

FROM FARM TO SUBURB



A History of Place Names in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, New York

Patricia Longoria

Village of Cayuga Heights
Historic Preservation Committee
Ithaca, NY

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For the June 13, 2015 Historic Ithaca House Tour and
Centennial Celebration of the Village of Cayuga Heights

Cover image: Town of Ithaca farm owners from The “New Topographical Atlas of Tompkins County, New York,” (1866), overlaid with the present-day boundary and streets of the Village of Cayuga Heights.

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Historic Preservation Committee
Village of Cayuga Heights
Marcham Hall
836 Hanshaw Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
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“With its glorious vista of the lake and valley, Cayuga Heights is now one of the choice residential districts of Ithaca.” Henry Edward Abt, 1926¹

In the first years of the twentieth century, developers Jared Treman Newman (1855-1937) and Charles Hazen Blood (1866-1938) laid out “a suburban country development . . . accessible to the University and town.”² This country development north of Cornell University was incorporated as the Village of Cayuga Heights in 1915.

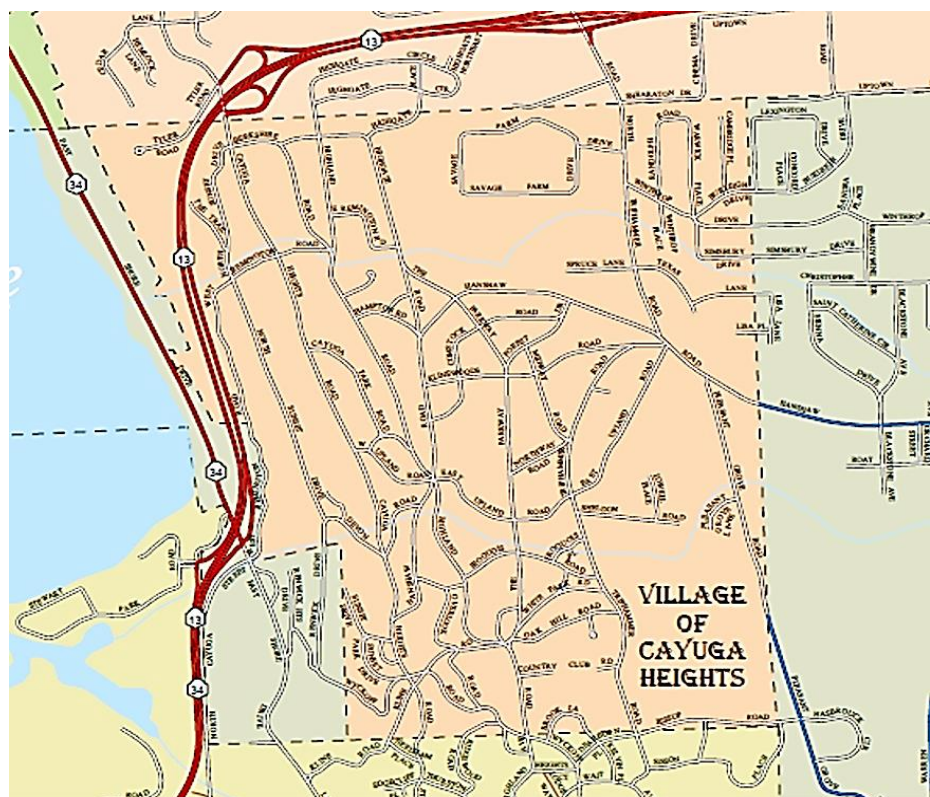
Stroll the curving lanes of Cayuga Heights—pausing to admire an Arts and Crafts tile roof, a forsythia hedge in full bloom, or a view of the lake at Sunset Park—and notice the street signs. From Iroquois to Highgate and all the byways in between, the road names reveal the evolution of the neighborhood from Cayuga Nation territory to farmland and then to suburb.



Forsythia

Cayuga Heights Road and Iroquois Road place the village in the lands once controlled by the Cayuga Nation of the Iroquois Confederation. Kline Road, Hanshaw Road, and Sheldon Road hint at the family farms that once flourished before the neighborhood was divided into suburban lots. Comstock Road, Corson Place, and White Park Road indicate the influence of Cornell University. Highland, Upland, and Hillside emphasize the natural features and hilly contours of the plateau 400 feet above Cayuga Lake. Post–World War II streets reflect more typical themed naming patterns.

Use this list of brief place name histories to guide you through the 21 miles of publicly owned and maintained roads and a few private lanes that cover the 1.82 square miles of the village.³



Street names in the Village of Cayuga Heights from "Ithaca Urban Area: Municipalities and Roads," Tompkins County Information Technology Services, GIS Division, 1999.

Berkshire Road: Jared Newman offered lots for sale in the “Berkshire Addition” in 1928. Like the roads in the adjoining Highgate section, Berkshire Road is named for an English locale. Berkshire is a county in southeast England.

Brook Lane is named for the intermittent stream that runs along the northern edge of this lane.⁴ In his “Cayuga Heights Notes” from the June 16, 1934 *Ithaca Journal*, Jared Newman listed the “brooks and ravines, which so abound” as some of the many attractive features of the neighborhood.

