



A History of Yankee Lake New York

A History of
Yankee Lake New York
From 1844 to 1960

Copyright © 2016 by The Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc.
ISBN 978-0-692-64418-8

Published by the Board of Directors of
The Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc.

Printed by Jostens
451 International Boulevard
Clarksville, TN 37040

Special thanks to Tom Turner of Jostens.

Printed in the United States of America

For information, please contact:

Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 558
Wurtsboro, New York 12790-0558

Telephone: (845) 888-0474

Email: info@yankee-lake.org

Visit us on the Internet at www.yankee-lake.org



Contents

1. A Brief Narrative History of Yankee Lake	4
2. Yankee Lake as a D&H Canal Feeder	14
3. Yankee Lake Company: History and Founders	22
4. Yankee Lake Preservation Association	30
5. Pioneers and Early Settlers of the Yankee Lake Area	40
6. Business at Yankee Lake	50
7. A Tour Around Yankee Lake	92
8. Community Activities Through the Years	206
Appendix	236
Acknowledgements	245
Index	248
Notes	255

Introducing A History of Yankee Lake New York

Yankee Lake is a reservoir nestled atop a ridge in southern Sullivan County, New York. More than just a location, Yankee Lake is a community of neighbors, friends, and relatives who are bound together both in history and in their love of this place. Yankee Lake is unique. Although not even ninety miles from one of the largest cities on earth, Yankee Lake has been preserved, cared for, loved, and cherished through the generations in such a way that many of the photos you see in this book could have been taken today.

This book is a compilation of written histories, memoirs, personal journals, references to books, newspapers, legal documents, recounting the lore of the families who have lived here, and reproducing some of the special pictures taken, preserved, and cherished over the years.

The Narrative History which follows was originally written by Don Patterson, with supplemental information compiled and added by Dan Bresnan in 2006. These two Yankee Lake locals worked to ensure that the stories and history of this place were not lost to time.



Chapter 1

A Brief Narrative History of Yankee Lake

A Narrative History of Yankee Lake

Dan Bresnan and Don Patterson

1 October 2006

In 1650, the Iroquois Nation defeated the local Lenni-Lenape, Shawnee and other Native American tribes in the vicinity of Wurtsboro and Yankee Pond.

We do not know what the local Native Americans called our lake in the 18th century. We do know that Indian artifacts were found in the area around the original pond. That pond was a small natural body of spring-fed water, and its surrounding woods, as they are today, were inhabited by deer and other wildlife. There must have been a plentiful supply of food for the local Native American population, and the arrowheads found in these parts attest to their hunting pursuits.

According to local legend, around 1800 a Yankee named Ellsworth made a canoe or dugout and used it on this pond for fishing and hunting. Dutch hunters found the canoe concealed on the shore and correctly guessed that this was the locale where Ellsworth had got so many deer. This notion, if indeed it is true, gave the hunters a name for the small lake: "The Yankee's Pond."

Yankee Lake, as we currently know it, is situated in Mamakating Township, on the south side of old Route 17. It is 1430 feet above sea level; two and a half miles in length and from one to two miles in width at various places. As you will see, the lake was a much larger body of water for most of the 19th century.

Yankee Lake is wholly within the Minisink Patent and the Hardenburg Patent. The boundary line of each, meeting and crossing the lake running northeast and southwest, is between the largest island and the western shore.

Yankee Lake is fed by small streams from the north and west and by springs beneath its surface. At its deepest parts, it currently has a depth of thirty to forty feet. Its outlet is the Pinekill, reputed to have been the original Basha Kill, which flows from the lake to Westbrookville and empties into the stream now known as Basha Kill. Tradition has it that in the 18th century, Basha was a squaw who was reputed to be the queen of her tribe or clan, and lived in her native village on the banks of the creek. Her full name was Baha Bashi-ba and her bones supposedly repose in the Native American graveyard nearby.

Westbrookville was named after Dirck Vankeuren Westbrook, the first white man who lived in the area. He built a stone house on his land in 1753, which still stands today. It was used for a fort during the Revolutionary War as protection from the Native Americans, who were killing settlers and destroying white settlements throughout the valley.

Early in the 19th century, Philadelphia businessman William Wurts, descendant of Swiss settlers, discovered anthracite coal in the then-sparsely

populated northeastern region of Pennsylvania. Starting in 1812, he and his brothers Charles and Maurice began buying large tracts of (very cheap) Pennsylvania land, and were able to extract several tons of anthracite at a time. While the southern reaches of the Coal Region were already beginning to supply Philadelphia, they realized that the areas they had been exploring and mining were well-positioned to deliver coal to New York City. The success of the recently opened Erie Canal inspired them. If they could build a canal of their own out of Pennsylvania and into New York, through the narrow valley between the Shawangunk Ridge and the Catskill Mountains, to the Hudson River near Kingston, it would be economical and profitable.

After several years of lobbying by the Wurtses, the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company was chartered by separate laws in the states of New York and Pennsylvania in 1823, allowing William Wurts and his brother Maurice to construct the Delaware and Hudson Canal (D&H Canal). The company hired Benjamin Wright, who had engineered the Erie Canal, and his assistant, John B. Jervis, to survey and plan a route. To attract investment, the brothers arranged for a demonstration of anthracite at a Wall Street coffeehouse in January 1825. The reaction was enthusiastic, and the stock oversubscribed within hours.

It is believed that sometime in the late 1820s the D&H Canal Company set its sights on the region

around Yankee and Wolf Lakes as a possible spill-way for their waterway. When the D&H Canal Company began construction of their canal through the valley, they found sandy, gravelly soil through several miles of the length. As a result, much more water would be needed to maintain the water level required for the canal boats during the summer. Parties of surveyors were sent to the mountains to the west of the canal to determine if sufficient quantities of water could be made available. An area was located where they could build five reservoirs within a few miles radius of one another, all of which were on top of the mountain. These bodies of water (sometimes referred to as Ponds and at other times as Lakes) are known today as Yankee, Wolf, Louise-Marie, Masten, and Wanaksink. Yankee Pond and 1500 acres of surrounding land were purchased by the D&H Canal Company.

Many contradictory statements are found in various sources concerning the exact years when the dam was constructed. Quinlan's *History of Sullivan County* claims the construction of the dam took place between 1830 and 1840. According to this account, an earthen dam was originally constructed using such materials as were available on site. The story goes that the dam was made of dry-stone walls with tamped earth between, and that the tamping was done by a flock of thirteen sheep being driven back and forth by a local farmer who owned them. Thirty men were employed two years on this supposed construction.

8

A more persuasive account appears in a book entitled *Delaware & Hudson Canalway, Carrying Coals to Rondout*, by Dorothy H. Sanderson. Sanderson quotes the *Ellenville Press* of 23 August 1901: “Canal reservoirs... served as ‘feeders’... The largest of these were located in the towns of Mamakating and Thompson and they were all except one built between 1849 and 1856. The first constructed was the Yankee Pond, lying south of the turnpike. It is an immense body of water created by damming a small stream called Pinekill, which flows into the Basha Kill at Westbrookville. The divide between Yankee and Wolf Pond separated two small ponds. Originally the company built a capacious dam across the outlet of Wolf Pond in 1856 and made it substantially one reservoir with Yankee Pond... they then raised a dam across the outlet of Lord’s Pond, or Fowl Wood Pond, as it has been lately called.¹ This raised the waters of what was originally a lake, twenty feet and gave an area of water about five square miles and in some places nearly 100 feet in depth. Their next and last improvement was as late as 1869 when they dammed the outlet of a small lake called Mud Pond.”²

The lands on which the ponds were located were leased by the D&H Canal Company from the State of New York for a period of ninety-nine years. The Company provided a \$100,000 bond to insure the State against any damages that might result from the giving-way of the dams or any other cause. The Company survived the financial debacle of 1837 and, with several

enlargements in its coal-carrying capacity, went on through the Civil War. The rise of the railroads led to the demise of the D&H Canal in 1899.

Maurice Wurts played a leading role in the supervision of the Irish workers who built the dam at Yankee Pond. The following is from a letter penned by John Wurts, Esquire, President of the D&H Canal Company, on 6 January 1847:

“The Reservoir at Yankee Pond has been completed in a substantial manner to sustain a head of 24 feet on it. After completing the dam and embankment of this reservoir, it was found that the swells occasioned by high winds cut it away, so as to endanger the dam and it was deemed prudent to face the whole embankment with stone, which has been completed and the dam is now considered safe and permanent. This has increased the cost of completing the reservoir beyond my estimate.”

In another letter of John Wurts, dated January 1849, mention was made of a dam built at Wolf Pond one year after the Yankee Reservoir was completed.

The Wurts family name was enshrined in the name of the Village of Wurtsboro in 1828 – after the village had previously been called “Mamakating Hollow” and then “Rome.”

According to the *Ellenville Press* for 22 August 1901, Yankee Lake became known as an outstanding “fishin’ hole.” After the reservoirs had been in existence five or ten years, they became the best fresh water fishing grounds in the state. Tons of pickerel and perch

¹Now known as Wanaksink Lake. ²Now known as Treasure Lake.

taken from the reservoirs in the fall and winter found their way to eastern markets. To many families, they furnished a means, and about the only means, of living.

At the time the dams were built, there was no concrete used in their construction. The spillway consisted of expertly cut stones weighing hundreds of pounds and laid with precision and accuracy. The water retainer consisted of oaken planks four feet in length and six inches wide. These were fitted together crossways in yellow pine channels, constructed and embedded in the stone for this purpose. When water was needed to replenish the canal, a man merely pulled as many planks as was necessary for the water to flow by gravity down the Pinekill.

During Yankee Lake's use as a canal reservoir, Wolf Lake water was kept high and a feeder ran from Wolf to Yankee thence down the mountain via the Pinekill to a special "Slip" at Westbrookville where the required amount of water was directed into the canal by a weir tender, usually a local resident. The completed dam raised the water level above the old pond by a considerable amount and flooded a large area of standing timber, which accounts for the great number of stumps, many of which can still be seen today. They exist as a kind of remnant forest, preserved by water and weathering as a perennial reminiscence of the past. These submerged stumps and logs form an important part of the ecosystem, providing food, shelter, and warmth for the lake animals and plants.

An article in the *Orange County Times Press* of 31 May 1912 gives a vivid picture of the lake as it was then. The article states that in D&H Canal days, the normal height of water was within two feet of the dam and flooded and submerged hundreds of acres of forest land. Quinlan's *History of Sullivan County* states that, in the 19th century, there were several floating islands of considerable size in the lake. Close inspection found them to be the former topsoil embedded within roots of trees flooded many decades earlier. A type of marsh gas was generated from the flooded vegetation, and caused this debris to rise to the surface. After a few weeks the accumulated gas was expelled and the mass sank below the surface to begin another of nature's cycles. Even today, in late September and early October when the lake temperature goes down, we see a few small islands appear that are undoubtedly descendants of that earlier phenomenon.

The dam at Yankee Lake was repaired and enlarged many times during its ownership by the D&H Canal Company, the last time being 1894-95. At that time more than 1500 acres were under water. The length of the dam was registered at 2,145 feet. Its height was twenty-two feet, and the dam held an eighteen foot head at the spillway.

After the abandonment of the D&H Canal, the Canal Company's interest in Yankee Lake was purchased on 7 August 1905 by a newly formed corporation known as the Yankee Lake Company, Inc.

The purchase covered “all flowage and riparian rights to the area” and four hundred acres of land. Three years later, a New York Supreme Court decision was rendered directing the owners of Yankee Lake to drop the water level to the elevation at which it is held today. Residents of the valley below, fearing for their safety in the event of dam failure, were thus successful in their litigation with Yankee Lake Company. With the permanent lowering of the water level, a vast acreage once covered by water was once again left for nature to reestablish itself with new forest growth as seen today. It is estimated that only approximately one-third of the original flooded area is under water currently.

After the purchase by The Yankee Lake Company in 1905, the lake was restocked with pickerel and perch. The company expended considerable money each year for the improvement of the Lake and surrounding area to convert it into a vacation and summer home resort. A new road was built around the north side, and the land divided into lots or camp-sites with a lake front of one hundred feet each. Shares of stock in the Company went to those lucky enough to buy a camp-site. The Yankee Lake Company was without a doubt composed of astute businessmen. The timing of their purchase was right, and the location of the lake was ideal for that time. It was near Middletown and Port Jervis and a moderate distance from New York City and New Jersey. With the coming of the automobile, there was an urge to travel and to

get away from the heat of the cities in the summer. By 1911, only six years after the purchase of the lake property, according to the *Times Press*, “3,000 people made Yankee Lake their place of haven of rest.”

According to the same *Times Press* article, a man by the name of J. E. Best owned the Yankee Lake House. The property was composed of a hotel and a one hundred ninety-acre farm, which had previously been used to house the workers who built the dam. Mr. Best was one of the founders of the Yankee Lake Company. He was instrumental in the opening of the old Turnpike road. The Newburgh-Cochecton Turnpike had not been used for travel for nearly twenty years. Mr. Best circulated a petition among the taxpayers, securing fifty contributing signers for the improvement of the Turnpike. This was the same road later used for old Route 17.

Mr. Best also worked to secure a free mail service at Yankee Lake and vicinity. This mail service began in May of 1912 and continued until 16 March 1914, when a United States Post Office was opened at Yankee Lake with William Smithem as the first postmaster. This arrangement was discontinued on 15 June 1927, and mail service was transferred to Wurtsboro. In 1912, long distance telephone service was connected to the lake.

In the 1920s, regular bus service commenced from New York City to Wurtsboro, which put an end to the railway known as the New York, Ontario & Western Railroad. In the 19th century, travelers to the

Yankee Lake area had been told to “Take ferry at foot of Debrosses or West 42nd Streets, New York to Weehawken, thence train without change of cars direct to Mamakating Station, which is only one mile from the village. Stages meet all trains....”

Gasoline for automobiles became expensive during the depression years of the 1930s, and was rationed during the time of World War II. Few people could travel up to their camps for a weekend. Such a trip became an unattainable luxury, although many families – mothers and their children – would be installed at the lake shortly after school was out in June, and would remain until Labor Day. Fathers would come up for the weekend with the groceries. By 1950, weekend travel was again possible, and Yankee Lake was “discovered” once again. People began to occupy their camps for the summer, or rented them out for one, two or more weeks at a time. The Lake was considered a great “fishin hole” once again by anglers far and wide. And for those families who stayed the entire summer, there was the general store known as “Chickadee Farm” for bread, milk, groceries, and especially ice cream. For a time, there even was an A&P grocery at the eastern end of the lake. Dugan’s bakery truck delivered bread and cakes house-to-house, and so did the “chicken and egg man” in his old truck. There were many purveyors of fresh produce, as well as an ice man, who delivered to those who had ice boxes. In the late 1940s, another group, The Yankee Lake Association, acquired the Clubhouse – a scene for

many festive social events, and a place where teenagers could hang out.

The Lake itself hasn’t changed much in the past half century. The prominence of the birch tree has given way to a mix of other deciduous trees. Chickadee Farms, the Dugan’s truck, and the ice man are long gone. The Yankee Lake Company no longer exists, and in the late 1990s, the Yankee Lake Association merged with a new group, The Yankee Lake Preservation Alliance, to form the Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc. The goal of the YLPA is to preserve the pristine beauty of our lovely Yankee Lake, and to foster a sense of community, which they are achieving through an active social calendar with summer events scheduled for residents of every age. And the lake, thanks to fish-stocking by the YLPA of bass, perch, and other varieties, is once again, an “outstanding fishin’ hole.”

References:

- Orange County Times Press*, 31 May 1912.
- Patterson, Donald: A Collection of Notes and Local Memories.
- Sanderson, Dorothy H: *Delaware & Hudson Canalway: Carrying Coals to Rondout*, 1965.
- Quinlan, James Eldridge, *History of Sullivan County*, 1873.
- Wurts, John: “Letters on Exhibit in a Dispute with Pennsylvania Coal Mines, Inc.” 1847-49.

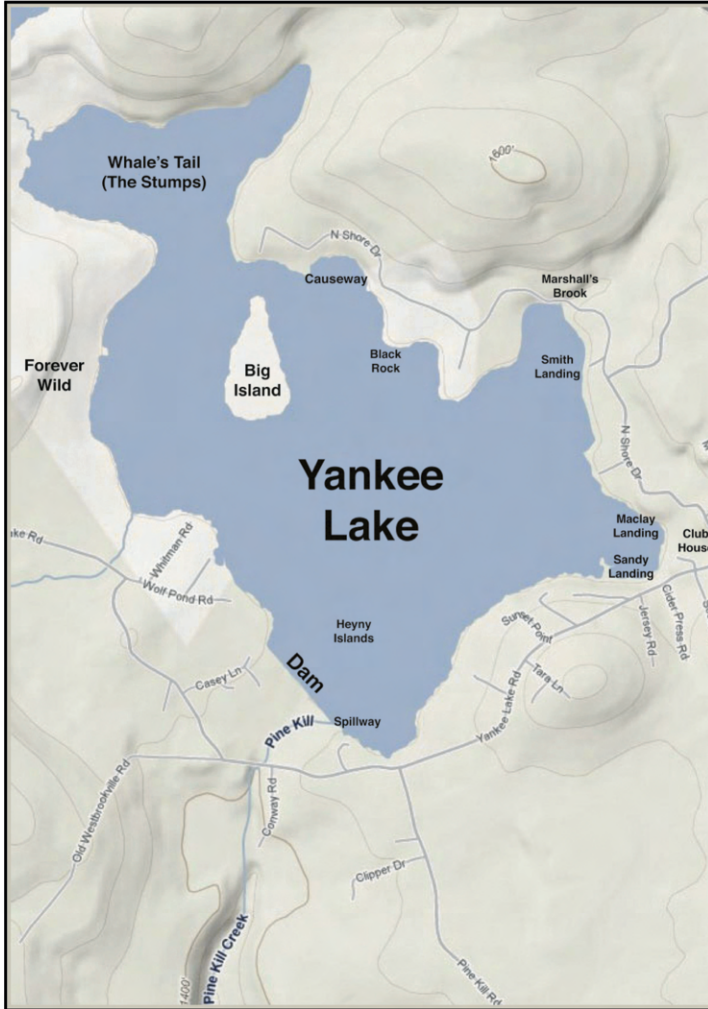


Alfred Henry Still
Professional Photographer



Mr. Still and Boys
Playing Checkers
at Smithem's

Professional photographer Alfred Henry Still, related to the Easton-Holley family of Otisville, New York, visited Yankee Lake frequently and stayed at Hunter's and Smithem Park. Beginning in 1911, Mr. Still took countless photos at Yankee Lake, many of which appear throughout this book.



Reference Map

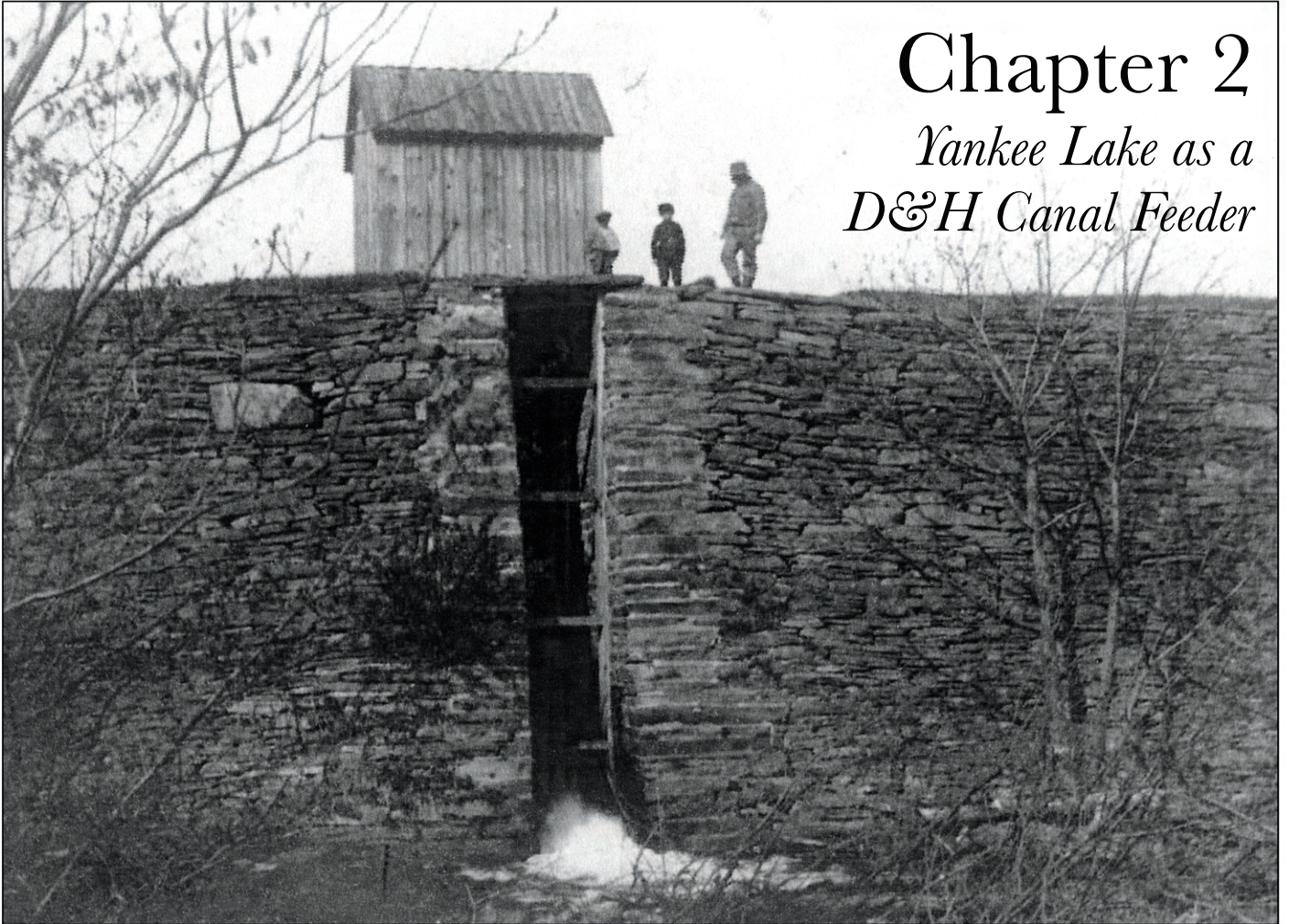
This map represents the environment around Yankee Lake as it exists today. Throughout this book, a small postage stamp-sized map will appear adjacent to photos, indicating the area of the lake relevant to the associated captions.

Yankee Lake's Relationship to The Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Canal

During the War of 1812, bituminous coal sea trade through New York Harbor was severely curtailed by the British. After the war, efforts were made to expedite coal and lumber trade over land and by connecting rivers via canal. To further their anthracite coal interests, the Wurts brothers of Pennsylvania needed a way to connect their trade route on the Delaware River to the Hudson River, and thereby reach the vast New York City market, and thence as far north as Montreal. Their Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, established in 1823, opened the D&H Canal to traffic in 1828. The canal was immediately successful. With a deepening of the canal channels, and the realization of the need for a controllable source of water, the D&H Canal Company created five reservoirs in the Catskill Mountains in the 1840s: Yankee Lake, Wolf Lake, Masten Lake, Wanaksink Lake, and Lake Louise-Marie. The canal business boomed in the latter half of the 19th century, but was eventually superseded by the railroad. The D&H Canal Company was an early entry in the railroad business, owning the first locomotive to run on rails in the United States (1829). Although the D&H Canal was abandoned in 1899, the D&H Railway was in business until 2010.

Chapter 2

Yankee Lake as a D&H Canal Feeder

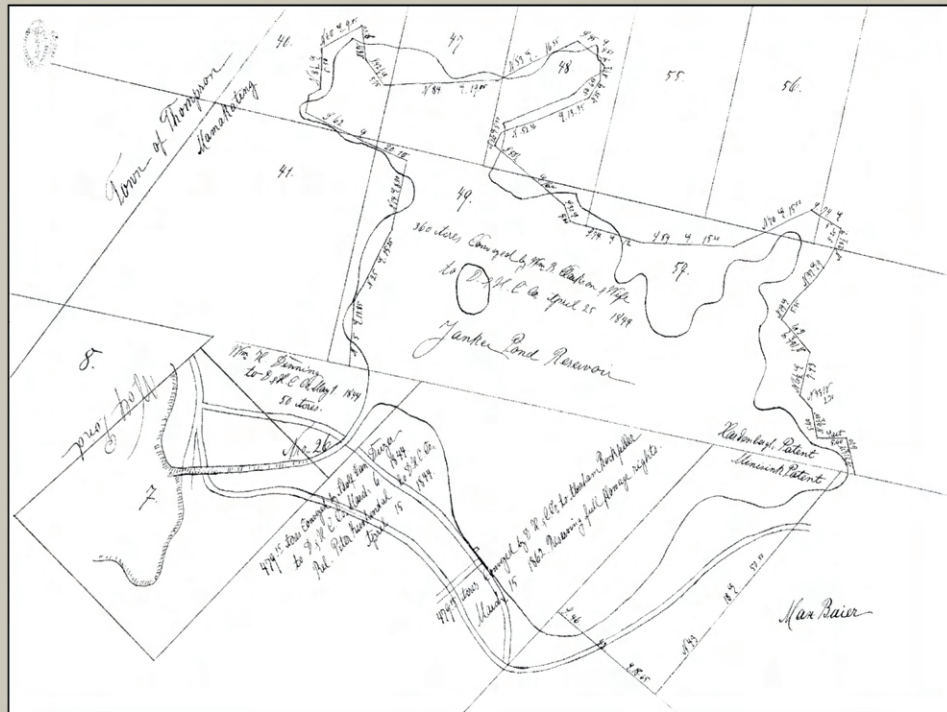




A stamp-sized outline of the lake, like this one, will tie the content of each page to its location on the lake.

Yankee Lake and Environs about 1844

On 25 April 1844, the Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Canal Company purchased from William B. Clarkson, 360 acres including Yankee Pond (Liber 20 Page 258, Sullivan County Deeds), the right to construct a dam, and the use of the water therefrom. This 1844 map, with subsequent annotations, was reprinted about 1905.



The Lake Side of the Yankee Lake Dam



The dam at Yankee Lake, designed and built by engineers of the D&H Canal Company, was completed in 1847.

17

According to James Quinlan's *History of Sullivan County*, page 451, the work was conducted by a crew of thirty men, who spent two years completing it. The dam was essentially "an embankment across its outlet 130 rods in length, sixteen feet in width at its base, twelve feet at its top, and twenty feet in height." At that time, the height of the water was within two feet of the top of the dam. It controlled the combined waters of Yankee and Wolf Ponds until 1856. In 1894-95, the dam was repaired and enlarged to its final dimensions of 26 feet in width at the top, 52 feet at the base and 22 feet in height, covering 1500 acres of submerged land.



How the Stumps Influenced Our Culture

Ironically, it was an undesirable feature of Yankee Lake that likely resulted in its current cultural characteristics as a quiet, serene and pristine treasure. In 1873, Mr. James Quinlan wrote in his *History of Sullivan County* (1873, pages 451-452) that “Unlike a major number of our lakes, Yankee Pond has no attraction for the lover of the beauties of nature, although there may be found here some novel and interesting features. The works of the Canal Company have caused it to overflow its natural boundaries. Much of it is rendered offensive to the eye by rubbish – the decaying remains of the forest that once flourished on its shores, but which has been killed by an excess of water.”



Those tree trunks, stumps, and rocks near the lake surface precluded early development and prevent even now the safe use of motor boats, jet skis, and the like on Yankee Lake. These features also created a perfect habitat for fish and underwater wildlife, which attracted predatory birds to the lake. Thus, Yankee Lake appealed to those who either wanted to fish or wanted the peace and quiet of a wilderness. This culture persists today.

The Dam at Yankee Lake



Quarry Above Wurtsboro

In the 1840s the builders of the dam used quarried bluestone, tamped dirt, conglomerate rock, but no mortar or cement. This image shows a stone quarry on a mountain above Wurtsboro, New York. Teams of oxen hauled stone to the dam site.

The Dam

Thirty Irish stonemasons were credited with the construction of the Yankee Lake Dam. The D&H Canal Company paid their laborers between \$10 and \$15 per month. They worked six days a week from sunrise to sunset, and used teams of oxen to haul heavy sledges called “stone boats.” The D&H Canal Company provided whiskey to its workers free throughout the day and it was “drunk like water,” according to a display at the Neversink Valley Museum of History and Innovation.

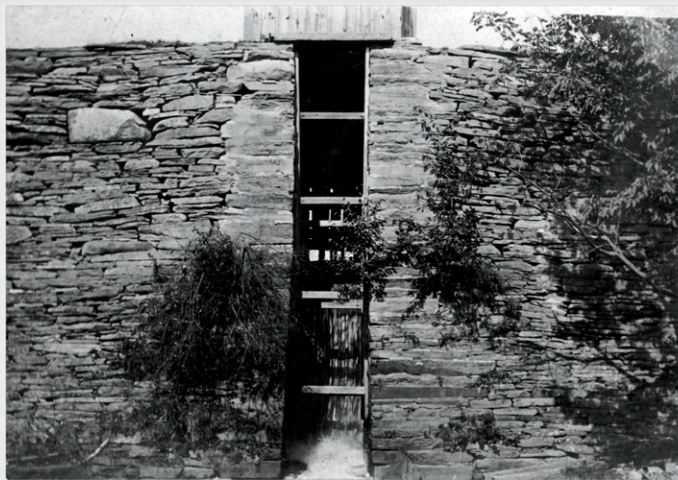




The Dam at Yankee Lake

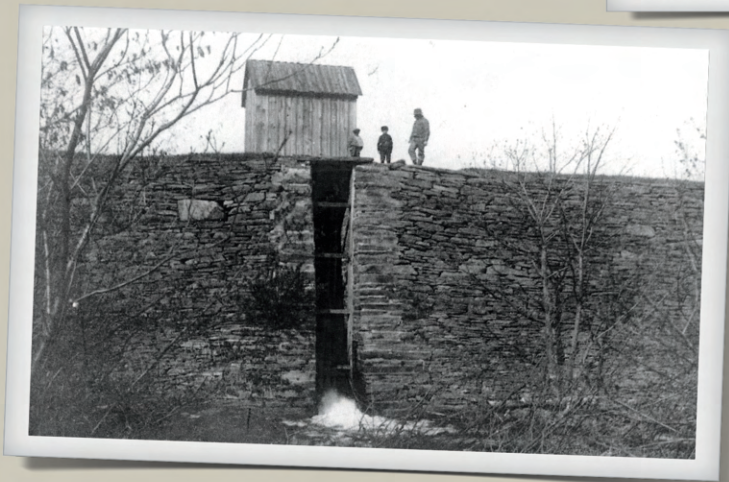
The Spillway

Four-foot-wide oaken planks were fit into vertical grooves carved by stoneworkers. When the planks were raised, the Yankee Lake water passed through the spillway into the Pine Kill, flowing five and a half miles downhill. A hand-dug feeder ditch diverted water away from the Pine Kill and into the D&H Canal at Westbrookville. The postmark on this postcard was 1911.



The Dam House

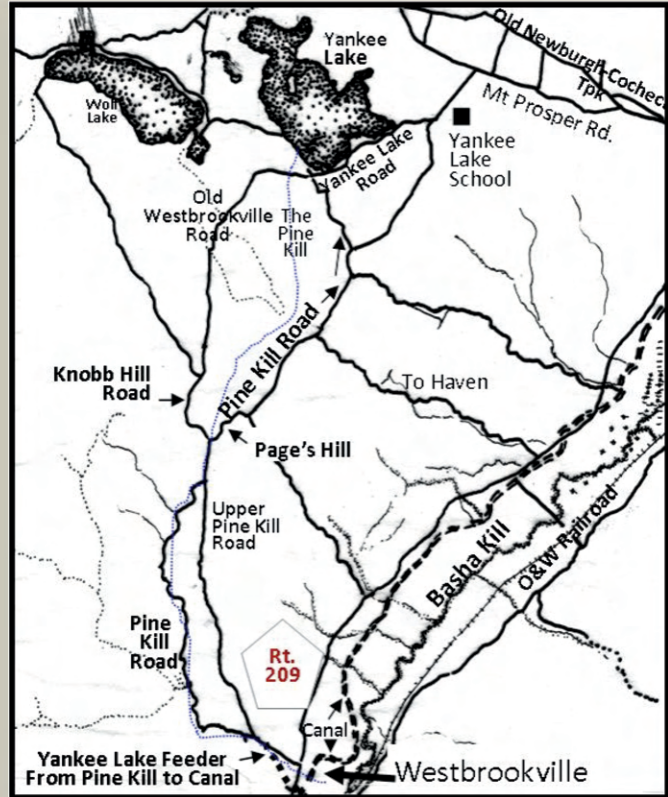
The Yankee Lake dam house contained the mechanism that raised and lowered the planks. Flooding was a major concern not only for the Canal, but for the people living and working along the Pine Kill and in the Westbrookville valley. The Canal Company was compelled to permanently reduce the level of the lake.



The Terminus of the Yankee Lake Feeder



This late 1800s photo of an ice jam shows the Westbrookville aqueduct carrying the D&H Canal over the Pine Kill. The Yankee Lake Feeder Ditch discharged water into the canal from a slipway located one-quarter mile south along the canal. Homes adjacent to the original slipway are still called the Slip Houses.



Map showing route of the Pine Kill and Yankee Lake Feeder Ditch at Westbrookville. The Yankee Lake Feeder Ditch branched off the Pine Kill about a half-mile upstream of the D&H Canal at Westbrookville.

The Yankee Lake Company was Founded by Members of the
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra of New York
22 November 1907

On 23 August 1905, the D&H Canal Company sold Yankee Lake, including approximately 400 acres of land, to Albin Wiegner and Julius Siemers, both members of the Metropolitan Opera Company Orchestra of New York (*Liber 143 Page 616 Sullivan County Deeds*). Together with the first violinist, Carlos Hasselbrink, cellist Max Baier, and the owner of the Yankee Lake House Hotel, Jerome Best, they incorporated the Yankee Lake Company on 22 November 1907.

The Five Founders of
The Yankee Lake Company

Max Baier, Cello/Contrabass
Jerome Best, Hotel Owner
Carlos Hasselbrink, 1st Violin
Julius Siemers, 2nd Violin
Albin Wiegner, Bass Violin



Chapter 3

*The Yankee Lake Company:
History and Founders*



Carlos Hasselbrink
Concertmaster
First Violin



The Day the Company Was Founded

Standing in front of the Fulton & Holmes Store in Wurtsboro, NY (today's Canal Towne Emporium), the man in the bowler hat is Carlos Hasselbrink, first Chairman of the Board of the Yankee Lake Company. The date of this photo, 22 November 1907, is the exact date of incorporation of the Yankee Lake Company. Hasselbrink wrote that Chauncy Newkirk of Wurtsboro was the real estate agent for the Yankee Lake Company.



Carlos Hasselbrink, one of five founders of the Yankee Lake Company, was Concertmaster of both the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the New York Symphony. Born July 1858 in Colombia of a French father and a Cuban mother, he studied violin first in Cuba and then in France. He came to the United States in 1880, and later taught violin from 1906-1932 at the Institute of Musical Art, predecessor of the Juilliard School of Music.

Cottage of Founder Carlos Hasselbrink



The founders of the Yankee Lake Company built their cottages about 1907 in a neighborhood on the south side of Yankee Lake.

Carlos Hasselbrink and his wife, an opera singer, had their cottage built on the west side of Oak Lane. The Smithem's Yankee Lake diary states: "A week or two before the opera season opened you could hear them warming up, and it was a joy to stand near the camps and listen."

