

# Plainville Campgrounds

## 150th Anniversary Celebration

*Plainville Camp Grounds Association, Inc.*  
*320 Camp Street*  
*Plainville, CT 06062*

[www.plainvillecampgrounds.org](http://www.plainvillecampgrounds.org)



Plainville Campgrounds honoring  
the past while moving forward

## Table of Contents

Calendar of Events.....	2
President's Message.....	3
2014-15 Plainville Camp Grounds Association, Inc. Officers & Directors .....	3
150th Anniversary Committee .....	3
Brief History.....	4
1893 Surveyors Map.....	4
Timeline.....	5
Land Purchase Chronology.....	11
Old Time Camp Life.....	11
1938 Campgrounds Rules .....	12
Auditorium.....	13
Chapel.....	14
Dining Hall.....	15
The Ladies Guild .....	15
150th Anniversary Quilt.....	16
Donors.....	16
2015 Campground Map.....	17
Current Cottage Owners.....	17

## Calendar of Events

June 20	Classic Car Show - 10am - 3pm - Public Event - Rain Date- June 27 - Tom Angels, Chair
June 21	Opening reception for Plainville Historical Society exhibit - 2pm - 4pm - Public Event - The exhibit will run for the months of July and August on Wednesdays and Saturdays 12pm to 2:30pm - Art Pope, Chair
July 4	Kickoff Celebration - Private Event - decorate the cottages and grounds with bunting and banners. Debut of new Campgrounds quilt - Tom Angels, Chair
July 11	Cottage Tours - 2pm - 5pm & Illumination Night (Dusk) - Public Event - Rain Date - July 18 - Sandra Utterback, Chair
July 19	Church Service - 3pm - Public Event - Speaker - Rev. Dr. Claire W. Bamberg, The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC Gail Hilliard, Chair
August 1	Annual Tag Sale - 8am - 2pm - Public Event - Rain Date - August 8
August 15	Plainville Camp Grounds Association Annual Meeting - 10 am - Private Event  Campgrounds Historical Exhibit - Private Event, Dining Hall- Gail Hilliard, Chair  Campgrounds Dinner - Dick Nadeau  Anniversary Cake - Dee Tousey  Music by Jerry Limmer. 7 - 10pm

## President's Message

*Plainville Camp Grounds Association, Inc.*  
*320 Camp Street, Plainville, Ct 06062*

May 1, 2015

Dear Friends and Neighbors,


Welcome to the Celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Plainville Camp Grounds! We are delighted that you are joining us for many of the festivities that are part of our Celebration and through which we recall our beginnings and development over this time period.

This Brochure contains a full listing of the dates and times of the many exciting events the Anniversary Committee has planned for this summer. These events range from Antique Car Shows to Historical Exhibits, tours of cottages, Church Services and a huge tag sale – to name just a few!

The Brochure also contains a marvelous account of the rich history of the Campgrounds and the contributions made by the Campgrounds in the development of this area.

Today, the Campgrounds is the summer home for residents who come from many states for a time of fun, fellowship, relaxation, worship and service.

We appreciate your interest in the Campgrounds, its celebratory events, and its history, and we hope you will enjoy your time with us.



Tom O'Brien  
Association President

## 2014-15 Plainville Camp Grounds Association, Inc. Officers & Directors

President Tom O'Brien  
Vice President Tom Angels  
Secretary Bob Utterback  
Treasurer Terri Murphy  
Financial Secretary Joanne Grady

### Directors

Marcia LeSuer Ed Tousey Dan McBride  
Diane Donahue Joe Trapani Pat Weider  
Sharyn Biringer Sandy Merker Greta Pelletier

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Tom Angels  
Trish Angels  
Betty Antonelle  
Marcia Federer  
Diane Gunther  
Gail Hilliard  
Terri Murphy (Treasurer)  
Alison O'Brien  
Arthur Pope  
Darlene (Dee) Tousey (Chairperson)  
Sandra Utterback

## Brief History

In 1865 a spirit of religious revivalism swept the nation in the aftermath of the Civil War. With this spirit, the New Haven District of the Methodist Church purchased farm land in Plainville, Connecticut to hold revival meetings.

