

The Town of Enfield, New York - Christian Hill to Enfield Falls

**Edited by Members of the Enfield Historical Society
and Sue Thompson, Enfield Town Historian**

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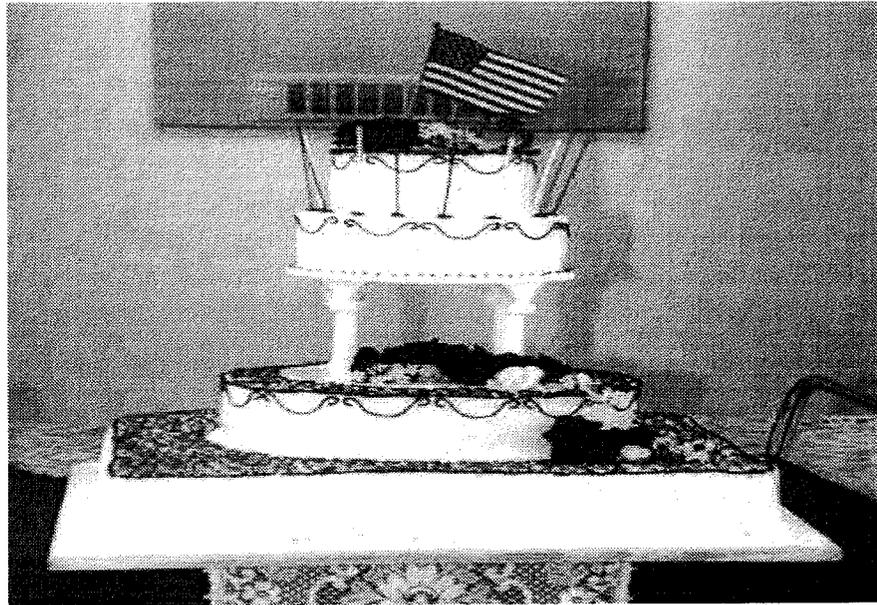
We have not covered every aspect of living in Enfield, nor do we expect that this writing is complete and accurate. What we do expect that this is a start and will graciously accept all additions and changes from community members.

Dedicated to
our mothers
who knew history
and to
Helen
who wanted us to share
the history,
we miss them all.

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2. 175th Birthday Celebration birthday cake

One-Hundred-Seventyfive Years

March 16, 1996 the 175th Anniversary of the Town Enfield was celebrated at the Enfield Elementary School. One hundred eighty-six names were signed in the guest book. The town was honored by the presence of State Senator John R. (Randy) Kuhl, Jr.; Assembly, Martin Luster; Tompkins County D.A George Dentes; Ithaca Mayor, Alan Cohen and Tompkins County Board of Representatives Dan Winch and Peter Meskill. Among the people who came were descendents of Judah Baker, Sarah R. MacDonald, Marlene R. Ennis, and Rexford M. Ennis of Watertown, NY and Lauren Ennis and Renato Sarti of Endicott, NY. Ronald Updike, current resident of Enfield, his great, great, great grandfather Jonathan Rolfe, III came to the Enfield area in 1807.

The program started at 2:00 pm with a welcome to the school by Enfield School Principal, Nancy Brown. Rev. Earl Andrews, Minister of the Enfield United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. The Enfield Elementary School Chorus sang "Enfield Shines" and the National Anthem.

Introductions of the distinguished guests and Commemorative Committee members, Sue Thompson, Ellie Hobbie, Alice Laue, and Gary Fisher (Chairperson).

The flag flown over the United States Capital in honor of Enfield was presented to Town Supervisor William Mather on behalf of Congressman Hinchey's Office. A T-shirt presented to Dana Moxley in absentia for his winning logo contest design used for the celebration logo.

Gary Fisher read the original law that passed on March 16, 1821, which established Enfield as a town. William Mather read a proclamation by the town board recognizing and honoring Enfield and its residents. He also read letters of congratulations to the town from Governor Pataki, Senator De'Amato, and Congressman Hinchey. Representatives Dan Winch and Peter Meskill, Senator Kuhl and Assemblyman Luster also presented the Town with letters of recognition and congratulations.

Ronald Updike presented a genealogy tracing his ancestor Jonathan Rolfe's descendents. The descendents of Judah Baker were also introduced.

Ellie Hobbie involved the audience by recognized residents from each decade in the audience.

The Enfield chorus sang "This Land is your Land" followed by the presentation of the "Enfield

Birthday Cake” and leading the audience with “Happy Birthday to Enfield”.

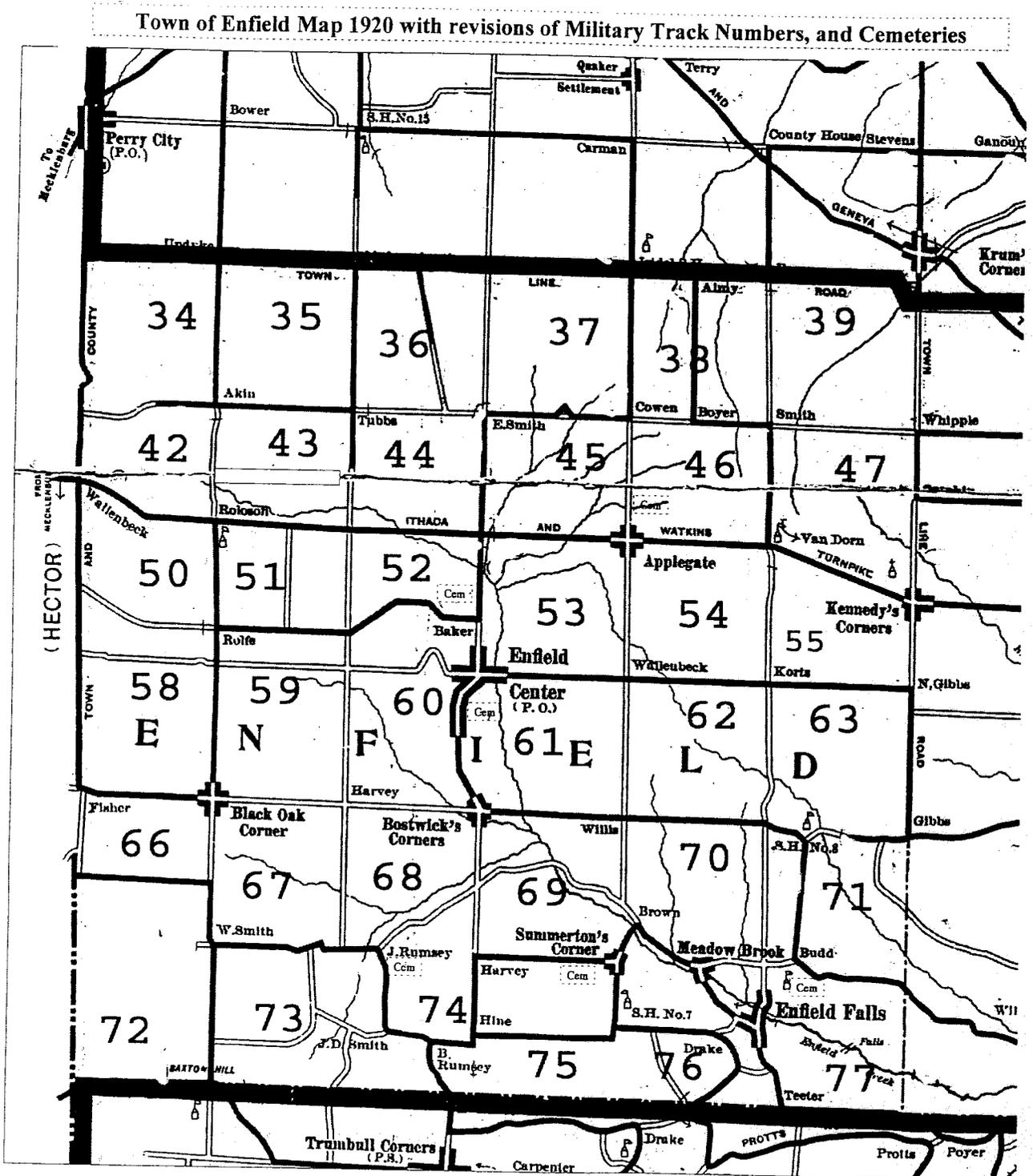
After recognizing and thanking those who helped in the celebration, cake, coffee and punch were served.

