

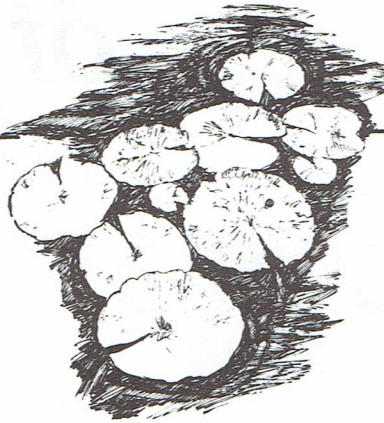
The History of Lake Muskoday

FROM
SIBERIA
CIRCA 30,000 B.C.

TO
LAKE MUSKODAY
A.D. 1988

INTRODUCTION

This is the story of Lake Muskoday. No other story is like it as it sweeps through 32,000 years and across vast distances. Although you will find many facts in this account, for brevity's sake, many other facts have been ignored and omitted. Furthermore, you also will find a scarcity of those colorful words - adverbs and adjectives - for lack of space. For if we had allowed our pen to lead head and hand, this story might have been without end. So start here.....with a wide approach in Siberia.....and read how it funnels down to a small speck on a map.....a speck named Lake Muskoday.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the enthusiastic help and cheerful cooperation of the following persons, named in alphabetic order, of course --- Donna Ackerly, Nellie Burnham, Betty Heath, Bill Krug, Gay Krug, Mattie Dewes Lederer, Dorothy McMurrer, Ralph Woythaler and the friendly folks at the Sullivan County Government Center, Monticello, NY, --- this story of our Lake Muskoday never could have been written. My sincere thanks to each of you.

August, 1988

Girard Lederer

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Homeowners Association, Inc.

30,000 B.C.

Fasten your seat belt! For we are about to go on a roller coaster ride across 32,000 years from 30,000 B.C. to today. And we shall cross countless thousands of miles.

You ask: "Where does this journey begin?" "In Siberia", we reply. And you ask: "And where does this trip end?" "At your very own Lake Muskoday", we answer. That's a lot of time and a lot of miles, so.....let's get started.

About 30,000 B.C., migratory waves of Asians began to cross Bering Strait from Siberia to Seward Peninsula, Alaska. For nine months a year - October to June - the waters are frozen solid. The distance to be travelled - about 50 miles. How little things have changed for determined people who want to leave Siberia!

From Siberia, these Asians crossed the strait and filtered into North America, into Central America and into South America. As they grew in number, they developed magnificent civilizations. In Central America, these people became the Aztecs and the Mayans. They were highly developed in engineering, architecture, art, math, astronomy, sculpture, weaving, metalwork, music, picture writing, agriculture and trade. High in the Andes Mountains of South America, the Incas developed engineering for farming, irrigation, roads and bridge building. They also made elaborate tapestries, pottery and metalwork. Other Asians moved down the western parts of North America, and reached eastward to the Atlantic Ocean. But they developed no civilization like the Aztecs, the Mayans or the Incas.

OCTOBER 12, 1492

We told you that we would travel fast. And now we are 31,500 years later - October 12, 1492. Several European explorers, we are told, may have reached the North American Continent before this date. But the evidence does not receive full credence. And for the sake of our story, let us focus on Christopher Columbus from Genoa who sailed and explored for King Ferdinand V and Queen Isabella of Spain.

Columbus reached Watling Island in the Bahama group on October 12, 1492. His three ships: Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Later they touched Cuba and Hispaniola. Upon his return to Barcelona, Spain, Columbus was made admiral and governor of all the new lands.

Columbus was convinced that he had reached the East Indies via a new, shorter route. And when he saw the natives - descendants of the migratory Asians - he called them "Indians". And so for almost 500 years Christopher's misnomer continues. For the descendants of the migrating Asians are known today as Indians.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1609

The following 117 years passed quickly. The Aztec's proud civilization began to decline after Cortes conquered them in 1519. And the same is to be said of the Inca's civilization for in 1532 Pizarro delivered the coup de grace and conquered Peru.