Burleigh Drive is a street in Williamsburg Park, which has road names related to the nation’s colonial history rather than to Cayuga Heights–specific people or places. (See Williamsburg Park.) Burleigh is a village in Berkshire, England.

Cambridge Place is a street in Williamsburg Park. (See Williamsburg Park.) This street name links Cayuga Heights to the English university town of Cambridge.

Cayuga Circle is the former name of the intersection of Upland Road, Highland Road, and Hanshaw Road, the northernmost stop on the Cayuga Heights line of the Ithaca Street Railway. Streetcar service in Ithaca ended in 1935.



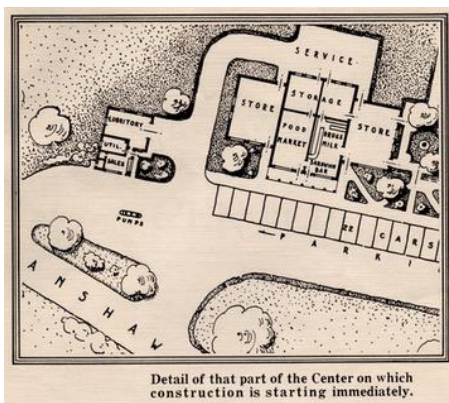
Trolley car at Cayuga Circle, shown in 1919, at the intersection of Upland, Highland, and Hanshaw roads. Photo courtesy of The History Center in Tompkins County.

Cayuga Heights Road: In a 1936 “Cayuga Heights News” advertisement in the *Ithaca Journal*, developer Jared Newman noted that the name Cayuga Heights “was coined by one of my workmen years ago.”⁵ The neighborhood—and the continuation of Stewart Avenue through it—lies on the heights above Cayuga Lake.⁶ When Jared Newman was mayor of Ithaca (1907-1908) and Charles Blood a county judge (1903-1909), the township petitioned and received state funds to pave 2.12 miles of “Cayuga Heights-Hanshaw’s Corners” Road as part of county highway 606.⁷ Newman was criticized for using public funds for a street through his development and didn’t seek another mayoral term. Up for reelection in 1909, Blood lost to his Democratic opponent whose campaign prominently featured the Cayuga Heights road issue.⁸

Cayuga Park Circle and Cayuga Park Road: In 1917, Charles Blood's Cayuga Heights Park Association developed the lots in this area, north of Upland Road between Cayuga Heights Road and Highland Road.⁹

Cemetery Road: See Pleasant Grove Road.

Comstock Road was named for John Henry Comstock (1849-1931) and Anna Botsford Comstock (1854-1930), friends of developer Jared Newman.¹⁰ John Comstock was professor of entomology at Cornell; Anna Botsford Comstock was professor of Nature Study. Newman considered Comstock Road "perhaps the best road I have ever built."¹¹



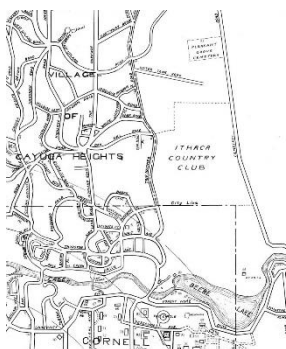
Plan of Corners Community Shopping Center,
"The Corners Community Progress Report,"
June 1947

Community Corners, Corners Community Center is a retail development on Hanshaw Road. The "Corners" refers to Hanshaw's Corners, a farm settlement centered at the intersection of Hanshaw Road and Pleasant Grove Road. See Hanshaw Road.

Corson Place: Developer Jared Newman named the street after his friend, Hiram P. Corson (1828-1911), Cornell professor of English Literature.¹²

Country Club Road is a private lane named for the Ithaca Country Club,

formed in 1900. The Ithaca Country Club was originally located on Franklin Cornell's farm north of Cornell Heights.¹³ A club house was built on what is now the property of the First Congregational Church at 309 Highland Road.¹⁴ In 1953,¹⁵ the part of Country Club Road leading to the Cornell Residential Club was built.¹⁶ A 1967 fire in the off-campus dorm killed nine Cornell students and staff.



Ithaca Country Club shown
on the Manning Map of
Ithaca, 1939

Dearborn Place was likely named for Lieutenant Colonel Henry Dearborn (1751-1829), who took part in the Sullivan Expedition, the Revolutionary War campaign against the Iroquois in 1779.¹⁷

Devon Road was formerly a portion of Renwick Drive. As early as 1929, village residents discussed changing the name of the stretch of Renwick between North Sunset Drive and Cayuga Heights Road. During a village-wide meeting, residents suggested the name “Storeybrook Road” for this section, but the name was never formalized. In 1934, residents petitioned to have the name changed to Devon Road, and the trustees approved the request. There is so far no documentation for the choice, but a possible connection is that Jared Newman’s Treman ancestors emigrated from Devon, England in the seventeenth century.¹⁸

The Eight Foot Path is a public walkway between Oak Hill Place and Triphammer Road laid out by Jared Newman in the White Park section as a shortcut to campus.

