

Mrs. Howe's Maternity Home

Notes by Susan Barlow & Noreen Palladino Cullen, Manchester Historical Society, September 2016.

Hundreds of children were born at Mrs. Howe's Maternity Home, 52 Wadsworth St., Manchester, CT, between about 1922 and 1935. Some of those children are in the "reunion" picture below, provided to us by Bob Gorman, who was born at Howe's maternity home in July 1922. Bob received the photo from Don Lappen, who currently owns the house at 52-54 Wadsworth Street.

On May 31, 1931, the picture appeared in the Society pages of *The Hartford Courant*, with this caption: "MOTHERS AND BABES IN REUNION AT MANCHESTER – 325 mothers and children, former patients of the Howe Maternity Home, Manchester, were the guests May 12 of Mrs. George H. Howe of the Home at a reunion party. 150 of the number were mothers. The guests present were from Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford, Windsor, Glastonbury and Manchester. © Fallo"



Contemporary photo of the house, 52-54 Wadsworth St.



Thumbnail view of picture as it appeared in *The Courant*.



Mrs. Howe's establishment was patronized by residents of Manchester, Hartford, West Hartford, and other towns. Hospitals were also an option for families: Manchester Memorial, Hartford, St. Francis, Mt. Sinai. Mrs. Howe's maternity home is listed in the 1927 Manchester directory (see copy below); in the 1934 directory it's listed as a maternity hospital, as it is in an ad in the 1934 *Courant* classifieds, under private hospitals. Announcements in *The Courant* show births at the home from 1927 to 1934. Historical Society member and volunteer Ron Schack (1936-2018) and his brother (1934) were both born at Mrs. Howe's. Also, volunteer Mary Jane Pitkin Cooper (1927-2020), and Gladys Risley Hall (1932-2021),

<p>Home's listing in 1927 directory</p>	<p>Pitkin, daughter born 6/10/1927 on Maple Street.</p> <p>Notes. A daughter was born today to Mr. and Mrs. William Pitkin, of No. 54 Pitkin Street in Mrs. Howe's Maternity Home on Wadsworth Street. The trade school baseball team will</p>	<p>A birth, 9/11/1927 <i>Courant</i></p> <p>the university this fall. A daughter, Doris Elaine, was born Saturday morning to Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Webber of Oak Street, at Mrs. Howe's Maternity Home on Wadsworth Street.</p>
<p>A birth, 9/5/1928 <i>Courant</i></p> <p>A daughter, Joyce Lavinia Clarke, was born to Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Clarke of Sisson Avenue, Monday, September 3, at Howe's Maternity Home in South Manchester.</p>	<p>A birth, 7/1/1934 <i>Courant</i></p> <p>A daughter was born Friday at Mrs. Howe's Maternity Home to Mr. and Mrs. William Kronick of 18 Stephen Street.</p>	<p>Home's listing in 1934 directory</p> <p>—Mary S Mrs nurse and (Mrs Howe's Maternity Home) 52 Wadsworth r do —Newell C (Hilda) chauff Hartford h 481 Parker RD —Ruth M student r 51 Hamlin Howe's Mrs Maternity Home (Mrs Mary S Howe) 52 Wadsworth</p>

Mary (née Sanderson) Howe (1881-1964) was married three times, the second time to George Howe (1860-1940), whom she married in 1915. It was while married to George that the Wadsworth Street maternity home operated. Here is her obituary, from *The Hartford Courant* 12/17/1964:

Mrs. Mary Hedrick. Funeral services for Mrs. Mary S. Howe Hedrick, 83, of Lombardo, Ill., formerly of Manchester, who died Tuesday in Brookfield, Ill., will be held Friday at 11 a.m. at the Watkins-West Funeral Home, 142 East Center St. The Rev. Clifford O. Simpson, pastor of the Center Congregational Church, will officiate and burial will be in East Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

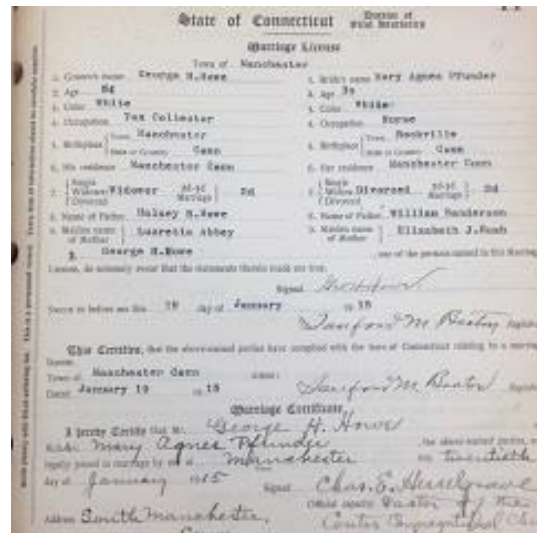
Born in Rockville Oct. 10, 1881, she had been a resident of Manchester for many years and operated and owned the former Howe Maternity Home here before moving to Lombardo.

She leaves a daughter, Mrs. Edgar J. Elliott, with whom she made her home; a granddaughter, Mrs. Milton H. Carr of Coventry; and two great grand-children.

Mary Howe's gravestone at the East Cemetery, Manchester



Mary & George's marriage certificate, January 19, 1915.



George Howe had served as postmaster in South Manchester, resigning in 1910. Transcription of the October 4, 1910 Hartford Courant article on right:

George Howe Resigns. George H. Howe, who has been postmaster at Sub-Station No. 2 of the South Manchester post office, located at the Center has resigned as postmaster, and yesterday the books and other papers connected with the office were moved out. Mr. Howe forwarded his resignation to the post office officials at Washington last July, but it was not accepted until Saturday evening. An inspector came to town and tried to have him continue in the office, but he decided that there was insufficient pay for the work done, and his decision to resign was final. Yesterday the books and papers were turned over to Postmaster W. B. Cheney.

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