The next person in our story is Henry Hudson a failed English explorer. Representing Dutch commercial interests, Hudson sailed from Amsterdam in search of a shorter route to the East Indies. His ship, the Half Moon, was only 8 feet deep in the water. Instead of reaching his destination, Hudson arrived in New York Harbor on September 12, 1609, and anchored off Staten Island and remained for two days. The Indians believed that a god on a floating wigwam had come to visit them.

On September 14th, the Half Moon sailed upriver for about 100 miles and anchored off our own Hudson, N.Y. A small boat was launched and it sailed north for 50 miles and reached Albany - 150 miles from New York Harbor.

THE DUTCH AND THE INDIANS

1614 is the earliest account of the arrival of Dutch traders. A trading post was established at Esopus, the site of today's Kingston. And today, Kingston is the county seat of our neighboring county, Ulster. (More about Ulster and Sullivan Counties will follow.)

In 1614, the Dutch built Fort Nassau on Castle Island for their fur trade. Later, it was renamed Fort Orange. When the English took control in 1664 once again there was a name change.....this time to Albany. Eventually, Buffalo was connected to Albany by the Erie Canal.

In 1626, Peter Minuit, the first Dutch governor arrived in New Amsterdam. In a short time, Minuit bought from the resident Indians a piece of real estate called Manhattan. For this island, Minuit gave the Lenni Lenape Indians \$24 worth of trinkets. And within this transaction lay the basis for conflict between the Europeans and the Indians.

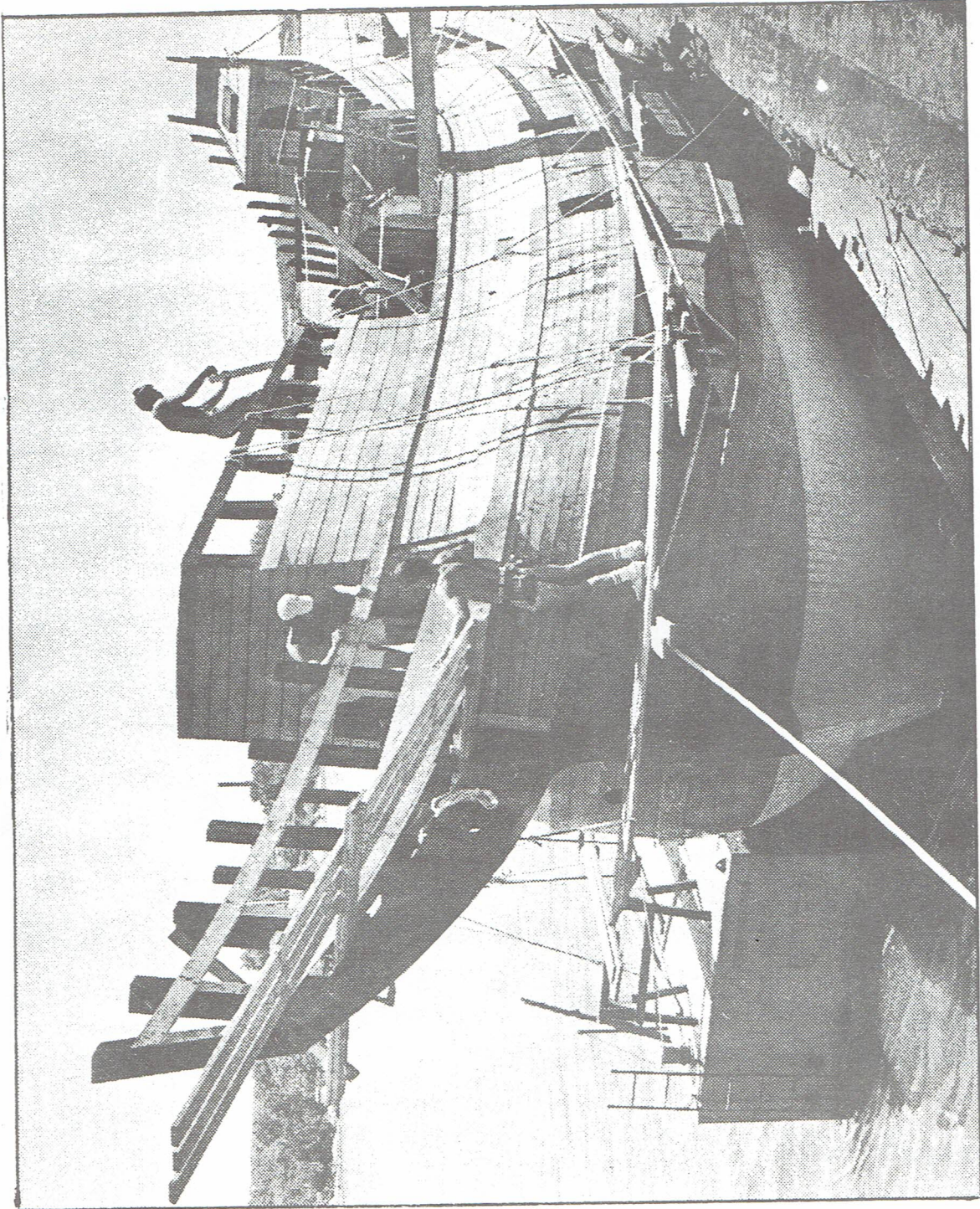
Because of European law and custom, the Dutch believed that they were buying land on which to settle. The Indians, however, with no understanding of private ownership, believed that the gifts were for allowing friendly visitors to live peacefully among them. How wrong could these two parties have been? Wrong enough to lead to deception, murder and war.