Forest Drive: The houses on this wooded lane were developed in 1932, as part of the Klinewoods development.¹⁹ See Klinewoods Road.

Hampton Road: The Hampton Terrace section was developed by Charles Blood in 1932-33.²⁰ Jared Newman had originally intended that roads near Highgate Road have English names.²¹ Hampton is a suburb of London.

Hanshaw Road was named for the prominent Hanshaw farming family. Hanshaw’s Corners was a small settlement at the intersection of present-day Hanshaw Road and Pleasant Grove Road. Hanshaw Corner’s Road linked Ithaca with communities to the northeast. Through most of the twentieth century, the Hanshaw family played a role in the government and development of the Town of Ithaca and of Cayuga Heights. Frank (1874-1945) and Rachel (1883-1977)



The “New Topographical Atlas of Tompkins County, New York” (1866) shows farm owners. Prominent names in what would become Cayuga Heights include Hanshaw, Manning, and Kline.

and Rachel (1883-1977) Hanshaw purchased the Labar family farmhouse, built c. 1860 in the Greek Revival style, at 112 Triphammer Road (now 2112 North Triphammer Road) in 1917.²² Frank and Rachel both served as Town Clerk of Ithaca. Rachel was elected and served as Town Clerk for 35 years, from the late 1920s until her retirement in 1962. The Hanshaw home was the Town Clerk’s office during Rachel Hanshaw’s tenure.²³ Frank and Rachel’s son, Frank Hanshaw Jr. (1923-

2009), developed the Spruce Lane and Lowell Place developments. *See* Spruce Lane and Lowell Place.

Highgate Road: Jared Newman named the road for Highgate, the hillside suburb north of London²⁴ on Hampstead Heath. In 1933, Martin (1904-1978; dean of Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations) and Louise (1903-1988) Catherwood bought several lots on Highgate Road from Jared Newman. The Catherwoods purchased the Morrell Mansion (built in 1846) in Caroline and had it moved to their lot²⁵ on the northern end of Highgate Road, a grand estate for a street with a tony English namesake. After annexation of the Highgate area to the village and the consequent addition of two trustee positions to the village board, Louise Catherwood served as village trustee from 1956 to 1960.



Esther Chordash works on a house plan at a home on Highgate Place, c. 1959. Family photo provided by Rick Chordash.

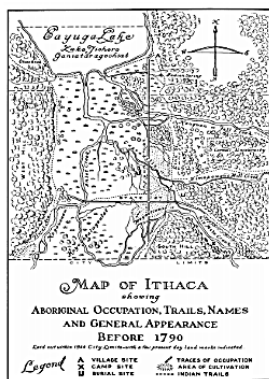
Highgate Place was originally an extension of Highgate Road that ended in a cul-de-sac. Village trustees formally approved the name Highgate Place in 1954, immediately after annexation. The eight homes on this lane were built between 1954 and 1964. Michael and Esther Chordash of Chordash Construction built seven of the homes. Esther designed the layouts and interiors, and Michael, trained as a carpenter by Esther's father, Enorfino Cicchetti, served as contractor. Michael and a small crew finished out the exteriors and interiors (including custom cabinetry), contracting out only the electrical, plumbing, and chimney work. When

the Catherwoods sold their farmland north of Highgate Place, the dead end was opened up to become a through street connecting Highgate Road and Highgate Circle, which is a part of the Village of Lansing.

Highland Park Lane and Highland Road: When developers Newman and Blood initially laid out the new Cayuga Heights development, the proposed Highland Road started on Wait Avenue in Cornell Heights, "running down center of the valley near east end of chicken house owned by" Edward Wyckoff.²⁶ Later, in 1917, Newman negotiated with the Ithaca Traction Company to extend the road to Cayuga Circle, at the intersection with Upland Road. Newman gave two lots to the railway company in exchange; the land is now part of the Cayuga Heights Elementary School property.²⁷ In 1922,²⁸ the Village approved paving the portion of Highland Road between Wyckoff and Upland roads; before this time, this section was dirt road.²⁹ The Cayuga Park Association developed the lots on Highland Park Lane and deeded it to the village in 1925.³⁰

Hillside Drive is a steep lane between Hanshaw Road and Highland Road. The Cayuga Park Association's Charles Blood and Herbert Davenport laid out the road and deeded it to the Village in 1925.³¹

Iroquois Place and **Iroquois Road** were developed as part of the original White Park section of Cayuga Heights. In 1921, Jared and Jane Newman deeded Iroquois Road and Iroquois Place to the Village. "Iroquois" is the name given by Europeans to the Haudenosaunee ("The People of the Longhouse"), the alliance that included the Cayuga Nation ("The People of the Great Swamp") and the Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk, and later the Tuscarora. The Cayuga Nation controlled the territory to the east and west of Cayuga Lake. Maps from the eighteenth century show Cayuga towns and trails along the east side of Cayuga Lake and traces of settlements west of the area that is now the Village of Cayuga Heights. Village residents have reported finding arrowheads in their yards, so it is possible that the Cayugas hunted on the lands that are now suburban lots.³²



Trails linked large core towns with smaller satellite communities in Cayuga Nation territory.