Historic displays included a timeline posted on one wall of a hallway, listing historic and unusual events in Enfield, a display about the Pennsylvania and Sodus Bay Railroad in Enfield, historic records and documents of the Grange as well as the Methodist Church.

The Trumansburg Postmaster, Andy Murphy operated the Enfield Postal Station throughout the afternoon. The US Postal Service authorized a special Enfield Postal Cancellation that was designed for the Enfield Commemorative Celebration on March 16, 1996. Many people purchased sets of cacheted envelopes featuring three historic buildings in the town, and had the Postal service apply the cancellation, while others used ordinary envelopes and Post cards. Most kept the cancelled Postal items as souvenirs while some applied addresses and had them mailed by the Postmaster that day.

A quilt made by Enfield residents for the celebration was on display. Raffle tickets for a quilt were sold, sewn by the Linton Family and friends. Ticket sales continued until the Fall Festival when a drawing was held. Proceeds will help finance the celebration. On behalf of the Commemorative Committee. The Enfield Elementary School Fifth Grade sold T - shirts and mugs with the Enfield Celebration Logo. The Enfield Methodist Church sold afghans that featured historic Enfield buildings, farm machinery, and the falls at the State Park. The Enfield Historical Society offered new memberships and complimentary back issues of the Communicator.¹

3. Map of Enfield



CHAPTER 1 - A Time Line for the Town of Enfield By M. Clyde Hubbell

- 1821 The Town of Enfield was created by the New York State Legislature March 16th. The Christian Church of Enfield was constituted pg.496²³
- 1822 Enfield Post Office established Dec. 29th with John Applegate appointed first Postmaster²
- 1825 Enfield Population 2,000 persons⁵
Roads to be surveyed and numbered by commissioners April 4⁶
- 1830 Enfield Population 2,332 persons⁵
- 1832 Presbyterian Church of Enfield organized as a church Feb. 14²³ pg. 496; pg. 6²⁶ West Enfield Post Office established March 14th with James Tompkins first Postmaster^{28,29}
- 1833 William Hunter chosen Chairman, Tompkins County Board of Supervisors³
- 1835 Enfield Population 2,240 persons⁵
Presbyterian Church of Enfield's house of worship-completed pg. 496²³ Plot deeded to School District #25 from Gilbert Budd for public burials Aug. 29¹⁵. Methodist Episcopal Church of Enfield recognized Jan. 19²³; pg. 4²⁶
- 1840 Enfield Population 2,340 persons⁵ Carlos Applegate chosen Chairman, Tompkins County Board of Supervisors³
- 1841 West Enfield Post Office discontinued February 10^{28,29}
- 1842 The First Baptist Church of Enfield completed a house of worship in Enfield Centre at a cost of \$1,300⁴
- 1844 Methodist Episcopal Church of Kennedy's Corner's first bible class organized pg. 496²³
- 1845 New York State Census, Enfield Population 2,283 persons⁵
- 1846 Enfield Centre Post Office established on July 11th with Solon P. Sackett appointed first Postmaster²
- 1848 The Kennedy's Corners Methodist edifice was built. pg. 355²⁴; pg. 496²³
- 1849 Carlos Applegate chosen Chairman, Tompkins County Board of Supervisors³
- 1850 Population 2,117 persons⁵
- 1852 Lewis H. Van Kirk served as Tompkins County Sheriff 1852-54, a three year term pg. 62 Part II²⁴
- 1855 Enfield Population 1,912 persons⁵
- 1860 Enfield Population 1,919 persons
- 1864 Farmers lost 22 sheep killed by dogs.
- 1865 Enfield Population 1,693 persons⁵
- 1865 Farmers plowed 6,637 acres in Enfield. Agricultural production in Enfield included flax, tobacco, and grape wine.
- 1867 E.C. VanKirk served as Tompkins County Sheriff 1867-69, a three year term pg. 34 Part II²⁴
- 1870 Enfield Population 1,693 persons⁷
- 1871 \$25,000 Bonds purchased March 1st to aid in the construction of the Pennsylvania and Sodus Bay Railroad will become due March 1st, 1909. pg. 98 1881²¹
- 1873 Enfield Post Office discontinued on Jan. 8th and reestablished on Jan. 27². Eron C. Van Kirk served as Tompkins County Sheriff 1873-75, pg. 62 Part I²⁴
- 1874 Enfield Post Office discontinued Oct. 13²
- 1875 Enfield Population 1,685 persons pg. 392²³. Enfield Valley Grange #295 Patrons of Husbandry organized Feb. 4 (Charter dated April 30th)¹⁴
- 1876 Rolfe Cemetery Association incorporated June 10 pg. 497²³, pg. 10²⁶
- 1877 Baptist parsonage built at an expense of about \$1,500⁴
- 1878 Methodist Episcopal Church of Enfield dedicated; moved building June 20th pg. 497²³. Leroy H.

