In 1920, the City of Glen Cove renamed nineteen streets in
the community for twenty Glen Cove servicemen who made the
ultimate sacrifice for their country during World War One.

The origins of the decision to honor Glen Cove’s war dead
by naming streets after them can be traced to the very real need to
eliminate duplicate street names in Glen Cove as part of an effort
to secure home mail delivery throughout the community. Since
the establishment of the Glen Cove (originally Mosquito Cove)
Post Office in 1818, local residents had to go to the Post Office to
pick up their mail. By 1918, the 800 mail boxes at the Glen Cove
Post Office were no longer adequate to serve a community of
10,000 people. (In fact, the new City of Glen Cove couldn’t initially
get a mail box at the Post Office because none were available!) (GC
Echo, 1918a)

As one of their first major civic improvement projects, Glen
Cove’s first Mayor, Dr. James E Burns, and the City Council began
to lay the groundwork for free home mail delivery throughout the
community. They met with the Glen Cove’s postmaster, John A
Neafsey, to determine what the Federal government would re-
quire of the City.

As expected, the United States Post Office had numerous
regulatory requirements which had to be met before they would
authorize free home delivery in Glen Cove. Two important hurdles
had already been passed: Glen Cove had to have a population of
10,000 people or more, and the local post office had to do more
that $10,000 worth of business a year.

The next two requirements sounded simple, but quickly
proved strangely problematical.

First, all the houses in Glen Cove had to be numbered. While
numbering the houses was in and of itself a significant project in
for the new city, there was still a great deal of undeveloped land in
Glen Cove. After many months of pondering different solutions,
the Mayor and City Council decided to assign “hypothetical”
numbers at 25 foot intervals where vacant land fronted on existing
City streets. The City even held a “numbering day” to make cer-
tain that every home in the City was properly and visibly marked
with its correct number.

The second outstanding issue was that every street in the
community had to be named, and the City had to post proper
street signs at every intersection.

The City thought that this would be the easiest requirement
– until they discovered that the Federal government meant that
every street had to be named with a different name from any other
street in the community.

The problem was that just about every street in Glen Cove
was in fact named… its just that Glen Cove was scatter-shot with
streets bearing identical names. There was a Coles Street in the
Landing, a Coles Street off Town Path, and a Coles Street off Elm
Avenue. There were two Oak Streets (one off Landing Road, the
other off Hendrick Avenue) and two Walnut Roads (one in the
Orchard and one off Forest Avenue). Maple Avenues existed in
both the Orchard and off Dosoris Lane. There was a North Street
just north of Landing Road, a North Road in Thompson Park off
Glen Cove Avenue (then an exclusive enclave for successful busi-
nessmen who wanted a country manor house which they could
retreat to in the summertime) and even a North Lane. There were
two Highland Avenues (one of which became Highland Road and
the other Robinson Avenue).

There were also street names Bay Street went to Garvies
Point, but Garvie Avenue didn’t (Bay Street was later changed to
Garvies Point Road, and Garvie Avenue became McLoughlin
Street). And “Lovers Lane” (today’s Dickson Street) just didn’t
seem quite appropriate as a formal street name.

The editor of the Glen Cove Echo commented “few people
long living in Glen Cove but have been impressed with the hap-
hazard and conflicting method of street naming,” and that unless
action was taken any attempt to establish home delivery of mail
would turn the local post office into a “puzzle solving bureau”.
(GC Echo, 1920a)

Mayor Burns appointed City Commissioners Harry F We-
ber and Leonard T Simonson as a committee to identify which street names needed to be changed, and to make recommendations for new names.

Of course, some old-time residents of the streets that had been proposed as candidates for a name-change stubbornly contended that their Coles Street was the only real Coles Street (or Highland Avenue, or North Street, as applicable). And they were even more stubbornly opposed any change of street name. Weber and Simonson found themselves at an impasse.