Jessup Road is a private lane owned by Cornell University. A portion of Jessup Road runs through the southeast corner of the Village of Cayuga Heights. Originally known as George Jessup Road, it was named for the civil engineer who served as project engineer for many North Campus dorms.³³

Kelvin Place is likely named for William Thomson, First Baron Kelvin (1824-1907). Lord Kelvin was an eminent British physicist and engineer; he visited Cornell University in 1902.³⁴

Kline Road takes its name from the Kline family. Before 1900, Kline Road was much more extensive. It ran from the Kline farm at Hanshaw Corner's Road, through the Sheldon property (*see* Sheldon Road), past the intersection of Triphammer Road near Iroquois Road, and then down to the current Kline Road, which begins at The Parkway and Highland Road and connects to Lake Street in the Town of Ithaca.³⁵ Jared Newman and Charles Blood purchased the Kline farmlands for part of what is now Cayuga Heights.³⁶ The Kline's stately red-brick farmhouse on 830 Hanshaw Road is now an office building across from the Corners Community Center. The old Kline School on the southeast corner of Hanshaw Road and Pleasant Grove Road (1001 Hanshaw Road) is currently a dentist's office. *See also* Pleasant Grove Road.

Klinewoods Road: Jared Newman developed the Klinewoods section of Cayuga Heights in 1932 as an area of modest homes.³⁷ See Kline Road.

Lenox Road: Jared Newman intended for streets near Highgate Road to have English-influenced names.³⁸ Lenox, Massachusetts, is a colonial-era town in Berkshire County. See Berkshire Road.

Lexington Drive is one of the streets in Williamsburg Park that refers to the colonial history of the United States. (See Williamsburg Park.) Lexington, Massachusetts, was the site of the first battle of the Revolutionary War.

Lisa Place was named for the daughter of developers Ivar and Janet Jonson, who owned IJ Construction. The Jonsons built the homes on Lisa Lane and Lisa Place between 1979 and 1982³⁹ and deeded the road to the Village in 1983.



Iris in a Cayuga Heights garden (Genus Iris)

Lowell Place was named for Lowell F. Randolph (1894-1980), Cornell botany professor. The two-acre Randolph lot on Sheldon Road was noted for the irises that Lowell and Fannie Randolph bred and cultivated. The Randolphs traveled the world collecting wild iris specimens. The American Iris Society's (AIS) Randolph-Perry Prize recognizes Randolph's contributions to iris classification and genetics research. An AIS member recalled that Randolph arrived at a meeting in Massachusetts with irises that "filled the whole trunk, all these species never before seen in America, pot after pot, all in full and generous bloom, atticas, pseudopumilas, chamaeirises, aphyllas, furcatas, undreamed of forms of *Iris pumila*."⁴⁰ The Randolph iris garden, planted in sandy soil, dazzled visitors in late spring, and village residents bought

iris plants for their home gardens from the iris expert.⁴¹ Developer Frank Hanshaw bought the Randolph property and sold lots on Lowell Place in the mid-1980s.

Manning Road was an early farm road near Hanshaw's Corners. Carrie Manning (1856-1875), who kept a diary in 1869, wrote about daily life on the Manning farm. "The road was so drifted that we could not get to school," she noted on January 12. Farmers pitched in to clear the snow and repaired the roads in the spring.⁴² A photograph from Dorothy Cornell's 1926-1927 photo album shows the tree-lined Manning Road between Stonecroft (now the Village's

Marcham Hall, 836 Hanshaw Road) and Eunice Cornell and Charles Leigh Taylor's "Brick House" at 830 Hanshaw Road.

Midway Road: Jared Newman advertised the first lots of the "Midway Section" of Cayuga Heights for sale in 1935. The road is midway between The Parkway and Triphammer Road and leads to the Klinewoods section.



*Dorothy Cornell's photograph of Manning Road.
Photo courtesy of The History of Tompkins
County (<http://www.thehistorycenter.net/>).*

The Newman Tract is a Unique Natural Area (UNA) off of North Sunset Drive. The natural area contains "locally rare" plant species and old-growth forest with trees estimated at 150 years old.⁴³

Northway Road was laid out as part of Jared Newman's original White Park section of Cayuga Heights but was not named until 1928.⁴⁴ The road connects The Parkway to Triphammer Road.

Oak Hill Place: See Oak Hill Road.