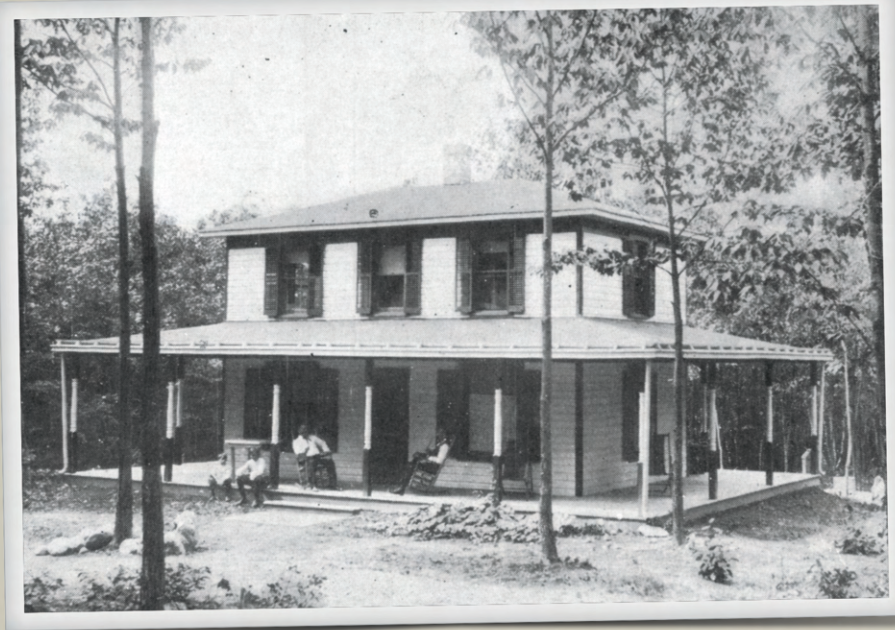


Cottage of Founder Julius Siemers Second Violin

Julius Siemers built his cottage on the south shore of Yankee Lake. His obituary in the *Middletown Times-Herald Record* (reprinted in the Appendix), indicated that he died at his cottage at Yankee Lake, July 1941.



Cottage of Founder Albin Wiegner Bass Violin



Albin Wiegner located his cottage on the lakeside of Yankee Lake Road about 500 feet east of the intersection with Pine Kill Road. His lakefront cottage still stands today with a modern, black metal fence. Adjacent east was the lakeside cottage of his colleague and co-founder, Julius Siemers.

The western boundary of the Wiegner Estate extended six lots along the south shore of Yankee Lake to within 100 feet of the east corner of Pine Kill Road. The Wiegner estate sold a forested lot to Samuel Eager Sr., an avid golfer, who installed three putting greens going far back into the woods on the south side of the road.

27

Members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra played in 1915 at the very first Woodstock Festival in Woodstock, New York (north of Kingston.) “Woodstock’s festival roots go back to 1915 when an art colony called The Maverick put on a feast at which an audience costumed as gypsies, pirates, and sailors applauded Russian singers and 14 members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.” [Source: *National Geographic*, November 1992, Page 119.] His fellow musician and business partner, Max Baier, played cello and contrabass at the Met from 1909 through 1936.

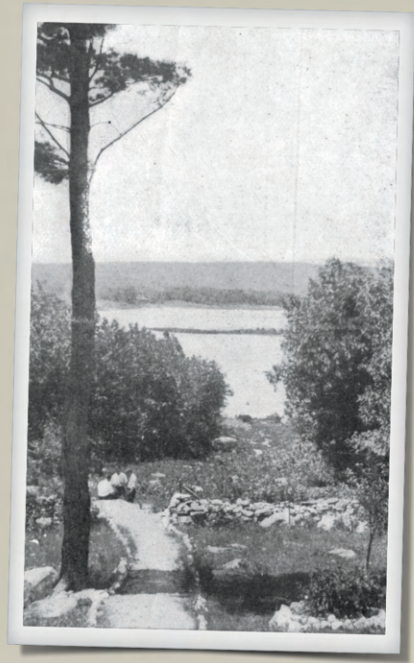


Cottage of Frank Ruhlender Ruhlender/Hasselbrink's Landing



Ruhlender Cottage

Carlos Hasselbrink's good friend Frank Ruhlender built adjacent west of Hasselbrink's cottage. Both owners accessed their landing at the lake by crossing Yankee Lake Road. Ruhlender's cottage today still closely resembles the original and has the same chimney. The Hasselbrink cottage was torn down in the 1990s to make way for the St. Joseph's Rectory, later sold and renovated by a private owner.



Hasselbrink and Ruhlender's Landing

This view from the Hasselbrink cottage, across Hasselbrink and Ruhlender's Landing on the south shore of Yankee Lake, shows one of the small islands before tall trees grew upon it. Each building lot of the Yankee Lake Company offered 100 feet of lakefront.

Founder Jerome Best
Yankee Lake House Hotel
Focus on Road Improvements



The Yankee Lake House Hotel



The proprietor of the Yankee Lake House Hotel, Jerome Best (1861–1913), and his wife Florence H. Rooney Best, came from Pond Eddy in 1904 and purchased the hotel from Charles Whitman. Jerome Best was one of the five founders of the Yankee Lake Company. He was devoted to road and property improvements such as the re-opening of the Newburgh-Cochecton Turnpike that had been built 1801. Jerome died in 1913. He and Florence Best are both buried in Sylvan Cemetery in Wurtsboro, NY.

Tracing the Roots of the YLPA

The Yankee Lake Company was formed in 1907. While the Company owned the lake and dam, it did not own all of the property surrounding the lake. In deeds created during the sale of Company properties, the Company was careful to specify the rights to use the lake and requirements for dues payments. However, owners of other properties around the lake did not always include these specifications when they sold properties. The result was a patchwork of lake-rights language in land deeds, which seemed to work well until after the Great Depression when deed language began to create problems. Even then, the vast majority of property owners continued to find ways to do the right thing and pay dues to the Yankee Lake Company. However, a few families and small groups failed to meet their obligations. In response, over the years various attempts were made at correcting the problem by creating new incorporated associations and alliances. In 2000, these organizations consolidated into a single owner/manager entity – the Yankee Lake Preservation Association (YLPA). Finally, in 2012, the Association filed documents with Sullivan County formalizing the requirement for new property buyers to pay annual dues to the YLPA.

Chapter 4

The Yankee Lake Preservation Association How and Why It Came to Be

Certificate No.

42



Yankee Lake Lot Owners Association, Inc.

Certificate No.

42

Yankee Lake Lot Owners Association, Inc.

Membership Certificate

This is to certify that Mrs. Elizabeth J. McVoy

is a member of the Yankee Lake Lot Owners Association, Inc., a membership corporation organized under the Laws of the State of New York and is entitled to the full benefits and privileges of such membership, subject to the duties and obligations, as more fully set forth in the corporation's By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

Oct. 19-1946



Edgar C. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer

Eustace R. Fortt, President

Chronological Descendancy from the Yankee Lake Company to the Yankee Lake Preservation Association

1907: Yankee Lake Company (YLC) was founded.

1916: Yankee Lake Company was expanded to 120 stock shares.

1940: Yankee Lake Country Club, Inc. was incorporated (24 Sep 1940). This was not a country club in the modern sense of the term, but assumed responsibility for organizing recreation activities for homeowners at the lake.

1946: Yankee Lake Lot Owners, Inc. was incorporated (19 Oct 1946).

1949: Yankee Lake Association, Inc. (YLA) was formed by a merger between Yankee Lake Lot Owners and Yankee Lake Country Club, Inc. (YLA-5 Sep 1949). The YLA entered into a lease agreement with the Yankee Lake Company for use of the lake, and to support maintenance of the dam and roads, fish stocking, and taxes on common property.

1997: Yankee Lake Preservation Alliance, Inc. (The Alliance) was incorporated 1 Jul 1997 in response to a financial crisis that resulted from a group of property-owners who declined to pay dues, evading payment of their fair share of maintaining the dam, clubhouse, roads, insurance, and taxes while placing additional financial burden on others. Over 250 property owners originating from both the YLA and YLC participated in the Alliance efforts to preserve Yankee Lake

1999: The Alliance purchased Big Island, the land under the lake, the dam, lakefront, and appurtenances for preservation.

2000: Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc. (YLPA) was formed 10 Aug 2000 when the Alliance merged with the YLA. The YLPA owned title to the lake and common property, and took on the maintenance and tax responsibilities, to be shared equally by all members, finally bringing the management of the lake affairs under a single entity.

2007: Yankee Lake Company was dissolved 27 Dec 2007 as shareholders fulfilled the required actions one hundred years after its founding. This completed the consolidation of lake ownership and management in the YLPA.

2012: Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc. filed a legal Declaration with Sullivan County formalizing YLPA authority to collect dues to manage, maintain, and care for the lake, dam, island and related property. Any property around the lake bought or sold after 12 July 2012 carries the stipulation that annual dues must be paid to the YLPA.

Yankee Lake Company

OFFICE OF SECY AND TREAS.
305 WEST 18TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

May 8, 1925.

To the Yankee Lake People:

In compliance with the wishes of the Directors of the Yankee Lake Company, I am asking you to remit the usual annual fee for privileges of the waters of the Yankee Lake Company.

This enclosed copy of resolutions is self explanatory, and we are asking your full cooperation in accordance with your status,--(Owner or lessee of cottage \$5.00, Boarding house \$20.00).

If you are a member of Yankee Lake Company, we are confident you will honor this regulation. If you are not a member of the Company we appeal to your sense of honor, and ask your contribution in appreciation for the benefits you are receiving. You are a sharer in the benefits accruing from careful supervision and upkeep of the Dam. Should that be neglected, the value of your property would be appreciably reduced. You are also a sharer in the protection afforded by the employment of a caretaker, whose duty is to watch your property during the Winter months thereby reducing the hazard of fire and burglary.

These supervisions, and others not mentioned, cost money. Surely no self-respecting person would leave it to his neighbors to pay the full cost of benefits in which he also is an equal sharer.

May I ask that you indicate your cooperation by giving this matter your immediate attention, using the enclosed addressed envelope in making your remittance, a receipt for which will be immediately sent you.

Cordially,

WILLIAM H. MOSER, Treasurer.

IMPORTANT -- BOAT TAGS

Boat Tags for identification of contributors are being issued.

Beginning with July 1st, 1925, the waters of Yankee Lake Company will be patrolled by Special Officers and all persons not having tags upon their boats will be reported.

Kindly remit \$5.00, the annual fee, and Boat Tags will immediately be sent to you.

Company
Letter to
Stockholders



1925 Letter to
Stockholders from
Yankee Lake Company
Treasurer, William H.
Moser, urging
remittance. In his
words, "No self-
respecting person
would leave it to his
neighbors to pay the
full cost of benefits in
which he also is an
equal sharer."

Fiercely Protecting Yankee Lake: A Long Legacy

As early as 1915, developers saw the potential to cash in on Yankee Lake, and the Yankee Lake community has consistently, diligently, and fiercely fought urbanization and destruction of our pristine, natural habitat.

- 1915 Wright and Sickles Tract (also referred to as High View Terrace)
- 1922 Protz Development (Smithem Lands)
- 1923 Rooney Development
- 1924 Razey Development
- 1965 Sullivan County Airport. In 1965, the Aviation Citizens Advisory Committee narrowed its focus to three sites for a Sullivan County Airport. Among these three sites was the “Wolf Lake Area in the Towns of Mamakating and Thompson.” At that time, the Yankee Lake Company and the Yankee Lake Association joined forces with the “Wolf Lake Committee to Oppose an Airport at Wolf Lake” to fight this plan. Ultimately the airport was established in the Town of Bethel.

- 1972 Emerald Green. On 30 August 1972, the *Evening News* (out of Newburgh, NY) reported on Yankee Lake residents’ plans to fight the Emerald Green development. The battle over the lands abutting Yankee Lake raged for years, with Emerald Green finally limiting its development to the Town of Thompson.

- 2013 The fight to protect Yankee Lake continued. Plans were announced to develop an amusement park on the northwest shore of Yankee Lake. Plans morphed into a business expo center, then to a college, and then to a learning center. Once again, the Yankee Lake community united to fight inappropriate development on its shores, protecting the pristine natural wonder that is Yankee Lake.

1915 WRIGHT AND SICKLES TRACT/HIGH VIEW TERRACE

ADAPTED FROM 1966 TAX MAP, YANKEE LAKE, NY



Wright and Sickles Tract aka "High View Terrace"



This map of the Wright & Sickles Tract, also called High View Terrace, was adapted from a 1966 tax map. A 1912 *Middletown Daily Times-Press* article by C. M. Wood states, "William Wright of Rahway, NJ has a plot at the east end near Rockafellow's landing. The trees have been trimmed and thinned out to give a full view of the lake, ground has been broken and the foundation started for his cottage, which will be erected and ready for occupancy for the coming season."

In 1915 Lucy A. Rockafellow conveyed land to Ella Wright and Emily M. Sickles, apparently founders of the Sickles Tract on the Westerly side of Elbert Road.

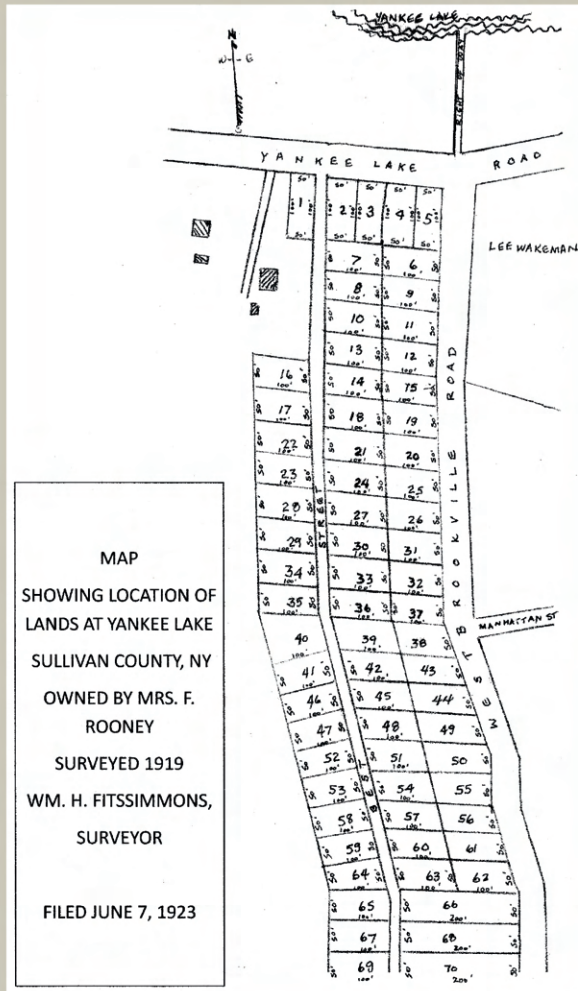
Some deeds from the southeast end of Yankee Lake described a 1913 landing called Rockerfellow Landing as conveyed from Lucy A. Rockerfellow as spelled on one deed along Cider Press Road, however other deeds spelled Lucy A. Rockafellow.

Map of 1915 Wright & Sickles Tract also called High View Terrace



1923 Rooney Development

In 1919 Mrs. F. Rooney owned lands adjacent east of the Yankee Lake House Hotel and extending eastward along Yankee Lake Road to the intersection of Pine Kill Road. At that time the lands were cleared for farming. She subdivided them into building lots as surveyed by William H. Fitzsimmons, and filed this plan with Sullivan County on 7 June 1923. Some deeds along Pine Kill Road, such as Walzer, still refer to "Part of Farm of Florence H. Rooney."



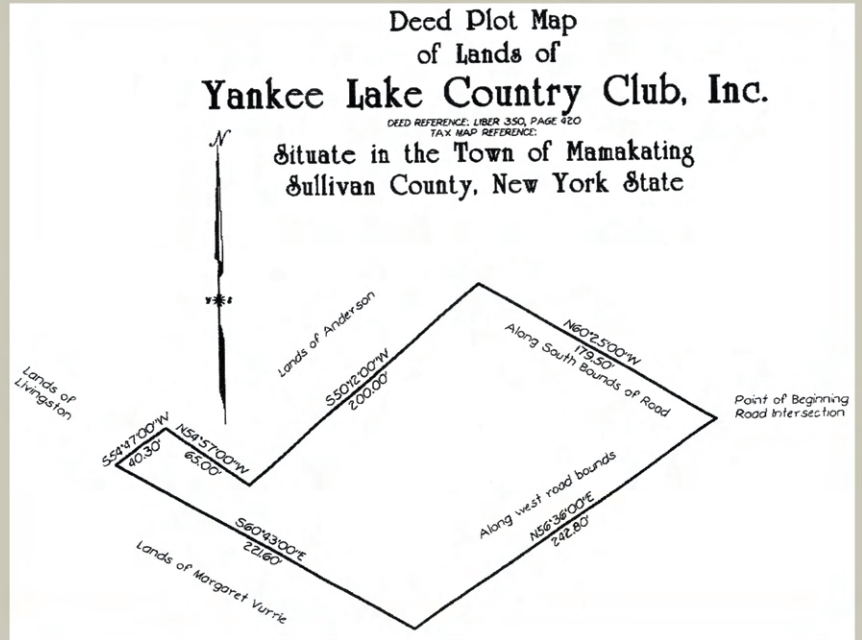


1940 Deed Plot of the Yankee Lake Country Club

28 September 1940
YANKEE LAKE CLUB
CHARTER GRANTED

Social Organization Formed
By Residents There

ALBANY – Yankee Lake Country Club, at Yankee Lake, Town of Mamakating, Sullivan County, had been chartered by the Secretary of State as a membership corporation without capital stock for the following purposes: To provide for the mutual assistance, enjoyment, entertainment and improvement of its members socially; to provide the social and intellectual welfare of its members by providing places and meetings at which musical productions, entertainments and social gatherings may be had among its members in and about Yankee Lake, Sullivan County, New York. Directors named to serve until the first annual meeting are: Philip C. Tweed, Valley Stream; Carl Langseder, Teaneck, NJ; George Cascino, Garfield, NJ; Stanley Mathisen, Jersey City, NJ; Isabella Grebeldinger, Yankee Lake, Town of Mamakating, Sullivan County, New York.



The property depicted on the Deed Plot Map above was originally the Elizabeth House. It was purchased in 1940 by the Yankee Lake Country Club, then passed to the Yankee Lake Association in 1949. It is now the Clubhouse of the Yankee Lake Preservation Association, at the corner of Yankee Lake Road and North Shore Drive.



Yankee Lake is...

A place of renewal and respite,

A place for sheer joy and discovery,

A place that connects us to our ancestors,

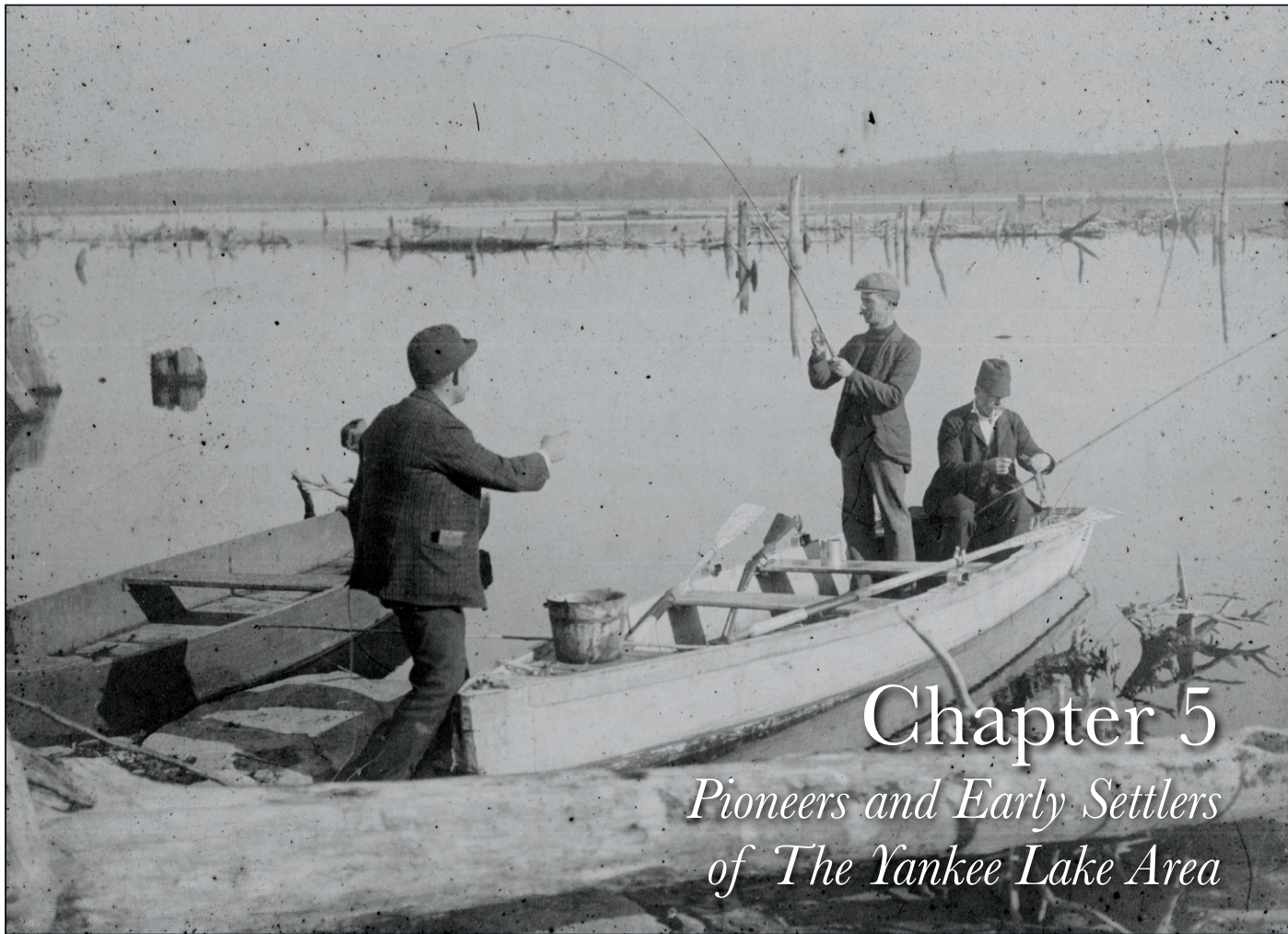
And it is a place that offers peaceful solitude.

It is no wonder that it is held as a deeply loved place by so many.

Those Who Came First

As early as the mid-1800s pioneering settlers established themselves at Yankee Lake. The following families were noteworthy as the earliest of these settlers: The Rockafellows (aka Rockefeller and Rokerfeller), the Whitmans, the Skeltons, and the Maclays.

Following on the heels of these families were pioneering groups including the Yankee Pond/Port Jervis Hunting and Fishing Club, the Pine Kill Club, and the Forest Rod and Gun Club.



Chapter 5

*Pioneers and Early Settlers
of The Yankee Lake Area*



Yankee Lake Pioneers Charles and Jessie Whitman



Whitman Homestead and Bridge

Charles Whitman, dam keeper for the D&H Canal Company for more than twenty years, was born at Yankee Lake in 1857. Charles and Jessie Whitman owned 300 acres, principally woodland through which the Pine Kill flowed. After the demise of the canal in 1899, many of the west side Yankee Lake deeds began with the Whitman ownership. Whitman Road and New Whitman Road were named after him.

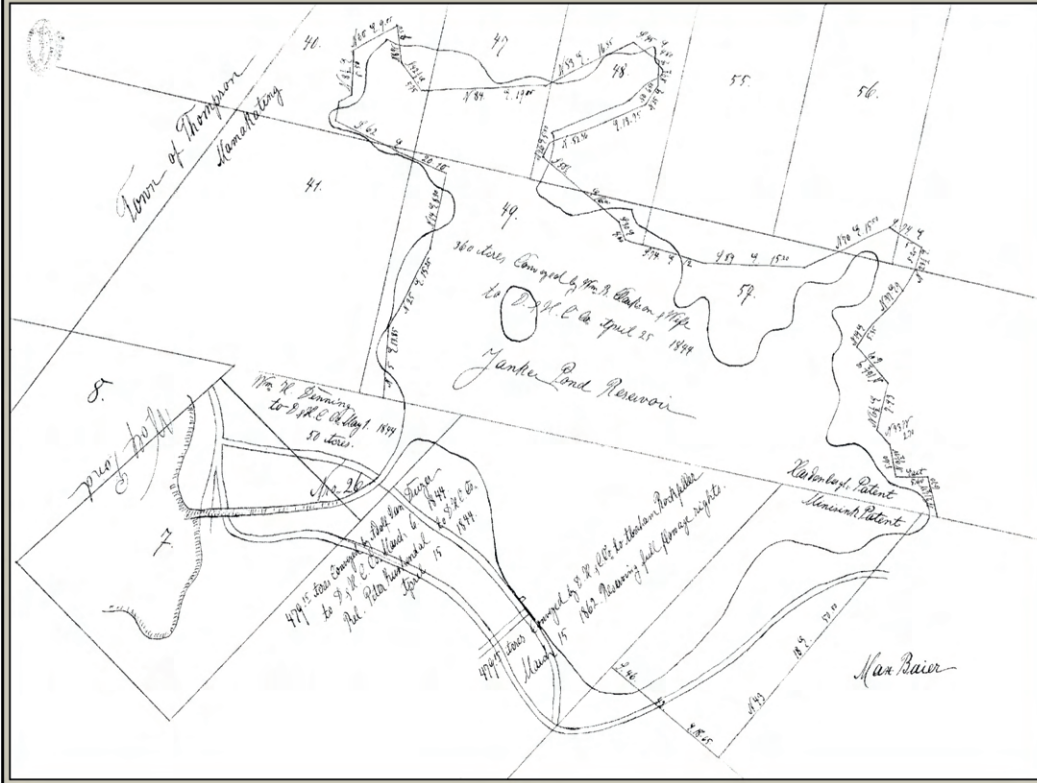


Yankee Lake Pioneers Charles B. Rockafellow

According to C. M. Wood, a reporter for the *Middletown Daily Times-Press* (25 May 1912) “Rockafellow’s Camp – this is one of the old established fishermen’s headquarters – as it is now known, ‘Pine Grove House,’ located at the southeast end or head of the lake, is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Rockafellow, who have resided at the lake for forty-one years (since 1871)... Mr. Rockafellow has sold several building sites from his possessions.” Charles B. Rockafellow was born in 1838 and died in 1919, and is buried in Sylvan Cemetery, Wurtsboro, NY.



Yankee Lake Pioneers Rockefeller, Rockafellow, Rockerfeller



1905 Map with Name of Abraham “Rockfeller”

According to this map, drawn about 1905, the D&H Canal Company, on 15 March 1862, deeded to Abraham “Rockfeller” (notice the spelling with no “e”) 479.15 acres on the south and west shores of Yankee Pond. The acreage extended westward far into the forest south of Division Pond at Wolf Pond.



Yankee Lake Pioneers John R. Skelton and Fred Skelton, Sr.



Tent Camping at Yankee Lake

The Fred Skelton Sr. family, with his younger sister, Sylvia, and her family camped in tents just west of the dam beginning in 1894 on property purchased from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Whitman. They camped seasonally for years until they built a stone cottage known as Pioneer Camp.



Pioneer Camp

By 1906, a stone cottage had been erected by Fred Skelton Sr. of Passaic, NJ and his father, John R. Skelton of Middletown, NY. With its sleeping accommodations upstairs, it had a gathering room downstairs with an enormous stone fireplace and a commanding view of the lake. Its sandy beach was very popular for bathing and boating.

Yankee Lake Pioneers Captain William P. Maclay



Captain Maclay Homestead

On 4 July 1861 Captain William P. Maclay enlisted in Company C of the 62nd Volunteer Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry. Promoted to Captain after the Battle of Antietam, he commanded his regiment during the battle of Charles City Courthouse in Virginia, and mustered out on 25 July 1864.

Maclay's Landing

After traveling through the west and south in the mercantile line, Captain Maclay came to Wurtsboro in 1893 and purchased property at Yankee Lake in 1896.

Captain Maclay subdivided over forty acres of his land, creating properties with access to the lake at Maclay's Landing on the north shore road.



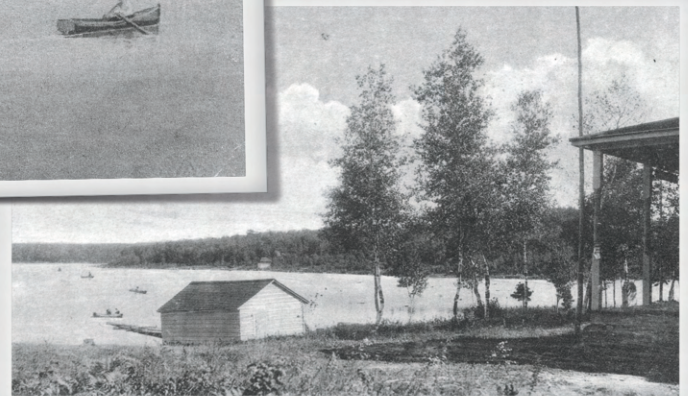


Yankee Lake Pioneers
Yankee Pond/Port Jervis
Hunting and Fishing Club



As reported by C. M. Wood in the *Middletown Daily Times-Press* on 25 May 1912, the Yankee Pond Hunting and Fishing Club “with a membership of ten, comprised principally of Port Jervis members and known at the lake as the Port Jervis Club, built its clubhouse in 1899 and is located on the South end of the dam, with about 200 feet shore front.”

The Yankee Pond
Port Jervis
Hunting and Fishing Club



Yankee Lake Pioneers The Pine Kill Club



The Pine Kill Clubhouse

In 1906, the Pine Kill Club of Middletown, NY purchased acreage located at the south end of the dam from Charles Whitman. The land of the Pine Kill Club was bordered by the Pine Kill on the west, by today's New Whitman Road on the east, and by today's Yankee Lake Road on the south. The occupants on 9 August 1907 were listed in the log as Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Vernon, Mrs. Hanna Gill, Cluitan M. Vernon, G. Herbert Vernon, M. H. Vernon, Mr. & Mrs. Nelson F. Gill, Elmer Gill, and Mrs. J. H. Eckert.

47

The Pine Kill Club

The Pine Kill Club of Middletown, NY was organized at Yankee Lake in 1906. A founding member was C. Merrion Wood, a newspaper reporter for the *Middletown Daily Times-Press* whose 1912 article is quoted throughout this book. Its clubhouse was built about 150 feet from the lake. The Pine Kill Club journal of September 1912 recorded a musical party: "A. J. Holmes who joined us Friday, tuned guitar and he and Mr. Springstead entertained the party with several of the latest selections, such as The Hat My Father Wore, Old Black Joe, as well as one of A. J. Holmes' latest and best, The Harbor of Home Sweet Home." The Holmes family had purchased Fulton & Holmes Store (now Canal Towne Emporium) in Wurtsboro, NY in 1870, and their descendants purchased property at Yankee Lake.





Yankee Lake Pioneers The Pine Kill Club

Someone wrote this entry in the Pine Kill Club log about breakfast in the Pine Kill Clubhouse:
“Breakfast consisted of cakes, stirred up by the Primary Department, burned by the Vice President, and eaten by all, but digested by none.”



A Big Catch, Pine Kill Club

The 1907 log of the Pine Kill Club began with this inscription: “Behold the Fisherman: He ariseth early in the morning and disturbeth the whole household with the great noise of his preparations. In the evening he returneth. His breath smelleth of strong drink. Empty is his stomach, and there is no truth in him.”



Cooking at the Pine Kill Club Landing

Left-Right: Lou Tuttle,
Percy Tuttle, John
Skelton, Sr., Fred Skelton

Yankee Lake Pioneers The Forest Rod and Gun Club



The Forest Rod and Gun Club

In 1907, the Forest Rod and Gun Club house was under construction at the north end of the dam. Land was deeded from Charles and Jessie E. Whitman to Fred Roffe, Andrew J. Craig, Albert B. Demarest, William A. Roffe, and John C. Roffe. The porch shown here faced the dam, and the wagon traversed what is now called Old Wolf Pond Road.



Hunting with Grandsons

In the early 1900s Yankee Lake was a hunter's paradise. Game hunters wrote in their logs that they encountered beaver, black bear, blue jays, bobcats, crows, ducks, geese, fox, grouse, hawks, otters, partridges, pheasants, porcupines, rabbits, rattlesnakes, skunks, squirrels, weasels, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and woodchucks. They also gathered apples, blueberries, blackberries, butternuts, chestnuts, cranberries, currants, raspberries, sassafras root, wild grapes, wild strawberries, and wintergreen berries.

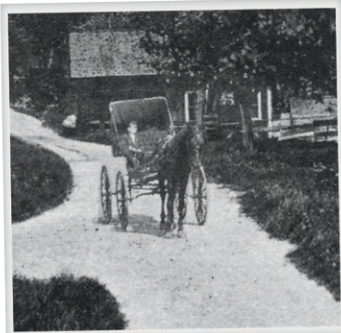
Business at Yankee Lake

As early as 1898, entrepreneurs, large and small, have seen opportunity at Yankee Lake. In the early years, land-owners offered hotels, camp houses, and tent camping near the shoreline, offering fresh air, peaceful quietude, fishing, and farm-fresh food. As time passed, more family cottages and seasonal camp houses were built, creating opportunities for new businesses to offer direct delivery of ice, milk, eggs, grocery, and bakery items. With the people and the businesses came the U. S. Mail and various incarnations of Post Offices. As transportation improved and it became easier to go to the Village or even to Middletown, these businesses faded into history.

Chapter 6

Business at Yankee Lake





The New York, Ontario & Western (O&W) Railroad Station, Wurtsboro, NY

Early visitors to Yankee Lake traveled by train to the mountains, then by carriage the rest of the way. This station was under construction on 28 November 1911 according to the *Middletown Daily Times-Press*. It was intended to replace an earlier station from 1887 that had burned down. The Forest Rod and Gun Club journal entry for 19 June 1910 describes a typical long day of traveling by train and wagon: “Left New York at 8 am, arrived at this camp about 9:30 pm.” Upon arrival at the station, travelers would hire a carriage to take them to the lake (see photo above, left).

Businesses at Yankee Lake Transportation Services

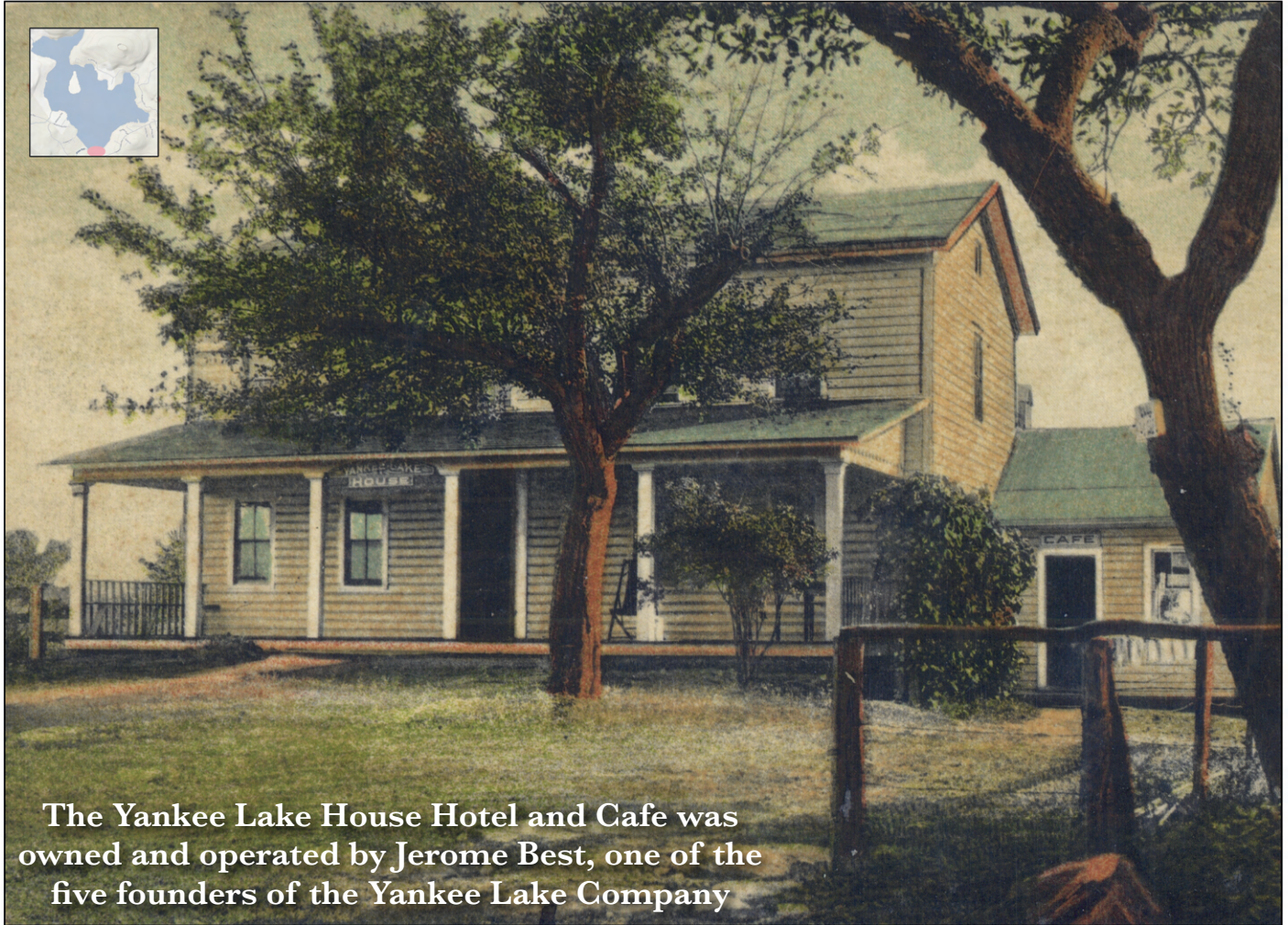


The Yankee Lake House Livery was one of several that picked up hotel visitors arriving at the train stations in Wurtsboro. Others were the Hunter's Camp Livery, Smithem's Park Livery, Hager-Graham Camps Livery. Travelers could also be picked up by individuals with horse and wagon such as Charles Whitman and Jerome Best who were notified by telegram of passengers' time of arrival.