The solution came from Glen Cove's postmaster, John A Neafsey. He suggested that the disputed streets be named for Glen Cove's soldier sons who lost their lives in the war. Streets so named would be a lasting memorial and one in which the city could take pride. (GC Echo, 1920c)

Between 1917 and 1919, Glen Cove had provided more than 500 soldiers and sailors to serve in World War One. Twenty three made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

### City of Glen Cove
#### World War One Honor Roll

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>William H Albin</th>
<th>Harry C Johnson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvey C Brewster</td>
<td>Arthur H Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John J Butler</td>
<td>William Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luigi Capabianco</td>
<td>John M McGrady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl C Chadwick</td>
<td>James J Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Dawson</td>
<td>John T Ritzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James E Donahue</td>
<td>Clarence Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph W Francis</td>
<td>Aniello Stanco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Ford</td>
<td>Peter John Stathis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles E Germaine</td>
<td>Arthur Wolfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert J Hill</td>
<td>William Wolfe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following streets were renamed for Glen Cove servicemen who died in World War One:

- **Albin Street** (William H Albin) was renamed from *Prospect Street* at Creek Road (Shore Road)
- **Brewster Street** was renamed from *Mott Alley* off West Glen Street
- **Butler Street** was renamed from *Coles Street* off Town Path
- **Capobianco Street** was renamed from *Maple Avenue* in the Orchard district
- **Chadwick Street** was renamed from *Littleworth Lane* off Glen Cove Avenue
- **Donahue Street** was renamed from *Crestline Avenue* off Back Road (Glen Cove Avenue)
- **Ford Street** was renamed from *Golf Terrace* off Forest Avenue
- **Francis Terrace** was renamed from *Highland Terrace* off Highland Road
- **Germaine Street** was renamed from *East Avenue* off Landing Road
- **Herbell Road** was renamed from *West Glen Street* to Garvie's Point Road
- **Jackson Street** was renamed from *Putnam Avenue* off Front Street (Shore Road)
- **Johnson Street** was renamed from *Oak Street* off Hendrick Avenue
- **Lawson Avenue** was renamed from *North Road* in the Thompson Park district
- **McGrady Street** was renamed from *Valentine Street* in the Round Swamp district
- **Miller Street** was renamed from *Moller (or Muller) Street* off Landing Road
- **Porter Street** was renamed from *East Avenue* off Elm Avenue
- **Smith Street** was renamed from *West Avenue* off Elm Avenue
- **Stanco Street** was renamed from *Walnut Street* in the Orchard district
- **Wolfe Street** was renamed from *Coles Street* off Elm Avenue

In addition to the streets which were renamed for Glen Cove's war dead, the following streets were simply given new names:

- **Craft Avenue** was renamed from *Terrace Heights Avenue* off Back Road (Glen Cove Avenue)
- **Dickson Lane** was renamed from *Lover's Lane*
- **Dougherty Street** was renamed from *First Street* off Elm Avenue
- **Ellwood Street** was renamed from *Prospect Avenue* off Landing Road
- **Guilfoy Street** was renamed from *Second Street* off Elm Avenue
- **Luyster Street** was renamed from *Oak Street* off Landing Road
- **McLoughlin Street** was renamed from *Garvie Avenue* parallel to Landing Road
- **Robinson Avenue** was renamed from *Highland Avenue* off Glen Cove Avenue.
- **West Avenue** was renamed from *Ash Street (Vincent Street)* off Landing Road

Two major questions remain unanswered. First, why were no streets named to honor S. Dawson, John T Ritzer, and Peter John Stathis? It is apparent that at the time when new street names were being assigned, there was a surfeit of streets requiring new names…. certainly there would have been no difficulty in selecting three to be named in honor of those servicemen. Secondly, why was the proposed renaming of North Road to Lawson Avenue either not actually performed or was not perpetuated?

This early effort to memorialize Glen Cove's war dead set a precedent which was renewed after World War Two, when more
streets were named for the community members who made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation.

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Completed: 6 May 2011
Revised: