Beldens Hill, the original home of Philo Belden, was often a scene of excitement. From the hill where the vista was long, a horn was blown to alert people that mail was coming in, first by horseback and then by coach-and-four that splashed over the ford.

Belden settled here in 1833 and was a potent force in early Rochester. He built the first sawmill on the Musquequack (Muskego) River and later helped establish the grist mill on the Fox. He was a State Senator and later County Judge of Racine County.

Today's owner is equally prestigious -- Ernst Gramatzki. Ernst is a world renowned artist, sculptor, potter, painter and poet. Some of his work is in the Smithsonian Institute in D.C. as well as in art galleries in both the U.S. and Europe. At present, he is working on a sculpture of the world, commissioned by the Historic Hoyt House, to be put in Burlington's permanent riverfront garden.