Oak Hill, Oak Hill Road, and Oak Hill Trail: What is now Oak Hill Road was once a portion of Kline Road.⁴⁵ Farm wagons traveled up Kline Road from "the Flats" at Lake Street and up the wagon track known as Oak Hill Trail. Farmers stopped at the spring on Oak Hill Trail to rest and water their horses.⁴⁶ After Jared Newman sold the first lots in the White Park section, he asked for input to rename the road. He rejected the proposed names Oakland Drive, Oakwood Drive, and The Trail in favor of Oak Hill Road.⁴⁷ Newman felt that "The Trail" wasn't suitable for a residential neighborhood. Oak Hill Trail is now part of Palmer Woods, and its remnants run behind the homes on Oak Hill Road. (See Palmer Woods.) In a newspaper ad for homes on White Park Road, Jared Newman suggested that prospective buyers hike up Oak Hill Trail to view "the wondrous view of the Inlet Valley from the summit of Oak Hill."

Overlook Road was named and laid out as part of the original White Park section. The name reflects the topography of the heights "overlooking" Cayuga Lake.

Palmer Woods is a Unique Natural Area (UNA) owned by Cornell University. It was named for the Palmer family, who lived at 206 Oak Hill Road. Geologist Katherine Van Winkle Palmer (1895-1982) was director of the Paleontological Research Institution. E. Laurence Palmer (1888-1970) was a professor of rural education at Cornell and an early advocate for preserving natural areas. In 1950,

when Village trustees approved a sewer permit for an apartment complex planned for the east side of Triphammer Road, Palmer called for a park to be constructed in that area instead.⁴⁸ The Palmer's eight-acre lot at 701 Triphammer Road was transferred to Cornell in 1966. Cornell had previously purchased land from the Ithaca Country Club, in 1959, on what would become the southern portion of Palmer Woods. The natural area contains meadows, a stream, wetlands, and old-growth oak trees and mixed, new-growth forests.⁴⁹

The Parkway and Parkway Place show the influence of Frederick Law Olmsted and other early landscape architects who designed parks, zoos, and neighborhoods as idealized naturalistic settings. In 1865, landscape architect Calvert Vaux incorporated the parkway concept into his design for Prospect Park in Brooklyn.⁵⁰ In contrast to the linear streets organized in a grid of earlier urban designs, a "parkway" was typically curved as it followed the terrain's natural contours. Trees and other greenery shaded the road and provided pleasant views. Harold Caparn (1864-1945), a landscape architect with an office in New York City, laid out The Parkway (up to Klinewoods Road) and planted the pine trees that line it. Parkway Place is a private lane, which originally led to developer Jared Newman's home.

Pine Hill Lane and Pine Hill/Pine Lookout/Point Lookout: Pine Hill, also shown as Pine Lookout or Point Lookout on survey maps, was located on the southern part of the Sheldon Farm, east of Triphammer Road across from what is today Iroquois Place. Pine Hill Lane runs on the northern edge of the Pine Hill Apartments on Triphammer Road.

Pleasant Grove Road was formerly known as Cemetery Road for the Kline Cemetery dating to the early nineteenth century.⁵¹ Later it became Kline Road⁵² and then was renamed Pleasant Grove Road in 1954, when the border of Cayuga Heights was extended north and east. Pleasant Grove Brook is an active stream that flows from Pleasant Grove Road across Cayuga Heights and down to North Cayuga Street.

Pleasant Grove Lane: The homes on this private lane, built between 1977 and 1982, were developed by Lagrand E. Chase, who also constructed homes in the Williamsburg Park area of Cayuga Heights.⁵³ *See* Pleasant Grove Road.

Randolph Road is a street in the Williamsburg Park neighborhood that follows the post-World War II suburban naming convention of drawing on the nation's past to give a new neighborhood a sense of history and identity. (*See* Williamsburg Park.) The Randolphs were political leaders in colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.

Remington Road and East Remington Road: Remington is a name associated with the Wyckoff family. Cornell Heights developer Edward Wyckoff owned the Remington Salt Company at Remington Point, a small promontory on the east side of Cayuga Lake three-quarters of a mile north of the intersection of East Shore Drive and Route 13.⁵⁴ Edward Wyckoff's father, William Wyckoff, made his fortune as an agent for the Remington Typewriter Company.⁵⁵

Renwick Slope is a Unique Natural Area (UNA) owned by Cornell University. This area is a small portion of the 600-acre Military Tract No. 88 purchased by Revolutionary War veteran James Renwick (d. 1802) in 1790 and inherited by his descendants.⁵⁶ Trees more than 150 years old grow on the steep slopes of this seventy-four-acre natural area.⁵⁷ Jared and Jane Newman donated a six-acre tract in 1921 that formed a part of the natural area.⁵⁸

Route 13 is a limited-access state highway. After the highway was rerouted in the 1960s to bypass downtown Ithaca, a section of the expressway came to run through the western edge of the Village of Cayuga Heights. Several village properties were eliminated as a result. As an example of a "modern" highway, the photograph of Route 13 shown here is encoded on the "Golden Records" placed in the Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft, which are now traveling beyond the Solar System.

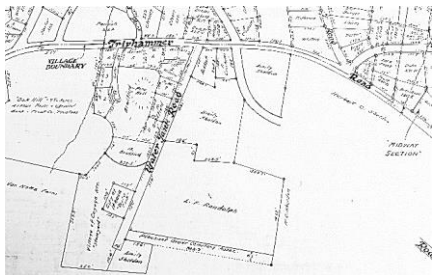


"Modern Highway (Ithaca)," National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center

Savage Farm Drive is named for the Elmer Savage family, whose former farmlands and homestead were purchased by Cornell University and then became Kendal at Ithaca, the retirement community in the north part of Cayuga Heights.