53



Yankee Lake House Livery



The Yankee Lake House Hotel and Cafe was owned and operated by Jerome Best, one of the five founders of the Yankee Lake Company



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses The Yankee Lake House Hotel



At the turn of the twentieth century, the acreage for the Yankee Lake House Hotel was owned by the Whitman family. Fields of hay had been grown for the oxen that hauled the heavy loads of stone and dirt for the D&H Canal Company's last enlargement and repair of the dam in 1895. The hotel itself was situated at the south end of the dam on present-day Yankee Lake Road at the junction of New Whitman Road. From the front, it had an open view of the lake. From the back, it overlooked the clearing toward the valley of the Pine Kill.



View from the Yankee Lake House Hotel

Exposed stumps and a ten foot shoreline apron composed the view from The Yankee Lake House Hotel after the D&H Canal closed in 1899. Yankee Lake was lowered to a level deemed safe by a state engineer so that the Canal Company could release the bond money that had been put up in case of a break in the dam.





Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses The Yankee Lake House Hotel

At the Turn of the Road

In 1907, thanks to the efforts of the Yankee Lake Company and Jerome Best, the then-owner of the Yankee Lake House Hotel, the roads were enlarged and graded around Yankee Lake, especially North Shore Drive. For more than eighty years the North Road residents voluntarily maintained the road. Then, in 1988, they overwhelmingly petitioned the Yankee Lake Company to grant its North Road rights and responsibilities to the Town of Mamakating.



The Causeway

The causeway provided road access to the lots at the north end of the lake.



View From Black Rock

The Yankee Lake Company developed a carriage road to Black Rock, a wonderful picnic spot overlooking the lake. For many years, before the lot was sold, it was a glorious destination.

Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses The Yankee Lake House Hotel



Yankee Lake House Hotel Sign

Left-to-Right: Kathleen McAuliff, Bobbie Werlau, and Anne Ercoline

In 1954 a sign for the old, closed Yankee Lake House hotel was the perfect place for teenagers to put up a poster along Yankee Lake Road. The hotel was defunct but the building stood until the early 1980s, when it burned down.



Yankee Lake House Hotel

The Smithem sisters in 1914 posed at the corner of what is today the junction of Pine Kill Road and Yankee Lake Road, showing the vast clearing around the Yankee Lake House Hotel seen to the right in the distance.

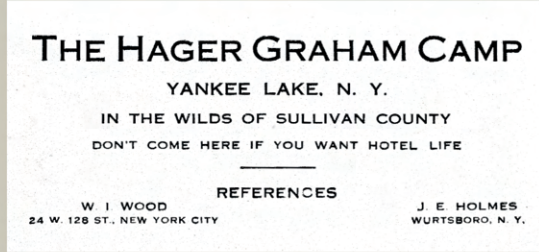


Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses The Hager-Graham Camps



Hager-Graham Camps

The brochure of the Hager-Graham Camps makes it clear that it was not a hotel, but was intended to be more comfortable than camping out. The main house provided lodging and meals, while several detached cottages with kitchens accommodated families and groups. Meals for individuals included vegetables, milk, eggs, and chickens raised on the property.



The Hager-Graham Camp, the northernmost property visible from the lake on the West Shore of Yankee Lake, was owned by Hull Hager and Grace Graham. The earliest building was named The Ideal, a one-room cottage in its initial form circa 1906 (photo next page). With additions and a porch, The Ideal became the living room and an upstairs bedroom of a more expansive main guest house, shown left. It accommodated twenty people at rates of \$8 and \$10 dollars per week. Transients paid fifty cents per meal. By the 1960s, The Hager-Graham Camp was filled with old friends sharing many happy memories of Yankee Lake. Owner Robert Lang and his son and wife, Walt and Rita Lang, listened and laughed with the McAllisters, the Grafts, the Goss family, the Doschers, the Kellys, the Wansers, the Coles, the Loevans, the Cuskers, the Bakers, the Biggins, the Burkes, the McAuliffs, the Wilburs, and the Greens, all of whom had cottages in the Hager-Graham subdivision or used the Whitman Road right-of-way.



The Ideal
The Original Camp



The Ideal with Additions
(Main House)



Whitman Road
from Wolf Pond Road
to Yankee Lake
About 1908



View of Yankee Lake
Past Main House and Lawn

Businesses at Yankee Lake
Hotels and Boarding Houses
The Hager-Graham Camps



The
Laurel
Camp
About
1908



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses The Hager-Graham Camps



The E-Z Camp

Hager-Graham's E-Z Camp at the junction of today's Whitman Road and Wilbur Road provided more luxurious accommodations than tents. It had two beds with bedding and a cot, table, chairs, dishes, stove, and cooking utensils for \$1.50 per day, \$10 per week, and \$35 per month. Campers drew their water from a hand-dug well equipped with a pitcher-pump. Each cottage had an outhouse.

Some cottage names were the Laurel, Cottage Kil-Kare, and the Jolly Rest. The Hummel was cheaper at \$20 per month; it had no kitchen, just one large room downstairs and one upstairs, and was a five minute walk from the lake but the boat was included. The Middletown newspaper reported in 1912 that the Hager-Graham Camp accommodated over 200 guests that season.

The Jolly Rest, The Laurel, and Grace Graham



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses The Hager-Graham Camps



Graham's Landing



Hager-Graham Livery



Katie Cusker and
Grace Graham

Doing laundry outside
Camp Thomas

Grace Graham kept track of boat rentals (far left) while sitting by the shoreline at Graham's Landing.

The Hager-Graham Camp rented boats at 50 cents per day, \$2.50 per week. Grace Graham's daughter Lena, with Lena's husband Robert Lang, continued the business until the 1960s.

Grace Graham walked the neighborhood with fresh vegetables in her apron pocket to give to her neighbors.

She had a dry sense of humor and a twinkle in her eye, despite being all-business.

She was known for saying, "Yes Ma'am" and "No Ma'am" to any queries.

Excerpts from the 1914 Diary of Grace Graham, Yankee Lake, may be found in the Appendix.



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses J. G. Hunter's Camps 1907 – 1911

In 1907 James G. Hunter of Denton, NY (near Middletown) rented out accommodations at Hunter's Camps on the south shore of Yankee Lake. Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hunter and family resided there. The earliest photographs show primitive tent camping, then cabins, and a dining hall that served home grown food, and a nice waterfront for swimming and boating.



Picnic by Yankee Lake



Tent Camping at J. G. Hunter's Camp

According to C. M. Wood writing in the *Middletown Daily Times-Press* of 25 May 1912, "J. G. Hunter's Camp is a well-known resort to New Yorkers and is centrally located in the midst of a grove of young trees on the south side, with about 600 feet of shoreline. The camp consists of a colony of cottages which are built of the log cabin type, and arranged around the main building, containing office, reception room, and dining room, the whole being operated on the same plan as a good-sized hotel, but with additional privacy and independence of action and guests."



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses Tent Camping



Although the activities were outdoors, group tent camping was a very social occasion. Most early campers dressed in their Sunday best.

Camp Smiley

According to John Skelton, tent camping included extended families, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

J. G. Hunter's Camp





Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses J. G. Hunter's Camps 1907 – 1911

Hunter's Camp consisted of seven rental cabins, a separate building with a dining room and two small bedrooms, a rustic dance hall, and at the top of the hill a small barn with a shed attached.

William P. Smithem purchased Hunter's camp in 1912.

A happy vacationer sent this postcard from Hunter's camp in 1907:

“Dear Mac,
Having the time of my life. Camp life is great.
Theodosia.”



Businesses at Yankee Lake
Hotels and Boarding Houses
J. G. Hunter's Camps 1907 – 1911



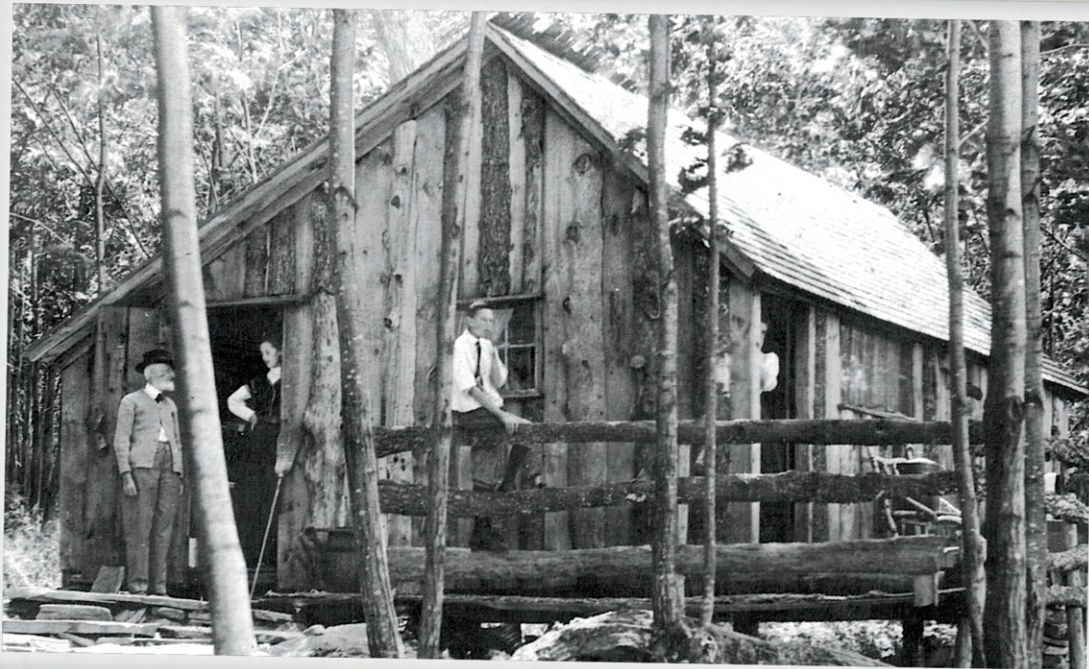
J. G. Hunter's
Camp
Two-Bed Cabin

"We came up Saturday
for our vacation.
Helene."

Rustic outdoor
furniture provided an
interesting vantage
point for dwellers of a
single-family cabin at
J. G. Hunter's Camp.



Businesses at Yankee Lake
Hotels and Boarding Houses
J. G. Hunter's Camps 1907 – 1911



Old Slab-Sides overlooked the lake and was big enough to house a family. Its name may show deference to the retreat of the literary naturalist John Burroughs, who in 1895 built his own “Old Slab-Sides” in West Park, NY across the Hudson River from Hyde Park. The famous essayist called his cabin “Old Slab-Sides” because its outer walls were covered with slabs from rough-cut, bark-covered boards. The only difference is that the Yankee Lake slabs are vertical whereas Burroughs’ slabs were horizontal.

Businesses at Yankee Lake
Hotels and Boarding Houses
J. G. Hunter's Camps 1907 – 1911



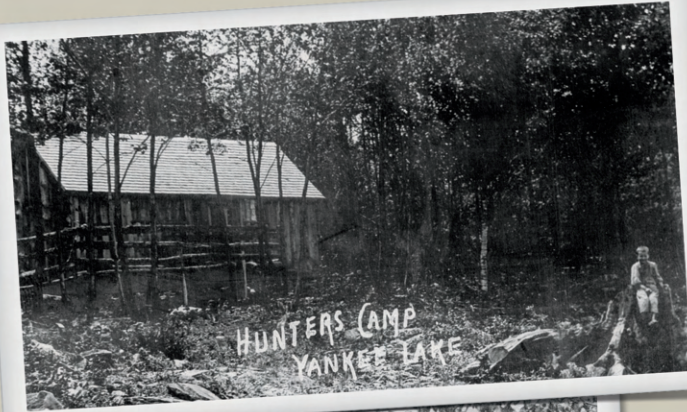
“30 July 1907, Leading a quiet life. Theodosia.”

The Smithem Journal states, “With a cook, dishwasher, and two waitresses, they served Sunday dinners to many people as well as feeding boarders during the week.”

Seven tall, flexible, bamboo fishing poles stand in the corner as two men relax near an idle limbing saw, a pile of lumber, and two handmade sawhorses. A woman at the kitchen door sweeps with a broom.



Businesses at Yankee Lake
Hotels and Boarding Houses
J. G. Hunter's Camps 1907 – 1911



Interior Fireplace of J. G. Hunter's Camp

The 1913 *Smithem Journal* states: "After the boarding season closed we spent hours visiting with family and friends before the fire." The artifacts of Yankee Lake camp life included these handmade stools, flower vases on the mantel, interesting stump roots in the rafters, a rifle standing by the fireplace, a sun hat on a hook, rag rugs on the floor, games on the shelves, and daylight streaming through the slats.



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses J. G. Hunter's Camps



J. G. Hunter's Camp Livery

Hunter's Camp Livery allowed those self-catering campers to stop first at a grocery store in Wurtsboro before the horse and wagon climbed Mount Prosper to Yankee Lake.



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses J. G. Hunter's Camps 1907 – 1911



The Sailboat Norma departed from Hunter's Landing. It had a gaff rig and, much like a water taxi, it transported guests to all navigable parts of the lake.

J. G. Hunter's Landing

Plenty of rowboats were available to campers and fishermen at J. G. Hunter's Landing. It was customary to fill the boats with water so that the wood swelled, closing any leaks. The 1914 Smithem Journal stated, "Few lake properties had sandy beaches so many came to swim at our spot. It wasn't the best, but better than rocks and stumps."



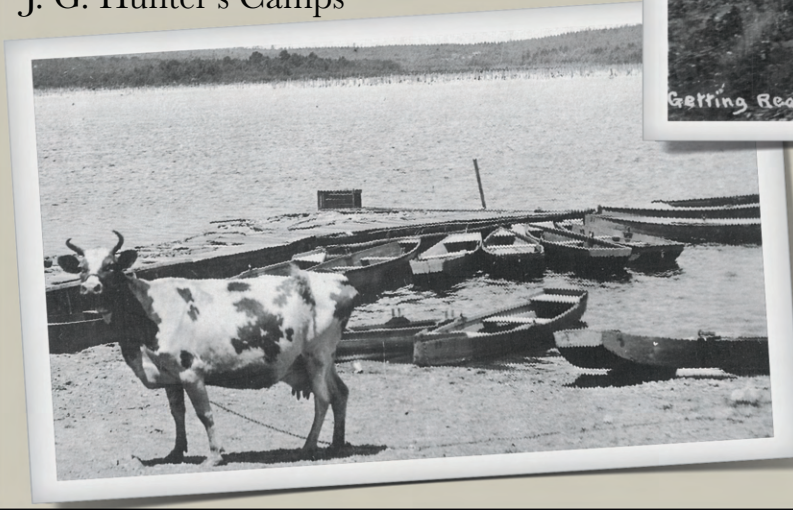
Sailboat
Norma

Businesses at Yankee Lake
Hotels and Boarding Houses
J. G. Hunter's Camps 1907 – 1911



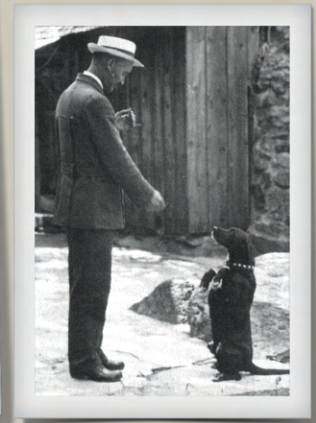
J. G. Hunter's Camps Produced
Much of its Own Food

"The Dairy" at
J. G. Hunter's Camps





Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses Hunter's Camps Became Smithem's Park



Smithem
Mascot,
"Nippy"

In 1912, J. G. Hunter's Camp became Smithem's Park. The Smithem Journal for 1912 stated, "William P. Smithem had been in poor health and was advised to leave his farm at Crystal Run, Orange County, NY. In the fall we visited the Charles Evans family, friends of many years, at their cottage at Yankee Lake. While there, Dad and Lee Hunter made a deal to trade our farm for the Hunter's Camp on the south road at Yankee Lake."



Road into Smithem Park

Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses Smithem's Park



The Smithem boys went right to work: “March 1913 we moved to camp by horse and wagon. Then Dad and my brothers built an ice house and a large dining room and kitchen near the lake...

“The dining hall had a large fieldstone fireplace...

“Burt Culver of Westbrookville sold milk at the lake and at summer's end he loved to spend evenings with Dad and the boys.”



Interior of Smithem Dining Room



Smithem Landing



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses Smithem's Park



Photo Credits: Blocker and Smithem Album Collections (Left); Smithem Album (Right Top and Bottom)



Businesses at Yankee Lake Hotels and Boarding Houses Smithem's Park



The Dance Hall

The Smithem Journal recorded for 1914: "Saturday night, folks came to the dance hall and danced to music provided by our old Victrola. With so few cars at the time, it was the only entertainment to be had and all seemed to enjoy themselves."

The Roffe journal of 28 June 1913 recorded from their place near the dam, "Ed and Mary Hendrickson went to a dance at Smithem's. They said they got back to camp at 11 o'clock."

The Roffe journal of 19 July 1914: "Everybody in the two houses except the children went to Smithem's in the evening to a little dance, both music and lights went out at 9 PM, thus the dance ended, the performers may have enjoyed the dance but it was not much to look at."





Businesses at Yankee Lake
Hotels and Boarding Houses
Smithem's Park

Yankee Lake Road
looking east
near the entrance
to Smithem's Park



Native American
Costume



Fish Fry



Nippy the Dog
and Guest



Businesses at Yankee Lake Post Offices 1914 – 1927 First Yankee Lake Post Office

The Smithem Journal continued: “In 1914 Dad had a store built with four rooms above for the family and received permission to have a US Post Office through the summer... the first post office at Yankee Lake...¹

“Clause, with our first auto, a Speedwell, made trips to Mamakating Station (Wurtsboro) for the mail. On the way back, when in sight of the lake, he would sound the siren and people around the lake would start for the store by boat and canoe.”

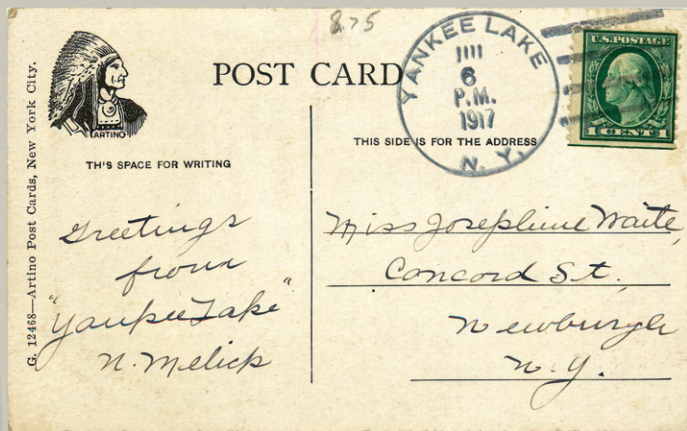


Speedwell



Getting Mail in the Fog

On Friday, 5 September 1913, Jack Roffe wrote from near the dam, “Weather raining. Lake covered with a heavy fog. Joe and Gene rowed to Smithem’s for some ‘eats’ and mail and got lost on the lake in the fog. After great difficulty we got to Smithem’s and had great trouble getting back.”



A 1917 Yankee Lake Postmark

Businesses at Yankee Lake Post Offices 1914 – 1927

First Yankee Lake Post Office



1914 Yankee Lake Postmark

The postcard to the left was postmarked “Yankee Lake, N.Y.” on 31 July 1914. It was addressed to Mr. Leon B. Lavacool, River Road, Manchester, NH and written from Camp Ten-e-ah-wah, a former log cabin, pictured below, located on the lot adjacent west of today’s clubhouse on Yankee Lake Road.



1920s Post Office at Yankee Lake



The above post card reads:

“Dear Leon: Think of me! Up here camping with two other girls, a chaperone and such for two weeks!!! We are, as you may guess, having a grand time. One of my friends brought us up in his car and is coming to take us home in it again. Meg.”



Businesses at Yankee Lake Post Offices 1914 – 1927

About 1915, this Yankee Lake Store (pictured right) was an early version of what would later become known as Bonas's Store and Post Office located on the east corner of today's North Shore Drive where it enters Yankee Lake Road (across the North Shore Drive from the present-day Clubhouse). The sign says "Kelly's Ice Cream."



Before it was
Bonas' Store

Bonas' Store and Post Office

About 1920, the Yankee Lake Post Office supplies were moved from the store at Smithem's Park on Yankee Lake Road, further east to Bonas' Store, located on the east corner of North Shore Drive where it intersected with Yankee Lake Road. This Post Office continued at Yankee Lake until June 1927.



The Signs at Left Say:

Yankee Lake
Store
Groceries, Candies
Cigars, Cigarettes, Tobacco, Etc.
Soda and Ice Cream, Paul Bonas, Prop.

Post Office
Yankee Lake, N.Y.

Regular Taxi Service
Meeting All Trains

Businesses at Yankee Lake Post Offices 1914 – 1927 Bonas Store



Bonas Store

A 1930s newspaper article from the Griffith collection: “Yankee Lake: There was a joyful surprise party at the home of Mrs. Paul Bonas, wife of the storekeeper at Yankee Lake, recently in honor of her birthday, many of the summer residents at the lake participating. Among those present were Mrs. Robert Boyd, Donald, Robert, Douglas, and Jack Boyd of Rutherford, NJ; Mrs. E.J. Buckley and Miss Grace Buckley; Robert Patterson; Mrs. A. O. Rourke of New York City; James E. Morrison of Scarsdale, NY; Mrs. C. Julian; Mrs. James Wilcox of Goshen; Mrs. James Garrett; Mrs. Ruffer, Miss Mary Ruffer and Ralph Ruffer, of Rutherford, NJ....”

81



On 1 June 1932 a rural route service to Yankee Lake began from the Wurtsboro Post Office, and continued through 30 September 1932 “to be maintained during this period for each succeeding year,” according to a newspaper clipping dated 17 September 1931 from the Griffith collection. The era of the Yankee Lake Post Office came to an end.



Businesses at Yankee Lake General Stores: 1920s

Note the gas pumps from about 1920 and the sign that says, "Lots For Sale." According to a newspaper article by Dick Thuman, "There was a George Hoch who lived in this crossroad area by opening a gas station across from Paul Bonas. George put up a sign that read 'Hoch's Point Lookout.' Not to be outdone with Tony [Parrette's] and Paul [Bonas'] general stores, he also opened up a small general store beside his gas station. There were now three different general stores vying for all of the summer tourist business."



Businesses at Yankee Lake General Stores: 1920s



“Way back in the 1920s there was a general store at the High View Landing. Boat rentals and use of the dock area was for swimming. In later years this store closed and in the early ‘30s the building was demolished,” according to Dick Thuman in a newspaper clipping from Sam Eager’s Collection.

83



Boaters accessed Bonas’ store and Post Office from a landing at the southeast corner of Yankee Lake. From the Roffe journal on 25 August 1922: “Mrs. Reinhardt was going for the mail one day with her husband, and just as the boat came ashore near where the post office is, fell overboard. Fortunately the water was shallow, outside of getting a dandy ducking and had to dry herself in the sink.”

The VanInwegen store was near what is now Sandy Landing. Often accessed by boat, it was known, simply, as “Van’s.”



Businesses at Yankee Lake Milk Delivery The Culvers and Langseders

Burt Culver first delivered milk to Yankee Lake. His successor was George Langseder, father of Carl, Jack and Walter. George Langseder began a family business during the Great Depression, raising chickens and delivering Yankee Lake eggs and Crowley milk and other dairy products to customers at Yankee Lake and along the Pine Kill.

Shown in the photo are George and Carl. Each branch of George's sons maintain a presence at Yankee Lake, even today.



Businesses at Yankee Lake General Stores: 1920s Chick-A-Dee Farm



Both Dave Schardien and Nic Pierce recalled working at Andy Parrette's store as teenagers, and both identified the experience as "the best job I ever had."

According to a newspaper clipping from Sam Eager's collection, reporter Dick Thuman related how, in the 1920s, Antonio Parrette "... opened his general store and became very popular with the children. Tony's son and his wife Natalie ran the store until the 1960s. This store was located [across Yankee Lake Road] directly opposite the Elizabeth House [today's Yankee Lake Clubhouse], which at the time was a boarding and rooming establishment on the corner of the North Shore Road and the Yankee Lake Road." The Barnes family operated the store after the Parettes, selling bread, milk, and canned goods, cantaloupes in season, cards, reading material, fishing supplies, and treats for the kids.

Bill Wykoff recalls his childhood selections around 1958: "Bazooka, Black Jack, and Teaberry gums, licorice, strips of pin-dot candies, root beer barrels, Bonomo's Turkish Taffy, little wax bottles filled with syrup, fountain drinks, root beer and birch beer sodas, candy cigarettes, red hot jaw busters, triple scoop ice cream cones with sprinkles, Cokes, Mary Jane candy bars, and when we happened to be at the store at the right time, the owners would let us scrape out the empty ice cream containers."



Businesses at Yankee Lake Retail Stores: 1950s Medrick's Basket Shop

The Medrick family emigrated from Germany in the mid-1800s, settling in Port Jervis, and running a photography studio. They moved to Middletown and maintained workspaces in both Middletown and Port Jervis for a time, before getting into the furniture business. The Medricks became prominent in Middletown, and their furniture store spanned several generations of the Medrick family.

Interestingly, by 1920, the Medrick's Pike Street Photography Studio had been taken over by Alfred H. Still, the photographer responsible for so many early Yankee Lake photographs (see page 12).

In the 1950s, the Medricks operated Bob and Betty's Basket Shop on present-day North Shore Drive. The Basket Shop was a natural extension of their full-time business.

F. W. MEDRICK PHOTOGRAPHER

HIGH GRADE PORTRAITS, ARTISTIC PICTURE FRAMING

Finishing and Enlarging for the Amateur

Mail Orders promptly cared for

25 North Street, Ruggles Building, Middletown, N. Y.
78 PIKE STREET, PORT JERVIS, N. Y.



Left-to-Right: Jimmy Smith, Richard Ferina, and Nic Pierce, with Nic's mom, Hazel Pierce Urtnowski.

Businesses at Yankee Lake Bill Cockrell's West Side Stand



**BUY AT WEST
and
GET THE BEST**

WEST SIDE STAND

Boats for Rent

Yankee Lake, N. Y. Bill Cockrell, Prop.



If a fishing trip you plan to take,
And in boats you like the best;
Drive the family to Yankee Lake
To have a picnic here at West.

**A record of 18 Years Service
Renting Good Boats to Fishermen.**

From the early 1940s through the 1970s Bill Cockrell's West Side Stand, with its picnic tables in the grove, attracted families all summer and especially on the Fourth of July. Boat rentals, candy, soda, fishing tackle, fish-bait worms, ice cream, popsicles, and even comic books were sold. Bill Cockrell played the guitar and sang for the teenagers.

Nic Pierce was only a toddler at the time, but he remembered the day in 1946 when Roskin Brothers of Middletown brought the West Side Stand down Stern Lane on a big truck.



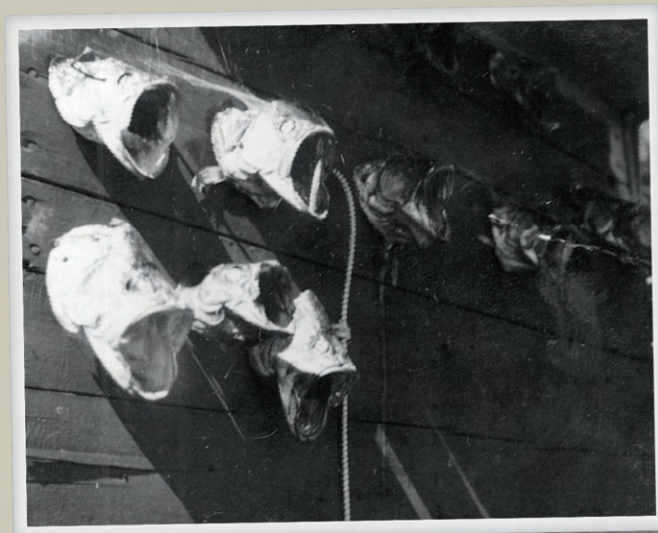
Businesses at Yankee Lake
Bill Cockrell's
West Side Stand



Bill Cockrell took pictures of the bigger fish and tacked the gigantic heads of large-mouth bass, eels, and catfish on the wall of his oar house. He also collected the enormous shells of snapping turtles.



Sweeney Soda



Businesses at Yankee Lake Bill Cockrell's West Side Stand



Bobbie Werlau
and Bobbie
Cole lakeside
near the boat
landing of the
West Side
Stand.



Neighborhood
kids and Bill
Cockrell's boat
livery, car park,
and public
swimming area
appear in these
photos.

A photo taken
by Bill
Cockrell
showed Joanne
Pollo and
Denége
Patterson
carrying a five
pound bass
caught by Don
Patterson on
the Fourth of
July in 1960.



The Grange
League
Federation
(GLF) picnic
was held at
Yankee Lake in
August 1958,
parking at the
Stern Lane
terminus
between the
House and
Jewett camps
and at Bill's
West Side
Stand lot.



Businesses at Yankee Lake Vic's Pizza On West Side

In the 1960s, adjacent south of Ann's Road on the west side of Yankee Lake Road, was Vic's Pizza. Vic's was owned and operated by Vic and Tess LaMonica, serving meatball subs, pizza, and hamburgers outdoors on picnic tables. When Vic and Tess retired in 1984, they sold to Pat and Joe Imbo, calling it Pat and Joe's Pizzeria. The Imbo sons, Dan and Joe, grew up at Yankee Lake and then opened the doors to their own pizza place called Pino's in Charlotte, North Carolina. "Our family still comes back to Yankee Lake," said Pat.





How Does It Seem to You?

It seems to me I'd like to go
Where bells don't ring, nor whistles blow,
Nor clocks don't strike, nor gongs don't sound,
And I'd have stillness all around.
Not real stillness, but just the trees'
Low whisperings, or the hum of bees,
Or brooks' faint babbling over stones
In strangely, softly, tangled tones.
Or maybe a cricket or katydid,
Or the songs of the birds in hedges hid,
Or just some such sweet sounds as these
To fill a tired heart with ease.
If 'twern't for sight and sound and smell,
I'd like a city pretty well,
But when it comes to getting rest
I like the country lots the best.
Sometimes it seems to me I must
Just quit the city's din and dust
And get out where the sky is blue;
And say, how does it seem to you?

— Eugene Field

A Stroll Around the Lake

Join us on a tour of Yankee Lake, starting on the West Side, moving around to the Pine Kill, then to the South Shore, up to Mount Prosper, and finally to the East and North Shores, along the North Shore Drive. Gain an appreciation of the families, the architecture, and the culture of Yankee Lake through the years.

As you stroll, notice that cottages were often given a unique name. Indeed, there were no house numbers or street addresses. Mail was simply addressed to a named cottage, at Yankee Lake, New York. This tradition of naming our camps is still carried on by current owners today.



Chapter 7

A Tour Around Yankee Lake



North End of the Dam

During the early 1900s, residents from the north end of the dam (west side of the lake) walked or boated to the dam to visit neighbors on the other side of the lake, stopping to swim, dive, and sunbathe. Lowbush blueberries lined the paths.



North End of the Dam



Near the dam house one could hear the roar of water falling from the spillway. Teenage boys dared one another to dive from the highest part of the dam and into the lake. Cars could even drive over the dam. In the 1960s when Yankee Lake officials received notice from the insurance company to erect a high fence at both ends of the dam, the era of popular dam access passed. Today, only pictures, memories, and family stories remain.



Photo Credit: Cusker Collection (Left); Biggins Collection (Right)



North End of the Dam Forest Rod & Gun Club Wolf Pond Road

Located at the northwest end of the dam on Wolf Pond Road, the 1908 Forest Rod & Gun Club accommodated the Roffe, Craig, and Demarest families.

Albert B. Demarest sold his share to the Roffes before 1915 and built his own cottage approximately 300 feet further north along Wolf Pond Road.

The Demarest lot and cottage were later conveyed to the Werlau family, and eventually to the Smith family.

The Forest Rod & Gun Club journal of July 1910: "Took several pictures of the large bass and pickerel caught yesterday.

Went fishing near the perch grounds between the large island and the point of land... Ed (Hendrickson) and Jack (Roffe) in one boat; Fred (Roffe) and the girls and child in one boat. Jack's boat caught 3 perch, 12 pickerel and 1 large bass. Fred's boat caught about 9 pickerel and perch; one of the pickerel was 17½ inches long and the bass 18 inches long... Fred shot a small rabbit just off the path to the boathouse with the .22 short rifle. While Fred and party were out they saw a red fox. Tonight is a full moon and not a cloud near. Whippoorwill and bullfrogs abound. The woods are filled with birds. Bed at 10:30 pm. Weather ideal, lake calm, average temperature 70."





North End of the Dam Roffe Cottage 1928 Wolf Pond Road



Across Wolf Pond Road from the Forest Rod & Gun Club, the first lakefront cottage visible from the lake on the north side of the dam was built by Jack Roffe in 1928. He installed 14 French windows and hired masons to build a beautiful stone fireplace. Jack and Emeline Roffe named it Jaceline Lodge, a combination of their first names. They hired Archie Page from the Upper Pine Kill Road to plant elaborate gardens. Jack excavated a duck pond and built a second-story sundeck for nude sunbathing.

According to John Skelton, Emeline sang with the Metropolitan Opera Company and occasionally arrived at Yankee Lake by limousine. They hosted parties, birthday celebrations, and dances using a Victrola record player. A full suit of medieval armor stood in the cottage.

In 1956 the estate sold to Elmore and Helen House. Tom House who was ten years old at the time, found “while digging around in the dirt of the garage, an eight-foot Halberd; this is a spear with axe and hook as well as a spear point on the end. You usually saw the guards with one of these.”





North End of the Dam
Skelton's Pioneer Camp 1895
Wolf Pond Road



98

Left to Right:
Fred Skelton
standing in the
tent wearing a
dark suit,
unknown man
shaving,
young woman
seated in white
blouse is Georgie
Skelton, woman
standing by tent at
right is Emma
Skelton.





Left-to-Right: Men standing on porch: Fred Skelton and guest; seated on step is Florence Morrison; seated on chair is Alberta Skelton; boy on step is John Skelton Sr.; and Emma Skelton, standing.



North End of the Dam Skelton's Stone Camp Wolf Pond Road



In 1895 Fred Skelton arrived in Wurtsboro, NY, at the Mamakating Train Station. He stopped at the Gumaer House (presently called Danny's) and asked about a good place to go fishing. Directed to Yankee Lake, he fished and had such a good time he purchased the land extending from the dam and northward for several hundred feet along the shoreline.

