



Wethersfield Historical Society

Where history happens every day.

Women of Wethersfield Scavenger Hunt

Directions: This Wethersfield woman conducted story research that would eventually be used to create the movie Frozen (2013). Search for clues in the following places in Wethersfield to decode her name.

1. Samuel Buck House

538 Main Street

Inspired by a desire to help the poor, Jane E. Robbins moved to New York in the 1880s to study medicine. While there, she was horrified by the smelly, overcrowded tenements in which immigrants lived. Dr. Jane E. Robbins advocated for better conditions for immigrants and worked tirelessly to educate Italian immigrants in New York and Hartford so that they could find better jobs. During World War I, Dr. Jane E. Robbins served as a Red Cross nurse in Italy.

Visit the home of Dr. Jane E. Robbins.

- If this house has only has a front door, then the first letter is L
- If this house has both a front door and a side door, then the first letter is M

2. Frances Shedd House

390 Main Street

In 1922, Frances Shedd officially assumed the role of librarian at the Wethersfield Public Library. Frances Shedd greatly increased the library's collection by tripling the number of books purchased each year. By 1940, the library's collection and the number of people borrowing books had increased so much that Frances Shedd oversaw the movement of the library from a smaller space at 150 Main Street into a larger space at 200 Main Street.

Visit the home of Frances Shedd.

- If the front of this house has a semicircular window, then the second letter is A
- If the front of this house has an octagonal window, then the second letter is U

3. Sergeant John Deming House

400 Hartford Avenue

Eleanor Buck Wolf believed in both historic and environmental preservation. A talented artist, Eleanor Buck Wolf published numerous books of sketches to tell the town's history. To protect the environment, Eleanor Buck Wolf helped found environmental organizations, such as the Great Meadows Conservation Trust and the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center. She also saved the Meadows from being turned into a racetrack.

To save her family's home from being demolished, Eleanor Buck Wolf moved it to its present location. Find the sign on the house to discover how old this house is.

- If this house was built in the 1600s, then the third letter is R
- If this house was built in the 1800s, then the third letter is C



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4. Holly Wells House

336 Hartford Avenue

Beginning in 1961, women from around the world have studied in Wethersfield High School as part of the American Field Service. In 1970, Yuki Matsumoto, a Japanese teenager who dreamed of becoming an English teacher, was chosen to participate in this program. As a student in Wethersfield, Yuki Matsumoto supported the Equal Opportunity Council's efforts to integrate Wethersfield schools by singing at a party to promote Project Concern.

Visit the house where Yuki Matsumoto stayed during her time in Wethersfield.

- If this house is painted blue, then the fourth letter is Y
- If this house is painted white, then the fourth letter is A

5. Captain James Francis House

120 Hartford Avenue

Maria Francis helped support her family by doing laundry, selling apples from her garden, and sewing hundreds of bonnets for Sophia Woodhouse. During the Civil War (1861-1865), Maria Francis supported African Americans by sewing for the Freedman's Aid Society.

Visit the Captain James Francis House and read the Wethersfield Heritage Walk Sign to learn more about Maria Francis and her employer, Sophia Woodhouse.

- If Sophia Woodhouse patented her bonnets before the Civil War, then the fifth letter is J
- If Sophia Woodhouse patented her bonnets after the Civil War, then the fifth letter is B

6. Ancient Burying Ground

In 1897, Helena Griswold Welles became the first president of the Wethersfield branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.). The Wethersfield W.C.T.U. sought to educate children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The efforts of the W.C.T.U. temporarily paid off when the 18th Amendment was ratified in 1919. This amendment forbade the sale of alcohol. The 18th Amendment was later repealed in 1933.

Find Helena Griswold Welles's gravestone. Need help finding Helena Griswold Welles's gravestone? Check out Wethersfield Historical Society's website:

<https://www.wethersfieldhistory.org/burying-ground-digitization/>

- If she was alive when the 18th Amendment was ratified, then the sixth letter is A
- If she was dead when the 18th Amendment was ratified, then the sixth letter is E



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7. Hurlbut-Dunham House

212 Main Street

Jane Dunham was a member of the Wethersfield Women's Saturday Afternoon Club. The Wethersfield's Women's Saturday Afternoon Club was founded in 1901. In addition to book discussions and musical performances, the club contributed to the Red Cross during World War I and donated numerous books to the Wethersfield Public Library.

Visit the Hurlbut-Dunham House and read the Wethersfield Heritage Walk Sign to learn more about Jane Dunham. Want to see the inside of this historic house? Wethersfield Historical Society offers free guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays between 1-4pm from the end of May through mid-October.¹

- If Jane Dunham was a supporter of historic preservation, then the seventh letter is N
- If Jane Dunham never traveled outside of Wethersfield, then the seventh letter is T

8. Old Academy

150 Main Street

During the 19th century, women gained increased access to education. A firm believer in the importance of female education, Reverend Joseph Emerson established the Female Seminary in Wethersfield in 1824. After the death of the Reverend Joseph Emerson in 1834, his wife, Rebecca Hazeltine Emerson, continued to run the Female Seminary for another 10 years.

Visit the original location of the Female Seminary and read the Wethersfield Heritage Walk Sign to learn more about the Old Academy.

- If only Connecticut women attended the Female Seminary, then the eighth letter is T
- If women from other states also attended the Female Seminary, then the eighth letter is S

9. Former Rectory for Sacred Heart Church

26 Garden Street

In 1940, Wanda Miglus, her sister Jawiga, and her aunt Helena Klim were arrested by the Russian secret police and sent from Poland to Kazakhstan. Though only a child, Wanda Miglus had to work long, hard hours until she was set free in 1941. After walking more than 85 miles, Wanda Miglus entered an orphanage in Pavlovar so that she could escape from the Soviet Union. Instead of returning to her family in Poland, Wanda Miglus eventually moved to Connecticut.

Visit the home of Wanda Miglus.

- If this house has a wrap around porch, then the ninth letter is O
- If this house does not have a wrap around porch, then the ninth letter is E

¹Hours may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic. Check the Wethersfield Historical Society's website for updates: <https://www.wethersfieldhistory.org/>.