- Van Kirk chosen Chairman, Tompkins County Board of Supervisors³
- 1880 Enfield Population 1,690 persons⁸
- 1881 The First Baptist Church of Enfield was moved across the road and refurbished where it now stands^{4, 25}
- 1882 Enfield Falls' Post Office established May 31st with Charles Budd appointed first Postmaster²
- 1889 Enfield Centre Cemetery Association granted certification of incorporation June 10.¹⁶
Leroy H. Van Kirk served as Tompkins County Clerk 1889-91, a three-year term pg.63 Part II²⁴
- 1890 Enfield Population 1,393 persons⁸
- 1892 Enfield Population 1,332 persons¹⁷
- 1893 Enfield Centre Post Office name changed to Enfield Center Nov. 18² Enfield Population 1,214 persons⁸
- 1901 Office of Railroad Commissioners abolished and duties transferred to Supervisor passed by Enfield Board Nov. 7th; passed by County Board Nov. 14th 1901 pg. 15²¹
- 1902 Enfield Falls Post Office discontinued Aug. 30²
- 1905 Enfield Population 1,111 persons¹³
- 1908 Kennedy's Corners Ladies Aid Society organized May 1^{s-18}
- 1910 Enfield Population 1,000 persons⁸; Enfield Christian Church incorporated February 5¹⁶
- 1911 Dr. Minor McDaniels member State Assembly 1910²¹ Town votes to purchase the Walter Ferguson lot for a storehouse for Town machinery for \$225. ¹²
- 1913 DeVoe Rumsey appointed Town Clerk (to fill vacancy by death of W.V. Rumsey) Aug. 13¹²
- 1915 Enfield Population 1,047¹⁹
- 1916 Town makes resolution to quarantine children under the age of 16 into the town/attending any public gathering due to an epidemic of infantile paralysis in the county.³⁵
- 1917 Kennedy's Corners Church burned Oct. 16¹⁸
- 1918 Kennedy's Corners Church rebuilt¹⁸ Enfield Center Post Office discontinued on April 20²
- 1920 Enfield Population 867 persons⁸ Robert Treman transferred mill property to the State of NY¹¹
- 1921 Gilbert H. Fisher resigned as Town Superintendent of Highways July 12¹²
- 1922 Town purchases a safe that meets State Department of records approval December 28. Town to hire Newman & Newman³⁶ & C.H. Blood for the Finkelstein case September 9th & November 28 involved road accident. ¹²
- 1923 Town Supervisor authorized to purchase the building known as the Pigs Ear for a sum not to exceed \$200 September 4.¹²
- 1924 Bill for lighting lanterns on Aiken Corners (Placing on road at night picking up in morning) submitted to town by Harrison Rumsey – April – May- July³⁴
- 1925 Enfield Population 973 persons²⁷
- 1926 Enfield Valley Grange #295 Patrons of Husbandry Incorporated April 4.¹⁴ Enfield Valley Grange dedicated new building on Aug. 24¹⁴
- 1927 Olin King chosen Chairman, Tompkins County Board of Supervisors.³ Town cuts the black oak tree located at the intersection at Black Oak Corners.
- 1930 Enfield Population 939 persons⁸ Keystone Gas Co. given franchise to lay a gas line through the Town June 21¹²
- 1931 Pay of Town officials reduced due to high taxes and general Depression effective January 1st 1932¹²; December 28th A committee appointed for the purpose of making arrangements for the two hundredth celebration of the birth of George Washington September 25¹² Able bodied male applicants for public relief to be given work at a rate of 25 cents per hour under the supervision of the Town Superintendent cutting brush or other work as he may advise. December 28¹²
- 1932 County acquired gravel bank from Edwin Owens in Town of Enfield June 2nd pg. 171²¹

