My grandfather, Arthur F. Driscoll, was born in North Brookfield in 1884 and raised there on Grove Street. His parents Dennis Driscoll and Mary Connelly Driscoll settled in North Brookfield in 1869 or 1870. Arthur was the youngest of six children and the only one to be educated past high school. His family worked hard at the shoe factory to send their youngest son to Brown University and Harvard Law School.

Arthur’s first cousin, Dennis F. O’Brien, was born in North Brookfield in 1876 to Charles O’Brien and Nellie Driscoll O’Brien. Dennis grew up on Bell Street along with his three sisters. It is here that they met and became lifelong friends with the young Georgie Cohan, who would spend summers with his grandparents in North Brookfield.

Years later, with urging from George Cohan, Attorney Dennis O’Brien moved to New York, followed by Attorney Arthur Driscoll, who would become his law partner. My grandfather and his cousin became influential lawyers to the stars in New York City, stemming from their childhood relationships with George M. Cohan in North Brookfield. In addition to Cohan, they represented legendary stars Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, Jack Dempsey, John Wayne and many more. Arthur Driscoll also argued a number of cases at the Supreme Court and served for a time as the Mayor of Scarsdale, NY.

In addition, I am pleased to share with you this link from the Yonkers History about Dennis O’Brien and his lifelong association with George M. Cohan.

http://www.yonkershistory.org/obrien.html
Arthur Driscoll with boxing heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey.
The picture shows Jack Dempsey on the right and Arthur Driscoll in the middle.

Dennis O’Brien was born in North Brookfield, MA on January 20, 1876. He grew up on Bell Street along with his parents Charles O’Brien and Nellie Driscoll O’Brien as well as his three sisters Mary Ellen, Margaret and Lizzie.

Picture below shows Jack Dempsey signing a contract with Arthur Driscoll standing over his shoulder in 1927.

Original caption: New York, NY: Jack Dempsey, former heavyweight champion of the world, and Jack Sharkey, contender for the title, sign a contract to battle under the direction of Tex Rickard at the Yankee Stadium on July 21st. Photo shows (seated, L to R) Jack Dempsey, Tex Rickard, and Jack Sharkey; and (standing, L to R) Arthur Driscoll, Dempsey’s attorney, and Johnny Buckley, Sharkey’s manager.

Signing United Artists contract
Charlie Chaplin sitting, Mary Pickford second from left, Douglas Fairbanks standing behind Pickford, Dennis O’Brien second from right.
Scarsdale Mayor Arthur Driscoll with Former President Hoover 1940