After a few years of tent camping, he built this stone camp in 1903-04. Below, left, the camp with its stonework of the first floor is completed, and its second floor is under construction circa 1903; on the right, the roof is on, circa 1904. Construction was completed in 1905 (top).

The Roffe journal of 24 July 1913 described Fred Skelton as a prince. On 15 July 1915 the journal teased: "Just as we came from the lake after a very enjoyable swim and a shower at Skelton's shower bath (this one could scarcely call it a shower as the water falls on one by the bucketful)... went casting in the evening landed one nice bass 2³/₄ pounds."



North End of the Dam Watermelon Party 8 August 1913 Skelton's Pioneer Camp



Front row children: Virginia Travis (Wakeman), John Skelton, little Sylvia Travis, dog
Middle row: Man in hat is Edwin Travis
Back row: Mamie B. Travis, Jennie Aldridge, unidentified person, and Emma Skelton is behind husband Fred at far right.

On 8 August 1913 (date of photo) persons mentioned in the Roffe journal were: Fred & Jennie Aldridge, James F. and Bess Marshall, Fred & Nettie Roffe, Emma Skelton, Fred Skelton, John Skelton, Edwin Travis, Mamie B. Travis, Sylvia Travis, and Virginia Travis.

The Roffe journal also described the action of the day and the taking of this watermelon picture: "Oh! Didn't we work. We swept and scrubbed and mopped, and washed, and baked cake and pudding, and in the midst of all this hubbub, Fred Aldridge came over and took a snapshot of us. Ah! But there is a reward for those who labor (sometimes). Daddy Skelton called us over to a 'watermelon' party. My! But that melon was good. Another picture was taken by Fred Aldridge. It ought to be a good one."



North End of the Dam Craig's "The Birches" 1912 Wolf Pond Road



The chain of ownership of this particular stone cottage was Craig family → Cockrell family → Newcomb family → Platt family. The Craig descendants were James Baily Craig, Jr.; Bertha Craig Wilbur; and Grace Craig Cockrell. Other parcels were sold or subdivided by the descendants.

A few hundred feet west of the Skelton stone camp, James Baily Craig completed a stone camp named The Birches in 1912, on land purchased in 1908. The Roffe journal of 29 October 1911 recorded: "Craig building a new house between Westbrook and Skelton." 12 July 1912: "...walked around to see the new house of Craig's." Twenty-six years later, the Roffe journal of 31 July 1938 recorded, "Jim Craig from Otisville was down to see me. He wants to sell his property. It faces about 240 feet on the Lake and entails about six acres."

101



North Side of the Dam
Craig Subdivision
Wolf Pond Road

Historic Sears Simplex Mail Order Catalog Kit Homes

A Craig descendant, Tom Cockrell, Jr., was the son of Grace Craig Cockrell. His lakefront lot was adjacent to, and south of, the Craig stone house. Tom built these two historic cottages on his lakefront lot.

Designed in 1921 to be put up in only eight hours (notice the clock in the foreground of the middle photo), the Sears Simplex Mail Catalog cottages were promoted as ideal vacation homes and were advertised as portable, well-designed for seasonal living, and built with quality materials. The porch kit and the outhouse kit were sold separately.

The kits arrived by train at Mamakating Station in Wurtsboro. Muriel Patterson Huttenbach purchased the property and built a new cottage nearby in 2012, being sure to leave room for historic preservation of the Sears Simplex buildings.





Standing on the Stern Lane dock, left to right, were the neighborhood teens Carolyn House, Peggy Jewett, Eddie McCarthy, and Julia McCarthy.



Sarah Frantz Thornton

North End of the Dam McCarthy's Sleepy Eye Lodge Wolf Pond Road



Sleepy Eye Lodge, also known as Sleepy Eye Cottage, was located on the Wolf Pond Road intersection with Stern Lane. John Masterson's Great-Grandmother Sarah Frantz Thornton (pictured left), of Spring Glen, vacationed at Sleepy Eye Cottage in the earlier decades. The McCarthys purchased the property in 1952, accessing Yankee Lake via a dock and landing off Stern Lane.



North End of the Dam
McCarthy's Sleepy Eye Lodge
Wolf Pond Road

Julia McCarthy



Joey Tracy and Patty
Warner (Tiniski-Otis) 1955



L-R: Mary McAuliff, Nandy Pierce

Craig Subdivision Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road Off Wolf Pond Road



Mary Ann's mother, Edna Stern, contracted polio after Mary Ann was born, and was confined to a wheelchair. An avid reader, with a keen interest in local history, Edna was looked after by her brothers and by considerate women of the neighborhood, particularly Virginia Wakeman, Dorothea Werlau, and Angela Platt. The Wurtsboro mail carrier hand-delivered the mail to her every day because, with her wheelchair, she could not get to her rural mailbox.

The above photo looks east toward the lake down Stern Lane, now Hardcinder Road. These were formerly the lands of James Baily Craig. In 1939, a Craig descendant, Edna Cockrell, and her husband, Frank Stern, built a cottage at the corner of Stern Lane and Wolf Pond Road. Her brother, Bill Cockrell, built a garage apartment across the lane over Frank's cinderblock workshop. Bill Cockrell's West Side Stand opened near the lake in 1946, offering boat and cottage rentals, ice cream, candy, soda, comic books, postcards, and fishing tackle.



Below left, Frank Stern and daughter Mary Ann posed in front of his workshop across Stern Lane from their cottage (on the northwest corner). He built refrigeration units and radios. Mary Ann Stern attended the Mt. Prosper School (District #8) at 23 Yankee Lake Road until the eighth grade, then Monticello High School. She rode her horse Bonnie Prince Charlie (below center) on the back roads of Yankee Lake.





Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road
Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road
Lakefront



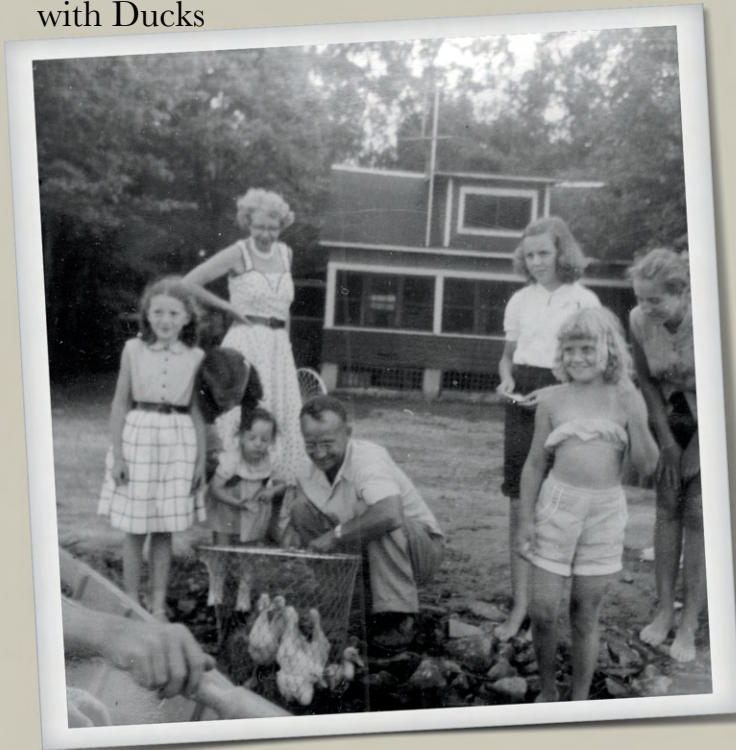
Blythe Cottage Back Yard

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Blythe family owned this lakefront camp at the end of Stern Lane. A public picnic area (partially visible under shade trees in the foreground) associated with the West Side Stand overlooked their back yard. In the late 1950s, a new owner, Dick Jewett, constructed a three-foot-high stone wall along this perimeter.



Blythe Cottage Lakefront

Dick Jewett with Ducks



Jewett Sailboat and the Whole Neighborhood

Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road Lakefront Camp



The cottage became a neighborhood gathering place when the Jewetts moved in with their children. About 1955 (pictured left), Dick Jewett showed the neighbors a flock of baby ducks, with Hazel Pierce, rear left, in a sundress. The Jewetts had a spacious lakefront porch, and a great swimming area with an underwater walkway. Their aqua blue and white raft, rowboats, sailboat, and oars with white trim were recognized from across the lake. Active in the Yankee Lake Association, Dick and Lydia Jewett gained community support for a large addition to the Yankee Lake Clubhouse in the 1950s to be used for children's recreational programs including Arts and Crafts, roller skating, and movies.





Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road
Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road Lakefront
The Tin House/Lakefront Camp

Postcard of
Cockrell's Dock

Between
the
Camps



House's Lakeside Porch



Adjacent north of the Stern Lane right-of-way, a lakefront cottage known as the Tin House was owned by Westbrook, as mentioned in the *Middletown Daily Times-Press* article by C. M. Wood on 25 May 1912. The Roffe journal also mentioned the Tin House on Saturday 15 June 1935: "At the Westbrook camp they are preparing to build starting just back of the Tin House." Bill Cockrell in 1935 tore down the Tin House, putting up a wooden cottage "built like a tank," said Tom House, whose father was the subsequent owner. Bill Cockrell, proprietor of the West Side Stand, frequently told his customers a tragic, romantic story about how he built a honeymoon cottage for the girl he loved, but when his eyes failed, he could not go to college, and she married another. He rented out the honeymoon cottage to vacationers until the Elmore House family purchased it in the 1950s. The photo at left shows the screened, lakefront porch with sisters Erma Wilson and Helen Wilson House. Above, the postcard shows their dock.

Early 1940s Nic and Nandy Pierce played on the sand at Cockrell's rental dock, later owned by the House family. In 1948 Tom and Carolyn House watered the dock. Nine years later Tom rode his bike off the deep end.

Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road Lakefront Westbrook → Cockrell → House Dock



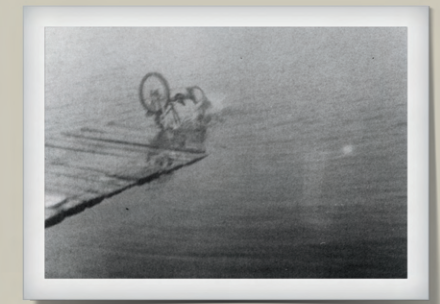
Nic and Nandy
Pierce



Tom and Carolyn
House



Helen House
and Hazel Pierce



Tom House



Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road Historic Camps

The Wascher → Pierce/Urtnowski Cottage was built in the 1920s on the north side of the lane. The Roffe journal recorded on 1 October 1929: “Wascher’s place looks fine. He has been putting an extension on the west end of his house to be used as a stairway to the cellar.” 19 August 1931: “Wascher’s place is fixed up very pretty and he has a small grass lawn on the lakeside of his house.” 8 October 1933: “... admiring the beautiful dahlias at Wascher’s.”

In 1937 Herman Franklin Pierce built his place directly across Stern Lane, halfway down the lane. Both cottages had a lake view past lakefront cottages. Herman’s daughter Hazel Pierce and her husband Edward Urtnowski acquired Wascher’s cottage circa 1940.

Herman Pierce with Grandson, Nic Pierce



Herman Pierce's → Brundage



Wascher → Pierce/Urtnowski Front Porch



Two ladies chatted with Nic and Nandy Pierce on the Stern Lane right-of-way dock.



Conrad Pierce and Cousin Ray Pierce

Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road Historic Camps



Just after the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Edward C. Urtnowski did not want his children persecuted for having a Polish last name, so they changed it to the mother's surname, Pierce, and put up a sign identifying the cottage with the name Pierce.



The Edward and Hazel Pierce Urtnowski family about 1945 with children Conrad, Nic, and Nandy.



Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road Historic Camps on Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road The Mayfields, Kellys, Brundages

From the Patterson journal of June 1932: “Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Mayfield of Port Jervis had accepted an invitation to spend a weekend in our camp, Mr. Mayfield to tune our piano in return.” Later in the 1930s the Mayfields built a tiny cottage along Stern Lane. Across Stern Lane from the Mayfields were the Kellys and the Waschers. Adjacent to the Mayfields was Herman Pierce, whose descendants sold it to the Brundages → Caudys → Krajewskis, each family enjoying the Stern Lane dock for a generation or more. The Kelly camp burned down in 1968 (no persons injured). The Kellys also purchased property on Whitman Road, and descendants still own properties at Yankee Lake because, as they said, “We love Yankee Lake.”



Stern Lane
Dock



Ethel Mayfield



Ted Mayfield
Piano Tuner



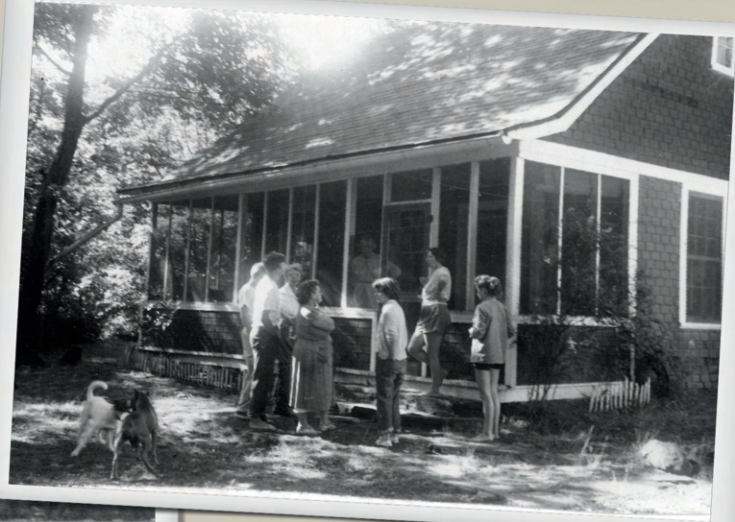
Tony and Barbara
Kelly Family

Hurricane Diane 1955



Hurricane Diane, the August 1955 Category 2 storm, was the costliest Atlantic hurricane of its time. Warm waters from the Atlantic Ocean helped produce record rainfall across the northeastern United States, where rushing waters demolished about 150 road and rail bridges and damaged or destroyed 206 dams.

Nationwide, Diane killed 184 people, injured over 7,000 and damaged or destroyed 14,000 homes. Monetary losses totaled over \$1 billion. In the hurricane's wake, eight states were declared federal disaster areas, and the name Diane was retired.



Hurricane Diane was the most destructive hurricane of the century for Sullivan County. The Yankee Lake dam held firm, but the Pine Kill Road bridges were washed downstream. After “The Flood,” the whole neighborhood gathered at Brundages. The Jewetts, Pierces, Brundages, and Cuskers came together on the lawn while the children inspected the Stern Lane right-of-way dock and the House family’s dock.



Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road
Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road
Baily → Patterson Property



Left-to-Right: Ida Craig, friend, Grace Craig Cockrell, Tom Cockrell Sr., James Baily Craig, Bertha Craig Wilbur, Roy Wilbur, all from Otisville, NY, about 1908. Pictured on the porch of a cottage called The Birches, built between the Tin House and Hager-Graham Camps. This cottage was built of wood salvaged from an oxen-shed used during the 1895 enlargement of the Yankee Lake dam.

Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road
Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road
Baily → Patterson Property



Pictured above, Left-to-Right
Front: Karen Pinckney, Faye Hubler,
Denege Patterson
Middle: Joy Hubler, Donna Patterson
Back: Mr. Pinckney, Don Patterson

In 1912, James Baily Craig's Uncle Fred Baily and Aunt Chloe purchased the one-story cottage. Using railroad jacks, workers raised the wooden building 6 feet 4 inches, and poured concrete into forms with window-and-door openings, making a two-story camp, with lower walls 15 inches thick. A sleeping porch was added on the lakefront side. The Bailsy retired to Florida, deeding the cottage to their friends Horace and Laura Patterson stating, "We don't have children; you have five children – you should have the camp." The Pattersons then began a family tradition of fishing, swimming, boating, and celebrating the camp life at Yankee Lake.



Left-to-Right: Donna, Agnes, and Denege Patterson (on mother's lap);
Faye Hubler, Gail Hubler, Edna Nielsen, Joy Hubler



Craig Subdivision Off Wolf Pond Road
Stern Lane/Hardcinder Road
Bailey → Patterson Property

In 2012, the Patterson family celebrated 100 years at Yankee Lake. The Patterson grandparents and great-grandparents had hosted similar happy events at Yankee Lake as described in Laura Patterson's journal of the 1930s, including church picnics, scout group overnights, annual family reunions, and irreverent and hilarious schoolteacher gatherings. Belle Van Inwegen wrote in the Patterson journal of 1934, "Gum chewing and dominoes were enjoyed by the guests because they were away from the public eye," and "Silver will be counted tomorrow to save the guests embarrassment."



Donna Patterson



Donald and Donna
Patterson



Glenda, Edna
and Joan Patterson



Left-to-Right: Glenda Patterson, Don Patterson
(hat), two boys going fishing, Glenn Patterson
operating the electric motor.

Snow Load A Serious Threat



Maurice and Horace Patterson Inspect the Damage



During these early years, it became common practice to install a huge metal turnbuckle across the main expanse of a house, pulling together the outside walls, and preventing the collapse of the roof. These turnbuckles still exist in many of the old camp houses today.

Snow was, and continues to be, a serious threat to structures at Yankee Lake. As it accumulates on the roof, the weight can become enormous. This photo shows the result in 1931. Laura Patterson's journal of March 1931 reported: "Walter Lang, Mrs. Graham's grandson [age 14], with some other boys came up to the lake and the next day at school told Donald [Patterson, age 14] that the snow had crushed our sleeping porch to the ground. Snow had been very much heavier than at Otisville during the winter and spring at Wurtsboro, Yankee Lake, and points further north."

1 April 1931: "Horace and Ralph Case came to Yankee Lake to investigate the damage; drove as far as Yankee Lake House [Hotel] and left their car because of deep snow, and walked from there [across the dam]. Snow was still very deep. Some snow banks were six feet deep, while in Otisville the snow was practically gone."

5 April 1931: "On this date there was still a ton or more of snow and ice on the wrecked porch that had to be moved before salvage work could be done."



Wolf Pond Road
Whitman Road Entrance, South Corner
Gunstone → Boyd Cottage



This beautiful cottage at the corner of Whitman Road and Wolf Pond Road was the Yankee Lake home of the Gunstone family for at least two generations.

Whitman's Private Road The Whitman Road Corporation



The Whitmans owned over 300 acres on the west side of Yankee Lake. Some Whitman deeds conveyed access to Yankee Lake via the “Private Road of Jessie E. Morris leading from Yankee Lake Road to Yankee Lake adjacent to premises now or formerly of Graham.” This photo shows part of Whitman Road adjacent to Graham as it appeared about 1908. The Whitman Road Corporation was formed on 10 September 2001 to take care of this private right of way.



Wolf Pond Road Across from Whitman Road Entrance Corduroy Cottage

Corduroy Cottage was built in 1910 on the west side of Wolf Pond Road directly across from the entrance to Whitman Road. Fred Seeland's porch served as a store for bread and milk and sundry items for the neighborhood and occupants of the Hager-Graham Camps from the 1920s through the 1950s. On 23 June 1910 the Roffe journal recorded, "On the way home became acquainted with Mr. Fred Seeland, the owner of the new house on the road to Wolf Pond. He seems alright. Inspected his house and found he has a very good open fireplace." Five years later 29 June 1915: "Mr. Seeland brought us two hens which we bought and put into a small coop to fatten for Sunday dinner." By the 1950s the property was owned by the Sheldon family and it became a gathering place for neighborhood teenagers.



West Side Teens

(L-R):
Jean Sheldon,
Joe Cusker,
visitor,
Danny
McAuliffe,
Edward Biggins,
Tom Biggins,
and Lorelei
Sheldon.



(L-R) Thomas Cusker,
Fred Seeland



Whitman Road Hager-Graham Camps Camp Thomas



Camp Thomas



Camp Thomas was first a Hager-Graham rental cottage. It was then purchased by the Cusker family and named for a dearly departed child; it was dedicated to love, laughter, and the good camp life. The porch was a playground for local children. Shown here in the 1930s are the Cusker children playing with the Biggins children on the porch.

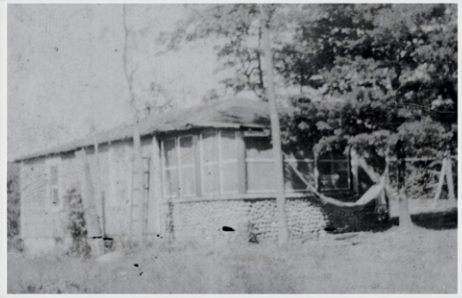
A Cusker descendant was an ordained Catholic priest. He conducted Sunday Mass on the lawn of the main house of the Hager-Graham Camp, borrowing a historic church pew from the Pattersons, an old schoolmaster's pulpit from The Laurel, a kitchen table from The Ideal for an altar, and Mother Nature for a cathedral.





Yankee Lake Road – West Side of Lake Formerly Whitman’s Private Road Shamrock Cottage

Patrick Biggins, an Irish fiddler, came to America in 1907 from County Monaghan, Ireland, and helped to establish the Monaghan Pipe & Drum Corps in New York City. In 1911 he went back to Ireland to marry his Irish sweetheart, Catherine Lynch. The Biggins acquired their own property along the west side of Yankee Lake Road. In the summers of 1922 and 1923 they vacationed in the Hager-Graham Camp, occupying the Jolly Rest and the Laurel, while their new home, Shamrock Cottage, was under construction.



Shamrock
Cottage

Patrick and
Catherine Biggins



Brad Puff
“Mayor of
Yankee Lake”

Brad Puff, a colorful, humorous character and self-proclaimed “Mayor of Yankee Lake,” owned several lots across from Casey Lane, in the vicinity of Ann’s Road (named for Ann Badendyck). From one of his lots, he sold the dirt for fill. When he had no more “fill” left to sell, the subsequent buyer ended up building a house on the bedrock below grade. But on the adjacent lot, he preserved the topsoil and built Shamrock Cottage in 1922 for Patrick and Catherine Biggins. The *Middletown Daily Times-Press* of 31 August 1917 reported tongue-in-cheek: “Brad Puff has signified his intention of again being a candidate for mayor of Yankee Lake this fall. Brad... bought a horse so that when he starts his campaign he can make a good run. Brad says if his wagon was strong enough his horse could go a mile in four minutes easily... As yet, he hasn’t any special place to quarter his steed, but says he will keep it in his bedroom until he gets a stall constructed. Brad says if it is necessary he can reduce his full-sized bed to a cot; then he is certain there will be plenty of room for both himself and the horse.”

Yankee Lake Road – West Side of Lake
Formerly Whitman's Private Road
Shamrock Cottage – Hager-Graham Dock



L-R: Joanne and Edward Gallagher with Edward Biggins at Hager-Graham dock (later Whitman Road Landing)



L-R: Friend, Marie Magee, Mary Biggins, about 1929 at Hager-Graham dock, with tall stumps and the Big Island in the background.



When the Biggins family went visiting around Yankee Lake in their 1924 Buick, all the children piled into the front seat. Left: Edward Biggins, Sr. standing in knickers, and far right standing, his mother Catherine Biggins.



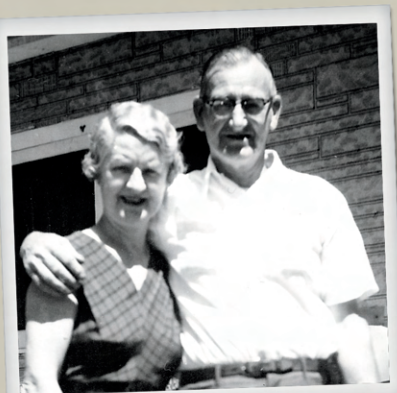
1920s Biggins boaters at Graham's Dock, with the Heyny Islands in the background. Left to Right: Friend, Anne McCann, Eugene Biggins, Dorothy McCann holding a beach ball, Edward Biggins Sr., Patrick Biggins, Anne McCann, and a Cusker.



Yankee Lake Road and Wolf Pond Road Burke Cottage → O'Keefe/Vogel

The original Burke Cottage, 1936, or Camp Blaze, is located on the corner of Yankee Lake Road and Wolf Pond Road. Agnes Burke, a niece of Katie Cusker of Camp Thomas on Whitman Road, suffered from tuberculosis. In 1936 Agnes and her husband Bill came to Yankee Lake so that Agnes could convalesce with their three daughters, Agnes, 10, Mary Patricia, 7, and Dorothy (nicknamed Mike), 4. They loved the quiet house in the country.

In the 1940s they won the Irish Sweepstakes on a horse named Blaze. With the money they bought two army-surplus barracks and divided them into four bungalows, giving one to each daughter as she married. Over the years, each daughter added on a porch, living room, additional bedrooms, and bathrooms, using wood from the dismantled fourth bungalow. Two of the daughters married Vogels, and the third married an O'Keefe, and today the grandchildren of Agnes and Bill Burke (shown below together in a 1962 photo) may be found celebrating their family life and their happy cottages at Yankee Lake.



Agnes Burke

Wolf Pond's Relationship to Yankee Lake



Yankee Lake to Wolf Pond

During the D&H Canal days, a Wolf Lake spillway flowed to the west shore of Yankee Lake near a monolithic rock that stands upright in Yankee Lake. When the Canal closed, this outlet was no longer necessary. The Wolf Pond spillway was blocked, allowing sale of the land, including the road, to Wolf Pond.

Wolf Pond Road

In the first decade of the 1900s the Yankee Lake Company purchased 45 acres along the west shore in the vicinity of Corduroy Brook, including what is today Wolf Pond Road. In 1926 Tom Watts, then owner of lands around Wolf Lake, signed a lease with the Yankee Lake Company for rights over the Yankee Lake-to-Wolf Pond Road. In 1940, the Wolf Lake Corporation was formed and, due to the death of Mr. Watts, the standing road lease agreement between Yankee Lake and Wolf Lake was unknown to the Wolf Lake Corporation; therefore

the lease was unpaid. The Yankee Lake Company put up barricades for nonpayment of lease. Words were exchanged, and the Yankee Lake Company filed a complaint. Wolf Lake tried to settle out of court. In 1943 Wolf Lake agreed to make payments totaling \$250 to Yankee Lake Company for an easement. The matter was settled, and eventually the road became public. (Information Courtesy of Wolf Lake Historian)

Wolf Lake Road / Yankee Lake Road

Ironically, in 1960 the portion of the "Whitman Private Road" from the top of Pine Kill Road on today's Yankee Lake Road going toward Wolf Lake appeared on tax maps as "Wolf Lake Road" but the sign at the Wolf Lake end always read, "Yankee Lake Road."

Wolf Pond Road, "Old" Wolf Pond Road, Old Whitman Road, and New Whitman Road

Today's Wolf Pond Road intersects with Yankee Lake Road at a four-way junction with a private drive going east (Wilbur Road, connecting to Whitman Road Corporation). Turning south at this same junction, the original Whitman Road crossed the Yankee Lake dam. A sign identifies that portion of Whitman Road: "Old" Wolf Pond Road.

When Wolf Pond Road Crossed the Dam

Automobiles were once allowed to cross the dam, but due to insurance requirements and government safety regulations, it was necessary to close the dam to traffic. The county renamed the remnant of Whitman Road at the south end of the dam, "New" Whitman Road.



The Pine Kill Road

A Part of Yankee Lake History

Some deeds along the Pine Kill Road provide access to Yankee Lake and are part of this history. The word “kill” is Dutch for stream or brook. Indian trails from the Basha Kill once followed the Pine Kill to its headwaters on Mount Prosper. In the early 1800s, loggers blazed trails along the Pine Kill, fording the kill four times before the road forked at the base of a steep hill. The western fork crossed the kill a fifth time (today’s Knobb Hill Road) and followed a tributary to the top; this became old Westbrookville Road. The eastern fork climbed an escarpment leading to Mount Prosper Road. In 1916, the Culver family deeded land to the Town of Mamakating for a shortcut directly to Yankee Lake, and the Pine Kill Road was complete.

The Pine Kill Road from Yankee Lake to Westbrookville and Back



By the 1940s, owner William H. Gill (straw hat) had planted beautiful evergreens and constructed an inviting screened porch.

In 1911 Lee Wakeman hired a contractor to build a stone cottage about 400 feet from Yankee Lake along the east side of Pine Kill Road. On 25 May 1912, C. M. Wood published in the *Middletown Daily Times-Press*, "L. Wakeman owns the pretty concrete and assorted field stone bungalow erected last season by George Babcock, contractor, which is situated on the Westbrookville Road entrance to the lake, south side." Lee Wakeman was an agent for the New York, Ontario & Western Railroad. He also owned a wooden cottage on the eastern side of North Shore Road.

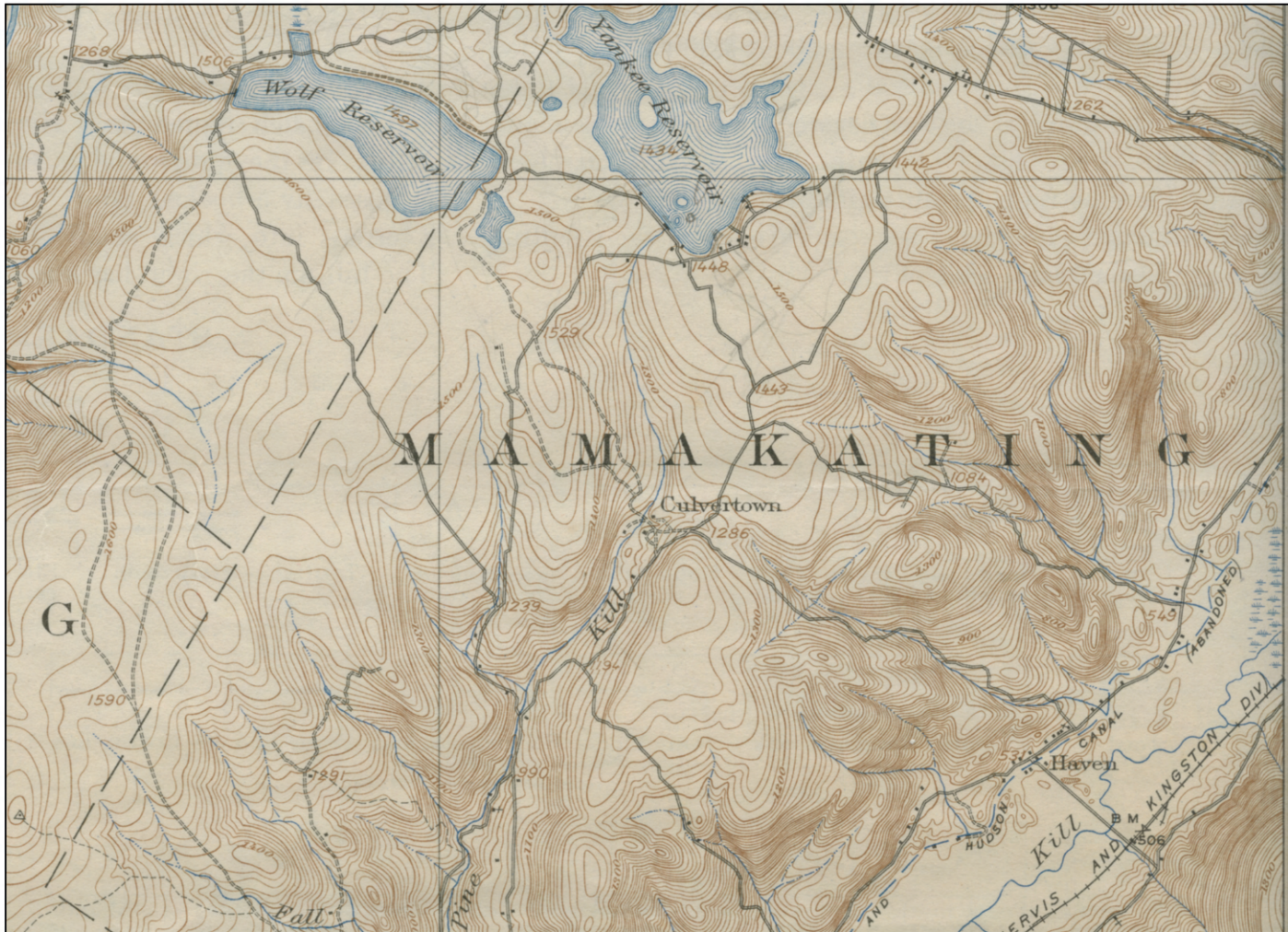


Image Credit: 1911 Topographic Map, Revised 1938, Patterson Collection. High Resolution Scan by Wade Lawrence.

Mamakating Topography Pine Kill Road



Yankee and Wolf Reservoirs appear on this topographical map of the Town of Mamakating based on surveys taken 1908-1909, and reprinted in 1938. On the map, the black dots show buildings; gray lines depict roads completed by 1938; dashed lines indicate driveways connecting to roads; and dashed blue lines are streams. The hamlet of Culvertown appears in the middle of the map. Sarah M. Culver acquired the land in 1853. Culvertown grew into an independent, hardworking community of about 65 Culver relatives. On 19 December 1916, Edwin and Grace Culver deeded land to the Town of Mamakating for a road across the section labeled Culvertown, which officially connected the lower portion of Pine Kill Road to the upper portion, allowing road clearing to be performed by the Township. (See the Appendix for Grace Graham's Diary of 17 February 1914 looking for a way through.) The predecessor of today's Old Westbrookville Road passes through the first "A" in the word Mamakating.



Culvertown Along Pine Kill Road



Left-to-Right: Clara Schlund, Grace DeGroat Culver Schlund, Leona Schlund (Ashworth) enjoying the dock at the Hager-Graham landing (now Whitman Road) “where the water was warmer than the Pine Kill.”



Stepping out from their 1926 Buick Master 4-Door Brougham at Culvertown along the Pine Kill Road were (left to right): Evelyn Culver, Lester Culver Sr., Epe Eastman Kimble, Mamie (Mabel) Culver Kimble, Grace DeGroat Culver Schlund, and Leona Schlund (Ashworth).



Left-to-Right: Isabel Grebeldinger and Leona Ashworth were best friends, born in 1920. The Grebeldingers owned property along the “new” (1916) Pine Kill Road extension just above Culvertown at the junction of a wagon road that came from east of Haven (see map.) Their neighbors, the Coté family (a name mentioned in nearly every deed there) owned vast acreage one mile south of Yankee Lake on the west side of the road. “Camp Marlorita,” adjacent east of Culvertown, was named after the three Coté daughters: Marie, Lorraine, and Rita. The Cotés built a concrete swimming pool diverting fresh water from the Pine Kill, making the water temperature for swimming more “chilling and bracing” than anything Leona or Isabel had ever experienced.



The Pine Kill Changed Course at David Rhodes Road

Left-to-Right: Chester Ashworth,
Bill Ashworth, two persons
unknown, Janet Ashworth with
baby, standing on Pine Kill Road
three houses down from David
Rhodes Road



Pine Kill Road
Washout of 2004

“The Flood” Along the Pine Kill Hurricane Diane 1955



In August 1955, Hurricane Diane, one of the most damaging hurricanes in recorded history, hit Sullivan County. The waters of Yankee Lake hit record highs but the dam held. The rushing waters of the Pine Kill outlet and its tributaries washed out all of the bridges along Pine Kill Road, pulling down live electrical wires and telephone poles. Old sheds, picnic tables, dog houses, and bridges raced down the raging Pine Kill and piled up, forming crude dams, and causing the stream to change course. In Westbrookville, just below the junction of David Rhodes Road, the Pine Kill overflowed onto Pine Kill Road and formed a gully in front of the houses near the road. Then, like a slithering snake, the kill swerved toward its original stream bed at the Ashworth Blanket Factory, then it made an “S” curve turning eastward, washing out a 300-foot length of Pine Kill Road to a depth of ten feet.

The residents of Lower Pine Kill Road were trapped. Supplies were air-dropped by helicopter. Families with babies received canned food and powdered milk. The Army Corps of Engineers bulldozed the bed of Lower Pine Kill to clear the channel of debris. This type of flooding did not occur again until 2004, and still, the Yankee Lake dam remained strong.