By accepting iron tools, woven cloth and alcohol, the Indians were glad to trade deer meat, bear meat, turkeys and skins. And so, old Indian culture was exploited. All too soon, the Indians became a bewildered and uprooted people.



Peter Minuit. The purchase of Manhattan Island, 1624.

Copy of Dutch Ship



Dutch History in the Making

The Half Moon under construction in the Port of Albany. The ship is a replica of the Halve Maen, in which Henry Hudson, employed by the Dutch East Indies Company in 1609, discov-

ered the river that now bears his name. A nonprofit organization is building the ship to call attention to Dutch contributions to the founding of the United States. Page B3.

THE LENNI-LENAPE INDIANS

One large group of Indians in today's U.S. of A. is the Algonquin Nation. This group extended from the Atlantic almost to the Pacific Ocean, a spread of more than 2,000 miles. The Algonquins embraced at least 40 tribes. One tribe particularly, the Lenni-Lenapes, will receive our attention.

In the Lenni-Lenape's remarkable chronicle, Walum-Olum, their origin is placed far to the northwest, a region from which they migrated to the Atlantic. This region was probably Alaska.

The settlers who arrived via the Delaware River found the Indians on both sides of the river, and called these Lenni-Lenapes the Delawares or the Delaware Indians. Thus 'Delawares' and 'Lenapes' are used interchangeably.

These Lenapes were divided into three groups: UNAMI, or Turtles; UNALATCHGO, or Turkeys; MINSI, or Wolves. When the Europeans arrived in this area, the MINSIES had arrived countless years ahead of them.

As time passed, the Lenapes realized that their lands had been taken by purchase and by force. They rebelled. The result was a foregone conclusion: European Settlers were massacred; Lenape Indians were slaughtered.

Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of the Dutch Colony of New Netherland, finally made peace with the Lenapes in 1660. The peace lasted for a short time. In 1663, the savages raided Esopus (Near Kingston, NY) killed 24 villagers, burned all houses and took several prisoners.

From New Amsterdam, a force of soldiers was sent to chastise the Indians. The Lenapes in the Esopus area were captured and slaughtered. Early in 1664, after having lost many battles, the Indians sued for peace.

In a treaty dated October 7, 1665, Governor Nicolls made peace with "the original people"..... the Esopus and Delaware Indians of Ulster and Sullivan Counties.

