

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Harwinton Doctor Paved the Way for Women

By Susan McClen

Dr. Maude Taylor Griswold was considered a pioneer for women in the medical profession.

She was the daughter of Dr. Levi Taylor, a dentist in Hartford, and his wife Nellie Thayer



Taylor. Levi Taylor was the first president of the Hartford Dental Association and Nellie Taylor was a charter member of the Hartford Woman's Club and the Connecticut Society, Descendants of the Mayflower. The United States Census for Hartford in 1900 and 1910

shows their daughter Maude's birth occurred about 1881.

In a Hartford Courant article dated April 5, 1955, Dr. Griswold was honored at the annual dinner of the Tufts Medical Alumni Association in Boston where she was believed to be the lone surviving female member of the Tufts Medical School Class of 1905. According to another Hartford Courant article dated April 24 1956, the Connecticut State Medical Society, at

its 164th annual dinner meeting, awarded her a 50-year service pin.

Prior to her marriage, she practiced in Hartford as Dr. Maude Taylor and in 1927 was elected president of the women's section of the Connecticut Medical Association.

While practicing medicine in Hartford, she also spoke to organizations, both in person and on the radio. She later became the visiting physician at Long Lane Farm for girls in Middletown. Prior to Long Lane, she was the school physician in the town of Bloomfield. In 1928, while practicing medicine as Dr. Taylor, she married George Griswold. After their marriage, she continued to practice in Hartford as Dr. Taylor but following George Griswold's retirement from Aetna in 1936, the couple moved to Cobble Road in Harwinton. Practicing as Dr. Griswold, she became school physician in Harwinton, a position she held for 20 years until her retirement in 1959.

When George Griswold passed away in 1954 Maude sold the house on Cobble Road. She built a ranch style house on Woodchuck Lane and later, as she aged, retired to Wolcott Hall in Torrington. During the years she was a Harwinton resident, Dr. Griswold was the town's health officer and a member of the staff of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital.

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Harwinton Historical Society

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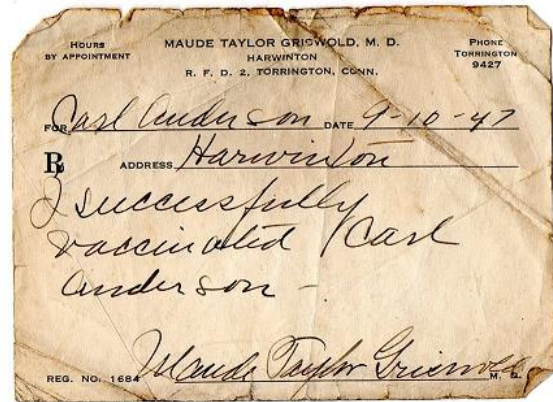
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Above is a written confirmation from Dr. Maude Taylor Griswold that she vaccinated Carl Anderson in 1947.

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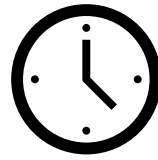
Tufts Medical School honored Dr. Griswold on her 104th birthday as its oldest living graduate and one of the first women in the country to study medicine. Still mentally sharp, she commented to the Hartford Courant, "I don't attribute my long life to anything, just sheer luck."

Thank You, Terri!

A note of appreciation to Harwinton resident Terri Anderson for sharing some photos and information from files she maintains documenting Harwinton's history.

This month Terri provided information and photos connected to Dr. Maude Griswold

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL HHS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023 PLEASE FORWARD DUES OF \$15 PLUS YOUR NAME, FULL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE AND EMAIL TO HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TREASURER PO BOX 84 HARWINTON, CT 06791



REWIND ...

A look back at earlier times and a mixture of events from Harwinton's history

Typhoid and TB Cases Down

In 1905 it was reported that the town's approximately 1,000 residents had achieved a remarkably low number of cases of typhoid fever and tuberculosis. The health improvements were considered the result of new and improved hygiene measures

Ice Skating on the Pond

In the early 1970s the Harwinton Recreation Commission sponsored ice skating on a pond in the recreation area. When the ice was safe and skating allowed, a sign was posted at the entrance to the rec area. If the pond was not safe for skating, an announcement was made between 1 and 2 pm on radio station WSNG.

The first year that the pond was ready for skating was celebrated with a Saturday afternoon "skating party" complete with hot chocolate and donuts.

White Elephant

The **White Elephant Shop** was located on Route 118 near the Harwinton-Litchfield town line. Shop owners were Alfred and Olga Alexander. The term "white elephant" refers to a possession that its owner cannot dispose of and whose cost, particularly that of maintenance, is out of proportion to its usefulness.

Bicentennial Ball

In 1975 plans were under way by a local Bicentennial Commission for a Bicentennial birthday party and ball in September. It was hoped that most organizations in town would participate in some way. Bobby Gioscia was chairman of the commission and Nancy Gananca was secretary. One project involved restoration of Center Cemetery including establishing the cemetery's boundaries and installing a fence on the east and west borders.

Gertrude Battles Lane

Once a resident of Harwinton, Gertrude Battles Lane was Chief Editor of the *Woman's Home Companion* magazine. She served on the staff of the magazine that emphasized women and the home for 38 years. Gertrude was born in 1874, when women were beginning to make significant advances that would lead them to obtaining voting rights. She rose to the position of managing editor and then editor-in-chief. In 1929 she was earning an annual salary of \$52,000 and was reported to be one of the best paid women of the day. Gertrude died in 1941.

Builder Donates Baseball Field

In March of 1975 O&G Construction Company, Building Materials Inc. Division donated a new baseball field to the Harwinton Little League. Approximately 5400 yards of bank-run gravel were deposited and graded on a cleared area on Locust Road. The donation was praised as extremely generous and "certainly appreciated."