Cars in Trees
On Pine Kill Road



Washout of the
Pine Kill Road



Rattlesnake Den Sharing the Wilderness

For generations, the Yankee Lake area has been home to rattlesnake dens. A snake den in Culvertown has been observed and described by generations for well over a hundred years. Dens of Timber Rattlesnakes closer to Yankee Lake have been confirmed and documented by independent biologists in recent years. The specific locations of these dens are generally not published in an effort to protect this species, which has been designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as “threatened.”¹

Over the years, snakes have been run over, shot, stabbed, beheaded, chopped, and stomped to death. Such indiscriminate killing was based largely on fear and was not unique to Yankee Lake. It was quite the norm in the United States, in spite of the rarity of rattlesnake injuries and death. According to the DEC, “in New York there have been no records of human deaths attributable to rattlesnakes in the wild during the last several decades.”² This doesn’t mean they aren’t dangerous. They are. However, they are not known to attack humans unless they are provoked or attacked themselves.

As time has passed, we have become wiser about sharing the wilderness with wild creatures, including the timber rattler. We have learned to avoid the snakes rather than engage them, making them an occasional curiosity rather than victims.

Ironically, the timber rattler, because of its status as a “threatened” species – an animal that once instilled such fear – is now a key factor in protecting the Yankee Lake area from inappropriate development.



A young Bill Wykoff is shown above with a 52-inch eastern diamondback rattlesnake at Yankee Lake.

Black Bear Dens Along Pine Kill Road and Wolf Pond Road



Throughout Yankee Lake history, a black bear den has been located about a quarter-to-half-mile south of Yankee Lake along the Pine Kill Road. The location is near an old Yankee Lake dumpsite that was officially closed in the 1960s. It was not unusual for motorists to see bears in that vicinity. Occasionally, a mother bear and her cubs would cross the road.

From the Laura Patterson Journal of Saturday, 13 June 1931: “A mile from the lake, on rounding a curve in the road, we had the thrill of our lives: an immense big, shiny black bear ran down the road at top speed, several yards before turning into the woods.”

Another black bear den was located along Wolf Pond Road near the old Wolf Lake dump. By the 1960s, that dump was closed to all but horticultural debris. The black bears from that den followed pathways to the south along the west side of Yankee Lake foraging near the dam. From the Roffe Journal, Friday 20 October 1933: “At 6:30 pm 45° and a bright clear night. Some men said they saw bear tracks near Mosbachs.”

Black bears today continue to proliferate, dining on an abundance of Yankee Lake blueberries, prying open trash cans on Garbage Eve, raiding beehives, and generally making their presence known. Residents work to find the right balance in sharing the habitat with these beautiful, but unpredictable and potentially dangerous creatures.

Excerpts from Bill Wykoff's Memoirs

The 1950s early 1960s memoir of Bill Wykoff, grandson of Joseph Walzer, is the perfect description of “the good life” along the Pine Kill Road.

“Yankee Lake gave me the best years of my life and I will never forget a moment... My grandfather, Joseph Walzer, built [a cottage along the Pine Kill Road] and his brother, Bill Walzer, built his house next door to it...

“My cousins from both sides of the Walzer family would spend the entire summers enjoying the lake area. I remember a group of us used to walk to Andy's [Chick-A-Dee Farm] at night buying all sorts of treats. We used to scare the girls with stories of the bats flying overhead at night. I used to get my worms to fish with at Bill Cockrell's, who had a little place on the north side of the dam...

“The islands were directly in front of our dock and the dam was to the left of us. I still remember some of the family names up there – O'Leary, Aumiller, Cassidy, Euler, and Pelio...

“I remember the ice man selling us block ice for the refrigerator, and the Dugan man selling us pastries and Entenmanns snacks, cakes, etc...

“I remember the vegetable man and his truck... I remember each electrical / telephone pole had a numbered metal tag nailed to it. I remember all the ‘Posted’ signs on trees...

“I remember the deer coming to the side of the house to drink water from our rain barrels. I remember catching hundreds of the little orange colored lizards [red eft] after the rain, and the smell in the air... I remember the Saturday night Westbrookville Auctions—we never missed a one...

“I am so thankful for that time, and for a happy heart full of moments and memories I often share with my four kids and nine grandkids. I can only hope you all can reflect on the same kind of memories.”

The South Shore



This shoreline begins at the south end of the dam with beautiful views of Yankee Lake, including the small Heyny Islands. Rounding the south corner, sightseers along the south shore enjoy lengthwise views of the lake, featuring the Big Island and points beyond, all with a backdrop of spectacular sunsets.

Taking the high road, today known as Yankee Lake Road, historians can locate properties of original owners such as the Whitman Property located behind the dam; Jerome Best's Yankee Lake Hotel foundation and barn; the entrance to Pine Kill Road; cottages of the founders of Yankee Lake as seen in Chapter 3; musician Bob Dylan's retreat; cute sunset cottages; the site of Dr. Hunter's and Smithem's historic rental cottages and campsites; locations of a historic sawmill, ice house, and store; mysterious roads to no destination; the Yankee Lake Clubhouse; and hilltop properties reaching elevations higher than 1400 feet.



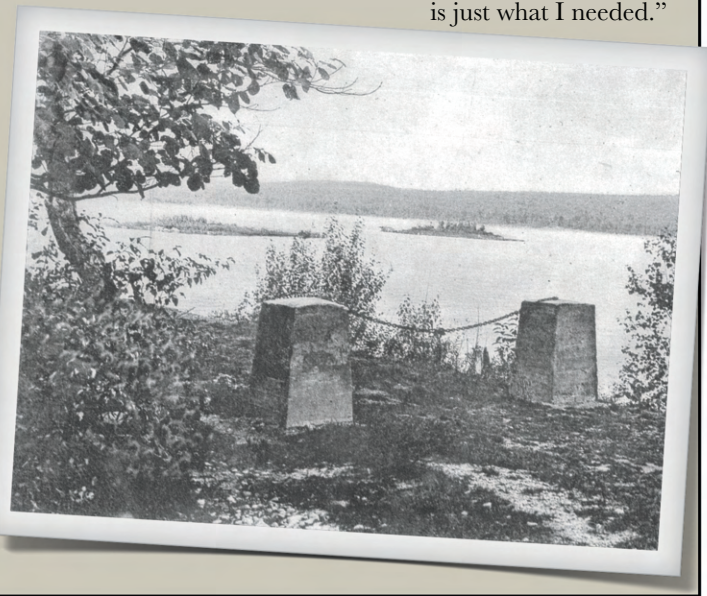
The South End of the Dam and The Small Islands

Heyny Islands

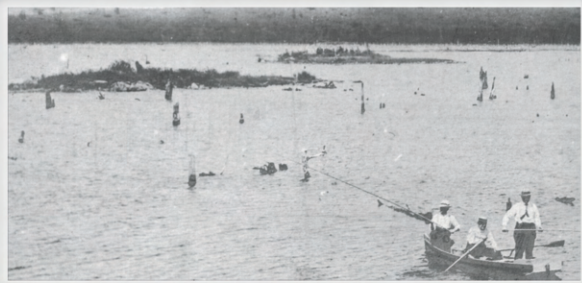


South Gate of the Dam

The view of the south gate of the dam is postmarked "Wurtsboro, NY, July 1913." A handwritten message exclaims, "Oh, but this is grand. I like the wildness. I can tramp like an old soldier. I eat, sleep, and walk. It is just what I needed."



A View from the Top of the Dam



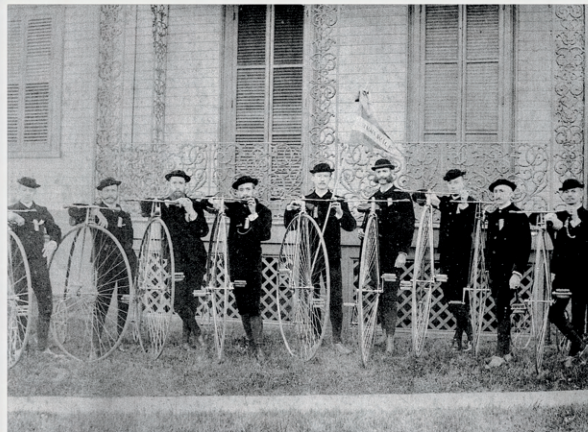
Heyny Islands and Men in Panama Hats Fishing

The small islands were described in a deed from Charles Whitman and Jessie E. Whitman to William A. Heyny on 4 September 1914, and again in 1917 in a deed to William and Elise M. Heyny, as including a right-of-way on a road now under water. The islands were henceforth known as The Heyny Islands. Other names were Flagpole Island (note flagpole on distant island,) Love Island, Snake Island, Little Islands, and Small Islands.

William A. Heyny was an avid cyclist, appearing on the right side of this photo of the Brunswick Bicycle Club. He owned the small islands, putting up a flagpole on his island on 12 August 1916. The Roffé journal chronicled the building of Heyny's new cottage called Forest Lodge, and his knowledge of where to fish: "29 May 1911... called on Heyny, who is building his own house on his place. Heyny has about 12 acres on the brook between Best's [Yankee Lake House Hotel] and Charlie's place [Charles Whitman]." 7 August 1913, "... went over to call a few minutes on Mr. and Mrs. Heyny, found them at home and so very charming and entertaining that we stayed for hours instead of minutes." 10 August 1915, "... went out fishing with William Heyny to a spot on the lake known only by Heyny... returned after getting two dandy bass." 12 August 1916, "About 5 pm this, the 12th day of August (Saturday) 1916, Willie Heyny raised a flagpole on his island in Yankee Pond and Old Glory now proudly flashes her colors therefrom."

Mr. Heyny was a member of the art faculty at Columbia University, and the author of several books dealing with commercial art. He lived year-round at Yankee Lake from 1930 until his death in April 1937. He is buried at Sylvan Cemetery in Wurtsboro.

The South End of the Dam and The Heyny Islands





Charles and Jessie Whitman Homestead Whitman Private Road

The Whitman Farm was located near the junction of what is today Yankee Lake Road and Old Westbrookville Road, the latter continuing straight ahead from the top of the hill. In this photo looking west, the farmhouse rises on the left side of the road. Sheds and barns may be seen in the distance. Near the porch of the house, a small white structure marks a well. (A newer well structure marks the location today.) The road appeared on deeds conveyed by the Whitmans as Whitman's Private Road, parts of which became Yankee Lake Road. The bridge in the foreground crossed the Pine Kill downstream from the outlet of the Yankee Lake dam.



Whitman Farm, Road, and Bridge

View From Pine Rest On Yankee Lake Road Along the South Shore



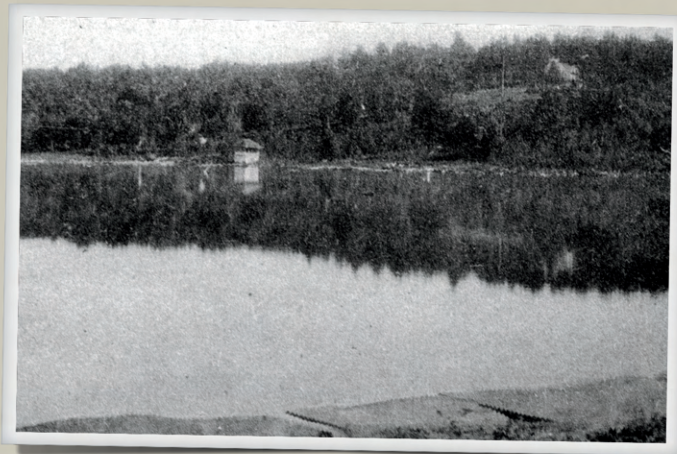
Pine Rest (about 1915) was a hotel located across the road from the south shore with at least one bungalow lakeside. These hillside panoramas show one of the Heyny Islands, and in the distance are the west side camps of Skelton, Craig, and perhaps the Tin House. Today's owner of the driveway with the Stone Pines found an ornate metal sign with the words "Pine Rest Park." A July 1920 newspaper clipping from the collection of Jean Green Griffith covered an auction of Smithem property at Yankee Lake: "Miss D. M. Agnew, former proprietor of Pine Rest, the attractive resort destroyed by fire at the lake last fall, purchased Lots No. 21 and 22 in what is known as the "Garden" on the east side of the [Smithem's] main road for \$350."



Along the South Shore
View From The Pine Rest
On Yankee Lake Road



“Stone Pines” Entrance to the
Driveway of the Former Pine Rest



Pine Rest in a Large Elevated Clearing on the South
Shore, As Seen From the Dam



Treetops, Rooftops and Yankee Lake
View from the Pine Rest Along the South Shore

Along the South Shore
Novia's Casa Bettina
Thaler Lane



Novia's Casa Bettina

The Novias created and advertised Novia's Casa Bettina. The compound of rental cottages with a lakeside lodge featured a shaded patio, a dock, footpaths, and flower gardens. The property passed to the Thalers. The main lodge burned down in the early 1970s and was replaced by the Thalers.



Bob Dylan on His Motorcycle

In 1965 the famous songwriter-artist-singer Bob Dylan recovered from a motorcycle accident at Dr. Edward Thaler's camp on the south shore. This clipping from the *Middletown Times-Herald Record* of 17 July 2009, Page 7B, shows a vintage photograph of Bob Dylan riding a Triumph motorcycle. Dylan wrote in a letter to Mrs. Thaler, "Yankee Lake is my favorite place."



Along the South Shore Wintergreen Hill The Greneau

Left to Right: Fred and Katherine Green, Will Boyd, Edith Creeden Boyd, Will Auden, Mabel Boyd, Jeanette Creeden. The cottage was located on the south shore of Yankee Lake at Wintergreen Hill.



The “Green Point Outing Club” pictured above was located along the south shore of Yankee Lake accessible from what is today called Yankee Lake Road. The land was purchased in 1911. The Greneau was named for the Green family whose name was Greneau when they arrived from France in the 1700s.

Along the South Shore
Wintergreen Hill
The Greneau



Dated 5 July 1914, from left to right written on the bottom of the photo were their last names only: Creedens 2, Latimers 2, Creedens 4, and Isabel and Edgar Clark.

Memoir by Jeanette Green Griffith

My father, Fred Green, bought the land at Yankee Lake in 1911 – with Will Creeden of Middletown... My father's sister married Will Creeden and they had a farm in Slate Hill, NY. In 1912 Yankee Lake was just developing. Most of the people were from the Middletown-Orange County area...

I was born in 1929. I have happy memories of Yankee Lake. When I was three years old I played in a sandbox; it kept me away from the water. We'd play in the sand near the kitchen door. One rule: Never go in the lake if there are white caps...

Our cottage had a loft with two white iron beds, mirrors that tilted so you could see the living room downstairs, good for spying on the grownups...

It was great because we learned a lot of things. For example you can peel the black birch and get that birch flavor by chewing. Our land has a lot of wintergreen and we would chew that...

Before we left for Yankee Lake, Mother would pack a picnic lunch. We always went along the Pine Kill by the bridge to a nice, flat cleared area that was nice for our picnic...

From Yankee Lake we walked to Wurtsboro. The way was shorter then. There was no four-lane Route 17. The road we used came across Mount Prosper Road and then down to the end of Mount Prosper. You can still see the other end of that road...

We've seen deer and bear at Yankee Lake. Two years ago we saw a mother bear and cubs. Back then it seems there were fewer deer than there are today...

We came here to visit my Aunt Jeanette... Relatives visited Yankee Lake and got married here. So when I went to Yankee Lake with my boyfriend, Mother said to me, "Don't you come back married!" ha ha!...

Aunt 'Nette kept a scrapbook. She kept lots of things from newspapers, obituaries, articles about someone she knew. There are articles that dealt with Yankee Lake events...

A path for walkers went across our yard. It was a common thing, walking paths. My Aunt was delighted because she could greet people coming by. There used to be a path almost to Maclay's Landing from Hunter's Landing but people objected starting in about the 1940s to people walking across their properties...

We rented a boat from Bill Cockrell of the West Side Stand. I remember the fish heads nailed to the boat shed...

A newspaper clipping from 1912 was sticking to the wall of our camp. It has always been there, so I wrote down what it said: "60 years ago this week – In 1852, an intoxicated man named John Gabbey fell into Yankee Pond and was drowned." There was an old grocery store down the road [pointing towards Sandy Lane from the Clubhouse] in the 1950s on the lake side....



Along the South Shore Cottages



Camps Along the South Shore



Cottages on Smithem's Hillside Driveway

The Smithem Journal, "In 1916-1917, William Von Berg of Middletown, NY ran the Yankee Lake camp... Dad decided to sell the lake property. The Yankee Lake Company had the opportunity to buy the camp but decided they could not raise the money, so it was cut up into lots [see map in Chapter 6, Businesses at Yankee Lake] and the camp and what was left of the Protz land sold. The Protz land ran on both sides of the south road from the Russ Cottage to the Rocky Cove. Only one small cottage was opposite the entrance to our camp. This was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Parsells, very nice people from Ellenville."



Along the South Shore Seven Sisters Camp Smithem Family Portraits



Seven Sisters Camp

Left-to-Right: Hettie Ellis Horton, Alice Horton Van Fleet, Amanda J. Horton Borland, Kitsey Horton Lain, Susan Horton, Bertha Horton Schultz, Bessie Jenny Lain Lines, Richard Allison Lain, Stella Smithem, Mary Clara Whitford (4 years old), Nettie Horton Smithem (holding baby), and Virginia Lines (infant)

1914 Portrait of the Smithem Family

In 1914 this Smithem family portrait appeared in print.

Left-to-Right: Wilmot (Ted) Smithem, W. P. Smithem, dog Nippy, Estelle Smithem, Elizabeth (Betty) Smithem, Vernetta Smithem, Claude Smithem.





Along the South Shore Jersey Road



Rickle Cottage 1930s



Rickle Grandchildren



Johnson Cottage 1950s



Nelson Cottage 1940s

Excerpts from the Rickle memoir by Gene Rickle, 2008: "... My family has been a fixture on Jersey Road for six generations. My paternal great-grandfather, Jacob Rickle, was a train engineer transporting lumber from Canada to New York and Philadelphia, and heard about Yankee Lake during his travels. He and his wife, Mary, bought property from Razey in the early 1920s and built their bungalow in 1925. It used to take them 'a day and two tires' to get to the lake... The family bought a second piece of property in 1925 and built a second bungalow in 1929... My other paternal great-grandfather, Victor Nelson, bought four lots adjacent to Jake and Mary's, and built another house in 1937 with local contractor Victor Swanburg. Total cost was \$1,650... Uncle Bob Nelson and his family lived in the house for a few years following World War II... My family built a number of other houses on the same road. These houses were bought by friends from New Jersey, giving the road the name Jersey Road... My maternal great-grandfather, Oke Johnson, bought a house at the top of the road in 1958... I remember hanging out at 'the store' across from the clubhouse, the Dugan bakery truck that used to drive up and down the dirt roads beeping its horn and selling baked goods, the little store at the bottom of the hill that had a pinball machine and Coca-Cola chest; and the first sightings of the bald eagles."

Along the South Shore The Eager Family



These post cards were provided by the Eager family, which has been prominent in the Yankee Lake community for generations. Judge Samuel W. Eager and his wife, Muriel, owned property on the South Shore. The family established cottages on the South Shore, and they were quite active in the Yankee Lake Company and the new YLPA, providing assistance and advice to the organization.

Sam Eager, Jr., not known for subtlety, is quoted in a 13 December 2000 *Times Herald Record* article addressing a Town of Mamakating Master Plan that would have allowed excessive development near Yankee Lake: “If they approve the zoning, it would be a rape of the town for the riches of the few.” His concerns echoed many Yankee Lakers in years before him, and were echoed, in turn, by many Yankee Lakers in 2013, 2014, and 2015 Town of Mamakating meetings. His legacy lives on.





Along the South Shore The VanBuren Family

Ed VanBuren, Sr. is shown after the blizzard of 1947 near his home on Yankee Lake Road, near the Sandy Landing.

This area of Yankee Lake Road is subject to fierce, unrelenting winter winds from the north and west, which pick up force and snow as they stream unobstructed across the length of Yankee Lake, piling drifts of snow in yards and across the road.





The
Old
Saw
Mill

The Old Saw Mill appeared to be at the extreme southeastern end of Yankee Lake, with a view toward the rocks at Maclay Landing.

Along the Southeastern Shore
The Morrison Bungalow
The Old Saw Mill



“The log cabin bungalow [pictured above and left], situated near the table rock, with a view of the lake past Rockafellow’s landing, is owned by James Morrison of Yonkers,” reported C. M. Wood of the *Middletown Daily Times-Press* on 25 May 1912. The note on the postcard above, dated 25 August 1913, said, “I am up here fishing. Your Mother.”

The name Morrison appeared across from today’s Yankee Lake Clubhouse as shown on the 1924 Razey Map. This Morrison name referred to James Easton Morrison and Elizabeth Morrison. In comparison, James D. Morrison and Jessie A. Morrison (maiden name Brown) of Kingston, NY in 1928 owned Smithem Lot #17 adjacent east of Smithem Landing.



Morrison Log Cabin Bungalow



Along the Southeastern Shore The Yankee Lake Clubhouse Formerly Elizabeth House



Below, a cleared path from the Elizabeth House provided a lake view. When the Elizabeth House no longer operated as a boarding house, the Yankee Lake Lot Owners Association (formed in 1946) acquired the building for use as a Clubhouse.

View from The Elizabeth House



Yankee Lake Clubhouse, 1956

White stone pillars (see above) once marked the entrance to what is today's North Shore Drive at the corner of Yankee Lake Road. The Elizabeth House (now the Yankee Lake Clubhouse) was originally a boarding house named for its hostess-owner, welcoming guests to Yankee Lake beginning in the early 1900s, according to descendant Dave Schardien.

Next Stop on Our Tour

Mount Prosper

Yankee Lake sits atop a geologic feature called Mount Prosper. The mountain has an elevation of 1510 feet, with a basin that provides a whale-shaped rim around the north end of Yankee Lake.

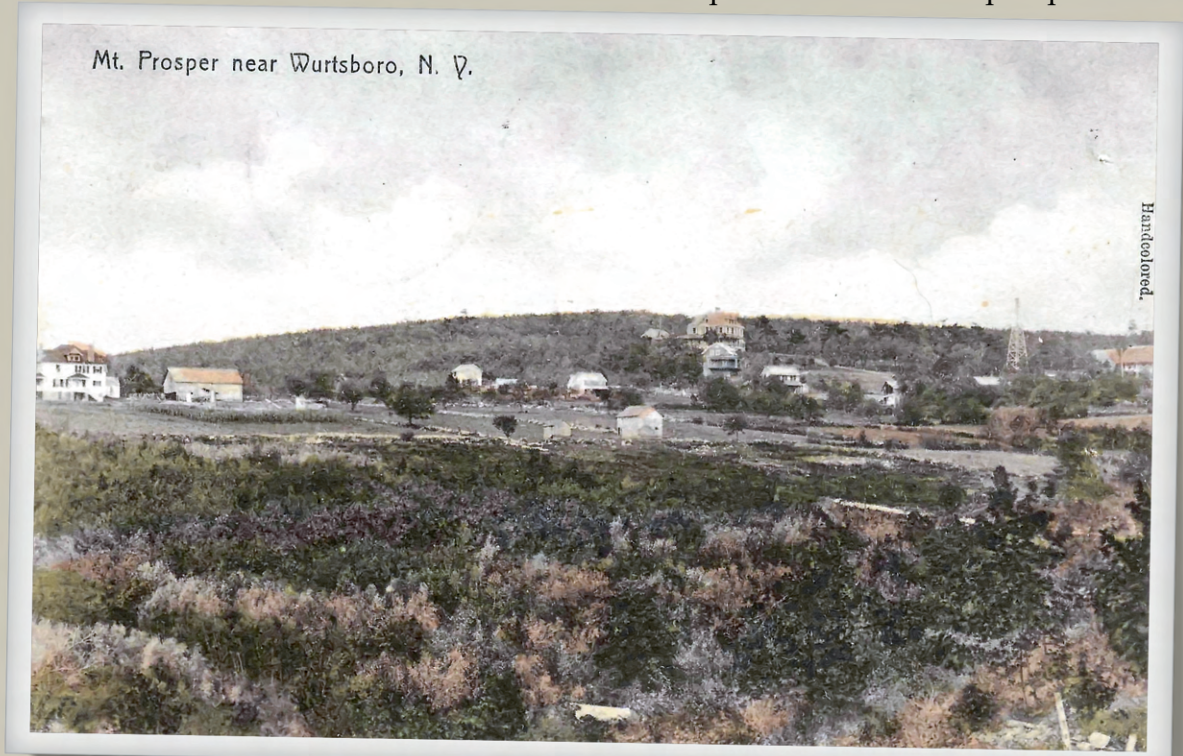
While Yankee Lake is cupped in the crest of this Mountain, the term “Mount Prosper” is often used to refer to the area at the intersection of Mount Prosper Road, Little Road, and Yankee Lake Road. It is often viewed as the gateway to Yankee Lake for those coming from the Quickway (Route 17, soon to be US Interstate 86). Mount Prosper is very much a part of the Yankee Lake community, with several properties at Mount Prosper having deeded lake rights.

In our tour, we will take a closer look at three historical elements at Mount Prosper – The Mount Lina House, the Old Yankee Lake School, and the Mount Prosper Manor.



Mount Prosper

This hand-colored undated postcard shows a view of Mount Prosper from a distant perspective



Mount Prosper
Mount Lina Boarding House Hotel
Corner of Little Road and Yankee Lake Road



Mount Lina Boarding House Hotel



Mount Lina House Mount Prosper

An undated
advertising
brochure for
the Mount
Lina Boarding
House Hotel,
now a private
home at the
corner of Little
Road and
Yankee Lake
Road.

On the Mountains

90 miles from N. Y. City, on N. Y., O. & W. Ry.

MOUNT LINA HOUSE



H. L. DAVIS, Proprietor

WURTSBORO, SULLIVAN COUNTY, NEW YORK



THIS small leaflet is issued to direct those looking for rest and recreation to a spot within 100 miles of New York City, that offers the very climatic conditions so beneficial to mind and health. Perhaps nowhere within 3 hours' journey of New York can be found a place more suitable than the Delaware Range of Mountains, running through Sullivan County, N. Y., on which is located Mount Lina House, 3 miles west across the valley on the mountain from the N. Y., O. & W. R. R. Depot, 90 miles from New York city. Elevation, 1,400 feet above the sea.

THE HOUSE is new, has large, cool parlors and spacious piazzas, large cool sleeping rooms, outside windows, best of beds, clean and neat. Always a gentle breeze. Open country, mountains, farms, valleys, hills, the famous Sams' Point, Shawangunk, and other mountains of note, adding wonder to the views surrounding our place. The large grounds are furnished with rustic seats, swings, etc., where rest and comfort can be enjoyed by the wearied.

RATES : \$7 to \$8 per week for Adults ; Children over 1 and under 10, half-rate ; trunks, 50c ; Adult transportation, 50c ; for six weeks or more, free transportation.

Mount Lina House Mount Prosper



An undated advertising Brochure for the Mount Lina Boarding House Hotel, now a private home at the corner of Little Road and Yankee Lake Road.

~ To The Sportsman ~

There are 5 Lakes within a radius of two miles, namely : Yankee, Wolf, McKee, Foulwood and Masten Lakes. Boats free to guests. Clear water for Bathing 15 minutes' walk from house.

The House sets a good, wholesome table, pure milk, home grown vegetables, cooked and served in the best manner. Pleasant walks every way from the house. You will not be hemmed in ; go where you please and get all 'out of nature there is in it.

Good Fishing in all the lakes. Pickerel, Perch, Black Bass, Eels, Catfish, Etc. Masten Lake is noted for its game fish. There are several trout streams near by.

Shooting in Season—Partridge, Rabbit and Woodcock afford excellent sport.

Fowlwood Lake was originally named Lord's Pond. Fowlwood Lake became Wanaksink Lake in the 1920s when that tract of land became the Wanaksink Lake Corporation. "Wanoksink" was the name of a settlement of the Esopus tribe of Lenape in an area of what is now Ulster County. The meaning of the word is unknown.

Just like Yankee Lake, McKee's Pond was dammed in 1869 to serve as a reservoir for the D&H Canal. It is now called Lake Louise Marie.



Mount Prosper School District # 8
Yankee Lake School
23 Yankee Lake Road



Mrs. Nichols taught school at the
Mount Prosper School District #8, Yankee Lake, NY.



Mount Prosper School District #8, Yankee Lake School, at 23 Yankee Lake Road is today a private home with additions built around the original school building. The upper window of the schoolhouse is still visible from Yankee Lake Road. (Sketch by D. Patterson.)

Mount Prosper School District # 8
Yankee Lake School
23 Yankee Lake Road



Mount Prosper School District #8 in the 1950s
Front, Sitting: Carrol Zarnow, Jahrling, Billy Lawrence;
Middle: Unidentified; Cora Hummel, Unidentified;
Back: Mary Ann Stern, Shirley Little, Unidentified, Rita Jahrling, Arlene Ratner, Bobby Ratner



Along Mount Prosper Road/Little Road Mount Prosper Manor Bill's Vegetarian Manor

Based on documents provided by Scott O'Dell and Pat Desanna Weinert, Freddie Bendell was told that this renovated stone house structure, located at 10 Little Road on Mount Prosper, was a barn constructed by the Dutch settlers back in the day. The structure was made out of 27-inch thick cut stone block.



Freddie wrote, “May Zuckerman was the wife of Samuel Zuckerman, a wealthy dealer in dishes and china. He had a home in Brooklyn and the imposing mansion up in Wurtsboro. When he died of a heart attack in the mid-1930s (middle of the Great Depression), he left his wife without much money. She had the Wurtsboro home which she converted (about 1940 or so) into a hotel, Mt. Prosper Manor. She hired my mother, Jean Bendell, to work as her assistant manager for the summers.

“She eventually built an ‘annex’ to add more rooms and a ‘casino’ with a tennis court. The casino was for the guest’s entertainment and had a small stage for some theatricals. The property included 100 acres or more, and included the stone barn, a stone ice-house about 50 feet away (it was destroyed when the new Route 17 came through [circa 1957]), and a bungalow with two bedrooms, a bathroom and a kitchen upstairs. That had been for servants.

“When her hotel failed, she sold it and it became Bill’s Vegetarian Manor, which also failed a few years later... While the place was the vegetarian hotel, May Zuckerman moved down to the little bungalow and kept her immaculate 1932 Buick Sedan in the barn. It was up on blocks there during each winter, when she would return to Brooklyn...”

“My brother and I spent every summer up there with May from 1940 through 1951. Before the new Route 17 came, we used to go downhill behind the property into the woods and explore the forest and build lean-tos and practice our imaginary woodcraft. There was also a matching but much smaller stone building called the ‘ice house’ where winter ice from lakes would be stored, insulated by layers of hay and the thick stone walls, and would provide ice in the summers. About 30 feet from the barn was a well with a cast-iron pump at which we would have to pump up water to wash our clothes in a huge steel tub with a washboard... There were a lot of wild blueberry bushes in the surrounding fields and we used to pick pots full of them and May Zuckerman made the best blueberry pies in the world... We had a wood burning stove – cast iron – in the bungalow kitchen which provided heat in the very cold evenings and morning... Great memories for my brother and me...”

Along Mount Prosper Road /Little Road Mount Prosper Manor Bill’s Vegetarian Manor





North and East Shores

Founders of the Yankee Lake Company in 1907 divided acreage into lakefront lots 100 feet wide along the North and East Shores. As more cottages sprung up, guests arrived at Yankee Lake for picnics and, following the east shore northward, to a scenic destination called Black Rock. Later, a causeway provided access to cottages on the northern shore. The existing North Shore Drive was completed by the Yankee Lake Company in the 1980s, and was given over to the Town of Mamakating for maintenance purposes shortly thereafter. Along this route, happy gathering places came alive on sunny days, as can be seen in photographs showing Maclay Landing, Smith Landing, and more.

North and East Shores Corner of Yankee Lake Road and North Shore Drive



Nic Pierce is pictured in this 1950s view of the Yankee Lake Clubhouse from the North Road (today's North Shore Drive). In 1958 a mortgage was arranged for the construction of a large addition to the building for a social hall (not visible in this picture), including a renovated kitchen, indoor plumbing, rest rooms and a septic system. In 1958 Ernest Forthoffer (owner of Van Sickle Shoes in Middletown, NY) delivered a great speech on the occasion of the dedication of the addition to the clubhouse, reprinted in the Appendix section of this book. The new space accommodated large meetings of both the Yankee Lake Association and the Yankee Lake Company. Social activities flourished including dinners, dances, children's recreation, regatta events, the Miss Yankee Lake pageant, movies, classes, nature programs, and roller skating. An upstairs apartment complete with small bath and kitchen allowed a summer recreation director to stay on premises. In 2000 the Yankee Lake Clubhouse became the property of the Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc.

163



North and East Shores Along the North Road (Today's "North Shore Drive")



The Alyea property was Lot Number Eight of the Yankee Lake Company Map of 1912, or eight lots down North Shore Drive from the Clubhouse. This view from Alyea Landing looks toward the cottages on the South Shore of Yankee Lake.

1912 Map Parcels on the North Shore Road

The North Road was the private road shown to the far right of this 1912 Yankee Lake Company Map. Lakeside parcels were sandwiched between this road and the eastern shore of Yankee Lake. It was called the North Road because it provided access from Yankee Lake Road, beginning at today's Clubhouse, to the northern shore of the lake.





North and East Shores Maclay's Homestead



Captain Maclay, a Civil War Veteran, was a prominent land owner at Yankee Lake. On 4 July 1861, William P. Maclay enlisted in Company C of the 62nd Volunteer regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry. Promoted to Captain after the Battle of Antietam, he commanded his regiment during the battle of Charles City Courthouse in Virginia and mustered out on 25 July 1864.

After traveling through the west and south in the mercantile line in the years immediately after the war, he came to Wurtsboro in 1893 and purchased property at Yankee Lake in 1896, according to an article by C. M. Wood in the 25 May 1912 edition of the *Middletown Times-Press*.





North and East Shores
Maclay's Homestead
Maclay's Landing

Captain Maclay subdivided over forty acres of his land for construction lots, with access to the lake at Maclay's Landing on the North Shore Road.



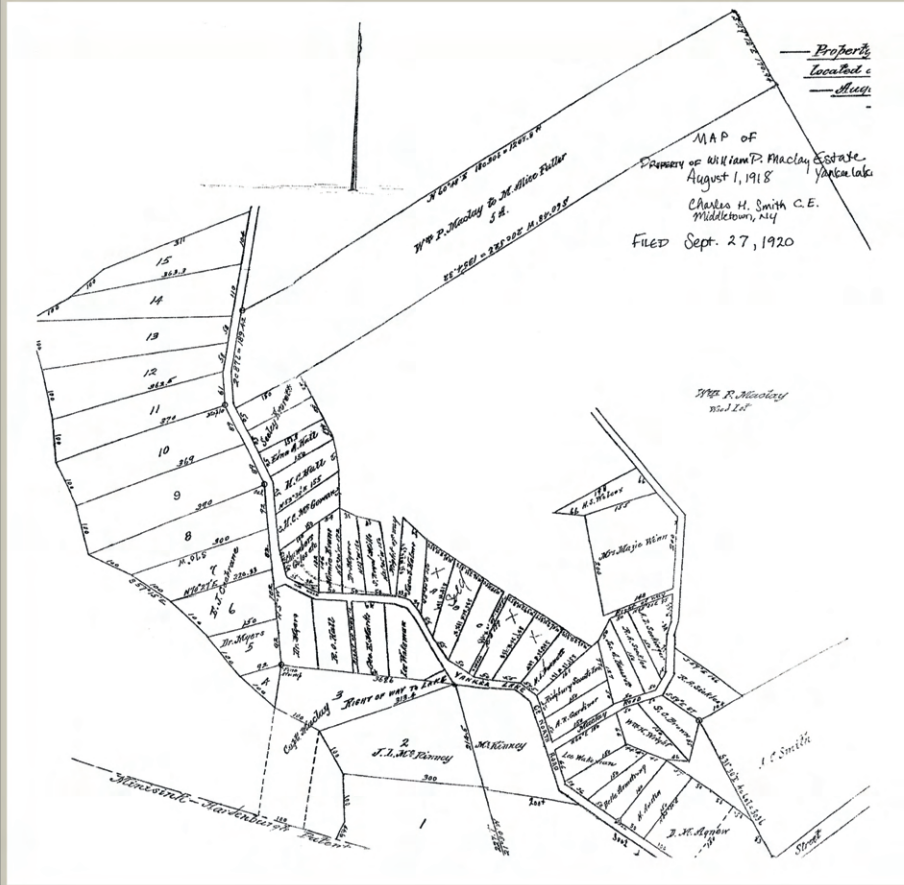
Maclay Point With a Bench and Birches



Maclay's Landing
(Above, 1920s; Right 1940s)



North and East Shores William P. Maclay Estate 1 August 1918



1918 Map showing Maclay's Landing and the names of some of the surrounding owners along North Road (North Shore Drive), including:

- Lee Wakeman
- George E. Marks
- R. O. Hall
- H. A. MacGowan
- Minnie Evans
- S. R. Mills
- J. Helms
- Ridgebury Scouts, Inc.
- A. R. Gardiner
- Belle Armstrong
- H. Austin
- D. M. Agnew
- Wm. H. Wright
- R. A. Sickles
- A. D. Seckinger
- S. C. Brown
- E. J. Cochran
- J. L. McKinney
- M. Winn

Dr. Frank D. Myers owned property adjacent to Maclay's Landing.