As early as 1724, some Lenapes left the Delaware River and moved west to Ohio. Their community in Ohio today is called Delaware. About 1740, the remaining Lenapes complained that the English had cheated in land transactions. An Indian council of six nations ruled that the Lenapes were a beaten and conquered people; that they should leave the banks of the Delaware. And so, the remaining Lenapes moved to Ohio to join their kinfolk and the French.

In July, 1775, General Braddock tried to capture Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh, PA) from the French. He was met by a force of 900 French and Indians and was badly beaten. This defeat discredited the invincibility of the British Military. The Shawnee and the Lenapes then unburied their bloody tomahawks.

THE TWO GREAT RIVERS



By a most remarkable coincidence, the Hudson and the Delaware Rivers are almost the same length. The Hudson River is about 315 miles long; the Delaware, 280 miles. Perhaps there is a geologic reason for the similar length of these rivers, but we lack the explanation.

The Hudson River was a valuable highway for Dutch Settlers and traders. Special passenger ships were built to sail upriver and they carried settlers places we know today as Yonkers, Ossining, Peekskill, Newburgh, Kingston, Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie, Hudson, Albany, Renssalaer and more. From these river cities, some settlers spread westward through Ulster and Orange Counties to Sullivan County which is yet to be born.

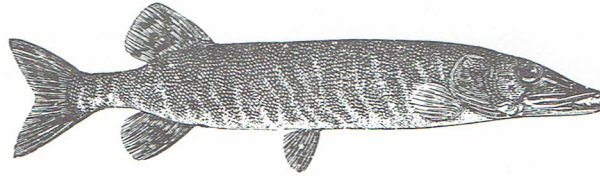
English settlers and traders followed the Dutch upriver, and eventually the Dutch were driven from their colony of New Netherland. Thus, Dutch names of cities were changed to English names and so we now have New York, Kingston and Albany.

By the end of the 1700's the Hudson River was an established American transportation route. From the port of New York, vast inland regions became accessible.

In 1813, one Horatio Gates Spofford extolled the beauty of the Catskills. Six years later in 1819, Washington Irving's "Rip Van Winkle" was published and among the readers of English it aroused great interest in the Catskills.

The Delaware River has its source in the Catskills. The river's East Branch and West Branch meet at Hancock, flow to Port Jervis, and continue on a 280 mile course to Delaware Bay. Enroute, it forms part of the state lines between New York State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Years ago, the Delaware abounded in shad, bass, salmon. Today, pollution, the bane of all living creatures, caused these fish to leave the river. Only walleyed pike and bass now are caught.



THE SWEDES AND THE FINNS

In 1638, the Swedes planted a colony on the Delaware called New Sweden. It was located on the Delaware River where it empties into Delaware Bay. They named the site Fort Christiana. Today, it is our Wilmington, Delaware.

Shortly after the fort had been built, the Finns joined the Swedes in the new settlement. Both peoples enjoyed good relations with their local Indians. Their biggest complaint however, was that there were too many mosquitoes.

Why are the Swedes and Finns on the Delaware mentioned? Because many left Fort Christiana and travelled upriver to work in the forests and river towns known today as Port Jervis and Callicoon. Also in this flow of population were some English settlers from William Penn's colony which was founded in 1682.

A short distance beyond Port Jervis, another small river empties its waters into the mighty Delaware. Its name - the Mongaup. Today, the best known city up the Mongaup is Forestburgh. Thus, it was along the Delaware, the Mongaup and the Hudson Rivers that Europeans travelled towards today's Sullivan County.

Still another factor drove Swedes and Finns from New Sweden. In 1655, Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of the Dutch Colony, New Netherland, conquered New Sweden. But Stuyvesant got his comeuppance in 1664. Overwhelmed by a surprise attack Stuyvesant surrendered New Netherland to the British. It then became a royal British Colony. On September 3, 1664, Colonel Richard Nicoll's, the conqueror, began Britain's rule.

Thus the Swedes, the Finns and the Dutch had lost their colonies to the British, and these peoples became well integrated with the English. But the French had yet to be encountered.

