

Town of Greenburgh
**ASSISTANT
TOWN HISTORIANS**



— felicia barber + riley wentzler —

From Insurance to Symphonies: The Home of Charles Ives

By: Riley Wentzler & Felicia Barber



Photo Credit Morris Lee- (1947)

460 Ridge Road Hartsdale

A house on 460 Ridge Road Hartsdale, was once the residence of American Classical Music Composer Charles Edward Ives. Ives lived at this residence from April 1912-June 1914 while he was working on two of his most famous pieces, *Holidays* and *Second Piano Sonata* (personal communication from Joe Sucher on March 2, 2019).



Charles Ives: 1874-1954

While today Charles Edward Ives is known for being a prominent composer of American Classical Music, during his lifetime he was known primarily as an insurance salesman. He sold insurance from 1898 until his retirement in 1930. In 1906, he even founded his own insurance company, Ives & Myrick. He composed music while simultaneously selling insurance. As a result of his highly unconventional style, his music was not very profitable, so he composed primarily for his own enjoyment. Two years after founding Ives & Myrick, he married Harmony Twitchell, who greatly helped him manage the stress of leading a double life (MICROSOFT ENCARTA, 1993-2003 Microsoft Corporation).

He was born on October 20, 1874, in Danbury, Connecticut. He was exposed to music at an early age since his father, George E. Ives, was a very talented musician who had been a bandmaster during the Civil War. Charles studied music at Yale University. His mentor was the famous composer Horatio Parker. However, while Parker was committed to preserving traditional organ music, Charles preferred to combine traditional church hymns with Civil War marches and employ polytonality, the simultaneous use of two or more keys, while doing so. This highly unconventional style annoyed Parker very much, and was the reason Charles failed to make much money with his music (MICROSOFT ENCARTA, 1993-2003 Microsoft Corporation).

His most famous works are: *Holidays (1904-1913)*, *Second Piano Sonata (1909-1915)*, and *Three Quarter-Tone Pieces (1923-1924)*. None of these works were performed until 1931. By that time, he had stopped composing music, and retired

from selling insurance. He died on May 19, 1954, in New York City (MICROSOFT ENCARTA, 1993-2003 Microsoft Corporation).

In 1947, Morris and Margaret Lee purchased the property. Morris worked for an advertising agency and used the house as a backdrop for TV commercials he wrote and filmed (personal communication from Joe Sucher on March 2, 2019).

In 1988, William and Ulrike McGinty purchased the house from the Lee family and built an extension on the west side of the house (personal communication from Joe Sucher on March 12, 2019).

Today the house belongs to Joe and Layla Sucher. Mr. Sucher is one of the founders of Pacific Street Films. The couple purchased the house in 2002 (personal communication from Joe Sucher on March 7, 2019).



*Photo Credit Joe Sucher (2013)
460 Ridge Road Hartsdale*



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Oh, The Places Your Mail has Gone: A History of The Hartsdale Post Office (3/9/2019) http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted.pdf

Greenburgh Under the Hollywood Lights: The TV shows and movies Filmed in Greenburgh Part I (2/23/19)

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<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20%20Railroad%20Blues.pdf>

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About the Authors:

We are both Assistant Town Historians at Greenburgh Town Hall and we are engaged to be married and are currently looking for permanent employment.

Riley Wentzler:

I was born and raised in a small rural town in central Pennsylvania. In high school, I took every honors course available including four years of Spanish. I received A's in all of them. I graduated third in my class of 146 students. This brought me to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Once there, I continued my trend of academic excellence. I graduated summa cum laude in Political Science with a minor in Spanish and a Master's in Communication Studies, with a G.P.A of 3.94. It was also there that I met my lovely fiancée, Felicia Barber. My Master's in Communication has promoted public speaking, teamwork, and customer service. My Political Science degree has developed my research skills using computer-based tools and provided me with experience using the Microsoft Office products. My minor in Spanish has facilitated my bilingual capabilities. During my internship at Greenburgh, I created the petition for the State Roads project using website tools. My diverse education and areas of interest have provided me with a wide range of skills. I look forward to finding a career opportunity in business or government. **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com, or to help me find employment, you can contact me at rjwentzler413@gmail.com**

Felicia Barber:

I was born in New York City and raised in Hartsdale, New York. I graduated from Ardsley High School. I recently earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. It was here that I met my fiancé, Riley Wentzler. As a result of my academic excellence, I won a scholarship every year. I learned and applied many graphic design skills to projects during my summer internships and at school. I am proficient in using Adobe graphic design applications including Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. For my Identity/branding course at Edinboro, I created logos to appear on the tee-shirts of Physical Education majors. For a veteran's upcoming event, I used a typeface to focus the reader to the soldier in the poster. For the State Roads Legislative

Campaign project, I created the embedded graphic-photo that accompanied the petition I am looking for a job to utilize my skills as a Graphic Designer in an agency, print shop, company or government **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com. To learn more about my artwork or to help me find employment you can contact me at feliciadbarber@gmail.com.**

Two Interviews with the authors

<https://riverjournalonline.com/around-town/a-love-of-history-and-each-other/13708/>

<https://wcbs880.radio.com/articles/news/stories-main-street-couple-cerebral-palsy-brings-manytalents-town-greenburgh>

References

Microsoft Corporation. (1993-2003, (Not Given) (Not Given)). Encarta Encyclopedia . Redmond , Washington , United States of America .