- 1933 Motion made and carried for labor on highway to be reduced from 35 cents per hour to 30 cents per hour to take effect to day March 11.¹² Moved and carried that the Town Board give the Road Superintendent permission to use Town machinery as he sees fit to fix baseball grounds March 11.¹² Wages for labor on highways be raised from 30 cents to 35 cents per hour to take effect August 16th subject to National and State conditions August 17¹²
- 1937 Neva Laue one of the first women to serve as juror in TompkinsCounty¹¹
- 1938 At a special meeting of Town Board it was voted to purchase a gravel pit from Ed Owens estate, located along south line of the Tompkins County gravel pit on the west side of Enfield Valley State highway about one-half mile south from Enfield Center. The gravel lot and right of way shall be \$300 July 20¹²
- 1939 Supervisor authorized to sign a cooperative fire fighting agreement with C.C.C. camp S.P.6 at Enfield Falls October 2¹²
- 1940 Enfield Population 1,082⁸
- 1947 Baptist parsonage sold for \$4,000⁴
- 1948 Enfield Volunteer Fire Company granted a charter Feb. 3. Construction of a fire station started²⁰
- 1949 Fire station completed in February¹¹
- 1950 Enfield Population 1,316.⁸ Fire Company became the sponsor of Boy Scout Troop 50.¹¹ S. Harvey Stevenson chosen Chairman, Tompkins County Board of Supervisors³
- 1951 Fire siren can now be operated from Newhart's store¹¹
- 1953 Ladies Auxiliary of Enfield Fire Company formed²⁰
- 1954 Tompkins County sold their gravel bank in Town of Enfield to Russell Rood pg. 171²¹
- 1956 School Districts #2, #4, #6, #7, #8, #10, #11, #14 to be consolidated with the Ithaca City School.²⁰
- 1958 Army Reserve Center , in Ithaca , named in memory of Reynold J. King Sept. 28²²
- 1959 Severe snowstorm blankets Town Enfield. Stranding a school bus for hours.
- 1960 Enfield Population 1,573 persons⁸ Rolfe Cemetery taken over by Town Oct. 4¹² Mr. Denman hired to number houses in Enfield(our present numbering system) Oct. 4¹²
- 1961 S. Harvey Stevenson retired as Chairman of the Tompkins County Board of Supervisors (served as Enfield Town Supervisor for 28 years)³
- 1966 Town bought lot from Harry Willis north of Baptist Church¹¹ James Stevenson contracted to build new Town Hall and Highway building June 6¹² Eastern Artificial Insemination Cooperative, Inc. formed¹¹
- 1968 The Gunning house on Harvey Hill Road burns January 18¹¹
- 1969 A direct telephone line connected to the Ithaca fire control¹¹
- 1970 Enfield Population 2,028 persons⁸ Mr. Denman updated house numbering.¹² Enfield and Newfield combined into one representative district with one elected representative (Town Supervisor no longer to serve on County Board)³ Town Dump was closed by the County on July 1¹²
- 1972 Position of Deputy Highway Superintendent created¹²
- 1973 Mr. Denman to update house numbering May 2.¹² Town purchased property bordering present Town Hall July 21¹¹
- 1974 The old mill at Enfield Falls renewed as a site for Historic registration May 1st ; Teeter Road extended two tenths of a mile to Willard cabin with gravel provided by Eddy Farm July 3¹²
- 1975 Harry A. Kerr Enfield-Newfield representative chosen as Chairman, TompkinsCounty Board of Representatives³
- 1976 James W. Ray appointed Enfield-Newfield representative after Harry Kerr's resignation.¹⁰ Mr. Inman appointed to update house numbers Aug. 4¹²
- 1977 Town Clerk and Tax Collector to be combined by June. Mabel Purdy leaving after 25 years as Town Clerk; Edna Palmer leaving after 25 years as Tax Collector.¹² Justices of the Peace no longer