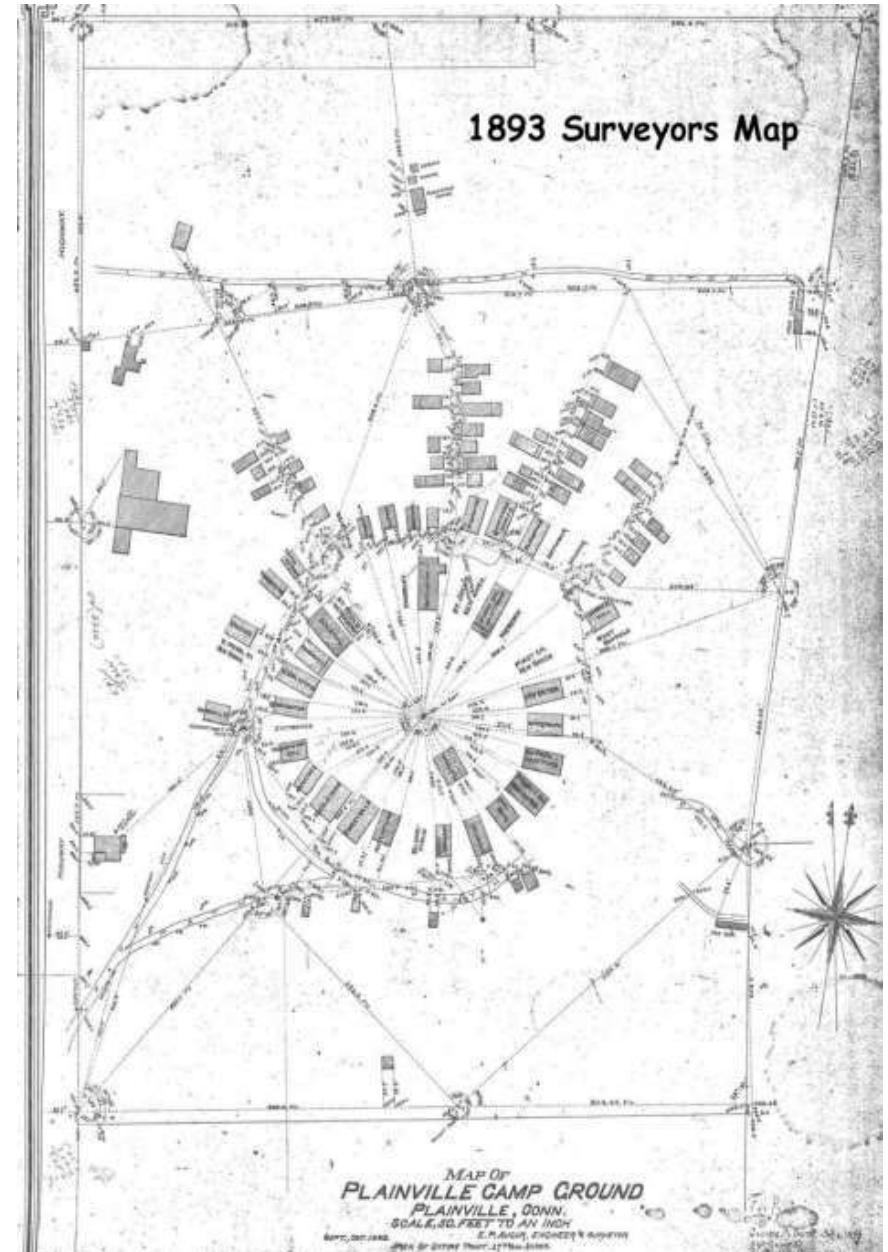
At first these meetings were held in an open field in the center of the Campgrounds, with people living in tents surrounding the area. A train station was erected on Camp Street and local farmers would provide rides to the area with horses and wagons. At times, over 3,000 people would attend the revivals.

Eventually, beginning in the 1900's a covered auditorium (1902) was built as well as an Administration Building. The member churches also began to construct buildings around the tabernacle. In the early 1900's, individuals began to erect cottages in a spoke-type pattern radiating out from this central core and people began to spend larger periods of time in the Campgrounds, even when a revival meeting was not being held.

As the years passed, the campground site hosted ever larger gatherings, sparked by the participation of several other local and national organizations such as the American Temperance movement, the Grand Army of the Republic (forerunner of today's veterans movement), Seventh Day Adventists, Forestville Camp and Bible Conference, and most famous of all the Connecticut Chautauqua. In the mid-20th Century with the advent of television and widespread automobile ownership, the revival movement began to fade and in the late 1950's the Methodist Church sold the land to a group of cottage owners who had formed the Plainville Camp Grounds Association. The Association petitioned to have the Campgrounds declared a National Historic Site and was granted recognition in 1980. Over the years because of some neglect in the 1940's and 1950's, some cottages had to be torn down, but the ones that remain have been maintained and improved by the owners. Presently 87 cottages exist which are privately held on land owned by the Plainville Camp Grounds Association. These cottages are seasonable and can only be occupied from May 1 thru October 31. The Campgrounds are governed by a Board of Directors elected by the owners. The Campgrounds have

running water and sewers and the owners enjoy a variety of activities. These cottages (which some call "the painted ladies") are a wonder to behold and are truly a hidden gem in central Connecticut.

## 1893 Surveyors Map



# Timeline

1865 The first Methodist Camp Meeting is held. Annual summer meetings are held until 1957.

1866 On September 5, 1866, a Constitution establishing a Camp-Meeting Association of the New Haven District of the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church is adopted and an Executive Committee consisting of nine laymen is appointed, as follows:

William Manchester	Forestville
John M. Parker	Hartford
George L. Hall	Meriden
Alex Storer	New Haven
John H. Sessions	Bristol
Joseph Toy	Simsbury
Waldo Corbin	New Britain
Timothy M. Curtis	Collinsville
S, S. Scranton	Durham

The officers were:

Rev. E. E. Griswold	President
Rev. M. L. Scudder	VicePresident
Rev. C. E. Glover	Secretary
Norman Smith	Treasurer

October 23, 1866, seven acres are purchased by William Manchester from William Kowles for \$500 to be used as the Camp meeting grounds.