School Drive is the name of the driveway through the Union Free School District #6 property, which was donated to the Village in 1922 by Jared Newman. The original schoolhouse, known as Hitchcock Hall, was built in 1924 and demolished in 1968. Now Cayuga Heights Elementary School, the primary school is part of the Ithaca City School District and draws students from the villages of Cayuga Heights, Lansing, Forest Home, and the Town of Ithaca.

The Sentinels is the name Jared Newman gave to the land around Parkway Place, where he built a summer house in 1903 and later a year-round residence. It was named for the lofty elms on the property.⁵⁹ The original homes built on this lane marked the entrance to the new development that became known as Cayuga Heights.



Water Tank Road, "Map of Cayuga Hts. Region, Tompkins Co., N.Y.," February 1941

Sheldon Road is named for the Sheldon family, who purchased the Bush Farm from Jared Newman in 1910-1911.⁶⁰ In 1932, Emily Sheldon (d. 1949) sold land to the Village for a water tank at the crest of what became known as Water Tank Road.⁶¹ The City of Ithaca built a steel water tank on the site.⁶² Builder Erma Cicchetti (1923-1989), who constructed several homes along the road, suggested to Village Engineer Carl Crandall in 1946 that Water Tank Road should be renamed

something "more suitable for a residential street."⁶³ Sheldon Road indeed seems a suitable marker for the Sheldon family's contributions to the development of the village. The water tank still stands at the end of Sheldon Road, next to the Village's Department of Public Works.

Simsbury Drive is in Williamsburg Park, which has streets with colonial-themed names. (See Williamsburg Park.) Simsbury, Connecticut, was founded in the seventeenth century.

Spruce Lane was built on land originally owned by Isaac Manning as part of Military Lots 89 and 90.⁶⁴ Frank Hanshaw Jr. developed this lane in the mid-1960s. A row of Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) lines the entrance of the lane and screens the back of the Labar/Hanshaw farmhouse, which is just south of Spruce Lane.

Strawberry Lane was named for the wild strawberries (*Fragaria vesca*) that grew abundantly in this area before the homes were built.⁶⁵ It is a private lane laid out after Jared Newman established the Sunset Park development. (See Sunset Park.) Architect J. Lakin Baldrige (1892-1969) and contractor Jes J. Dall Jr. (1895-1942) developed this pocket neighborhood.⁶⁶ The first homes on this lane were built between 1930 and 1933. A current resident of the lane notes that wild strawberries still grow in her yard.



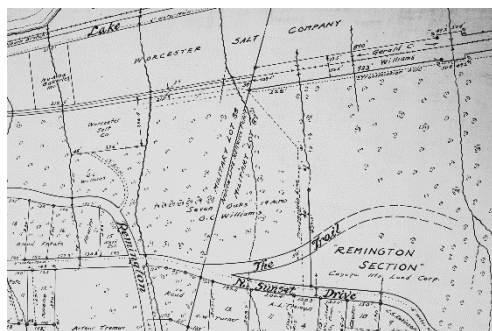
*Illustration of
Fragaria vesca*

Sunset Drive and North Sunset Drive: Sunset Drive was part of the “Western Slope” area around Sunset Park. On the 1929 Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map, North Sunset Drive is marked “New Road.”

Sunset Park: Jared Newman originally called the Sunset Park area the “Western Slope.” In 1928, Jared and Jane Newman donated Sunset Park to the village. The sloped portion of the park was carved from land rented by the Cayuga Heights Sand Bank company owned by Minos M. Reynolds.⁶⁷ Newman allowed Reynolds to continue the lease for a number of years after the land was transferred, and the company sold gravel to the Village.⁶⁸ At the top of Sunset Park, Newman installed a bench (with a bronze plaque inscribed “Here may you too find the love of Beauty, Goodness, Truth”) where residents could enjoy the valley and lake views.⁶⁹

Texas Lane was laid out by developer Otto B. Schoenfeld Jr. (1906-1984). Louisiana-born Schoenfeld earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Cornell in 1933. The athletic “Ott” threw shot put and discus and was the captain of the varsity track team. He later settled with his family in Houston, Texas, and was vice president and general manager of a chemical company. After Cornell Athletic Director Robert Kane drove his former track teammate around Ithaca to view rural properties, Schoenfeld purchased the Dorothy Cornell Taylor farm in 1948. He laid out Texas Lane and named it after his adopted home state. The homes on this street and its extension were built between 1950 and 1963. Texas Lane in the mid-1950s may have felt a bit like rural Texas: a barbed wire fence separated the backyards of some of the homes from the adjoining farm, and cows came up to the fence to greet their new neighbors.