North and East Shores Wakeman's Bungalow and Camp Goshen



Wakeman Bungalow

“L. Wakeman of Wurtsboro, agent for the New York, Ontario & Western Railway at Mamakating station, has a very conveniently arranged bungalow, designed by himself,” according to an article by C. M. Wood in the 25 May 1912 edition of the *Middletown Times-Press*.

Camp Goshen

“Camp Goshen is owned by George H. Mills of Goshen, NY. This cottage is nicely located on a prominent point overlooking the lake,” according to an article by C. M. Wood in the 25 May 1912 edition of the *Middletown Times-Press*.

The cottage was adjacent to a right-of-way on the east side of what is today North Shore Drive.



North and East Shores Along the North Shore Drive



U. G. Evans Camp

Ulysses Grant Evans ran a wagon shop in Slate Hill, NY. When the automobile came along, he became the Ford dealer. His sons later became the Chevrolet dealer under the name Evans Brothers, according to Dan and Erika Myers.

The photo at right is Rocky Point, near Weber's Camp. Carl F. J. Weber, in his capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of the Yankee Lake Company, along with Frederick W. Seward, Wm. H. Moser, C. F. McVoy, and C. Fred Ritter, in 1945 wrote a letter to all property owners of Yankee Lake stating a position to which he hoped all lot owners would agree, "To keep Yankee Lake as a wholesome, enjoyable place for all... and to be a contributing member of the community."





North and East Shores
Dr. Frank D. Myers' Landing



Myers' Landing



North and East Shores Dr. Frank D. Myers' Camp Yankee's Lodge



Right, Frank D. Myers II
at center, with Brooks the dog
and another dog.

Captain Maclay's and Dr. Myers' Landings

Above, a boat leaving Dr.
Myers' landing, with
Maclay Landing dock in
the foreground.

Standing, from left to
right, are Will Clark,
Florence Clark, and little
Alma Clark.

Dr. Myers' Camp





North and East Shores Dr. Frank D. Myers' Camp Yankee's Lodge

Myers' Landing

Below, three generations visited Dr. Myers' Camp. Standing, L-R,
Dr. Frank D. Myers, Horace Hall, and Captain Maclay.

Seated, L-R: Rev. Hugh Walker, (collie), Lorne Hope, Frank D.
Myers II, Edna Austin Hall, Sarah Crane Hall, Madge Hall
Myers, Jessie Hall Walker, Richard O. Hall.



Hunting Season About 1912

Dr. Myers' Camp "Yankee's Lodge" spanned
1911-1924. Captain Maclay is pictured above on
the far right with a gun.

An excerpt from the 25 May 1912 *Middletown
Times-Press* article by C. M. Wood states:
"Captain William P. Maclay, who is now in his
72d year... is enjoying good health."



North and East Shores Lake View Cottage The MacGowans



Horace MacGowan purchased a lot on North Shore Drive before 1918, but never built on that lot. Instead, until 1936, the family rented C. Fred Ritter's camp, named Hillaire, for family vacations. (Hillaire was subsequently purchased by James Biancolo and Edith Santaniello Biancolo.)

173



Mr. Wickham and Horace
MacGowan, 1931

Horace, Elizabeth, Betty, and
Roger MacGowan 1931



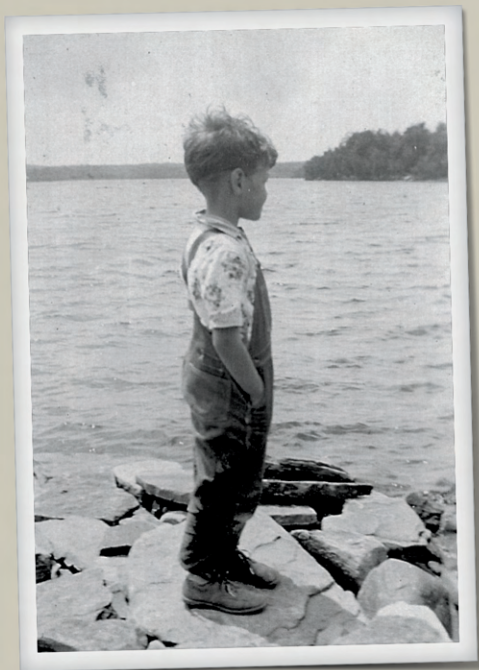
In 1936, Mr. MacGowan died suddenly. The following year, his widow, Elizabeth Tappan MacGowan purchased Lake View Cottage, next-door to the Ritter camp, from Fannie Haggerty. Lake View Cottage has been in the MacGowan family since.

Mr. MacGowan, Mr. Wickham, and Mr. John Ferguson, all from Middletown, fished together and played Quoits on Mr. Ferguson's property further up the North Road.



North and East Shores
Lake View Cottage at
North Shore and Smith Roads

Roger MacGowan
with toy sailboat
on the porch at
Ritter's Camp
(now Salmans)
1931



Roger MacGowan Looking North
along the East Shore (1933)



Catherine MacGowan
at Yankee Lake (1916)

North and East Shores
Lake View Cottage
The MacGowans



Lake View Cottage was, and continues to be, the site of MacGowan family homecomings.

In this photo (1959), Elizabeth Tappan MacGowan (front, seated) is surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

2nd Row (L-R):
Ginger and Betsy MacGowan, Debbie and Chris Kotsch.

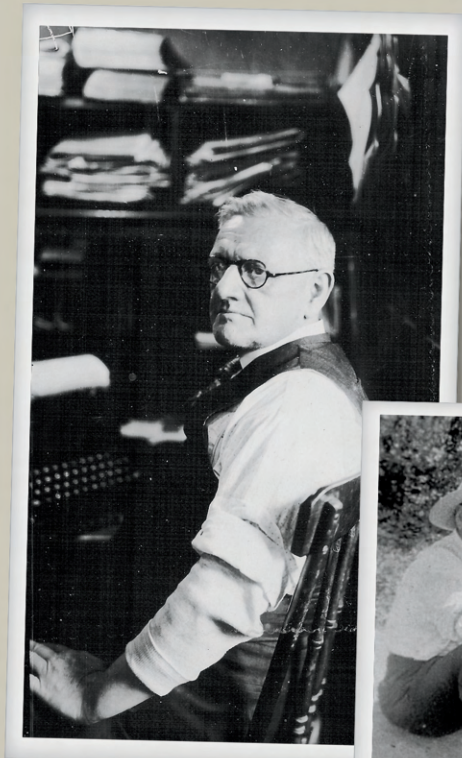
3rd Row (L-R):
Roger, Cathy (being held), and Betty MacGowan, Oscar and Catherine (MacGowan) Cutler, Betty (MacGowan) and Bill Kotsch.



North and East Shores Lake View Cottage and *Old Man Middletown*

Horace MacGowan spent his career as a newspaperman. He was Associate Editor of the *Middletown Times Herald*, and wrote under the byline, *Old Man Middletown*. On 1 August 1932 (see Appendix for the full article), he had just returned from his annual vacation at Yankee Lake. Although he generally wrote of financial news under his byline, in this issue of the paper, *Old Man Middletown* instead wrote a tongue-in-cheek recap of the various shenanigans and tales heard on the front porch of Mrs. Bonas' store and along Yankee Lake's North Shore. He told of the night-time noise of an amateur saxophonist at Boyd's; of men at Scheller's Boarding House using rattlesnakes for fish bait, of John "The Fisherman" Koman's response; and of snapping turtles stealing whole branches from Mr. Roth's huckleberry bushes.

The stories, while silly tall tales, tell the truth of camaraderie along the North Shore, of the importance of Mrs. Bonas' store in the community life, and how Yankee Lake provided sheer joy to those in need of exactly that during the years of the Great Depression.

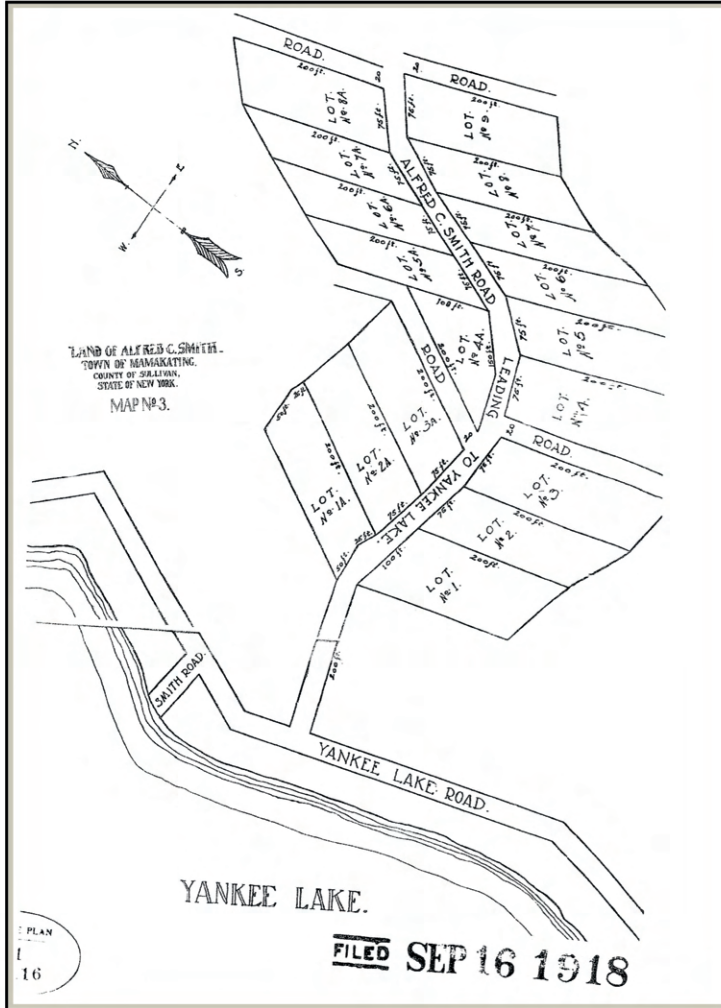


Old Man Middletown
Horace MacGowan
pictured below on his
1932 vacation that
prompted his article of
1 August 1932. Pictured
left, at his typewriter as
he would have written
the article.



Old Man Middletown
Horace MacGowan

North and East Shores Smith Road and Environs Lands of Alfred C. Smith 1918



The Smith Road is named for the family of Alfred C. Smith (born in Canada in 1859), his son, Clayton L., and grandson, Alfred C. The Smith family owned a large tract of land along what is now the Smith Road, as well as key properties in the Masten Lake Community.

The Smith Road was strategic in the early days of Yankee Lake, because it connected the lake from the North Shore Road directly to what was then State Route 17 (now Mt. Prosper Road and Little Road). Later, an upgraded Route 17 was created, connecting Wurtsboro to Rock Hill (now known as Wurtsboro Mountain Road).

A few map notations: What is labeled on the map as “Yankee Lake Road” should have been labeled “Yankee Lake Company Road” (today’s North Shore Drive). The short road (bottom left) labeled “Smith Road” refers to the walking path to the Smith Landing, which still exists and is used as the center of community and social activity for those along the Smith Road even today.



North and East Shores Along the Smith Road The O'Brien Family

For most of the twentieth century, the Smith Road was a very narrow, dirt road that wound up the hill through the woods. The O'Brien Family vacationed at Yankee Lake for years, staying at Scheller's Boarding House (later Volpe's) on the corner of Smith Road and North Shore. Then, in 1930, Dennis and Agnes O'Brien, along with Agnes' sister, Catherine Riordan, purchased property from Al Smith and had their "Kincora Cottage" built. Kincora Cottage, which still exists on Little Road, was built as a replica of Al Smith's cottage.



Named after a place of ancient significance in Irish ballads, sometimes translated from the Gaelic as "little castle," Kincora Cottage still remains nestled in the woods off the lower half of the Smith Road.

Kincora Cottage

Bernice Nolan (who later married Robert Armistead), and Al Whelan (Regina Whelan Holland's father), as teenagers at Kincora Cottage. Bernice and MaryAnn O'Brien were best friends from Jersey City. Following their marriage, Bernice and Robert Armistead bought their own property on Smith Road. This started a long and enduring legacy of Armistead presence on Yankee Lake continuing through today. Likewise, Al Whelan and his wife purchased property on North Shore Drive, where the family still lives year-round today.



North and East Shores Along the Smith Road Kincora Cottage



Dennis Marcom shared a story of being at Yankee Lake as a child during the early winter, when there was a good snow. He recalls that, "There was a fun, stranded, wilderness kind of feeling in the air, with completely impassable roads. The world took a time out. It was magical! Then, down Smith Road, headed toward the lake, came an open-topped Model T, just cruising right along. They had a set of chains on the rear tires, and those large-diameter spoked wheels had no problem at all chugging through the deep snow. Al and Clate (Clayton) Smith were in the car. They stopped and we had a nice visit. After a bit, they were off again towards the lake. They looked to be enjoying themselves immensely. I know I enjoyed it!"



Mae Whelan (far left), Dennis and Agnes O'Brien (far right) enjoying an outdoor meal with friends and family at Kincora Cottage (Smith Road) about 1936.



North and East Shores Along the Smith Road The Sieminski Estate

An oft asked question of locals and newcomers alike is the history of the big white houses with expansive lawns up near the top of the Smith Road.



William Sieminski

Researching the story of these homes led us to the story of a real-life “American Dream” family.

In 1891, Josef Sieminski immigrated to the United States from Russia. He was followed the next year by his wife and seven children.

As the story is told around the lake, the immigrant family made ends meet by going house-to-house in their New Jersey neighborhood, collecting laundry and then delivering it once cleaned. Over time, the operation expanded from hand collection to a push cart. Then from push cart to a truck. Then to a few trucks. And eventually to a fleet of trucks.

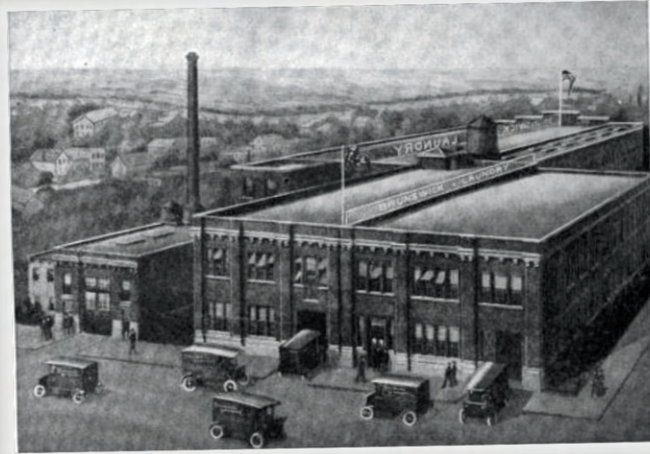
The lore seems to be corroborated by available documentation. Although Josef was listed in census reports as a carpenter on the 1900 United States Census, three of his sons, William, Henry, and Stanislaus, identified themselves as “laundrymen.”



Henry Sieminski

And, indeed, as the story unfolds, the Sieminskis eventually founded the Brunswick Laundry Company.

Located in Hudson County, New Jersey, the Brunswick Laundry was, at one time, the largest laundry company of its kind in the world.



The Brunswick Laundry Company, prospered under the leadership of generations of the Sieminski family. The image shown above, from page 26 of the 15 September 1921 issue of the National Laundry Journal, shows the Sieminski's laundry operation.

Documents show that family members were remarkably well educated, in business, in engineering, and in technical areas related to the business. They were exceptional entrepreneurs, and are remembered as pillars of the business community.

The Sieminski "estate" includes three main houses. The property on the north side of Smith Road was purchased by John Kozlowski from Alfred C. Smith in October 1923. Kozlowski was married to Czeslawa Sieminski, the eldest sister of William, Henry and Stanislaus (the founders).

North and East Shores Along the Smith Road The Sieminski Estate



The property on the south side of the road (which actually included multiple "parcels") was purchased by William and Helen Sieminski from Owen Bromfield (date unknown). While it is not clear who bought first and who followed, or how they discovered Yankee Lake, it is clear that the family loved, cared for, and passed the properties down for generations. Subsequent family owners included not only Sieminski and Kozlowski, but Zalewski, Harlow, Hunter, Mackiewicz, Latoraca, Dailey, and Wahlgren family names.

Although we do not know precisely when each of the homes was built, at least one was built as early as 1918, with improvements made to all of them throughout the years.

These properties are no longer owned by the Sieminski descendants. The Kozlowski property is now owned by Peter and Elizabeth Goodman, while the William and Helen Sieminski property is now owned by the Coruzzi sisters and their husbands.

William and Helen Sieminski had five sons and two daughters. One of their sons, Alfred Dennis, served in the Army in Korea and was elected to four terms as a Democratic Congressman from the 13th Congressional District of New Jersey. After leaving Congress, Alfred Dennis Sieminski worked in education and for the Veteran's Administration.

North and East Shores Along the Smith Road Celebrity Jean Carroll



Although no longer a household name, part-time Yankee Lake resident Jean Carroll (1911 – 2010) was a well-known and respected comedian from the late 1940s into the 1960s. Raised in the Bronx, her vaudeville roots as a dancer, and the unusual combination of beauty, humor and comedic timing, helped to launch a successful career at New York night clubs, theaters, and in the budding television business.

Known in private life as Celine Howe, she is remembered as one of the first stars of mainstream female solo stand-up comedy. In 1949, she was the first comedian ever to appear at New York's Copacabana, Paramount Theater, and Capitol Theater. She appeared on *Toast of the Town* more than 20 times (a still frame from one of her appearances is pictured below). For a time in the early 1950s, Ed Sullivan had her

under exclusive contract for \$10,000 per show. After that contract ended, she was a mainstay on Perry Como's *Chesterfield Supper Club*, Milton Berle's *Texaco Star Theatre*, and Jack Carter's *Cavalcade of Stars*. She even had her own ABC sit-com, *The Jean Carroll Show* (aka, *Take It From Me*) in 1953-54.

Jean Carroll and her talent-agent husband, Buddy Howe (chairman of the Creative Management Agency), owned a home at the corner of Smith Road and what is now Little Road (Route 17 at the time). She was an active member of the Yankee Lake community, and is remembered through family lore and photographs. Her participation in the 1956 Regatta ceremonies is pictured in Chapter 8 of this book.

In 2006, Joy Behar and Lily Tomlin joined a host of other comedians to pay tribute to her at a New York Friar's Club roast in her honor. Lily Tomlin narrated a 2007 documentary, *Jean Carroll: I Made It Standing Up*.

Jean Carroll
Giving Her
Monologue
on Ed Sullivan's
Toast of the Town
5 April 1959



At
Age
95

North and East Shores
Renida Camp and
Ritter's Camp, Hillaire



Below
Ritter's Camp,
Hillaire, in 1931

C. Fred Ritter was
a member of the
Board of
Directors of the
Yankee Lake
Company in 1945



Renida Camp on the Lakefront
Along North Shore Drive



Camp Scheller

In the 1920s, visitors to Yankee Lake could stay at Scheller's Hotel at the corner of Smith Road and North Road (today's North Shore Drive). It was a small hotel with a casino. According to Ramona Volpe, granddaughter of the original owner, "Apparently it was a bootlegger's get-away back during the Prohibition." In the 1930s, Scheller's Hotel was a gathering place for the Annual Meeting of the Yankee Lake Company, Inc. and remarks in the Roffe journal regarding these meetings may be found in the Appendix of this book.



North and East Shores
Koman's Cove Camp
About 1940



Cove Camp (pictured from the 1940s) was owned by John Koman, known locally as “John the Fisherman.” Koman’s camp sat directly across North Shore Road from the furthest extent of the north shore cove. According to local lore, Mr. Koman constructed a small dam across the Grassy Brook inlet, creating a private “bait pond” for his personal use. He was also known by the kids as “The Worm Man,” as he would sell his bait to the locals.



North and East Shores Robert Boyd Family

In 1929, Robert J. Boyd purchased a fishing cabin located on North Shore Road with beautiful lake front access, as well as several acres across the road. His dream was for the extended family of eight to enjoy the outdoors during the summer.

While he toiled away in the garment district of NYC during the week, his second wife, Mary Cullen Boyd, and their 6 boys – Robert James Jr., Donald, Douglas, and John Boyd and Gilbert and James Cullen – were at Yankee Lake. He had a long commute every weekend from Rutherford, New Jersey during June, July, and August, but looked forward to arriving at the camp, named Rogue's Roost, and breathing that mountain air.

Robert James and Mary Cullen Boyd



Photo Credits: Boyd Collection (All)

The Boyd-Cullen Family



Pictured Left-to-Right: Robert James Boyd, Robert Jr., Donald Boyd, Gilbert Cullen, Mary Cullen Boyd, Douglas Boyd, James Cullen, and John Boyd

Four of their sons served their country during World War II. Bob in the Army Air Corps, Donald in the Army, Douglas in the Marines, and Gilbert in the Navy. James was deferred due to a mild deformity from childhood polio and John was too young.

During the summer of 1945, while all sons were returning home, there were many parties to celebrate their safe arrivals. One future daughter in law, Madeline Moroney, was introduced to the lake that summer prior to her December wedding to Bob.

North and East Shores Robert Boyd Family



Pictured Left-to-Right: James Cullen, John Boyd, Gilbert Cullen, Donald Boyd, Douglas Boyd, and Robert Boyd, Jr.

For many decades all the sons and their families enjoyed traveling from New Jersey, Chicago, and Boston for two week vacations at Rogue's Roost with Robert and Mary, known to the grandchildren as Pop and Nan. All of the grandchildren learned to swim at the lake, most of them had their first driving lessons up and down the long driveway with an easy turn around circle, and everyone had to pitch in with chores from painting the white dock to pruning the rhododendrons.



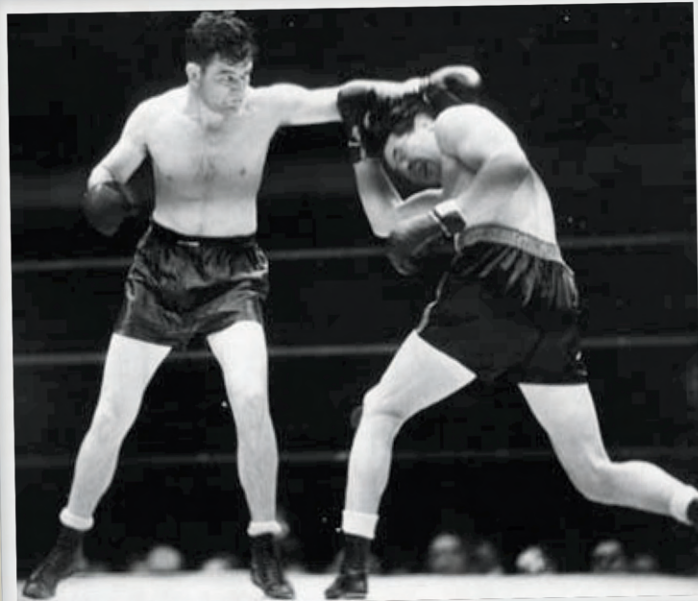
After Robert and Mary passed away, Madeline and her children – Robert James III, Gregory, Madeline, and Christopher purchased the lake house in 1975 from the Boyd estate. They enjoy the same pleasures as their grandparents, continue to thank Robert Boyd for his early vision, and have worked on the dam for the Yankee Lake Company and served on the Legal Committee and Board of Directors of the YLPA.

Madeline's granddaughters spent many weekends at the lake learning to swim, bike, and drive. Her one-year old great granddaughter had her first dip in Yankee Lake the summer of 2015.



North and East Shores *Cinderella Man* at Yankee Lake The Schwindt/Zufall House

Every now and then, at a pot luck dinner, or at the Regatta, someone asks about the boxer who lived on the North Shore Road. As with most lore, there is some truth to the narrative as well as some fiction. The facts of the matter are as follows...



Jimmy Braddock (Left) against Max Baer (Right)

On 13 June 1935, in the depths of the Depression, an underdog boxer by the name of Jimmy Braddock went up against the Heavyweight Champion of the World, Max Baer. And won!

Jimmy Braddock's boxing career had bottomed at about the same time as the Great Depression. He found himself on the public dole, as had millions of others. Some successes in 1934 brought him back from the brink. Baer's team urged a title bout against the rebounding Jimmy Braddock because they thought Braddock would be an easy win for Baer. Oddsmakers had Baer over Braddock at 10 to 1 odds.

Braddock came to Sullivan County (reportedly to Loch Sheldrake) and trained as if his life depended on it. The over-confident Baer hardly trained at all. The fight was held in Madison Square Garden Bowl, in Long Island City, and, in a legendary 15-round title fight, Jimmy Braddock became the World Heavyweight Champion.

The upset would be memorable under any circumstances, but in the depths of the Great Depression, the country was looking for an underdog-makes-good story, and Jimmy Braddock gave it to them. His upset over Baer offered hope to people across the country – a sense that hard work and perseverance really could pay off in the end.

North and East Shores *Cinderella Man* at Yankee Lake The Schwindt/Zufall House



Three months after his big win, Braddock's company, Braddock-Gould Enterprises, purchased a lakefront home on Yankee Lake's North Shore Drive. He held the house for only four years, selling to Harry Schwindt in 1939. The story goes that Jimmy offered to let Harry punch him in the gut when they were completing the sale in the Mayflower Hotel in New York. Harry did punch Jimmy in the gut, but with no effect.

As this tale makes its rounds in our community, it is sometimes said that *Max Baer* was the boxer who owned the house. This confusion is likely due to a coincidence of names: *Max Baier*, one of the original founders of the Yankee Lake Company (and who did own property at the lake), and *Max Baer*, the world heavyweight champion unseated by Jimmy Braddock.

In 2005, the story of Jimmy Braddock and his 1935 World Heavyweight title win were memorialized in a hit movie, *Cinderella Man*.

Jimmy Braddock's house was in the Schwindt family for thirty years, until it was sold in 1969.



Jimmy and Mae Braddock
with their three children
(about 1935)

The house then went through several other owners before Harry Schwindt's grandson, David Zufall, bought it, returning it to the family in 2006.

Harry Schwindt landed at Yankee Lake by way of an automobile breakdown and a pretty girl.

One day, Harry was driving up Route 17 (now Little Road), when, nearly at the top of the mountain, his car broke down. Kathryn Smith (Al Smith's daughter) was sitting on the wall watching, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In yet another twist, a generation later, Harry and Kathryn Schwindt's daughter, Kathryn, and her husband, Bob Zufall, brought Bob's sister to visit at the Lake. Alice Zufall caught the eye of her future husband, Gregory Road neighbor Archie Fellenzer. To this day, the Zufall and Fellenzer families enjoy family time together each summer.



The North Shore Road Looking Toward Grassy Brook

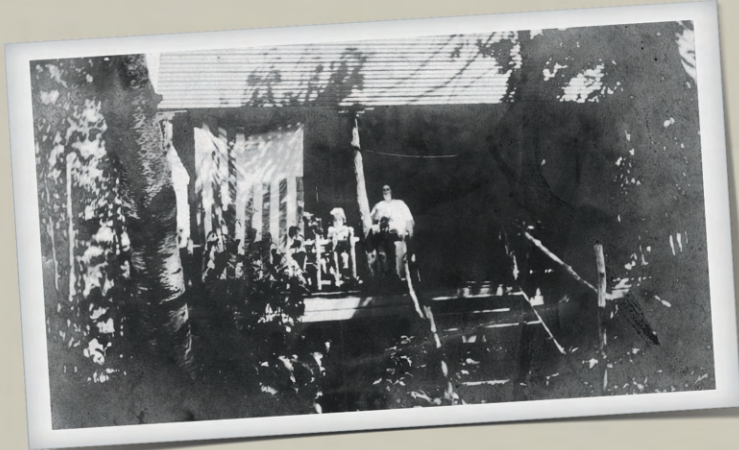
This is a very early view along the North Shore Road.

“John Ferguson of Middletown owns the bungalow well around to the north side of the lake near the Grassy Brook inlet,” according to an article by C. M. Wood in the 25 May 1912 edition of the *Middletown Times-Press*.

In 1917, John Ferguson was the President of the Yankee Lake Company.



The inlet referred to above brings water from Masten Lake. In addition to being called “Grassy Brook,” it has also been variously referred to as the origins to the Pine Kill, as Masten’s Brook, as Marshall’s Brook, and as Babbling Brook. Its lands are privately held, but it and its bridge over the North Shore Drive have been the communal playground for generations of children who find all variety of wildlife in and on the banks of this stream, including minnows, tadpoles (pollywogs), frogs, crawdads, hellgrammites, red efts, night crawlers, water snakes, all manner of birds, squirrels, chipmunks, muskrats, ermine, otter, fisher cats, porcupines, raccoons, deer and bear.



North and East Shores Gregory Road Camp Sans-Souci



Camp Sans-Souci

Historic 1920s Camp Sans-Souci, meaning “carefree” in French, was a two-story lakeside camp located on Gregory Road where family celebrations included the Fourth of July, boating, swimming, and picnics.



North and East Shores
Gregory Road
About 1919



Swimming
Lessons on
the Dock



192



Helen Boyce



Gaff Rig Sailboat



Family and Friends

Stocking Fish In Winter



Archie Fellenzer Sr.,
Frank Cline,
and Friends

North and East Shores
Gregory Road



Canoe Sailing



Reading by Parasol

Water Slide



Debbie Cline and Kathy Fisher, August 1959



Debbie Cline Riding Bicycle
Down Gregory Road, August 1958



North and East Shores Gregory Road Picnic Fellenzers, Forthoffer and McVoy

From left front,
going clockwise:
Grace Fellenzer
Cline, Elsie Fellenzer,
Archie Fellenzer Sr.,
Emily and Ernie
Forthoffer, Nellie
and Charlie McVoy.

A rare photo shows
Ernie Forthoffer,
owner of Van Sickle
Shoes in
Middletown, NY,
who spoke upon the
occasion of the 1958
dedication of the
addition to the
Yankee Lake
Clubhouse. Charles
McVoy was a
member of the
Board of Directors
of the Yankee Lake
Company in 1945.
This photo is from
1955.





Winter

North and East Shores
Winter/Summer
At Fellenzer's Cottage



Summer

Hunting Season at the
Fellenzer Place, Showing a
Bear and Three Deer



North and East Shores
Gregory Road
The Fellenzers



Happy to be Home!
World War II Sailor
Archie Fellenzer
and His Sister
Grace (Fellenzer) Cline
1945



Alice (Zufall) Fellenzer
(Left and Below Left; 1950s)



Six Girls in Headgear Rowing Straight into the Dock (1919)



Elsie and Archie
Fellenzer, Sr.

A Classic Picture of the Family Table at Yankee Lake

Starting Left, Going Clockwise:
Archie Fellenzer, Sr.,
Elsie Fellenzer,
Alice (Zufall) Fellenzer,
Archie Fellenzer, Jr.,
Frank Cline,
Debbie Cline,
Grace (Fellenzer) Cline



North and East Shores Gregory Road The Fellenzers, Zufalls and Clines



Pictured Left-to-Right:
Mary Mcvicker (at tetherball),
Kay Zufall, Kathy Zufall,
Peggy Zufall,
Alice (Zufall) Fellenzer,
Sally Fellenzer (in Alice's lap),
Harriet Mcvicker (obscured, in
lounger), Bob Zufall (seated)



Ethyl Thornton Masterson



North and East Shores On Gregory Road The Masterson Family

(Right) John Thornton's daughter, Ethyl, married Harry Masterson. Ethyl and Harry's grandson, John Masterson, carries on the long tradition of his family at Yankee Lake.



John Thornton

(Left) Around 1890, when the D&H Canal Company still owned Yankee Lake, the excellent fishing was legendary. John Masterson's great-grandfather, John Thornton, a merchant and postmaster of Spring Glen, NY went fishing off the west shore of Yankee Lake amongst the tangle of logs, stumps, and branches. A corner of The Big Island is visible on the right.



Brother and Sister,
John and Sally Masterson, about 1951

North and East Shores
On Gregory Road
The Masterson Family



In 1951, the Masterson family (below) going for a row off the Gregory Road property, with Boyd's stone wall to the left.



Left-to-Right: Robbie (Mom), John,
John T. Masterson the elder, and
Sarah (Sally) Masterson.





North and East Shores Sunset Cove and Black Rock Along The North Shore Drive

Below: View from Sunset Point at the end of Gregory Road. The camera focuses toward the south shore camps while the boater looks east.

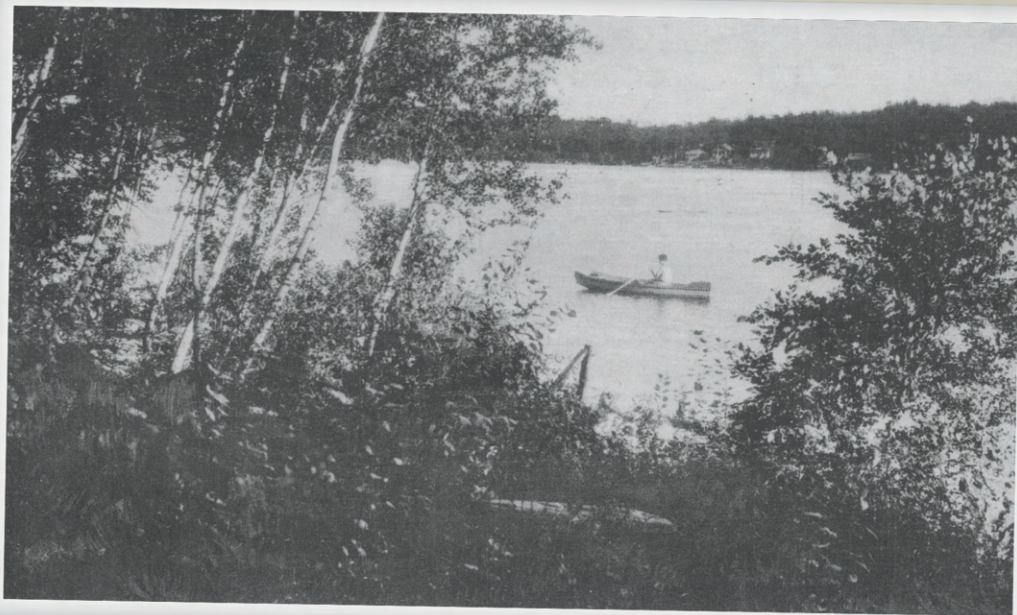


Early North Road

Above, a mother and child walk along a very early version of the North Road (today's North Shore Drive) as a horse and wagon stands in the distance.

A poem with the image was printed in promotional material about Wurtsboro:

“On the Road to the
Black Rocks
Where the rocks are black
and the shore is steep
And the waters below
look dark and deep.”



