways, I believe incorporation is alright, as we could prevent encroachment from other villages, and keep what belongs in Valley Stream, in our own village. Those speakers all laid great stress at that time, on the fact that in all large expenditures of money outside of the necessary running expenses of the government, none could be made without a vote of the taxpayers.

However, we now have a law on the Statutes, whereby the Village Trustees are given full power to issue bonds for any expenditure, as, some thought, the people could not be trusted, and that they should impede the progress of the village. But, according to the platform on which Mr. Biddulph and I were elected to Village Trusteeship, we state that we demand a vote on all major issues. An eminent council of Rockville Centre who spoke at our Exchange Club meeting, claims that the law I speak of is the most unwise law on the books, to give the Trustees power to put over a bond issue of any amount without asking the people of the village. I believe he is right. The only thing to prevent it would be to get up an objection if it were unsatisfactory after it had been advertised, known as a referendum, by obtaining the signatures of about 30 per cent or more of the resident taxpayers at the last vote for Mayor. Then, one taxpayer could make an objection to the petition and, if an unpopular measure is put up, it puts some one to a great deal of trouble to obtain the necessary signatures to a petition.

It is not by intention to criticize our Boards of Trustees, who have worked faithfully for the village ever since it has been incorporated, or any member of the Boards, from the Mayors and President

down. They have had to work very hard to start the machinery of the village going. They have done all this work, up to the present year, without compensation or pay, but, like every other person, they are liable to make mistakes, and, I believe that they did make a mistake on the proposed village hall site.

When our village hall site was to be put through, there were over 1700 signatures to the petition. The petition, of course should be examined by the Board, to know if the signatures are genuine. The village Board deemed it necessary to examine this petition, at considerable expense, to find out if the signatures were those of persons really taxpayers and voters. The eminent council I speak of claims there were over 1000 to 1200 taxpayers out of the 1700, and it would be evidence to show that it was an unpopular measure. And in order to have this stopped, it was necessary for a few citizens to get together and employ counsel to carry the matter to the Supreme Court, if necessary. The Village Board, to give them credit, saw their mistake, and finally arranged through a committee, with those who had sold the land, to withdraw the site in question.

On this particular issue, Mr. Herbert Biddulph and myself were elected on a platform that all large propositions shall be put before the people to vote upon. As the law I speak of is still in effect, this would be the best course, so that in case an unpopular measure comes up, the vote of the people would probably determine the question, than the vote of a few of the Trustees. We have faith in the people of Valley Stream, and trust that any measure for the good of the village shall not be voted down, and that, in case of a vote in favor, we should consider that the wants of the majority should be considered.

I am fully aware that it is best to adopt the plan of Lynbrook in such instances as the roads. Try and arrange to do a little each year until we have our roads in shape. As we have so many miles (90 or more) of streets, it would cost a lot of money to have these all done at one time, and I believe we should go slowly, taking the most thickly populated sections first, as I do not think that the thinly settled sections should demand concrete roads before there are sufficient number of houses in that street. Give the populated sections the best roads, and work in the balance gradually.