The Trail is a lane in the northwest corner of the village off North Sunset Drive. In 1941, the Trail ran between the “Seven Oaks” property of Gerald C. Williams and a small section of the Cayuga Heights Land Corp.’s “Remington Section.” The Trail ended at a stream.⁷⁰ In 1962, the trustees requested that Mayor Fred Marcham investigate whether the Village could acquire property owned by Hilda Smith in this area for a park.⁷¹ However, part of the property was deeded to the state for the Route 13 bypass, and the remaining lots stayed privately owned.



“The Trail” shown on “Map of Cayuga Hts. Region, Tompkins Co., N.Y.,” February 1941



Postcard of Triphammer Falls and Hydraulic Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

Triphammer Lane, Triphammer Road and North Triphammer Road: The southern end of Triphammer Road (“Road No. 1” in Blood and Newman’s original deed)⁷² is in Cornell Heights and was named for the nearby Triphammer Falls. A water-powered device known as a “trip hammer” was in use in a mill at the base of Fall Creek Gorge in the nineteenth century.⁷³ Edward Wyckoff privately funded construction of a bridge across Fall Creek at Triphammer Falls in 1897,

opening the way for the development of Cornell Heights and later Cayuga Heights. North Triphammer Road was originally known as County Road 122 and became a Village road after Cayuga Heights extended its borders in 1954. Before the Route 13 bypass was constructed in the 1960s, North Triphammer Lane still maintained a rural feel, though annexation had an effect. In 1959, the Village Clerk was asked to check on the legality of a display sign offering “Eggs and Milk for Sale.”⁷⁴ Triphammer Lane was formerly a private driveway but became a private lane in 1969.

Tyler Road is a lane just north of Route 13 (*See Route 13.*); access to Tyler Road is on land belonging to the Village of Lansing. Tyler Road was informally named Fleck Road by owners Harlow C. (1892-1975) and Mildred A. (1893-1979) Fleck. Mr. Fleck was comptroller for NYSEG; he proposed a subdivision on Fleck Road in 1958. When the New York State Highway Department built the Route 13 bypass, road workers relocated Fleck Road northwest of its original location. Almost two decades after the Flecks’ proposed development,

Cornell architecture professor Stephen W. Jacobs (1919-1978) and Helen O. Jacobs (1923-1982) developed the property. Jacobs set up utilities to the home sites on Tyler Road, and the Village accepted it as a publicly maintained road in 1974. The first home was constructed in 1975. In 1977, residents requested replacing the Fleck Road designation with Tyler Road.

Upland Road (East and West) was the northern boundary of the original Cayuga Heights development laid out by Newman and Blood. The name reflects the topography of Cayuga Heights. Upper E. Upland Road, between Hanshaw Road and Triphammer Road, was once known as Sheldon Road and was used as a farm road by the Sheldons through their extensive property.

Warwick Place is a short lane in the Williamsburg Park neighborhood, which has streets with colonial-themed names. (*See Williamsburg Park.*) Robert Rich, second Earl of Warwick, was a member of the Virginia Company of London, which founded Jamestown.

Water Tank Road: *See Sheldon Road.*

Westbourne Lane runs between Highland Avenue in Cornell Heights and Overlook Road in the Village of Cayuga Heights.

Westview Terrace is a lane on the Westview Terrace Apartments property, built in 1940,⁷⁵ at 400 Triphammer Road.

White Park Place and White Park Road were named for Andrew Dickson White (1832-1918), first president of Cornell University. Developer Jared Newman considered President White his “intellectual father.”⁷⁶

Williamsburg Park is a residential section east of North Triphammer Road. It was laid out in the 1960s by developer Otto B. Schoenfeld. (*See Texas Lane.*) The northern part of Williamsburg Park was originally part of the Manning Farm; the land had been purchased by Franklin Cornell in 1903 and used as summer pasture for his coal company’s horses.⁷⁷ The southern section of the neighborhood was part of the



Carl Crandall survey, “White Park and Lands Adjoining,” February 1921

Eunice and Charles Leigh Taylor's dairy farm, which was later transferred to Emily Cornell Stagg, who sold to Schoenfeld. Rather than reflecting this agricultural heritage, the street names in Williamsburg Park evoke connections to the English colonial past, especially to the Williamsburg, Virginia region.

Winthrop Drive and **Winthrop Place** are located in Williamsburg Park. (See Williamsburg Park.) The colonial associations for this name include John Winthrop (1587-1649), one of the key figures in the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Winthrop Rockefeller (1912-1973), the brother of New York governor and U.S. vice president Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979), was chairman of the Colonial Williamsburg foundation from 1954 to 1973.⁷⁸

Wyckoff Road extends from Wyckoff Avenue in Cornell Heights to Renwick Drive.⁷⁹ Wyckoff Avenue was named by and for Edward G. Wyckoff (1867-1924), developer of Cornell Heights.⁸⁰

Endnotes

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³ Maps consulted: "New Topographical Atlas of Tompkins County, New York," (1866); Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Ithaca, April 1910, September 1919, November 1929 (Sheets 40, 41, 42, 43); Carl Crandall, "White Park and Lands Adjoining, Ithaca, NY," February 1921; Tompkins County Development Association, "City of Ithaca and Vicinity," 1938; "Map of Ithaca," Manning and Co., 1939.

