



### **Land Trust Heroes: The Godard Family Donates 118 Acres to the Granby Land Trust**

The Godard name, whether it is spelled Godard, Gozzard or Gozard, has been known and respected in Granby for more than 300 years. And it will continue to be remembered in Granby forever, thanks in part to the family's generous donation of The Godard Preserve to the Granby Land Trust.

In 1646, Daniel Gozzard came from England to Hartford. Daniel's son, Nicholas, was granted land in the Salmon Brook section of Simsbury (now Granby) in 1683. Eventually the Godards settled in North Granby, at Cragg Mill (near Godard Road and Silver Street).

By 1858, Godard land extended to both sides of Granville Road and included land on Donahue Road. Harvy Godard, who helped organize the Granby Grange and later served as the first master of the State Grange, married Sabra Beach and they raised six children. Their third child, George Seymour Godard, born in 1865, attended Wilbraham Academy and Wesleyan University. (His education was funded by the sale of timber from The Godard Preserve.)

George postponed his senior year to supervise the building and organization of Cossitt Library. It was a measure of his ability and talent that a 24-year-old student was entrusted with almost total responsibility for the library. He then completed his education at Wesleyan and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale. At age 35, he became the third State Librarian of

Connecticut. He married Kate Estelle Dewey in 1897 and together they had three children: George Dewey Godard, Paul Beach Godard, and Mary Katherine Godard.

Born in 1901, Paul Beach Godard followed his father's footsteps to Wilbraham and Wesleyan. In 1925, he married Alice Litchfield Hills. They had two daughters, Sali Godard Riege and Barbara Godard (11<sup>th</sup> generation Godards). Paul Godard's career was in real estate as the highly respected president of his own firm. He led local, state, and national real estate boards, served two terms as a West Hartford town councilman, and was president of the Governmental Research Institute. He also was Governor of the Order of Founders and Patriots, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and of the Society of Colonial Wars. Upon his retirement, his principal interest was the care and the future of the Godard properties in North Granby – until his death in 1968.

In 1997, Alice Hills Godard gave 108 acres on Donahue Road to the Land Trust in memory of her husband, Paul Beach Godard. She also created an endowment to support the creation of trails on the property. Paul and Alice's daughters, Barbara Godard and Sali Godard Riege, then donated two important five-acre parcels to complete the Godard Preserve as we now know it.

The Godard roots run deep in Granby history. Their donation to the Land Trust ensures that generations to come will enjoy this beautiful place as the Godards have since Colonial Days.

