

# Edward Lea Marsh Jr., 86

## Lawyer, Farmer, Political Leader

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Edward Lea Marsh Jr. of Black Hall, Old Lyme, died Sunday at his home. He was 86.

He graduated from Hotchkiss School, and from Yale University and the Yale School of Law, becoming what he always wanted to be: a country lawyer.

In 1937, Mr. Marsh was elected Old Lyme's representative to the state legislature, becoming the Republican majority leader in 1943 and then speaker of the House from 1945 to 1946. He served as chairman of the commission responsible for building the first Baldwin Bridge. He was always proud that the project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Later, Mr. Marsh was responsible for the removal of the bridge's tolls when others in state government wanted them to remain after the bridge was paid for.

Mr. Marsh served on many town boards and commissions. He was chairman of the board of finance and chairman of the mosquito control board. He also was a member of many organizations, including the Masonic Lodge Pythagoras No. 44, the state and local Grange No. 162, St. Ann's Episcopal Church and the board of the McCurdy-Salisbury Educational Foundation.

Mr. Marsh was very interested in agriculture and especially the breeding of livestock. Many of the laws protecting farming in Connecticut resulted from his efforts. His farm in Old Lyme, "Pioneer Farm," was home to generations of Jersey cattle, which were exhibited across the United States and Canada. Mr. Marsh served as president of the American Jersey Cattle Club and of the World Jersey Bureau.

He leaves his wife, Sylvia, his sister, Elizabeth Marsh Griswold of Old Lyme; four children; two stepsons; 10 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Memorial donations may be made to the McCurdy-Salisbury Educational Foundation, c/o Secretary/Treasurer Ward D. Bing, 9 Mansewood Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

A memorial service will be held May 4 at 2 p.m. at the Congregational Meeting House in Old Lyme. A smaller service for family and members of the congregation will be held May 5 at the Old Lyme Episcopal Church. The Fulton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.