⁴ "Map of Cornell Heights, May 1, 1903," in Elizabeth Mount, *Twice "Removed" and Thrice Survived: A Brief History of the Little House, Most recently seen at 303 E. Upland Road, Ithaca, N.Y.*, 1993; "Tompkins County Watershed and New York State Freshwater Wetlands" map, Tompkins County Planning Department, NY State Plane, Central, No. American Datum 1983. <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/files/gis/maps/pdfs/NYSDECWetlands.pdf>.

⁵ "Cayuga Heights Notes" advertisement in March 1936, from Jared Newman Papers, Village of Cayuga Heights Historic Preservation Committee Collection.

⁶ Newman Papers, January 25, 1936; Carol Kammen (ed.), *Place Names of Tompkins County*, Office of the Tompkins County Historian, Ithaca, New York, 2004, p. 3, 84.

⁷ State of New York, Report of the State Commissioner of Highways, Transmitted to the Legislature February 15, 1918, Albany, J. B. Lyon Company Printers, 1918, p. 447.

⁸ Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, pp. 106-107.

⁹ Jane Marsh Dieckmann (ed.), *The Towns of Tompkins County; From Podunk to Magnetic Springs*, DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County, Ithaca, New York, 1998, p. 34.

¹⁰ Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, p. 102, 116.

¹¹ Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, p. 116.

¹² Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, p. 114.

¹³ Julian C. Smith, *Breaking Ninety: A History of the Country Club of Ithaca, 1900-1989*, The Country Club of Ithaca, Inc., Ithaca, New York, 1990, p. 9.

¹⁴ Smith, *Breaking Ninety*, p. 15.

¹⁵ Village of Cayuga Heights Trustee Meeting Minutes, May 10, 1955.

¹⁶ Village of Cayuga Heights Trustee Meeting Minutes, August 18, 1953.

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- ¹⁸ Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, p. 11.
- ¹⁹ Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, p. 116.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, p. 114.
- ²² Rachel Hanshaw obituary, *Syracuse Post-Standard*, August 9, 1997.
- ²³ Phone interview with home owner, April 13, 2015.
- ²⁴ Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, p. 114.
- ²⁵ Dieckmann (ed.), *The Towns of Tompkins County*, p. 65.
- ²⁶ Fletcher Woodcock, Sherwood Holt, Country Club Road Deed and Abstract.
- ²⁷ Sisler, *Enterprising Families*, p. 109.
- ²⁸ Village of Cayuga Heights Trustees Special Meeting Minutes, August 16, 1923.
- ²⁹ Dieckmann (ed.), *The Towns of Tompkins County*, p. 35.
- ³⁰ Village of Cayuga Heights Trustee Meeting Minutes, February 5, 1925.
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- ⁶⁴ Abstract of Title- 2 Spruce Lane- Tax Parcel # 5-1-1.201.
- ⁶⁵ Phone conversations with Strawberry Lane current and former residents, June 2015.
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Who We Are

In 2015, the Village of Cayuga Heights celebrates the centennial of its incorporation. The quintessential American university suburb adjacent to Cornell, Cayuga Heights has enjoyed a close connection with the university since it was founded. In conjunction with the centennial, Village Historian Bea Szekely has coordinated a number of important initiatives to collect and present the history of the village's first 100 years.



- **The History Project (THP) and Online GIS StoryMaps:** The History Project (<http://cayugaheightshistory.weebly.com/>) is the central repository for individual house histories that tell the story of the Village, its residents, and the forces that have shaped it. The Tompkins County GIS department assisted THP in producing online StoryMaps, which present this data in map form.
- **Speaker Series:** The series kicked off in Fall 2014 with a talk by former Village Historian Carol Sisler on the architecture of the Heights. Urban horticulture researcher Fred Cowett presented a lecture on the village's natural environment. In 2015, THP sponsored a panel discussion of long-time residents who grew up in the village.
- **Marcham Hall Exhibit:** The June 13th centennial marks the opening of "Illustrations of Village Life" by Robert J. "Jack" Lambert, Jr. (1928-2014). Jack Lambert was professor of freehand drawing at Cornell University's School of Agriculture and Life Sciences and a long-time resident, with his wife Nina Lambert and daughter Sarah Lambert, of the village. The drawings can also be viewed online at <http://cayugaheightshistory.weebly.com/jack-lambert-illustrations.html>.
- **Publications:** THP members have published Cayuga Heights history highlights on the THP website, as well as written *The Story of Marcham Hall* (2015) and *From Farm to Suburb: A History of Place Names in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, New York* (2015).

Contact Us

Village of Cayuga Heights Historic Preservation Committee

Bea Szekely, Village Historian, bszekely@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Carole Schiffman, Co-Chair, cschiffman@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Randi Kepecs, Co-Chair, rkepecs@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Patricia Longoria, Researcher and Writer, plongoria@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Web: <http://cayugaheightshistory.weebly.com/>