William Manchester is instructed to build a cistern four feet wide and four feet deep (located north of Gladding Ave, the natural springs provided water to the Camp for many years.)

Committees are established for roads, layout of tents, Improvements of the Grounds, and Railroad.

1867 Tents are pitched in the traditional circular configuration around a central preaching platform. The first "sale" of lots was conducted. The lots are leased from the Association.

A lane 16.5 feet wide and a mile long is purchased from George W. Eaton to provide a road from the Camp to the "Camp" railroad station due south of the camp. The road right-of-way is sold in 1928.

1868 The seven acres purchased by William Manchester in 1866 are sold to the Camp Meeting Association for \$500 with the privilege of using water from the spring from William Kowles' land to the North.

1869 The Connecticut legislature passes a resolution incorporating the New Haven District Camp-Ground Association.

William Manchester dies. The first road constructed around the "circle" of tents (now Circle Avenue) is named in his honor. A Commemoration states "trusting that the influence of his life may ever encircle us as the Avenue does the Encampment."

The Town of Plainville (first settled about 1657 and originally part of Farmington) is incorporated as a separate town.



Wagon arriving at Campgrounds from Camp Street Railroad Station

1872 Waldo Corbin dies on Feb. 9th. Born in Union, CT in 1823, Waldo became a partner in P. & F. Corbin Company in 1853 and remained with the firm until his death. Mr. Corbin was a prominent worker and member in the Methodist Church of New Britain, CT and an original Trustee of the Association.

1880 The Camp Meeting Trustees consider including a Temperance Missionary at the annual summer camp meetings. The resolution is not adopted. "It was the unanimous opinion that the meeting should be devoted to strictly religious services."

1881 "After careful consideration," the Trustees defer the erection of "a new building to be used for the purpose of a restaurant and for the sale of fruits, etc."

A new reservoir is completed and is "nearly full of pure spring water."



1886 A new 'Preachers Stand' is erected.

The Trustees vote to lease lots for 5 years and discontinue the sale of private lots.

1887 Rev. Joseph Toy dies. Rev. Toy is an original Trustee of the Association and served as Vice President of the Board of Trustees since 1870.

1890 Construction of Superintendent's House (currently 316 Camp Street) is completed at a cost of \$800.

1893-99 Numerous permanent wood cottages were constructed. Many of the inner circle cottages were built. The total number will be 24. In 2015, 19 cottages remain consisting of 18 private residences and the Chapel.





1899 John H. Sessions dies on September 10th. Mr. Sessions was elected one of the first Trustees of the Association, a position he held continuously with the exception one year for 33 years.

1887 A Veterans' Plainville Camp Grounds Association is organized.

1890 George W. Neubauer constructs the cottage at 4 Hartford Avenue.



1895 Construction of 'Eldelage' (10 Circle Ave) cottage by monies from The Young Peoples Societies & first occupied by Elder Crandall J. North & wife.

1901 Meetings developed into the Connecticut Chautauqua Assembly.

1902 Auditorium is constructed at a cost of \$2,100.

The Camp Grounds Improvement Society is formed. Notable for their long service were Mrs. L. A. Gladding, Treasurer for 25 years, and Frederick Kelsey, President for 17 years.



1903 Dining Hall is constructed in place of the old boarding tent



1904 The Women's Auxiliary is organized

1907 John M. Parker dies. Mr. Parker was elected one of the first Trustees and served on the Board for 40 years.

Water is piped from Washington Street to the Campgrounds by the Bristol Water Works. Fire hydrants and fire hoses were set up.



1911 Booker T. Washington speaks at the Plainville Chautauqua Assembly

1913 Limited electric service is installed





1915 The New Haven District Methodist Camp Ground Association Golden Jubilee, the first fifty years "by appropriate exercises during camp meeting."

Connecticut Chautauqua Assembly, sixteenth season, July 12 - 20,

Five acres west of the camp and directly across Camp Street (current site of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church) is purchased from Oliver Robinson for \$500. The parcel serves as an athletic field.



1916 The athletic field is further improved when the Trustees voted \$50 and the District Epworth League Society added \$50 more towards this improvement project.

1918 Children's Playground is opened north of Gladding Ave in the vicinity of the old Spring House.

The nineteenth season of the Connecticut Chautauqua Assembly includes classes in basketry, cooking, music, and elocution, as well as numerous talks and sermons. A room for 2 persons in the Association Building (now 1 Circle Ave) can be secured for \$2.50 per week. Table board in the spacious Dining Hall costs \$5 per week or \$1 per day.

1922 Epworth League Summer Institute at Wesleyan University is added to the camp ground summer programs.

1928 Camp Station (railroad) is no longer used and the road right-of-way is sold to the New Britain Water Works.



1933 The Camp Grounds (Women's) Quilt Club (later known as the Susan Henderson Memorial Guild and is currently known as The Ladies Guild) is formed.

