

## How Glen Cove Renamed Streets For The City's World War One Dead

By Daniel E Russell  
City Historian  
City of Glen Cove, New York

In 1920, the City of Glen Cove renamed nineteen streets in the community for twenty Glen Cove servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country during World War One.

The origins of the decision to honor Glen Cove's war dead by naming streets after them can be traced to the very real need to eliminate duplicate street names in Glen Cove as part of an effort to secure home mail delivery throughout the community. Since the establishment of the Glen Cove (originally Mosquito Cove) Post Office in 1818, local residents had to go to the Post Office to pick up their mail. By 1918, the 800 mail boxes at the Glen Cove Post Office were no longer adequate to serve a community of 10,000 people. (In fact, the new City of Glen Cove couldn't initially get a mail box at the Post Office because none were available!) (GC Echo, 1918a)

As one of their first major civic improvement projects, Glen Cove's first Mayor, Dr. James E Burns, and the City Council began to lay the groundwork for free home mail delivery throughout the community. They met with the Glen Cove's postmaster, John A Neafsey, to determine what the Federal government would require of the City.

As expected, the United States Post Office had numerous regulatory requirements which had to be met before they would authorize free home delivery in Glen Cove. Two important hurdles had already been passed: Glen Cove had to have a population of 10,000 people or more, and the local post office had to do more than \$10,000 worth of business a year.

The next two requirements sounded simple, but quickly proved strangely problematical.

First, all the houses in Glen Cove had to be numbered. While numbering the houses was in and of itself a significant project in for the new city, there was still a great deal of undeveloped land in Glen Cove. After many months of pondering different solutions, the Mayor and City Council decided to assign "hypothetical" numbers at 25 foot intervals where vacant land fronted on existing City streets. The City even held a "numbering day" to make cer-

tain that every home in the City was properly and visibly marked with its correct number.

The second outstanding issue was that every street in the community had to be named, and the City had to post proper street signs at every intersection.

The City thought that this would be the easiest requirement – until they discovered that the Federal government meant that every street had to be named with a **different** name from any other street in the community.

The problem was that just about every street in Glen Cove was in fact named... its just that Glen Cove was scatter-shot with streets bearing identical names. There was a Coles Street in the Landing, a Coles Street off Town Path, and a Coles Street off Elm Avenue. There were two Oak Streets (one off Landing Road, the other off Hendrick Avenue) and two Walnut Roads (one in the Orchard and one off Forest Avenue). Maple Avenues existed in both the Orchard and off Dosoris Lane. There was a North Street just north of Landing Road, a North Road in Thompson Park off Glen Cove Avenue (then an exclusive enclave for successful businessmen who wanted a country manor house which they could retreat to in the summertime) and even a North Lane. There were two Highland Avenues (one of which became Highland Road and the other Robinson Avenue).

There were also street names Bay Street went to Garvies Point, but Garvie Avenue didn't (Bay Street was later changed to Garvies Point Road, and Garvie Avenue became McLoughlin Street). And "Lovers Lane" (today's Dickson Street) just didn't seem quite appropriate as a formal street name.

The editor of the Glen Cove Echo commented "few people long living in Glen Cove but have been impressed with the haphazard and conflicting method of street naming," and that unless action was taken any attempt to establish home delivery of mail would turn the local post office into a "puzzle solving bureau". (GC Echo, 1920a)

Mayor Burns appointed City Commissioners Harry F We-

ber and Leonard T. Simonson as a committee to identify which street names needed to be changed, and to make recommendations for new names.

Of course, some old-time residents of the streets that had been proposed as candidates for a name-change stubbornly contended that *their* Coles Street was the *only real* Coles Street (or Highland Avenue, or North Street, as applicable). And they were even more stubbornly opposed any change of street name. Weber and Simonson found themselves at an impasse.