North and East Shores
Sunset Cove and Black Rock
Along The North Shore Drive



Right: Black Rock Before the
Stumps and Logs Were Cleared

Below: Evening Shadows in Sunset Cove

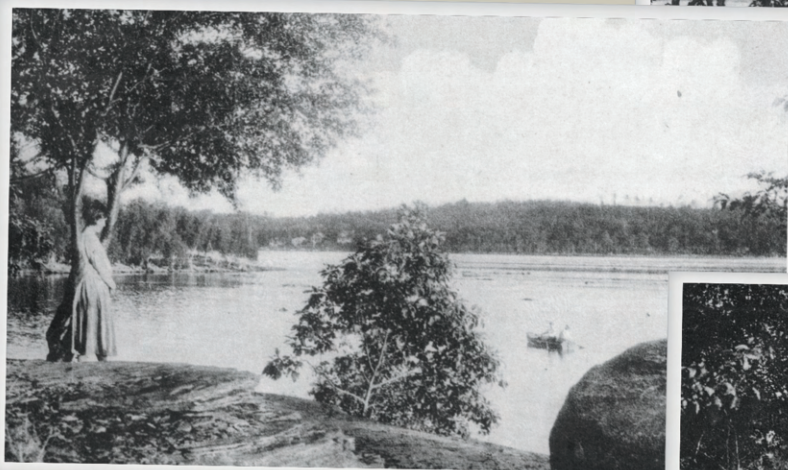


Right: Postcard Labeled
“The Cove and Black Rock”



North and East Shores Sunset Cove and Black Rock Along The North Shore Drive

Below: This postcard was labeled, “An Enchanting Spot, Black Rock” with its view of Sunset Cove



Above: From Black Rock at sunset, this view extends westward toward the west shoreline, and northward toward The Big Island.



Right: Prior to its sale to private owners by the Yankee Lake Company, Black Rock was a desirable destination to Yankee Lake boaters, hikers, drivers, swimmers, artists, families, and photographers.



Above: The view above looks from Hager-Graham (on the west shore) back toward Black Rock.

North and East Shores Sunset Cove and Black Rock Along The North Shore Drive



Above: The view from Black Rock across the lake toward the Hager-Graham property.



Left: A Restful Spot,
Black Rock and Sunset Cove.



Along North Shore Drive The Causeway Pine Haven

In the 1920s the Yankee Lake Company built a causeway across the north cove to provide access to its northernmost lots. Landowners in the cove held deeded beach access on the sides of the causeway. For more than fifty years, the only access to the far north portion of North Shore Road was via this causeway.

In 1926, the first cottage was built beyond the north end of the causeway on North Shore Road. This house, known as Pine Haven, still stands today. It was built by Mr. Anthony Nicholas Bade, a well-known auctioneer and expert fisherman. Yankee Lake lore says that Mr. Bade was a published expert on fishing, however, no such works have been located. Regardless, he was known along the North Shore for using his auctioneer's voice to offer real-time angling advice (solicited or otherwise) from the lakeshore to those fishing near the tail of the whale. Mr. Bade's Pine Haven cottage was purchased by Amos and Edith Caskey in 1966 and stayed in their family until it was purchased 2011 by Richard and Linda Langseder.

In 1954, Catherine (MacGowan) and Oscar Cutler purchased property on the hill inside the causeway, and began the work of clearing the dense brush and trees to cut a land-based road to this Northern shore. The work was done by hand using a two-man cross-cut saw. It was finally completed in the 1960s, allowing both causeway and land-road access to the northern reaches of the lake. The causeway was eliminated in the 1990s, leaving the land-road as the sole access to the end of the North Shore Drive.



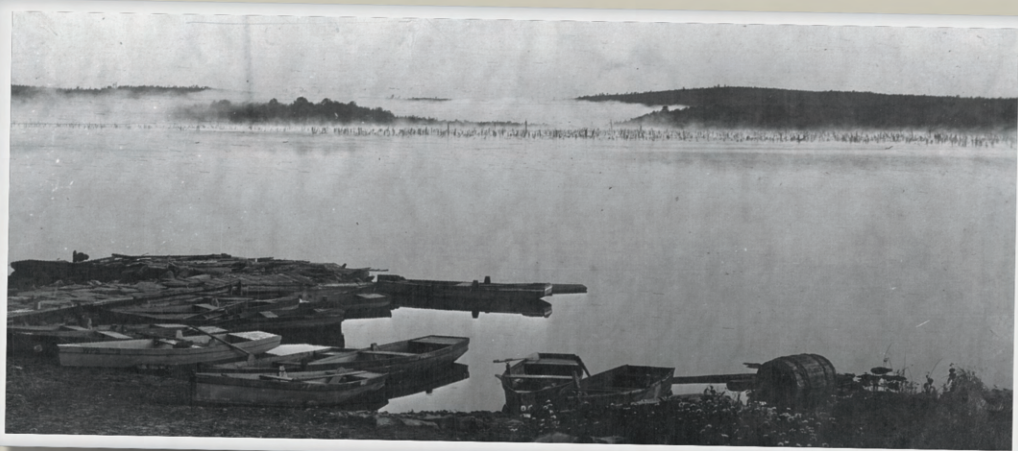


North End of Yankee Lake Big Island and Beyond “The Stumps”



Sunset at Yankee Lake

This 1915 view toward the north end of Yankee Lake shows the setting sun very near its northern apogee.



A Fog Rolls In

This 1915 image of the northernmost end of Yankee Lake as seen from the south shore shows the Big Island appearing to rise from the mist.

Highlights of Community Activities Through the Years

While so very much of the culture of Yankee Lake is bound up in neighbors and generations of families whose cottages are snuggled together around the lake, there is a whole cultural element that has everything to do with the lake and nothing to do with the individual neighborhoods. Yankee Lake, through the years, has hosted community-wide activities that celebrate the lake and the seasons at the lake. Summertime means picnics, pot luck dinners, fourth of July, fishing contests, fishing stories, berry-picking, and, of course, the Regatta.

Chapter 8

Community Activities Through the Years





1920 Regatta

1920 Regatta Trophy Won by Virginia Travis (Wakeman) in the Swim Race



Virginia Travis (Wakeman), granddaughter of Emma and Fred Skelton, won this silver swim trophy cup at the 1920 Yankee Lake Regatta.

Annual Regatta
As Seen from the Dam



Yankee Lake Regatta
Canoe Tilting Contest
Near the Heyny Islands

1920s Regatta
Canoe Tilting Contest
at Yankee Lake





1922 Regatta Day Annual Event



The 1922 Yankee Lake Regatta as seen from the Hunter/Smithem Landing

The 1932 Regatta



1932 Regatta Trophy won by Eleanor Smith, daughter of William and Jane (Bracken) Smith, who vacationed at Yankee Lake.

211



1956 Regatta as Reported by the
Middletown Daily Record
27 August 1956, Pages 10 and 11

“Ed McCarthy and Nic Pierce are about to ‘enter the drink’ in one ‘fall’ of the canoe-tipping contest during Yankee Lake contests Saturday. Victors in upright craft, left, are Bob Anderson and Ken Conti.” [Note spectators sitting on the dam in the background.]



“These two 14 year-olds sit in a candy-themed float. Lapping on lollipop, front, is Rosemary Parker. Manning the oars is Lydia Legrand. Both girls are summer residents of Yankee Lake.”



1956 Regatta as Reported by the
Middletown Daily Record
27 August 1956, Pages 10 – 11



Boat Decorating Contest

Above: “Lake residents can feel pretty safe with this fine fire crew cruising about. They are Yvon Werlau, 14; Betty Jewett, 11; Gail Herget, 15; and Joann Werlau, 12. Inspecting craft is Philip Angelo, 12.”

“Sailboats make a beautiful sight as they prepare for the Regatta race.”





1956 Regatta as Reported by the
Middletown Daily Record
27 August 1956, Pages 10 – 11

“Bill Loftus (with pencil, below), *Record*
City Editor, keeps tabs on beauty
contestants as a judge during the
Regatta Queen competition.”



“*Record* photographers go
everywhere.” Bob Bone
(above) was rowed by
volunteers to various
vantage points.

1956 Regatta as Reported by the
Middletown Daily Record
27 August 1956, Pages 10 – 11



“Television Actress Awards Bracelet to Regatta Queen”



Crowned by 1955 Winner

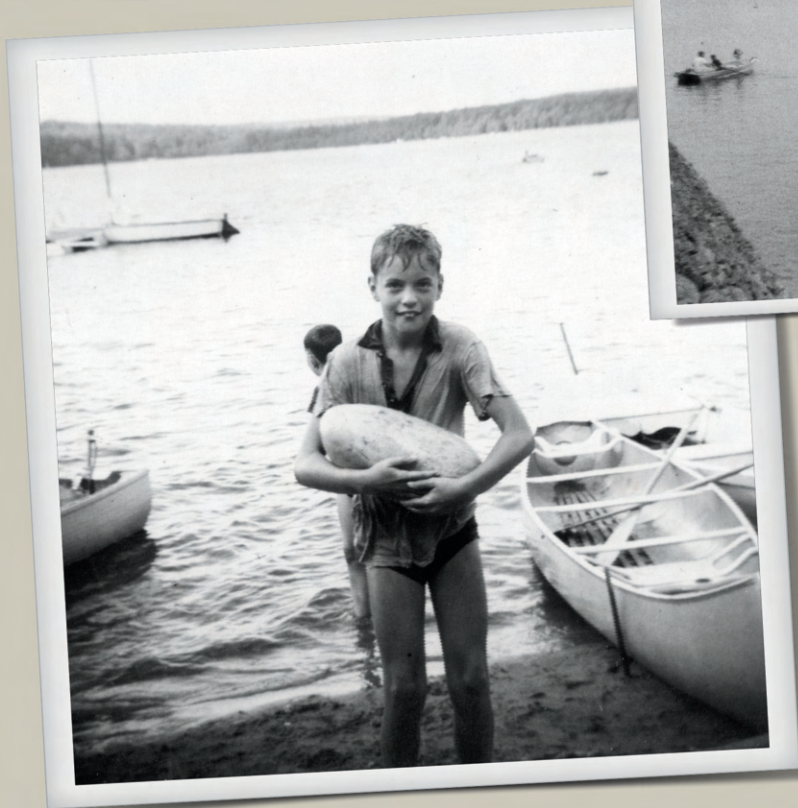
“The 1956 Yankee Lake Regatta Queen crown is presented to Ann Theresa Mazzola by last year's winner, Melinda Medrick of 276 East Main Street.”



“Ann Theresa Mazzola, 14, receives identification bracelet presented by Jean Carroll, television actress, on behalf of the Yankee Lake Association. The Queen holds a Yankee Lake Birch scepter. Runners up in the beauty contest were Roberta Werlau, 17, left and Ann Smythe, 15 (right).”



Yankee Lake Regatta August 1956



1956 Yankee Lake Regatta Rowboat Races

Greased Watermelon

Tom House won this watermelon in a “greased watermelon” swim race in the 1956 Yankee Lake Regatta. He said, “It was a great time, with a lot of splashing and screaming!”

Tom House in different years of the Regatta won the electric motor boat race, the freestyle swimming, the two-man rowing (with Ralph Brundage), and the single rowing race.

The Agony of Defeat



Right: Nan Pierce is facing the camera, next to her mom, Hazel Pierce Urtnowski, in the plaid skirt. Further back by the boathouse of the Pine Kill Club (south end of dam) were Jimmy Smith, Richard Ferina, and Nic Pierce.

Yankee Lake Regatta
August 1956



Watching the Regatta from the Dam



217



Rowboat Tilting Contest
When the Regatta Was Held
At the Dam



218

Yankee Lake Regatta Canoe Tilting 1957

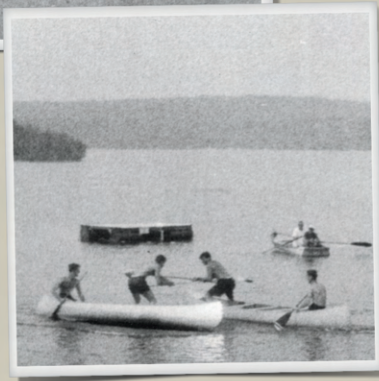


Get Ready...



Get Set...

Go!





1950s Regattas Boat Decorating Contests

1957 Regatta Mermaids
Nancy Agor and
Deborah Cline



Gilded Cage



Cat Boat



Wonder Bread



Miss Yankee Lake
Regatta Dance
1958



Pictured Left,
Left-to-Right: Nancy Agor,
Betty Jewett (Miss Yankee Lake),
Julia McCarthy

Pictured Right
Presiding at the 1958 Regatta
at the Dam

Left-to-Right: Julia McCarthy,
Betty Jewett (Miss Yankee Lake),
Nancy Agor





Fishing at
Yankee Lake
About 1920

Ida Craig Roasts a Wienie
Over a Fire-on-Ice



Above: Ice Fishing at
Yankee Lake with
Tom Cockrell, Sr. and
James B. Craig, Sr.

Fishing at
Yankee Lake



Fishing at sunrise near Graham's Landing on the western shore.



Yankee Lake “An Outstanding Fishin’ Hole!”

Florence Skelton Fishing



Fred Skelton and John Skelton prepare to launch with Percy Tuttle from the western shore of Yankee Lake, about 1900. Fishermen wrote in their logs of an abundance of bass up to five pounds, large catfish, crappie, eels, freshwater mussels, minnows, pickerel up to five pounds, rock bass, white perch, yellow perch, and sunfish, both bluegill and pumpkin seed. One child was quoted as saying that his first sunfish “weighed ten pounds!”

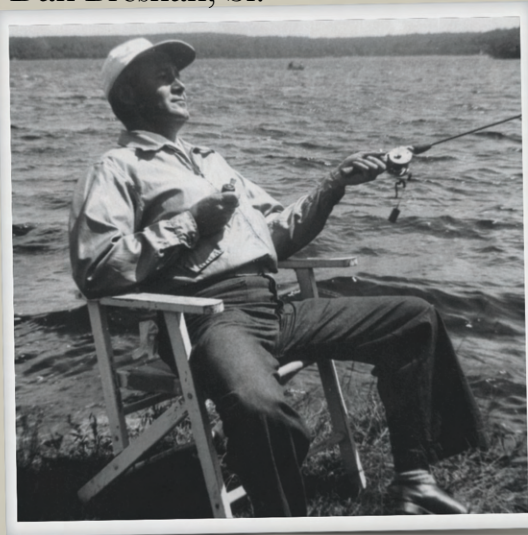


The little girl at left is fishing from a wooden boat at the western shore, late 1930s. The Big Island rises in the distance.

Yankee Lake “An Outstanding Fishin’ Hole!”



Dan Bresnan, Sr.



6 August 1950, fishing at Roffe’s Point, adjacent north of the dam on the west shore.



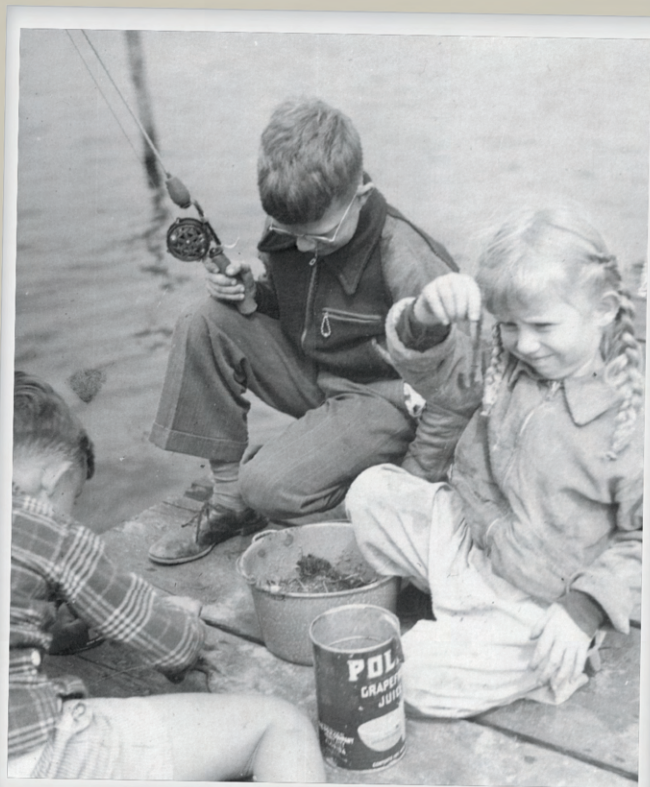
Day’s catch of 14 fish
displayed before cleaning



The Younger Generation Gets Hooked!



Nandy and Conrad Pierce catching minnows in Uncle Will's net – 1943.



Fishing at Pierce's dock about 1944 (Stern Lane Right-of-Way), Conrad Pierce, Nandy Pierce holding the worm, and J. Pierce.

Family Fun at
Yankee Lake



At Smithem's,
Early 1900s

First Cousins at
Pine Kill Road Landing

Left-to-Right Front: Rob Wilson, Jim Wilson, Don Wykoff
Back: Bill Wykoff, Joanne (Wykoff) Timmons, Barbara (Wilson) Kott





Family Fun at Yankee Lake



At Graham's Landing, now known as Whitman
Road Corporation Landing.



Fred Skelton in a bonnet and
early swim costume, with John
Skelton in the background.

Having Fun at
Yankee Lake



Labeled “Fish Fry.” The dog seems eager to share in the day’s catch.



Virginia Travis and her little sister, Sylvia, granddaughters of Emma Skelton, were bathing at Yankee Lake, Pioneer Camp in 1912. Virginia was born in 1906.



Happy Days at Yankee Lake



Mary Cusker and Bill Tunnock, parents of Terrence Tunnock and Patricia Tunnock Sarsfield, of Whitman Road, as Bill was going off to serve during World War II.



Honeymooners
About 1910

Having Fun at
Yankee Lake



Swimming Costumes at
Camp Sans Souci
About 1920



Mary Cusker and Friends,
Whitman Road About 1934



Frolicking
On the Dam
1920s

232



Photo Credits: Gottlieb (Left and Bottom Middle); Cusker Collection (Top Middle), and Fellenzer Collection (Right)

Having Fun at Yankee Lake Summer at Smith Landing Winter at Maclay Landing



In the undated photograph below, children gather to swim and socialize at the Smith Landing, off the North Shore Drive.



In the undated photograph below, cross country skiers take a break on the big rock at Maclay landing. Left-to-right: Unknown man, unknown woman, Martha Lundell (from Jersey City), Amanda Langseder, Jack Langseder, Ruth Langseder, unknown woman in back. Sitting in front could be friend Henry Krause (of Edgewater, NJ).



Through the Generations...

Yankee Lake has been entrusted to us by those who came before. Although much has changed, it is up to us to keep for future generations the heart and soul of what we know as Yankee Lake.

This book has demonstrated how times have changed. There are no more hotels, no more boarding houses, and no more retail businesses. Instead, those who fell in love with Yankee Lake bought property, built cottages, and have stayed across the generations. The stores that were once gathering places, and the delivery trucks that wound their way through our web of roads, streets and driveways, have faded into memory. Wooden boats, rafts, and docks have given way to aluminum and fiberglass. Outhouses have been repurposed as potting sheds. And most of us draw our water from wells, rather than the lake. Wintertime once meant a ghost town of sorts, but some children who grew up on our shores have now made the lake their year-round home.

Still, there are traditions that we hold fast. We still name our camps. We still watch for the tug of the bobber below the surface. We still gather around a fire on cool evenings, warming hearts and bodies. We pick berries, we bake pies and muffins. We chat from boat to boat, and from boat to shore. We walk the road, sometimes spying bikes akimbo in the brush, listening for whispers of children at the brook. We still catch our breath when we see deer, or bear, turkey, fox, eagle, osprey, otter, bobcat, or snapping turtle. We make time for picnics and pot luck dinners. We still band together and fight, fiercely, to protect our lake from progress run amok.

We still let the cool, clear water soothe our skin and souls as we slip beneath the surface and let it cleanse and refresh and restore.

Whether from the town, the city or from around the world, when we climb our mountain, pass through our trees, and glimpse the dance of light on water, we know that we are home.



In This Place

no crosses no marble
no taps no wreath
rather birches and eagles
on breezes in this place
where we come to remember
and each heart pledges
allegiance to those who fell—
known and unknown—
wraps their memories
in red white and blue
thanks them proudly
and with reverence
in this place on this day
as oak leaves dance
and part the sunlight

—Deborah Lawson Scott

Want to See More?

The source documents for this history would fill many volumes of this same size. Hundreds of pages of personal journals, logs and minutes of organizations, memoirs, legal documents, diaries, newspaper articles, and oral histories contributed to this book. We had space for printing in this Appendix only a tiny fraction of the writings that we reviewed. We have posted to the Yankee Lake website nearly a thousand images and hundreds of pages of historical documentation for readers of this book to peruse. The link is on the YLPA home page (www.yankee-lake.org), or you can email a request for the link to: info.ylpa@mylaketown.com.

Appendix





Excerpts from the 1914 Diary of Grace Graham, Yankee Lake, New York

1 January 1914: “A very busy day. Ed [Graham] [drove the horse and wagon] to Wurtsboro for Dr. White, Parsells, and Hardy for a few days fishing at Yankee Lake. Hull [Hager] is busy helping Mr. Smithem put in ice, and Ed in the afternoon drawing ice for Mr. Smithem...”

2 January 1914: “Very busy plowing ice in the morning and drawing [ice blocks] in the afternoon. Mr. Smithem & Son helping on the lake and Hull [Hager] and Mr. Hummel in the ice house. Ed [Graham] drawing ice and Mr. Seeland as ‘General

Overseer’ and Onlooker, hanging ‘round to get something for nothing.”

Monday, 5 January 1914:

“Monday morning a very sick horse. At 2:30 Robert [Lang, son-in-law] up here before 6 o’clock with medicine for the horse, stayed all day and night. Ed and Hull both home with the horse in the afternoon. Mrs. Graham went to Westbrookville for Lena [daughter] and she stayed all night too. The horse very sick until 10:30 some sign of recovery and still continued to get better and lived. Harry the black horse.”

Friday, 9 January 1914: “Ed came up from Westbrookville in the morning. Hull was up to Mrs. Best’s [Yankee Lake House Hotel] doing carpenter work, home before noon and fished until 1 pm, and I went to a telephone [company] meeting in the afternoon. Ed exercised the black horse. Mrs. Hummel and I went fishing. Mrs. Hummel caught 5 and I got a nice mess to give to her. Buster got lost in the fog. Found all OK. Buster born 1902.”



Continuation of Excerpts from the 1914 Diary of Grace Graham, Yankee Lake, New York

17 February 1914: “Ed and Hull home in the morning and in the afternoon they drove out the Culvertown road to see if there was a road through, and then back as far as Mr. Rockefellow’s and back home about 3 pm.”

23 February 1914: “This is Robert’s birthday [Robert Lang, son-in-law.] He and Lena came up. Snow deep and bad, got my ‘Joe’ [horse] in deep snow and had to tramp the snow and get him out. Upset once with Lena in the sleigh. Lena and I went down in the two-seated sleigh.”

5 March 1914: “... This is a beautiful day but the snow is so deep. Hull is shoveling snow from the sandbank to Whitmans... Left the black horse in Mr. Maclay’s barn and walked across the pond...”

10 March 1914: “After Robert had gone to work, Ed and I found a bad cut on Harry’s [horse’s] leg. Robert sewed it up at night. Lena & Robert went to Otisville to see Dr. Silkman [a veterinarian at the Otisville Sanitarium Lab] about Harry’s leg. ...”

11–13 March 1914: “Hull went to have the horse shod and on down to see Mr. Godeffroy and Mr. & Mrs. Griffin... Went to Ashworth’s and got lumber for to make the top of the closet for Lena. I pieced the comforter black and brown... Hull made the closet for Lena.”



Julius Siemers' Death Notice

Siemers, Retired Violinist, Is Dead

Yankee Lake Man Had Been
With the Metropolitan

240 YANKEE LAKE – Julius Siemers, former violinist with the Metropolitan Opera Company, died yesterday afternoon at his Summer home here after a brief illness.

Mr. Siemers, whose home was at 1112 Finley Avenue, The Bronx, New York, had spent Summers here for forty years. He was eighty-seven. His was the second death among the small group of retired members of the Metropolitan Opera Company

with Summer homes here. Albin Wiegner died here five years ago.

Mr. Siemers was born in Germany April twenty-second, 1854, a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Siemers.

He leaves his wife, the former Emma Schomberg, who is eighty-two; a daughter, Mrs. Emma Ruddier of Lynbrook, L. I.; two sons, William and Walter of The Bronx; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at three o'clock p. m. at the VanInwegen Funeral Home, Bloomingburg. Interment will be in Sylvan Cemetery, Wurtsboro.

On 4 August 1941, the funeral was officiated by The Rev. William H. Moser of Ardley Methodist Church and secretary-treasurer of the Yankee Lake Company. His pall bearers were Lyman Holmes, Claude Smithem, and Wilmot H. and William P. Smithem. He was survived by two of his fellow musicians and founders, Max Baier and Carlos Hasselbrink. Residents recalled how the violinist had become interested in Yankee Lake after a hunting and fishing trip in 1900. The Siemers had been married fifty-nine years.



Smithem Park Lands Are Sold – 1920

...With the dance hall site, and lot No. 3 disposed of before the auction, there were but two remaining lakeside properties placed on sale Saturday afternoon. These were Lots No. 1 and No. 2. HC Van Buskirk purchased No. 1 for \$520, while No. 2, of equal dimensions was knocked down to JK Roe of Florida, NY; for \$320. Although there were about 75 persons, members of the Yankee Lake colony and visitors, in attendance, there were few bidders and Pete Hoyt, the auctioneer, was forced to let go of the sites he offered at prices he declared were “scandalous.”

The first lot sold was No. 6, situated on the south side of Park Avenue above what will some day be known as Smithem Street. The lot and its three small bungalows were sold for \$345 to George B. Tice of New York City. Mr. and Mrs. Tice later purchased lot No. 7, back of No. 6,

for \$180. Lot No. 8, still farther from the roadside sold for \$100 to Gilbert Carpenter, of Monroe.

The lot, with two small bungalows, known as No. 17, directly above the post office and small dance hall site, was sold to John G. Gray, of this city, for \$250.

Lot No. 17, with a bungalow, adjacent to Park Avenue and the lot purchased by Mr. Gray, was sold to Joseph Alyea, of Hackensack, NJ for \$180. James Razez, purchased lot No. 5, known as The Wayside for \$351. The Waldorf cottage, known as lot No. 9, and the barn and shed site were not disposed of. Lots No. 11,12,13, and 14 on the north side of the main highway were also reserved.

Miss D. M. Agnew, former proprietor of Pine Rest, the attractive resort destroyed by fire at the lake last fall, purchased lots No. 21 and 22 in what

is known as the “Garden” on the east side of the main road for \$350. William C. Parsells, of Ellenville, purchased lots No. 19 and 20 also in the “Garden” for the same figure.

Interest in the future disposition of the property centers principally upon the dance hall site and the small cottage, one of the first built at the lake, both of which were purchased by the Yankee Lake Company. The dance hall, last season conducted as a restaurant by William VonBerg, formerly of Middletown, now of Port Jervis, is this year being utilized as a community center by Miss Agnew. Immediately following the sale of the two sites to the Yankee Lake Company it was announced the intention of the company to resell the properties. Now, however, it is pointed out the Company may take steps to re-establish a restaurant.



Yankee Lake Company 1930's Meetings at Scheller's Hotel

Scheller's Hotel on North Shore Drive was a gathering place for the 1930's Annual Meetings of the Yankee Lake Company, Inc. and remarks in the Roffe Journal regarding these meetings are as follows:

1931: "At this meeting there were 59 persons and a total of 82 represented with proxies. This was a good showing out of 119 stockholders. The meeting was orderly and splendid cooperation shown. I had quite a talk with the Heynys, Ferguson, and various others, all seemed so nice and friendly. When Emmett called for me, he brought Henry along who was all dressed up with flowing red tie, long-tailed coat, knickers, flat yellow derby and padded out, which made him very comical looking. Thank goodness he got there after the meeting, as he created quite a comical sensation by visiting the Scheller Hotel and mingling with the various people."

1932: "I visited the Yankee Lake Company's meeting at Scheller's Hotel. The meeting was in progress when I got there at 8:20 pm. Dave drove me over. There were 68 represented by proxy and person. The meeting was very interesting, Mr. Cornelius making it a strong point that this lake is private also that a sheriff will be appointed to take [care] of the place also that the spillway will be better taken [care] of. The meeting was over just about 10 pm and Dave and Bill were there to take me home."
...

1933: "I was at the Yankee Lake Co's meeting at Scheller's Boarding House. There were 69 members and proxies out of 119 stockholders present. The usual business prevailed. Meeting started about 8:23 pm and stopped about 10 pm."

1936: "I went to the Yankee Lake Company's meeting at Scheller's place. There were 69 represented either by person or proxy. Electric outboard motors of low capacity may be allowed at the cost of \$10.00 for the season. Back home at 10:45 pm and found about 22 persons dancing or sitting around."

1937: "I attended the Annual Meeting of the Yankee Lake Company at Schellers. Leonard remained with me during the Meeting. There were about 50 present. The Garbage condition is becoming serious."

1940: "About 7:30 pm Dr. Moser called for me and took me to the Meeting of the Yankee Lake Company at Schellers. Met several old timers and the meeting as usual very interesting. Was brought back by Mr. Lemco and Willy Heyny about 10:30 pm."



Dedication Speech Clubhouse Recreation Hall

In 1958 Ernest Forthoffer delivered the following speech on the occasion of the dedication of the addition to the clubhouse:

Everyone here tonight must be as thrilled as I to meet in this fine building.

It was 50 years ago that I first came to Yankee Lake. At that time, it was primitive camping. We came by train to Wurtsboro and hired a horse and wagon to bring us to the lake. We brought a two-weeks supply of provisions. The children and grown-ups were all busy from sun-up to sundown. There were tents to pitch, wood to cut, fires to build, water to fetch by boat from across the lake, garbage to bury, fish to catch, if you expected to eat well, and a hundred other chores in the course of the day. It was fun and everybody was occupied. You didn't go to Monticello to the movies or dine at the Paddock. When you got here you stayed put.

But in fifty years – along came progress. We now have cottages – no tents to pitch. Running water in the house – no water to fetch. Electric or gas stoves – no wood to

chop. Electric lights – no kerosene lamps to trim. It all adds up to more leisure time.

Today a clubhouse has become almost a necessity to take up our leisure time of both grown-ups and children. An adequate building has been needed for several years and tonight for the first time, we are privileged to meet in this wonderful hall.

When Archie Fellenzer told me last year of his dream of a new Recreation Hall, frankly I thought he was slightly balmy. I know now that he had vision and I had none. But vision alone cannot build a building. It needs first of all financing, and Archie went out alone at the beginning and sold the idea to the members. Then a new building needs planning. Dan Conte was called in and gave time and effort in drawing plans and specifications. Our thanks to him for a job well done. Schmitt Brothers of Bullville were hired as builders and did a splendid job.

But finishing the building—painting inside and out, renovation of the old clubhouse, revamping of the grounds, and all the

final finishing touches added up to the untold hours of labor by Archie Fellenzer and Dick Jewett. Others have contributed their labors and they deserve much credit, but to Archie and Dick goes most of the honor.

Two other people deserve a word of praise. They are the Club House Widows, who spent many lonely weekends while Archie and Dick worked on the Clubhouse – Elsie Fellenzer and Lydia Jewett.

I hope that those who use this building will value it as much as those who built it. Let each of us pledge to do our part to preserve the beauty and usefulness by giving to Archie Fellenzer and Dick Jewett a big hand.

A plaque has been prepared to be affixed to the wall of the Clubhouse. In presenting this plaque to the President of the Association, it is my purpose that this be a dedication of the building for the use and enjoyment of the members of the Yankee Lake Association and their guests.

They Use Rattlesnakes for Bait at Yankee Lake

Catfish Play the Saxophone, Snapping Turtles Pick Huckleberries and Feed Them to the Hungry Pickerel

Old Man Middletown

“Well, boys, I want to congratulate you on the very able manner in which you handled the stock market while I was away,” remarked Old Man Middletown as he breezed into the oasis this morning fresh from a two weeks’ vacation, spent here, there and elsewhere, mostly the latter. The old boy disposed of his eye opener, then without a glance at his newspaper continued:

“I suppose you are looking for some tall fish stories, but I’m afraid you will be disappointed as the boys up around Yankee Lake have reformed and stick to the truth. Possibly, the Depression has affected the yarn business as well as other things.

“But the natives are hopping mad at a couple of fishermen who have been boarding at Scheller’s on the North Shore and threaten to ban the use of the lake to them, fearing they will catch all the fish in the pond. They have been using some

secret bait and hauling in the bass and pickerel to beat the band. They’ll go out and return in a couple of hours with forty or fifty pounds of fish.

“But, the secret came out yesterday. They’ve been catching young rattlesnakes and, hooking them back of the ears, use them for bait. The rattling in the water attracts the fish and they have no trouble in getting all they can carry every time they go out.”

Old Man Middletown may take the rattlesnake story for the truth, but we fear he has been imposed on. We drove up after him yesterday and while we sat on the porch of Bonas’ store, we heard a few fish stories which led us to believe that the tall-story club of Yankee Lake is doing business as usual.

For instance, they tell one about the amateur saxophonist who has been practicing over at Boyd’s. When he arrived, he was notified that he might toot all he pleased by day, but must be silent at night. However, the other night the saxophone was heard all night long, and in the morning, the residents were hot.

They routed out the player and demanded that he leave immediately or sooner. But he swore up and down that he had slept soundly all night and besides he had mislaid his instrument. While the

argument was in progress, the sax began to toot again and the crowd gum-shoed down to the lake and caught the culprit in the act.

There was the saxophone lying on the sand where the player had left it the evening before. The mouthpiece had slipped into the water and one of those eight-pound Mississippi River catfish John Koman has an affinity for had hold of it and was tooting away.

And they’re telling one about Roth’s huckleberries down on the south shore. It seems Mr. Roth has some of the biggest high-bush berries that ever grew around the lake, but of late he found the bushes broken down and the berries gone. Mr. Roth decided to lay for the berry thieves; so one afternoon last week he got out his trusty, or rusty, old shotgun, and hid in the bushes. After a while he heard a commotion in the water on the shore and was amazed to see an immense snapping turtle emerge. The snapper ambled over to the huckleberry patch, stood up on its hind legs, pulled down a bush, snapped off a branch loaded with berries and waddled back to the water. Getting out a little way from shore, the turtle held the bunch up in the air while pickerel leaped out of the water and grabbed off the berries. It seemed to be great fun for the snapper and when all the berries were gone, he went back to shore for more.

Acknowledgements

We thank all those who assisted in making this book a reality. More than one thousand historic photographs and postcards were donated by friends and families of Yankee Lake. Collections include: Leona Ashworth, Donna Badendyck, Deborah Banse Miknis, Tom and Judy Biggins, Madeline Boyd, Dan Bresnan, Virginia Wakeman Blocker, Linda Byrons, Nancie Craig, Cory Cuneo, the Cusker family, the Dawkins family, the Docke family, the Eager family, the Fellenzer family, the Gill family, Alex Goodman, Howard Gottlieb, Jean Green Griffith, Tom House, Muriel Patterson Huttenbach, Elizabeth and Robert Laden, Dorothy Langseder, Roger MacGowan, the Marcom family, John Masterson, Jim McMahan and Roberta Werlau McMahan, Dan and Erika Myers, Scott O'Dell, Joan O'Keefe, Denege Patterson, Nic and Chris Pierce, Georgia Rampe, the Rickle family, Glenda Patterson Sandoe, Pat Sarsfield, Deborah Lawson Scott, Julie McCarthy Shevchik, Evelyn Smithem, Ed Spahn, Julie Stainton, Gloria Stemkowski, Stewart Strysko, Pat Tiniski-Otis, Edward VanBuren, Charles Wilbur, Bill Wykoff, and the Zufall family.

Many of the pictures and materials were provided by residents from their personal collections of snapshots and family memorabilia. Other materials were provided by professional historians and collectors, notably, Howard Gottlieb. Inevitably, duplicates of the same materials came from different collections. In the case of duplicates, the committee selected the best quality image for publication, and credited all donors of that image.