1935 The Camp Grounds Quilt Club completes a quilt containing 1,000 names of persons interested in the camp grounds and departed members. A donation of 10 cents per name (\$100 total) was presented to the Association to pay for one fourth of the Auditorium screening. Thus begins a tradition of The Ladies Guild raising money to be used for Campgrounds improvements.

1938 Susan Henderson dies.

1940 The New Haven District Methodist Camp Ground Association Diamond Jubilee. The week-long celebration includes week day

1957 The Plainville Camp Grounds Association, Inc. Articles of Association are signed on February 23rd.

On July 20th, The Plainville Camp Grounds Association, Inc. holds the first official Association meeting.

On August 3rd, the By-Laws are adopted.

The Campgrounds (approximately 17 acres) is sold by the New Haven District Camp Ground Association to The Plainville Camp Grounds Association, Inc. The Association borrows \$14,000 from the Methodist Training Center Corporation to make the purchase. The five year loan is paid off in 1959.

The cottage formally owned by East Pearl Street Methodist Church of New Haven (currently 27 Circle Ave.) is renovated and designated as the John M. Parker Memorial Chapel. The Chapel is dedicated on August 15, 1960 and serves as the "Physical and Spiritual Center" for the Campgrounds.

1967 Article 2 (Purpose) of the 1957 Article of Association is amended to delete "Religious association for the propagation of Christianity" and substitute (in part) "The purpose...is to spread and inculcate the principles and practices of Christianity by developing denominational and interdenominational religious, educational and cultural programs."

1980 On May 19th, the "New Haven District Camp Ground" is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1989 Reroofing of the Library (currently the privately-owned 33 Circle Ave), Auditorium, Dining Hall, and Chapel is completed for \$10,000

1993 Sanitary sewer system is installed to all cottages.

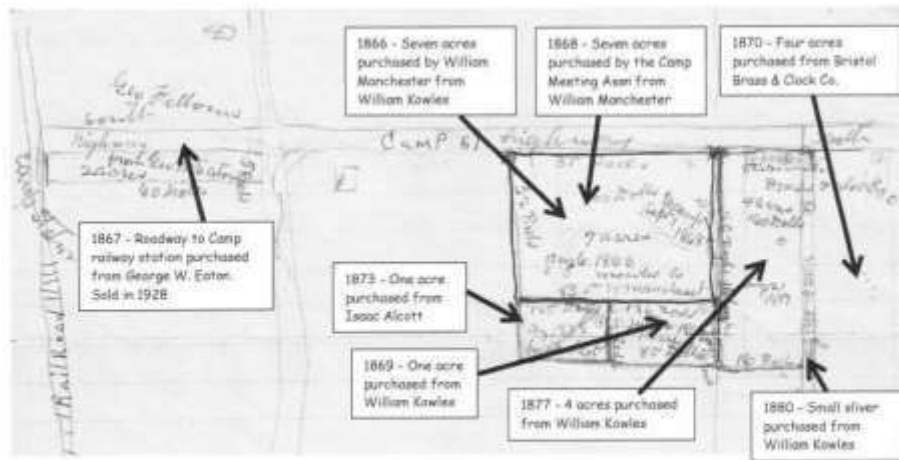
2015 The Plainville Camp Grounds Association celebrates the 150th Anniversary Celebration



# Land Purchase Chronology

# Old Time Camp Life

Plainville Campgrounds Land Purchase Chronology & Map



October 23, 1866 -	Seven acres are purchased by William Manchester from William Kowles for \$500 to be used as the Camp meeting grounds.
September 30, 1867	A lane 16.5 feet wide and a mile long was purchased from George W. Eaton for \$60 to provide a road from the Camp to the "Camp" railroad station due south of the camp.
September 1, 1868	Seven acres are purchased by the Camp Meeting Association from William Manchester for \$500 with the privilege of using water from the spring from William Kowles land to the North
July 12, 1869	One acre is purchased from William Cowles for \$85
July 28, 1870	Four acres purchased from The Bristol Brass & Clock Company
August 9, 1873	One acre purchased from Isaac Alcott for \$125
August 21, 1877	Four acres purchased from William Kowles for \$165
August 30, 1880	Small finger of land located between the former Bristol Brass & Clock land the 4 acres purchased from W. Kowles in 1877 is purchased from William Kowles for \$8.
1928	The Camp Station (railroad) road right-of-way is sold to the New Britain Water Works
September 20, 1957	Approximately 17 acres is transferred from the New Haven District Camp Ground Association to The Plainville Camp Grounds Association, Inc.

**1865** - "The camp-site is located on the southern slope of a hill that is listed on the United States Geological Survey Map of 1889-1890 as Campground Hill. The elevation is 300 feet above sea level."

"The pioneers at the appointed day in the summer of 1865 came by ox carts, farm wagons, lumber wagons and hay carts, bringing with them, tents, bedding, luggage and food."

**Camp Supplies** - People would bring a trunkful of things such as cooking utensils, food for the week (no refrigeration), and bedding including a "tick" (empty mattress cover) which people would fill with rye straw or cornstalks.

**Concessions** - "Concessions were let out and many small tents were used for various purposes. There was one tent that was called the "OYSTER HOUSE". In this tent, oysters were cooked and served. Another tent was known as "THE CANDY STORE" where candy and ice cream was served. Barbers came, bringing their chairs with them and did hair-cutting and shaving in the open air."