The solution came from Glen Cove's postmaster, John A. Neafsey. He suggested that

the disputed streets be named for Glen Cove's soldier sons who lost their lives in the war. Streets so named would be a lasting memorial and one in which the city could take pride. (GC Echo, 1920c)

Between 1917 and 1919, Glen Cove had provided more than 500 soldiers and sailors to serve in World War One. Twenty three made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

### City of Glen Cove World War One Honor Roll

<b>William H Albin</b>	<b>Harry C Johnson</b>
<b>Harvey C Brewster</b>	<b>Arthur H Lawson</b>
<b>John J Butler</b>	<b>William Miller</b>
<b>Luigi Capabianco</b>	<b>John M McGrady</b>
<b>Earl C Chadwick</b>	<b>James J Porter</b>
<b>S Dawson</b>	<b>John T Ritzer</b>
<b>James E Donahue</b>	<b>Clarence Smith</b>
<b>Ralph W Francis</b>	<b>Aniello Stanco</b>
<b>George Ford</b>	<b>Peter John Stathis</b>
<b>Charles E Germaine</b>	<b>Arthur Wolfle</b>
<b>Herbert J Hill</b>	<b>William Wolfle</b>
<b>Leonard Jackson</b>	

The following streets were renamed for Glen Cove servicemen who died in World War One:

**Albin Street** (William H Albin) was renamed from **Prospect Street** at Creek Road (Shore Road)

**Brewster Street** was renamed from **Mott Alley** off West Glen Street

**Butler Street** was renamed from **Coles Street** off Town Path

**Capobianco Street** was renamed from **Maple Avenue** in the Orchard district

**Chadwick Street** was renamed from **Littleworth Lane** off Glen Cove Avenue

**Donahue Street** was renamed from **Crestline Avenue** off Back Road (Glen Cove Avenue)

**Ford Street** was renamed from **Golf Terrace** off Forest Avenue

**Francis Terrace** was renamed from **Highland Terrace** off Highland Road

**Germaine Street** was renamed from **East Avenue** off Land-

ing Road

**Herbhill Road** was renamed from **West Glen Street** to Garvie's Point Road

**Jackson Street** was renamed from **Putnam Avenue** off Front Street (Shore Road)

**Johnson Street** was renamed from **Oak Street** off Hendrick Avenue

**Lawson Avenue** was renamed from **North Road** in the Thompson Park district

**McGrady Street** was renamed from **Valentine Street** in the Round Swamp district

**Miller Street** was renamed from **Moller (or Muller) Street** off Landing Road

**Porter Street** was renamed from **East Avenue** off Elm Avenue

**Smith Street** was renamed from **West Avenue** off Elm Avenue

**Stanco Street** was renamed from **Walnut Street** in the Orchard district

**Wolfle Street** was renamed from **Coles Street** off Elm Avenue

In addition to the streets which were renamed for Glen Cove's war dead, the following streets were simply given new names:

**Craft Avenue** was renamed from **Terrace Heights Avenue** off Back Road (Glen Cove Avenue)

**Dickson Lane** was renamed from **Lover's Lane**

**Dougherty Street** was renamed from **First Street** off Elm Avenue

**Ellwood Street** was renamed from **Prospect Avenue** off Landing Road

**Guilfoy Street** was renamed from **Second Street** off Elm Avenue

**Luyster Street** was renamed from **Oak Street** off Landing Road

**McLoughlin Street** was renamed from **Garvie Avenue** parallel to Landing Road

**Robinson Avenue** was renamed from **Highland Avenue** off Glen Cove Avenue.

**West Avenue** was renamed from **Ash Street (Vincent Street)** off Landing Road

Two major questions remain unanswered. First, why were no streets named to honor S. Dawson, John T Ritzer, and Peter John Stathis? It is apparent that at the time when new street names were being assigned, there was a surfeit of streets requiring new names... certainly there would have been no difficulty in selecting three to be named in honor of those servicemen. Secondly, why was the proposed renaming of North Road to Lawson Avenue either not actually performed or was not perpetuated?

This early effort to memorialize Glen Cove's war dead set a precedent which was renewed after World War Two, when more

streets were named for the community members who made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation.

### **Bibliography**

GC Echo

1918a Free Delivery  
Glen Cove Echo, 12 January 1918

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1918b Free Delivery  
Glen Cove Echo, 23 March 1918

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1918c Free Delivery Again Proposed  
Glen Cove Echo, 30 November 1918

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1920a New Names for Glen Cove Streets  
Glen Cove Echo, 3 April 1920

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1920b Untangling the Glen Cove Streets Mystery  
Glen Cove Echo, 10 April 1920

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1920c Name Disputed Streets For Glen Cove's Soldier Sons  
Glen Cove Echo, 17 April 1920

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1920d Council Confirms Report of Street Naming Committee  
Glen Cove Echo, 15 May 1920

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