- serve as Town Board members³⁰
- 1978 The Enfield Volunteer Fire Company Rescue Squad started²⁰
- 1979 Porter Hill Road Ext., name changed to Hubbell Drive; Buck Hill Lodge Road name changed to Griffin Road; New Road. name changed to Fish Road. Wesley Rolfe leaving after 20 years as Highway Superintendent¹²
- 1980 Enfield Population 2,375 persons⁸
- 1981 Town Board approved the ordinance authorizing and regulating the conduct of the games of chance in the Town February 4¹²
- 1982 Land given to Agape Church to build on by John & Helen Smith¹¹
- 1983 July 1st, first service held in new Agape Church building on Applegate Road South ²⁰
Kennedy's Corners United Methodist Church declared officially abandoned June 16³¹
- 1984 T.V. franchise awarded Haefele T.V. Inc. Dec. 26.¹²
- 1985 Town adopts local law on uniform fire protection and building code administration and enforcement.¹² Donald Brown appointed to Tompkins County Board of Representatives Jan. 3rd. Daniel Winch appointed to Tompkins County Board of Representatives Feb. 26th (after Donald Brown's resignation)¹⁰
- 1986 Etta Gray, first woman Town Supervisor took office Jan. 1.¹² Town divided between two districts for representation on county board Enfield-Ulysses and Enfield-Newfield.³ Beatrice Bock appointed first Court Clerk (with no pay) February 5¹²
- 1987 Three Town Clerks in a two-month period . Shirley Holcomb resigns last day of May. Joanne Lychalk appointed June 3 resigns June 9. Jean Scofield appointed July 1¹²
- 1988 Ground broken for new fire station. Town Board accepts old fire house for \$1 Sept. 7¹²
- 1989 An open house held at the new fire station Oct. 15¹⁰
- 1990 Enfield Population 3,054 persons. New addition to the Enfield Elementary School started⁹ Robert Howard retires as Tompkins County Sheriff Dec 31st after 28 years¹⁰
- 1991 Enfield Elementary School dedicated Oct. 3¹¹
Approval of cellular phone tower ¹² Dec 3rd
- 1992 First Baptist Church of Enfield celebrates 175th Anniversary⁴ Enfield Historical Society meets first time.³⁷ Flag flew over present Town Hall for first time¹¹
- 1993 Jean Scofield Town Clerk resigns May 19th. Betty Poole appointed interim Town Clerk June 9.¹²
Blizzard of 93 March 14th & 15¹⁰
- 1994 A bad snow storm on January 4¹⁰ Blizzard of 94 occurred March 3rd, roads were closed by the Sheriff , many buildings collapsed from the weight.¹⁰ Councilman Newhart resigns. Robert Linton appointed interim councilman.¹² Sept. 10, James Reeves plants tree on Fire Company property in honor of the upcoming 175th Anniversary of the Town of Enfield.
- 1995 June 17, Finger Lakes Land Trust dedicated Stevenson Forest Preserve – Trumbulls Corners Road³²
- 1996 March 16, Town celebrates its 175th Anniversary with formal ceremony at the Enfield Elementary School. United States Postal Service cancels stamps at the Enfield Elementary School on March 16, with a special commemorative Postmark honoring the town of Enfield's 175th Anniversary. The cancellations were the first done in Enfield since the Enfield Center Post Office closed in 1918.
- 1998 Enfield Volunteer Fire Company Celebrates 50th Anniversary January 22³³ Dewitt Historical Society's Keeper of the Past Award presented to Peggy Hubbell, chairwoman of the Enfield Cemetery Committee.
- 1999 Shannon McSurely starts new Youth Program for Enfield Youth in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension. T-Cat Bus Route 20 starts in Enfield Center.

2000 Enfield Grange celebrates 125th Anniversary. Enfield population 3,369 persons.

2001 September 11 – New York City Trade Towers and Washington DEC Pentagon attacked and destroyed by Terrorists.

Enfield Town Clerk Alice Laue wins election with a record-breaking 328 write-in votes. This was the first time a write-in candidate in Tompkins County won a municipal election in 20 years.