**Fence** - "About 1900, a fence was erected along the entire front of the grounds bordering on Camp Street and across the north and south ends of the grounds. Admission was by tickets, which were sold at the main gate. Shortly after 1900, the Connecticut Chautauqua was organized."

**Fire Protection** - The rule was one pail of water to be set outside the front door during the night to be used in case of a fire.

**Food Sources** - Local grocers and butchers visited the camp to take and deliver orders of food.

**Horses** - "As this era was the horse and buggy days - tether lines were established at the north and south ends of the grounds where the

horses could be cared for."

In 1868 a motion was passed that "no horses be permitted to stand or be permanently hitched on the camp ground."

**Night Lighting** - "Night lighting for the grounds was secured by protected kerosene lamps which were distributed about the grounds, fastened to the trees or set on posts. A regular lamp lighter was employed to clean, fill and light these lamps."

**Railroads** - The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroads ran trains into Camp Station which was due south of the camp. Farmers from the surrounding area fitted their wagons with side seats and met the trains to carry the passengers from the trains to camp. The wagon ride was ten cents per person.

**Tents** - "For many years the assembly was a tent colony, and thus received its name, "Camp Meeting". Tents are pitched in the traditional circular configuration around a central preaching platform. The second circle of tents to be staked was sold July 29, 1868.

**Water** - "In the early days of Camp Meeting, the water supply was secured from natural springs, located North of what is now Gladding Avenue. These springs were dug out, enlarged, walled up with stone and covered with heavy timber and planks. The area around the springs was fenced in. Just outside this enclosure a hand pump was installed where water could be secured."

**Wooden Structures** - "It was under the administration of Crandall J. North, presiding Elder from 1893-1899, that a great advance in material equipment took place and scores of Society houses and private cottages were erected to take the place of the old enormous tents. The inner circle was almost entirely built, while the Association building was greatly enlarged. Note: There were originally 24 buildings but only 19 remain today as some were torn down because of neglect. Since that time, the growth has gone steadily on, and every year has seen new buildings going up. The long desired auditorium was built in 1902 and has proved a great blessing. Two years later a permanent dining hall took the place of the old boarding tent."

## 1938 Campgrounds Rules

**1938**  
**GROUND RULES**  
New Haven District Camp Ground Association

1. No Automobile shall be left standing on any avenue. Parking of camp trailers and the erection of tents will only be allowed on the athletic field, permission having first been obtained from the Manager of the Grounds, or the Caretaker.
2. Utmost caution must be observed in driving automobiles on these grounds at all times, and at no time shall any motor driven vehicle be driven at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour.
3. No Automobiles or Trucks shall be allowed on the avenues or the circle roads, except in the case of an emergency, or by order of the Manager of the Grounds, between November 1st and April 25th, inclusive.
4. The riding of Bicycles on these grounds is permitted only at a slow rate of speed, and then with extreme caution. This rule is in the interest of safety both to riders and pedestrians.
5. No person shall cut any tree, or limbs from any tree, except on authority from Committee on Care of Grounds. Removal of trees when thought necessary, or advisable, will be done by the Association.
6. No person shall make a bonfire of any kind on any part of these grounds. This is necessary due to our fire insurance regulations and provisions. Picnic fires and Camp fires will be allowed on the Athletic Field only, permission having first been obtained from the Manager of the Grounds, or the Caretaker.
7. During the time of the meetings at the Auditorium there must be no noise on any part of the grounds that will interfere with the meetings.
8. During the meetings the rising bell or bugle will be sounded at 7 a. m. The retiring bell or bugle will be sounded at 11 p. m. From 11 p. m. to 7 a. m. it is expected that there will be no noise on any part of the grounds.
9. Due to long tradition and custom it is asked that no smoking be indulged in or around the Auditorium, and that extreme caution be observed on all other parts of the grounds.
10. The Association reserves the right to exclude from these grounds all disorderly and undesirable persons. The privilege of coming here is extended only to such persons as conduct themselves in a manner conformable to the conduct befitting the grounds and community of a religious institution. Disorderly or unbecoming conduct will be cause for an order of exclusion from the grounds.
11. Papers and rubbish must not be placed or left on the streets, lots, or other parts of the ground, but shall be taken by the person having same to the place designated by Manager of Grounds, and there securely placed within the receptacle provided for same.
12. All garbage shall be placed in proper, provided, covered cans, and carried away by the garbage collector from April 15th to October 15th, inclusive. At other times the garbage shall be disposed of by each household in accordance with the instructions of Manager of Grounds.
13. No dishwater, dirty water of any kind, or slops, shall be emptied or thrown upon any part of the grounds at any time, but shall be taken to the place designated for such purpose, and there disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Manager of the Grounds. This rule must be observed. The health of the whole community is dependent on the observance of this rule, and it will be strictly enforced.
14. No person suffering from, or convalescing from, any contagious disease shall be brought upon, or come upon these grounds. Persons suffering from tuberculosis are not desired. This institution is not a sanitarium nor a health resort for invalids. It is intended as a safe, healthful, sanitary summer home for persons whose motive in coming is to take advantage of the religious and educational privileges obtainable here. For the protection of the health of such persons this rule will be enforced.
15. The Committee on Care of Grounds shall have supervision of the installation of electric wires in cottages, and the work must be done in a safe and proper manner, and to the satisfaction of said committee. A charge will be made by the Association for the electric current so furnished.
16. The installation of plumbing in cottages, and the location, digging and building of cesspools, shall in every case be done only by permission of the Committee on Care of Grounds, shall be done in a proper manner and to the satisfaction of said Committee.
17. No new buildings shall be erected, or additions to cottages be made without first having obtained the permission of the Manager of the Grounds.
18. Association taxes will be assessed as of July 1st in each year, and will be payable during the month of July. Interest at the rate of six per cent per annum will be charged on all taxes remaining unpaid September 1st.