Two earlier historians had already written the Narrative History of Yankee Lake: the late Dan Bresnan and his predecessor, the late Donald L. Patterson. More recent leads and information were offered by Kevin Armistead, Freddie Bendell, Lori Goodleaf Boyd, Inna Brovman, Addie Bruni, Mimi Cuneo, Michelle Eckerson, Shirley Grebeldinger, George Grobusch, Alva Rickle Hall, Lyman C. Holmes, Daniel Imbo, Nancy Agor Johnson, Ron Kramer, David Landen, Carl and Louisa Lanzano, Roger MacGowan, Kim McCarthy, Diane McDermott, Kathy Miscioscio, Vicki Morizzo, Concetta Embruglia Nagy, Pete Pensec, Gretchen Pfeiffer-Hall, Michael Phillips, Bruce and Angela Platt, Paula Raiola, Darlene

Ashworth Rassiga, David Schardien, John Skelton, Doug and Carol Spranger, Julie Stainton, Marty Tice, Mae Winkle, Joanne Weale Towner, Al Vannata, Ramona Volpe, and Pat Desanna Weinert.

We thank the organizations whose members and leaders researched historical data, including the Mamakating Historical Society and historians Evelyn Smithem and Charles and Helene LaMonica; Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and archivist John Pennino; Mount Hope Historical Society and historian Nancie Craig; Neversink Valley Museum of History and Innovation and historians Stephen Skye and Seth Goldman; Canal Towne Emporium and descendant Lyman C. Holmes; Mamakating Library and Ramapo Catskill Library System; the Minisink Valley Historical Society and director Nancy Conod; the Wolf Lake Association, Inc., and historian Dave Phraner; Yankee Lake Company, Inc. historical collection of the late Samuel Eager, Jr., courtesy of Muriel Eager; and the Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc. officers and directors.

Journals, logs, diaries, and letters provided this book with data and colorful quotes from first-hand

experiences. The Roffe Journal (1907-1944) was handwritten by John Roffe, a summer resident of Yankee Lake. His Journal was acquired in 1956 by the House Family, who then donated the bound volumes to Yankee Lake Historian, Dan Bresnan. The volumes were rediscovered in 2009 by Sean Gale and Ed Weber, who loaned them to the Yankee Lake History Committee for transcription. Excerpts from The Pine Kill Club Log Book (1907–1910) were reproduced by Edmund Seeley and provided to the Yankee Lake community. A copy of excerpts from the Diary of Grace Graham (1914) was transcribed and provided by the Lang family. The handwritten Journal of Laura Patterson (1930-1940), with excerpts by various writers, was transcribed and provided by Denege Patterson. A 1917 letter to owners signed by a Yankee Lake Company director Mr. Baillet was provided by descendants of Sam Eager, Jr. A 1945 letter containing a brief history of Yankee Lake written by the 1945 Directors of the Yankee Lake Company was donated by Ken Kertis, and another copy by Linda Byrons. A copy of the 1912-1917 Smithem history including the first Yankee Lake Post Office was written by Estella Wilkinson and copies provided, courtesy of Evelyn Smithem.

The first History Committee proposal for this book occurred at a meeting on 20 June 2009. In attendance were Brad and Cathy Dawkins, Joy Grancio, George Grobusch, Alva Rickle Hall, John Langseder, Connie Maggiore, Denege Patterson, and Gene and Marcia Rickle. The Rickles led a team to paint and renovate a room in the Clubhouse for the work of the committee. Committee members hosted numerous Open Houses at the Clubhouse to gather historic data for the book. Brad Dawkins transported his computer and scanning equipment to the Clubhouse, and scanned every historic photograph and document, archiving each one electronically. Cathy Dawkins created signature forms, guidelines, and catalog forms to keep track of collections by donor name, image numbers, titles, captions, and descriptions. Joy Grancio and Cathy Dawkins maintained the five historical display boards at the Yankee Lake Clubhouse. A history table and display at annual picnics and regattas were variously hosted by Pat Tiniski-Otis, Brad and Cathy Dawkins, Denege Patterson, and Nancie Craig, a historian who provided large historic photos of Yankee Lake. Brad Dawkins created a prototype history book to be reviewed by

prospective readers. A most useful suggestion was made by eleven-year-old Matthew Audi, grandson of John and Pat Skelton, to place a small map of the lake on each page showing the approximate location of each subject.

Financial support for the history project was provided to the Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc., by these individuals: Kevin and Sue Armistead, Robert and Susan Armistead, Peter D. Blood, Brad and Cathy Dawkins, Thomas and Jean Marie Druse, Jay Maoz Inbar, Richard and Linda Langseder, Mary and Randolph LeBeau, Stephen and Karen Leotsakos, Karen Mandia, Louis Manganiello Jr., Peter and Diane McDermott, Gerhard and Christa Meinecke, Mary H. Moore, Alfonse and Carol Neidermeyer, Michael J. Paccione, Denege Patterson, Rob and Kim Rogers, Tony and Stacy Saltarella, Michael Smithem, Paul and Carol Streichert, Bob and Jane Sturm, Nancy and Byron Sugahara, Pat Tiniski-Otis, and Robert and Carolyn Parker Wall.

Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of the authors of this book. Every attempt will be made to correct them in future editions. We thank our supporters and our readers for their interest in this project.

Index

A

A&P Grocery, 11
Agnew, 139, 167, 241
Agor, 220, 221
Aldridge, 100
Alyea, 164, 241
Anderson, 212
Angelo, 213
Ann's Road, 90, 122
Armistead, 179, 245, 247
Armor, medieval, 97
Armstrong, 167
Army Corps of Engineers, 131
Arts and Crafts, 107
Ashworth, 130, 131, 239, 245, 246
Ashworth Blanket Factory, 131
Auction, Westbrookville, 134
Auden, 142
Audi, 247
Aumiller, 134
Austin, 167, 172
Automobile, 10, 11
Aviation Citizens Advisory Committee, 34

B

Babbling Brook, 185, 190
Babcock, 127
Bade, 204
Badendyck, 122, 245
Baer versus Baier, 189
Baer, Max, 188, 189
Baha Bashi-ba, 6
Baier, 22, 27, 189, 240
Baily, 114, 115, 116

Baker, 58
Bakery, delivery of, 50
Banse, 109, 185, 192, 193, 220, 245
Barn, stone, 160, 161
Barnes, 85
Basha Kill, 6, 8, 126
Baskets, Medrick's, 86, 236
Bear, 49, 133, 144, 190, 195, 234
Bendell, 160, 245
Bennett, 77
Best, 10, 22, 29, 53, 54, 56, 135, 137, 238
Bethel, Town of, 34
Biancolo, 173
Big Island, 198, 202, 205, 225
Biggins, 58, 95, 120, 121, 122, 123, 245
Bill's Vegetarian Manor, 160, 161
Birch Scepter, 215
Birch tree, 77
Birches, The, 101, 114
Black Rock, 56, 162, 200, 201, 202, 203
Blanket Factory, 131
Blaze, 124
Blizzard (1947), 150
Blocker, 40, 41, 44, 74, 92, 93, 98, 99, 100, 208, 224, 228, 229, 236, 237, 245
Blood, 247
Bloomingburg, 77, 240
Blueberries, 49, 94, 133, 151, 161, 234, 235
Blythe Cottage, 106

Boat decorating, 212, 213, 220
Boats, 61, 83, 87
Bonas, 80, 81, 82, 83, 176, 244
Bone, 212, 213, 214, 215
Bonnie Prince Charlie, 105
Borland, 147
Boxer, Braddock, 188, 189
Boyce, 192
Boyd, 81, 118, 142, 176, 186, 187, 199, 244, 245
Bracken, 211
Braddock, 188, 189
Bresnan, 4, 6, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 42, 55, 56, 69, 78, 79, 97, 108, 137, 138, 164, 166, 200, 225, 245, 246
Bromfield, 181
Brooks, Myers' dog, 171
Brovman, 245
Brown, 132, 151, 167
Brundage, 110, 112, 113, 216
Bruni, 245
Brunswick Bicycle Club, 137
Brunswick Laundry, 180, 181
Buckley, 81
Burke, 58, 124
Burroughs, 66
Buster, 238
Byrons, 245, 246

C

Camp Blaze, 124
Camp Goshen, 168
Camp houses, 50
Camp Marlorita, 130
Camp Sans Souci, 191, 231
Camp Smiley, 63
Camp Ten-e-ah-wah, 79

Camp Thomas, 61, 121, 124
Camping, 44, 50, 58, 62, 63, 69, 70, 99, 243
Canal Towne Emporium, 24, 47, 246
Canoe, 193, 209, 212, 219
Carpenter, 241
Carroll, Jean, TV Star, 182, 215
Casa Bettina, Novia's, 141
Cascino, 38
Case, 117
Casey Lane, 122
Caskey, 204
Cassidy, 134
Catfish, 244
Catskill Mountains, 7, 14
Caudy, 112
Causeway, 56, 162, 204
Chick-A-Dee Farm, 11, 85, 134
Chicken and egg man, 11
Chickens, 58, 84
Cider Press Road, 35, 37
Cinderella Man, 188, 189
Clark, 143, 171
Clarkson, 16
Cline, 193, 194, 196, 197, 220
Clubhouse, Yankee Lake, 11, 32, 38, 79, 80, 85, 107, 135, 144, 148, 151, 152, 163, 164, 194, 235, 243, 247
Cochrane, 167
Cockrell, 87, 88, 89, 101, 102, 105, 108, 109, 114, 134, 144, 222
Cole, 58, 89

Conod, 246
 Conte, 243
 Contest, 206, 212, 213, 218,
 219, 220
 Conti, 212
 Corduroy Brook, 125
 Corduroy Cottage, 120
 Cornelius, 242
 Coruzzi, 181
 Coté, 130
 Craig, 24, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50,
 51, 63, 67, 68, 69, 73, 79,
 96, 101, 102, 105, 106, 107,
 108, 109, 110, 111, 112,
 114, 115, 116, 127, 139,
 151, 173, 206, 207, 209,
 210, 222, 236, 237, 245,
 246, 247
 Crane, 172
 Creeden, 142, 143, 144, 145
 Cullen, 186, 187
 Culture, 18, 92, 206
 Culver, 21, 73, 84, 126, 129,
 130
 Culvertown, 129, 130, 132,
 239
 Cuneo, 245
 Cuomo, 90
 Cusker, 58, 61, 94, 95, 113,
 120, 121, 123, 124, 228,
 230, 231, 232, 245
 Cutler, 175, 204
D
 D&H Canal, 7, 9, 14, 15, 20,
 21, 42, 55, 125, 157
 D&H Canal Company, 7, 8, 9,
 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22,
 42, 43, 55, 198
 Dailey, 181
 Dairy, Crowley, 84
 Dairy, local production, 71
 Dam, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19,
 20, 30, 32, 42, 44, 46, 47,
 49, 55, 75, 78, 94, 95, 96,
 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102,
 103, 104, 113, 114, 117,
 125, 131, 134, 135, 136,
 138, 140, 187, 209, 212,
 217, 218, 221, 225, 232
 Dance hall, 64, 75, 241
 David Rhodes Road, 131
 Dawkins, 30, 31, 56, 173, 174,
 175, 176, 183, 204, 245,
 247
 Deeds, 16, 22, 30, 35, 36, 42,
 119, 126, 138
 Deer, 6, 49, 134, 144, 190,
 195, 234
 Delaware River, 14
 Demarest, 49, 96
 Denton, 62
 Diane, Hurricane, 113, 131
 Division Pond, 43
 Dock, 83
 Docke, 58, 59, 61, 119, 245
 Doscher, 58
 Druse, 247
 Duck pond, 97
 Dues, 30, 32
 Dugan, 11, 134, 148
 Dylan, 135, 141
E
 Eager, 27, 83, 85, 149, 245,
 246
 Eagles, 148, 235
 Easton-Holley, 12
 Eckerson, 245
 Eckert, 47
 Ecosystem, 9, 132
 Efts, red, 134, 190
 Eggs, 58
 Eggs, delivery of, 50, 84
 Elbert Road, 35, 37
 Elizabeth House, 38, 85, 152
Ellenville Press, 8
 Ellsworth, 6
 Emerald Green, 34
 Entenmanns, 134
 Ercoline, 57
 Euler, 134
 Evans, 72, 167, 169
 E-Z, The, 60
F
 Fellenzer, 189, 192, 193, 194,
 195, 196, 197, 232, 243,
 245
 Ferguson, 173, 190, 242
 Ferina, 86, 217
 Field, Eugene, 91
 Fish, 193
 Fish Fry, 76, 229
 Fish stocking, 11, 32
 Fish, heads of, 88, 144
 Fisher, 193
 Fishermen, 70, 224, 225
 Fishing, 6, 8, 50, 67, 85, 87,
 96, 99, 105, 115, 116, 137,
 151, 186, 198, 204, 206,
 223, 224, 225, 226, 238
 Fishing, ice, 222
 Fitzsimmons, 36
 Flood, 9, 10, 20, 113, 131
 Fog, 78, 205, 238
 Food, home grown, 50, 62, 71
 Forest Lodge, 137
 Forest Rod & Gun Club, 40,
 49, 52, 96, 97
 Forthoffer, 163, 194, 243
 Fowl Wood Pond, aka
 Wanaksink Lake, 7, 8, 157
 Frantz, 103
 Fulton & Holmes Store, 24, 47
 Furniture, rustic, 65
G
 Gabbey, 144
 Gaff rig, 70, 192
 Gale, 246
 Gallagher, 123
 Garbage, 133, 242, 243
 Gardiner, 167
 Garfield, 38
 Garrett, 81
 Gas pumps, 82
 Gasoline, 11
 General stores, 11, 82, 83, 85
 Gill, 47, 127, 245
 Godeffroy, 239
 Goldman, 246
 Goodman, 154, 155, 156, 157,
 181, 245
 Google Maps, 13
 Goss, 58
 Gottlieb, 2, 17, 18, 19, 24, 29,
 39, 42, 45, 46, 47, 50, 51, 52,
 53, 54, 55, 56, 59, 61, 63, 64,
 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73,
 78, 91, 96, 108, 121, 127, 136,
 137, 139, 140, 149, 151, 152,

- Gottlieb (continued), 165, 166,
168, 170, 171, 183, 184,
190, 200, 201, 202, 203,
205, 206, 207, 209, 210,
223, 232, 234, 245
- Graf, 58
- Graham, 58, 60, 61, 117, 119,
129, 130, 203, 223, 228,
238, 239, 246
- Grancio, 247
- Grange League Federation, 89
- Grassy Brook, 185, 190
- Gray, 241
- Greased watermelon, 216
- Great Depression, 11, 30, 84,
160, 176, 188, 245
- Grebeldinger, 38, 130, 245
- Green, 58, 139, 142, 144
- Green Point Outing Club, 142
- Gregory Road, 189, 191, 192,
193, 194, 196, 197, 198,
199, 200
- Greneau, The, 142, 143, 145
- Griffin, 239
- Griffith, 17, 33, 38, 46, 55, 62,
68, 70, 73, 77, 81, 139, 142,
143, 144, 145, 201, 203,
205, 223, 240, 245
- Grobusch, 245, 247
- Grocery items, delivery of, 50
- Gumaer House, 99
- Gunstone, 118
- H**
- Haas, 133
- Habitat, 18, 34, 133
- Hager, 58, 238, 239
- Hager-Graham, 53, 58, 59, 60,
61, 114, 120, 121, 122, 123,
130, 203
- Haggerty, 173
- Hall, 167, 172, 245, 247
- Hardcinder Road, 105, 106,
107, 108, 109, 110, 111,
112, 114, 115, 116
- Hardenburg Patent, 6
- Hardy, 238
- Harlow, 181
- Hasselbrink, 22, 24, 25, 28,
240
- Haven, 130
- Helms, 167
- Hendrickson, 75, 96
- Herget, 213
- Heyny, 137, 242
- High View Terrace, 34, 35, 83
- Hillaire, 173, 183
- Hoch, 82
- Hoch's Point Lookout, 82
- Holland, 179
- Holmes, 47, 240, 245, 246
- Honeymoon cottage, 108
- Honeymooners, 230
- Hope, 172
- Horse and wagon, 53, 69, 73,
200, 238, 243
- Horton, 147
- House, 16, 43, 89, 97, 103,
108, 109, 113, 216, 219,
220, 236, 237, 245, 246
- How Does It Seem to You?*, 91
- Hoyt, 241
- Hubler, 115
- Hudson River, 7, 14, 66
- Hummel, 159, 238
- Hummel, The, 60
- Hunter, 181
- Hunter, J. G., 12, 53, 62, 63,
64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70,
71, 72, 135, 144, 210
- Hunter, Lee, 72
- Hunting, 49, 172, 195
- Hurricane Diane, 113, 131
- Huttenbach, 102, 245
- Hyde Park, 66
- I**
- Ice, 11, 50, 73, 134, 135, 153,
160, 161, 238
- Ideal, The, 58, 59, 121
- Imbo, 90, 245
- In This Place*, poem, 235
- Inbar, 247
- Institute of Musical Art, 24
- Insurance, 32, 145
- Irish Sweepstakes, 124
- Iroquois, 6
- Island, Big, 32, 123, 135, 198,
202, 205, 225
- Island, Flagpole, 137
- Island, Love, 137
- Island, Snake, 137
- Islands, floating, 9
- Islands, Heyny, 28, 123, 135,
136, 137, 139, 209
- Islands, Little, 137
- Islands, Small, 28, 136, 137
- J**
- Jaceline Lodge, 97
- Jahrling, 159
- Jersey City, 38, 179, 233
- Jersey Road, 37, 148
- Jervis, 7
- Jet skis, 18
- Jewett, 89, 103, 106, 107, 113,
213, 221, 243
- Johnson, 148, 245
- Jolly Rest, The, 60, 122
- Juilliard School of Music, 24
- Julian, 81
- K**
- Kelly, 58, 112
- Kertis, 246
- Kil-Kare, Cottage, 60
- Kill, meaning of, 126
- Kimble, 130
- Kincora Cottage, 178, 179
- Kingston, 7, 27, 151
- Kit Homes, Sears, 102
- Knobb Hill, 126
- Koman, 176, 185, 244
- Kotsch, 175
- Kott, 227
- Kozlowski, 181
- Krajewski, 112
- Kramer, 245
- Krause, 233
- L**
- Laden, 21, 131, 245
- Lain, 147
- Lake Louise Marie, 7, 14, 157
- Lake rights, 30
- Lake View Cottage, 173, 174,
175, 176
- LaMonica, 90, 246
- Landen, 245
- Lang, 58, 61, 117, 238, 239
- Langseder, 38, 82, 84, 204,
206, 207, 233, 245, 247
- Lanzano, 245

Latimer, 143
 Latoraca, 181
 Laurel, The, 59, 60, 121, 122
 Lavacool, 79
 Lawrence, 159
 Lawrence, Wade, 128
 Lawson, 235, 245
 LeBeau, 247
 Legrand, 212
 Lemco, 242
 Lenni-Lenape, 6, 157
 Leotsakos, 247
 Lines, 147
 Litigation, 10
 Little, 159
 Little Road, 155-157, 160, 161, 177, 178, 182, 189
 Livery, Hager-Graham, 53, 61
 Livery, Smithem Park, 53
 Livery, Yankee Lake House Hotel, 53
 Loevan, 58
 Loftus, 214
 Long distance telephone, 10
 Lord's Pond, aka Wanaksink Lake, 7, 8, 157
 Lundell, 233
 Lynch, 122
M
 MacGowan, 30, 31, 56, 167, 173, 174, 175, 176, 183, 204, 244, 245
 Mackiewicz, 181
 Maclay, 40, 45, 144, 151, 162, 165, 166, 167, 171, 172, 233, 239
 Magee, 123
 Maggiore, 247
 Mail service, 10
 Mamakating Historical Society, 12, 52, 57, 76, 77, 80, 142, 158, 159, 246
 Mamakating Hollow, 8
 Mamakating Library, 246
 Mamakating Station, 11, 78, 99, 102, 168
 Mamakating, Town of, 6, 8, 38, 56, 126, 128, 129, 149, 162
 Mandia, 247
 Manganiello, 247
 Marcom, 178, 179, 184, 212, 213, 214, 215, 233, 245
 Marks, 167
 Marshall, 100
 Marshall's Brook, 185, 190
 Masten Lake, 7, 14, 177
 Masten's Brook, 185, 190
 Masterson, 103, 198, 199, 245
 Mathisen, 38
 Maverick, The (art colony), 27
 Max Baer vs Max Baier, 189
 Mayfield, 112
 Mazzola, 215
 McAllister, 58
 McArdle-Byrons, 2, 14, 15, 19, 20, 46, 48, 59, 62, 70, 84, 152, 166, 201, 206, 207, 210, 236, 237
 McAuliff, 57, 58, 104, 120
 McCann, 123
 McCarthy, 103, 104, 112, 212, 221, 245
 McDermott, 245, 247
 McKee's Pond, aka Lake Louise Marie, 7, 14, 157
 McKinney, 167
 McMahan, 131, 191, 225, 230, 231, 245
 Mcvicker, 197
 McVoy, 169, 194
 Medrick, 215
 Medrick's Basket Shop, 86
 Meinecke, 247
 Mermaids, 220
 Metropolitan Opera Orchestra of New York, 22, 23, 24, 27, 97, 240, 246
Middletown Daily Record, 212, 213, 214, 215
Middletown Daily Times-Press, 35, 42, 46, 47, 52, 62, 77, 108, 122, 127, 151, 165
Middletown Times Herald, 176, 240, 244
Middletown Times-Herald Record, 26, 141
Middletown Times-Press, 168, 172, 190
 Middletown, NY, 10, 44, 47, 50, 62, 86, 87, 144, 145, 163, 173, 190, 194
 Miknis, 245
 Milk, 11, 50, 58, 73, 84
 Milk, delivery of, 84
 Mill, Saw, 135, 151
 Mills, 167, 168
 Minisink Patent, 6
 Minisink Valley Historical Society, 246
 Miscioscio, 245
 Miss Yankee Lake, 163, 214
 Monticello High School, 105
 Moore, 247
 Morizzo, 245
 Moroney, 186
 Morris, 119
 Morrison, 81, 99, 151
 Mosbach, 133
 Moser, 33, 169, 240, 242
 Motor, 18, 116, 242
 Mount Hope Historical Society, 246
 Mount Lina Boarding House Hotel, 155, 156, 157
 Mount Prosper, 69, 92, 126, 144, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157
 Mount Prosper Manor, 160, 161
 Mount Prosper Road, 144, 153, 160, 161, 177
 Mount Prosper School, 105, 153, 158, 159
 Mud Pond (Treasure Lake), 8
 Myers, 20, 24, 45, 49, 166, 167, 169, 170, 171, 172, 245
N
 Nagy, 245
 Neidermeyer, 247
 Nelson, 148
 Neversink Valley Museum of History and Innovation, 19, 246
 New York City, 14
 New York Supreme Court, 10
 New York Symphony, 24

Newburgh-Cohecton Turnpike, 10, 29	Parrette, 82, 85	Pine Kill Road, Upper, 97	207, 208, 209, 210, 211,
Newcomb, 101	Parsells, 146, 238, 241	Pine Knot Camp, 77	212, 213, 214, 215, 216,
Newkirk, 24	Passaic, 44	Pine Rest, 139, 140, 241	217, 218, 219, 220, 221
Nichols, 158	Patterson, 4, 6, 11, 16, 21, 30,	Pino's, 90	Reinhardt, 83
Nielsen, 115	31, 35, 36, 37, 43, 60, 81,	Pioneer Camp, 44, 98, 99, 100,	Renida Camp, 183
Nippy, dog, 72, 76, 147	87, 89, 102, 112, 114, 115,	229	Retail Stores, 86
Nolan, 179	116, 117, 121, 128, 133,	Pioneering settlers, 40	Rickle, 148, 245, 247
North Shore Drive, 38, 45, 56,	140, 158, 235, 245, 246,	Pizza, Vic's, 90	Riordan, 178
80, 85, 86, 92, 127, 152,	247	Pizzeria, Pat and Joe's, 90	Ritter, 169, 173, 183
162, 163, 164, 166, 167,	Pelio, 134	Platt, 101, 105, 245	Roads, 32, 37, 56, 105, 129,
168, 169, 173, 174, 176,	Pennino, 22, 246	Polidori, 212, 213, 214, 215	135, 148, 179, 234
177, 178, 179, 183, 184,	Pensec, 245	Pollo, 89	Rock Hill, 177
185, 186, 188, 189, 190,	Pfeiffer-Hall, 245	Pond Eddy, 29	Rockafellow, 35, 37, 40, 42, 43,
200, 201, 202, 203, 204,	Phillips, 245	Port Jervis, 10, 46, 112, 241	77, 151
233, 242, 244	Phraner, 246	Post Office, 10, 50, 78, 79, 80,	Rockefeller, 40, 43
Novia's Casa Bettina, 141	Picnic, 62, 194	81, 83, 241, 246	Rockefeller, 239
O	Pierce, 42, 44, 45, 49, 57, 59,	Postmaster, 10	Rockerfeller, 35, 43
O'Brien, 178, 179	60, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 99,	Protz, 34, 77, 146	Rockerfeller Road, 37
O'Dell, 160, 161, 245	102, 103, 104, 105, 106,	Puff, 122	Rockerfellow, 35
O'Keefe, 124, 165, 245	107, 108, 109, 110, 111,	Q	Rocky Cove, 146
O'Leary, 134	112, 113, 118, 120, 121,	Quarry, 19	Rocky Point, 169
Oak Lane, 25	127, 132, 136, 138, 152,	Queen, Regatta, 214, 215	Roe, 241
Obituary, 26, 240	163, 166, 212, 217, 226,	Quinlan, 7, 9, 11, 17, 18	Roffe, 49, 75, 78, 83, 96, 97,
Old Man Middletown, 244	237, 245	Quoits, 173	99, 100, 101, 108, 110, 120,
Old Slab-Sides, 66	Pierce/Urtnowski, 110	R	133, 137, 184, 225, 242,
One-room schoolhouse, 153	Pinckney, 115	Railroad, 8, 14, 52	246
Orange County Times Press,	Pine Grove House, 42, 77	Rain barrels, 134	Rogers, 247
9, 10, 11	Pine Haven, 204	Raiola, 245	Rogue's Roost, 186, 187
Otisville, 12, 101, 114, 116,	Pine Kill, 6, 8, 9, 20, 21, 42,	Ramapo Catskill Library	Roller skating, 107, 163
117, 239	47, 55, 84, 92, 126, 130,	System, 246	Rooney, 29, 34, 36, 238
Outstanding fishing hole, 8, 11,	131, 138, 144	Rampe, 82, 245	Roth, 176, 244
224, 225	Pine Kill Club, 40, 47, 48, 217,	Rassiga, 246	Rourke, 81
P	246	Ratner, 159	Route-17, 6, 10, 144, 153, 160,
Paccione, 247	Pine Kill Road, 27, 36, 57,	Rattlesnake, 49, 132, 176, 244	161, 177, 182, 189
Page, 97	113, 125, 126, 127, 129,	Razey, 34, 37, 148, 151, 241	Rowboat, 70, 216, 218
Parker, 212, 247	130, 131, 133, 134, 135,	Reference Map, 13	Ruddier, 240
	227	Regatta, 163, 182, 188, 206,	Ruffer, 81

Ruhlender, 28
 Russ, 146
S
 Sailboat, 213
 Sailboat Norma, 70
 Saltarella, 247
 Sanderson, 8, 11
 Sandoe, 141, 245
 Sandy Landing, 83, 150
 Sans Souci, camp, 191, 231
 Santaniello, 173
 Sarsfield, 230, 245
 Saw Mill, 135, 151
 Schardien, 85, 152, 246
 Scheller's Boarding House,
 176, 178, 184, 242, 244
 Schlund, 130
 Schmitt Brothers, 243
 Schomberg, 240
 Schultz, 147
 Schwindt, 188, 189
 Scott, 235, 245
 Scouts, 167
 Sears Simplex, 102
 Seckinger, 167
 Seeland, 120, 238
 Seeley, 246
 Seven Sisters Camp, 147
 Seward, 169
 Shamrock Cottage, 122, 123
 Shawangunk, 7
 Shawnee, 6
 Sheldon, 120
 Shevchik, 245
 Sickles, 34, 167
 Siemers, 22, 26, 27, 240
 Sieminski, 180, 181

Silkman, 239
 Sisters Camp, Seven, 147
 Skelton, 40, 44, 48, 63, 97, 98,
 99, 100, 101, 139, 208, 224,
 228, 229, 246, 247
 Skye, 246
 Sleepy Eye Lodge, 103, 104
 Smith, 86, 96, 162, 177, 179,
 181, 189, 211, 217, 233
 Smith Road, 174, 177, 178,
 179, 180, 181, 182, 184
 Smithem, 2, 10, 12, 17, 19, 25,
 42, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56,
 57, 64, 66, 67, 68, 70, 72,
 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79,
 80, 81, 83, 91, 94, 135, 136,
 139, 146, 147, 151, 152,
 166, 171, 200, 202, 203,
 206, 207, 210, 218, 227,
 229, 237, 238, 240, 241,
 245, 246, 247
 Smythe, 215
 Snapping turtle, 88, 234, 244
 Snow load, 117, 150, 239
 Social hall, 163
 Spahn, 211, 245
 Speedwell, 78
 Spillway, 7, 9, 20, 95, 125, 242
 Spranger, 246
 Spring Glen, 103
 Springstead, 47
 Stainton, 245, 246
 Stemkowski, 245
 Stern, 103, 105, 159
 Stern Lane, 87, 89, 103, 105,
 106, 107, 108, 109, 110,
 111, 112, 113, 114, 115,

116
 Still, 12, 77, 86
 Stock shares, 10, 31
 Stokowski, 24
 Stone camp, 99
 Stone pillars, 152
 Stone Pines, 139, 140
 Streichert, 247
 Strysko, 245
 Stumps, 9, 18, 55, 70, 123,
 198, 201, 205
 Sturm, 247
 Sugahara, 247
 Sullivan County, 4, 5, 22, 30,
 32, 36, 38, 113, 131
 Sullivan County Airport, 34
 Sullivan County Deeds, 16
Sullivan County Democrat, 188
 Sunset, 135, 205
 Sunset Cove, 200, 201, 202,
 203
 Sunset Point, 200
 Swanburg, 148
 Sweeney Soda, 88
 Sylvan Cemetery, 29, 42, 137,
 240

T
 Tappan, 173, 175
 Taxes, 32, 145
 Teaneck, 38
 Telephone service, 10
 Thaler, 141
 Thompson, Town of, 8, 34
 Thornton, 103, 198
 Thuman, 82, 83, 85
 Tice, 241, 246
 Tilting, 209, 218, 219

Timber Rattler, 132
Times Herald Record, 26, 141,
 149
 Timmons, 227
 Tin House, 108, 114, 139
 Tiniski-Otis, 42, 55, 87, 104,
 138, 208, 236, 237, 245,
 247
 Towner, 246
 Tracy, 104
 Train station, 53
 Travel, 52
 Travis, 100, 208, 229
 Treasure Lake (Mud Pond), 8
 Trophy, 208, 211
 Tunnock, 230
 Turnbuckle, 117
 Turnpike, Newburgh-
 Cochection, 8, 10, 29
 Tuttle, 48, 222
 TV Star, Jean Carroll, 182, 215
 Tweed, 38
U
 Urtnowski, 86, 110, 111, 217
 US mail, 50
V
 Valley Stream, 38
 Van Buskirk, 241
 Van Fleet, 147
 Van Inwegen, 83, 116, 240
 Van's, 83
 VanBuren, 150, 245
 Vankeuren, 6
 Vannata, 246
 Vegetables, 58, 61, 134
 Vernon, 47
 Vic's Pizza, 90

- Vogel, 124
 Volpe, 178, 184, 246
 Von Berg, 146, 241
W
 Wahlgren, 181
 Wakeman, 100, 105, 127, 167,
 168, 208, 229, 245
 Waldorf, 241
 Walker, 172
 Walker & Jewett, 4
 Wall, 247
 Walzer, 36, 134
 Wanaksink Lake, 7, 8, 14, 157
 Wanser, 58
 Warner, 104
 Wascher, 110, 112
 Water Carnival, 211
 Water level, 7, 9, 10
 Water Slide, 193
 Water taxi, 70
 Watermelon Party, 100
 Watermelon, greased, 216
 Watts, 125
 Wayside, The, 241
 Weber, 169, 246
 Weehawken, 11
 Weinert, 160, 246
 Werlau, 57, 89, 96, 105, 213,
 215, 245
 West Park, 66
 West Side Stand, 87, 88, 89,
 105, 106, 108, 144
 Westbrook, 101, 108, 109
 Westbrookville, 6, 8, 9, 20, 21,
 73, 127, 131
 Westbrookville Road, 126, 127
 Westbrookville Road, Old, 126, 129, 138
 Whelan, 179
 White, 238
 Whitford, 147
 Whitman, 29, 40, 42, 44, 47,
 49, 53, 55, 119, 135, 137,
 138, 239
 Whitman Bridge, 42
 Whitman Private Road, 119,
 122, 123, 125, 138
 Whitman Road, 42, 58, 59, 60,
 112, 118, 120, 121, 123,
 124, 130, 231
 Whitman Road Corporation,
 119, 125, 228
 Whitman Road, New, 42, 47,
 55, 125
 Whitman Road, Old, 125
 Whitman Road, right-of-way,
 59
 Wickham, 173
 Wiegner, 22, 27, 240
 Wilbur, 58, 101, 114, 222, 245
 Wilbur Road, 60, 125
 Wilcox, 81
 Wilkinson, 246
 Wilson, 108, 227
 Winkle, 246
 Winn, 167
 Wintergreen Hill, 142, 143,
 145
 Wolf Lake, 7, 9, 14, 34, 125,
 133, 246
 Wolf Lake Road, 125, 133
 Wolf Lake Road, Old, 125
 Wolf Pond, 8, 17, 43, 125
 Wolf Pond Road, 59, 96, 97,
 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104,
 105, 106, 107, 108, 109,
 110, 111, 112, 114, 115,
 116, 118, 120, 124
 Wolf Pond Road, Old, 49, 125
 Wood, 35, 42, 46, 47, 62, 77,
 108, 127, 151, 165, 168,
 172, 190
 Woodstock Festival, 27
 World War II, 11, 148, 186,
 196, 197, 230
 Wright, 7, 35, 167
 Wright and Sickles Tract, 34,
 35
 Wurts, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14
 Wurtsboro, 19, 52, 53
 Wurtsboro Mt Road, 177
 Wykoff, 85, 132, 134, 227, 245
Y
 Yankee Lake Association
 (YLA), 11, 32, 34, 38, 107,
 163, 215, 243
 Yankee Lake Company, 9, 10,
 11, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,
 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 54, 56,
 125, 135, 146, 149, 162,
 163, 183, 184, 187, 190,
 194, 202, 204, 240, 241,
 242, 246
 Yankee Lake Company Map,
 164
 Yankee Lake Company Road,
 177
 Yankee Lake Country Club,
 32, 38
 Yankee Lake House Hotel, 10,
 22, 29, 36, 54, 55, 56, 57,
 117, 135, 137, 238
 Yankee Lake Lot Owners
 Association, 32, 152
 Yankee Lake Pioneers, 42, 43,
 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49
 Yankee Lake Postmark, 78, 79
 Yankee Lake Preservation
 Alliance, 11, 32
 Yankee Lake Preservation
 Association (YLPA), 11, 30,
 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 47,
 55, 57, 76, 77, 149, 163,
 164, 167, 177, 218, 246,
 247
 Yankee Lake Road, 27, 28, 36,
 37, 47, 55, 57, 76, 79, 80,
 85, 90, 105, 119, 122, 123,
 124, 125, 135, 138, 139,
 140, 142, 150, 152, 153,
 155, 156, 157, 158, 159,
 163, 164
 Yankee Lake School, 158, 159
 Yankee Lake, Mayor of, 122
 Yankee Pond Port Jervis
 Hunting and Fishing Club,
 40, 46
 Yankee's Lodge, 171, 172
Z
 Zalewski, 181
 Zarnow, 159
 Zuckerman, 160, 161
 Zufall, 188, 189, 196, 197, 245

Notes

Notes



**Published by the
Board of Directors of the
Yankee Lake Preservation Association, Inc.**

The Mission of the Yankee Lake Preservation Association is to preserve the water quality of Yankee Lake, including the Pine Kill Stream; to maintain the stability of the dam; to protect the indigenous flora and fauna; and to advocate policies and regulations which protect Yankee Lake resources.