By order of the Board of Trustees, Plainville, Conn., July 1, 1938.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
WALTER L. GILLETTE, Manager  
OLIVER H. NICHOLLS, Trustee  
SEARLE M. BREWSTER, Trustee

## Auditorium

Originally there was a preacher stand which was covered with a tent roof. The roof left three feet of exposed sides which allowed the rain to blow in. Seats were made by placing boards over logs.

1902 - The current structure was built. Charles Baldwin of First Church, New Haven, was the Building Superintendent. Tracy Brothers of Waterbury was the contractor. The cost was \$2,100.

### **Building Specifications:**

Style: Post & Beam with Gables

Size - 100 feet x 50 feet x 22 feet high

Stage - 20 feet x 100 feet

3 pedimented dormers are installed for ventilation Number of pillars - 17 (15 feet tall)

Length of beams - Rafter cross tie beams are 50 feet long continuous

Note: The beams were each made from an individual tree. These trees were harvested on the Campgrounds.



1935 - Screening installed to help with insects. \$100 donation from the Ladies Quilt Club paid for one-fourth the cost of the screening.

1947 - "\$2,700 was spent in improvements about the grounds. The large auditorium, the dining hall and the association building were re-roofed. An extra fire hydrant was installed and six hundred feet of fire hose procured. A fire alarm system was installed, with boxes distributed about the grounds. Special emergency doors were made available on either side of the auditorium. The auditorium will seat about six hundred people and is completely screened against mosquitoes."

1950's - A movie projector loft was built to show movies. (It is no longer in use.)

1957 - Church services moved to a small cottage which was turned into a Chapel.

July 11, 1989 - Cost to reroof library, auditorium, dining hall, and chapel was \$10,000 (estimated). The cost of the permit fee was \$100.

1990's - Screens removed to save repair costs.

July 4, 2010 - The old wreaths and hangers were removed and replaced with red, white, and blue stars on the posts. Larry LeSuer removed the old wreath hangers, Diane Gunther purchased the plywood and John Greenwood cut out the stars. Residents designed the individual stars.

2015 - The Auditorium is currently used for many activities such as Wednesday night pot luck dinners, Friday night pizza, Annual Members Meetings, and the celebrations of holidays such as Memorial Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day. Members of the Campgrounds can also use it to celebration personal family birthday parties, anniversaries, and other occasions.

## Chapel

1957 - Church services moved from the Auditorium to the cottage (27 Circle Avenue) owned by East Pearl Street Methodist Church of New Haven. The cottage is renovated and designated as the John M. Parker Memorial Chapel. John M. Parker was a founding member of the Camp Meeting Association in 1866 and served for 40 years.



The Chapel serves as the Spiritual Center for the Campgrounds and contains numerous memorials to past camp members.

The pulpit and a table (items from the Auditorium) were moved into the Chapel. These items were made by Lonzo Gay Sheldon from sumac wood harvested from the camp grounds. The pulpit was made in 1912 and the table was made in 1915.

August 15, 1960 - Dedication Day.

2008 - Board donates \$4,800 to repaint the building and the Ladies Guild raised \$1,800 to paint and glaze the windows.

August 20, 2010 - Installation of a memorial patio in front of the Chapel is completed.

The second floor of the Chapel had some of the interior walls removed to make a larger space to hold Board Meetings.

Currently the Chapel is used for Sunday services during the months of July and August. Each week a minister of a different denomination is invited to lead the chapel services.

2015 - The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will include church services on July 19 which will take place at 3:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

1966-1981 - Lena Taylor, Chaplain

1989-Present - Gail Hilliard, current Chaplain

1989 - Reroofing of the Library (currently the privately-owned 33 Circle Avenue), Auditorium, Dining Hall, and Chapel is completed for \$10,000.

## Dining Hall

1904 - New wooden structure is built to replace the Boarding tent.

Equipment consists of 2 large cooking stoves, hot water heater, and cooking utensils and dishes.

This building consists of three rooms: kitchen, storage room, and dining room.

In the dining room, about 125 people can be accommodated and served at one time. On the east and south sides of the building are screened in porches where food, such as sandwiches, pie, cake, ice cream and coffee can be served over the counter.



1918 - Interesting cost of living article from the Connecticut Chautauqua Assembly Nineteenth Season - July 15 to July 23, 1918.

"The Assembly Grounds have a spacious dining hall where table board can be secured for \$5.00 per week, \$1.00 per day. Many of the church houses rent furnished rooms. Rooms accommodating two persons can be secured for \$2.50 upward per week. Parties wishing to board themselves find every convenience, while foods freshly cooked can be procured at the dining hall at rates which make the cost of living very reasonable."

1947 - The Auditorium, Dining Hall, and the Association Building (now privately owned) were reroofed.

1989 - Reroofing of the Library (33 Circle Avenue, now privately owned), Auditorium, Dining Hall, and Chapel is completed for \$10,000.

2015 - The Anniversary quilt made by members of the Ladies Guild will be displayed here. The building is also used for Ladies Guild meetings, annual tag sale, the men's and women's breakfasts, exercise classes, Wii bowling, and other functions.

## The Ladies Guild

1904 - The Women's Auxiliary is organized.

1933-1940 - An early booklet called "Recollections of the Susan Henderson Memorial Guild 1933-1940" documents some early history. It was started very informally in 1933 when a group of women got together and worked on quilts. They enjoyed the gatherings so much that it was agreed to start a more formal club the following year.

Everyone was invited to Mrs. Belden's at the beginning of the 1934 season and the group now consisted of eleven members. The group decided an exhibit was in order and the first one was held on July 25, 1934. Twenty-three quilts were exhibited along with items such as hooked rugs. They also sold other items such as homemade candy, popcorn and pinwheels. Tea and sandwiches were served and a silver offering taken. The total raised was \$15.00.

On August 1, 1934, the first officers were elected. The object of the Club was to assist the Camp Association and Chautauqua. Dues were \$.25 a year and meetings were held weekly during the summer.

During the 1934 season, a new quilt was started and any money raised was to be used to screen in the auditorium. This quilt was finished the following year.

In 1935 the quilt was completed. People from the Campgrounds, departed members and others from the area were charged ten cents to have their name embroidered on the quilt. The final count was 1,000 names and they raised \$100.00 which paid for one-fourth the cost of the auditorium screening. The sale and tea in 1935 raised \$51.00.

Money raised in 1936 was given to update rooms in the Association Building and to the Camp Grounds Musicians who provided music around the camp. \$59.00 was earned from another quilt and more money was earned when a Silver Tea was held by Mrs. Anderson on her lawn. A Good Cheer Fund was established to send cards and flowers to shut-ins.

In 1937, the annual sale netted over \$83.00 and another fifty dollars was sent to the Association Building. This donation was used to refresh and refurnish three more rooms in that building.

The luncheon and spring meeting of 1938 was held at the Y.W.C.A. in Hartford. The first gathering on the Campgrounds that year had "Grandma Henderson" (one of the founding members) giving one of her inspiring talks. Even though it was a rainy day on the annual sale day, over \$58.00 was raised. Grandma Henderson died on December 31st that year.

On July 10 of 1939 a Memorial Service for Grandma Henderson was held. The making of quilts gradually faded into the past and other types of work took their place. On August 2nd, the "Camp Grounds Quilt Club" was changed to the "Susan Henderson Memorial Guild".

From July 14 to 21, 1940 the refurbishing of the entire interior of the Association Building was completed.

2014 - The Ladies Guild is still very active and all current residents are invited to join. It continues its tradition of donating money raised to pay for Campgrounds upgrades and donations to local needs. The Guild donated to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Plainville Fire Department, a local food bank and the Plainville Police Department.

The biggest fundraiser is the annual tag sale held in August. In honor of our heritage, Guild members decided to make a quilt for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015.

2015 - The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt will debut at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and it will be displayed in the Dining Hall.

## 150th Anniversary Quilt

The idea to make a quilt for the 150<sup>th</sup> Campgrounds Anniversary came about after an outing by the Ladies Guild to the Plainville Historical Society. While there, we had a special viewing of the 1939 'Quilt of One Thousand Names' from the camp meeting days 'in memory of one thousand friends'. The Guild was inspired to capture the present day camp on a quilt, portraying each cottage and major structure as it stands today.

A committee was formed which was responsible for the concept, design and execution of the quilt. Photos of the cottages were taken and transferred to muslin panels then the panel borders were designed, cut, and pieced. Ladies Guild members were invited to bi-weekly quilting bees in the Dining Hall to help with the quilting.

We are thankful for all the additional talents of those involved in the development of this quilt.

Committee Members: Diane Donahue, Marcia Federer, Sandy Merker, Pidge McBride, Greta Pelletier

## Donors

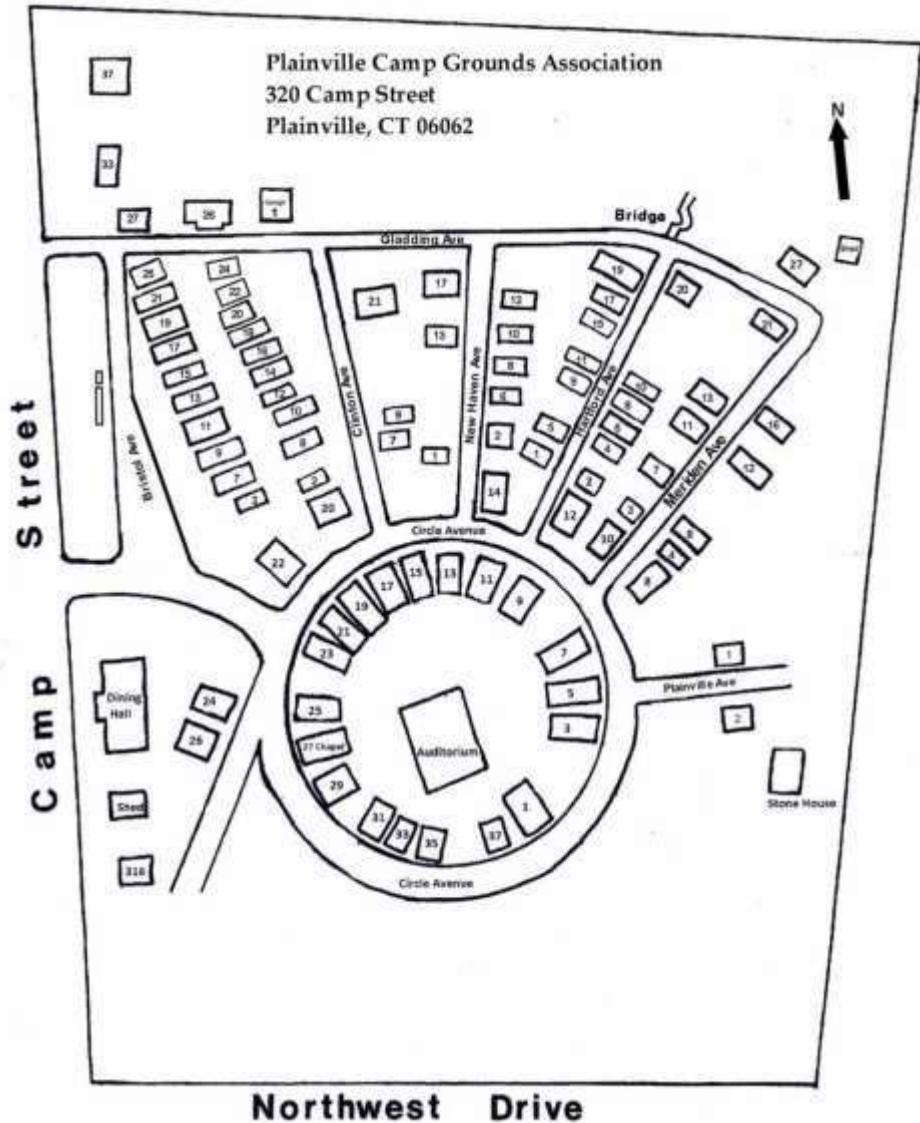
Plainville Camp Grounds  
Julie Gagliano  
Guy and Diane Gunther  
Tom and Alison O'Brien  
Carol Raymond  
Ed and Joan Rizzo

Ladies Guild  
Bob and Joanne Grady  
Hugh and Terri Murphy  
Maria Portal  
Lucille Raymond  
Ed and Dee Tousey



## Current Cottage Owners

### 2015 Campground Map



<b>Bristol Ave</b>	<b>Clinton Ave</b>	<b>Circle Ave</b>	<b>Circle Ave</b>
3 Daddabbo	2 Angels	1 Nadeau	21 Scott
7 McBride	4 Federer	3 Regan	22 LeSuer
9 Belisle	6 Knopf	5 Dickens	23 Pope
11 Pelletier	7 Simone	7 Vacant	24 Cote
13 Trapani	9 Perugini	8 Megill	25 Rosen
15 Utterback	12 Federer	9 Tousey	26 Burbank
17 Janowski	14 Gaydosh	10 Rosen	29 Pader
19 Raymond	16 Komasiwicz	11 Utterback	31 Grady
21 Deeley	18 Biringer	12 Roy	33 Gunther
25 Spinetta	20 Weider	13 Gagliano	35 Murphy
27 Greenwood	21 Buxton	14 Denoncourt	37 Simone
33 Portal	22 Chace	15 Raymond	
37 Green	24 Antonelle	17 Bartucca	
<b>Camp Street</b>	26 Morgan	19 O'Brien	
316 Davis		20 Munroe	
<b>Hartford Ave</b>	<b>Meriden Ave</b>	<b>New Haven Ave</b>	
1 Rizzo	3 LaChance	1 Papapietro	
2 Raymond	4 Marks	2 Jacques	
4 Michaud	7 Hafford	6 Roberge	
5 LeSuer	8 Merker	8 Burns	
6 Sherwin	11 McCarroll	10 Stella	
8 Poverman	12 Howard	12 Pagano	
9 Rolser	13 McBride	13 Hilliard	
10 Rich / Newton	16 Ryan	17 Hoff	
11 Lunny	21 Hopkins	<b>Plainville Ave</b>	
15 Pope	27 Peterson	1 Martin	
17 Pope		2 Goldfarb	
19 Donahue			
20 Sherman			