THE HARDENBURGH PATENT

On March 15, 1706, Major Johannes Hardenburgh, a successful merchant, Kingston, NY, made a most impressive real estate deal. From Nanisinas, principal Esopus sachem, Hardenburgh bought several tracts of land known as the Major or Great Hardenburgh Patent. It was an immense tract of land - over 50,000 acres for which the major paid sixty English pounds, current money in New York!

In dollars and cents, Hardenburgh paid one-tenth of a cent per acre! Imagine: 10 acres for a penny! (Indeed, Peter Minuet's purchase of Manhattan Island for \$24 worth of trinkets was a better buy. But look at Hardenburgh another way: Hardenburgh rates up there with today's Donald Trump and Harry Helmsley.)

So let's get down to earth the good earth. Today, Lake Muskoday, all of our adjacent land and more is on property which is but a small part of the *great Hardenburgh Patent!*



THE LIVINGSTONS OF LIVINGSTON MANOR

Robert Livingston (1654 - 1728) emigrated from Scotland in 1673. This 19 year old lad settled in Albany. Six years later, he married the lovely daughter, Alida, of the well-to-do Van Rensselaer family. By trading with the Indians, Robert became wealthy. In 1686, he received a patent for 160,000 acres from King George I. Imagine that: 160,000 acres!

Robert and Alida had one son: Robert. Robert, in turn, had two sons: Philip (1716-1778) and Robert (1718-1775). Robert R. sired one son, Robert R. and five daughters. This last Robert R. accomplished the following:

He became the law partner of John Jay in New York City. He next became the first Secretary of the newly formed Department of Foreign Affairs. On April 30, 1789, R.R.L. administered George Washington's first presidential oath. In 1803, he helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase for \$3 million with France. Finally, he financed Robert Fulton's experiment with a steamboat, "The Clermont" (1807).

Today, Livingston Manor, our nearby neighbor, is the administrative center for our neighboring town, The Town of Rockland.

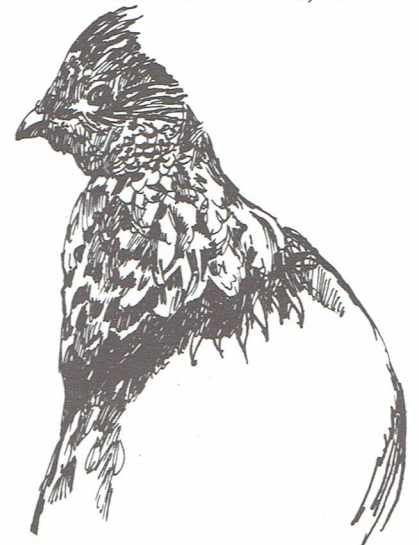
THE CLINTON FAMILY

James Clinton (1733-1812) was a general in the Continental Army. He was the successful defender of Fort Clinton near Kingston, NY. He also had fought against the Indians with General John Sullivan - as in the County of Sullivan - and later on, we shall read more about this John Sullivan.

George Clinton (1739 - 1812) was the brother of James above. Before the Revolutionary War, George was a pirateer. In the Continental Army however, he was a brigadier general. He helped defend Fort Clinton and to capture Fort Montgomery (West Point). After the war, George became the first governor of New York and was known as "The Father of New York State". Between George Clinton and Alexander Hamilton, a battle of words.....of ideas.....for the U.S. of A. erupted in New York City Newspapers. Clinton signed his articles "Cabo", Hamilton signed "Caesar".

DeWitt Clinton (1769-1828) was the son of James Clinton. After admittance to the bar, DeWitt became secretary to his uncle, Governor George Clinton. In 1803, DeWitt was mayor of New York City. In 1812, he ran for president of the U.S. of A. but lost to James Madison. He lived long enough to see the completion of the Erie Canal (1825) and the Champlain Hudson Canal before he died in 1828.

The most unusual account of a Clinton concerns Henry (1738-1795), son of George Clinton. After service in the New York Militia, Henry enlisted in his British Majesty's Coldstream Guards. He became a British citizen, was promoted to general and fought against Americans in the Revolutionary War. When he died in 1795, his title was Sir General Henry Clinton!



THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

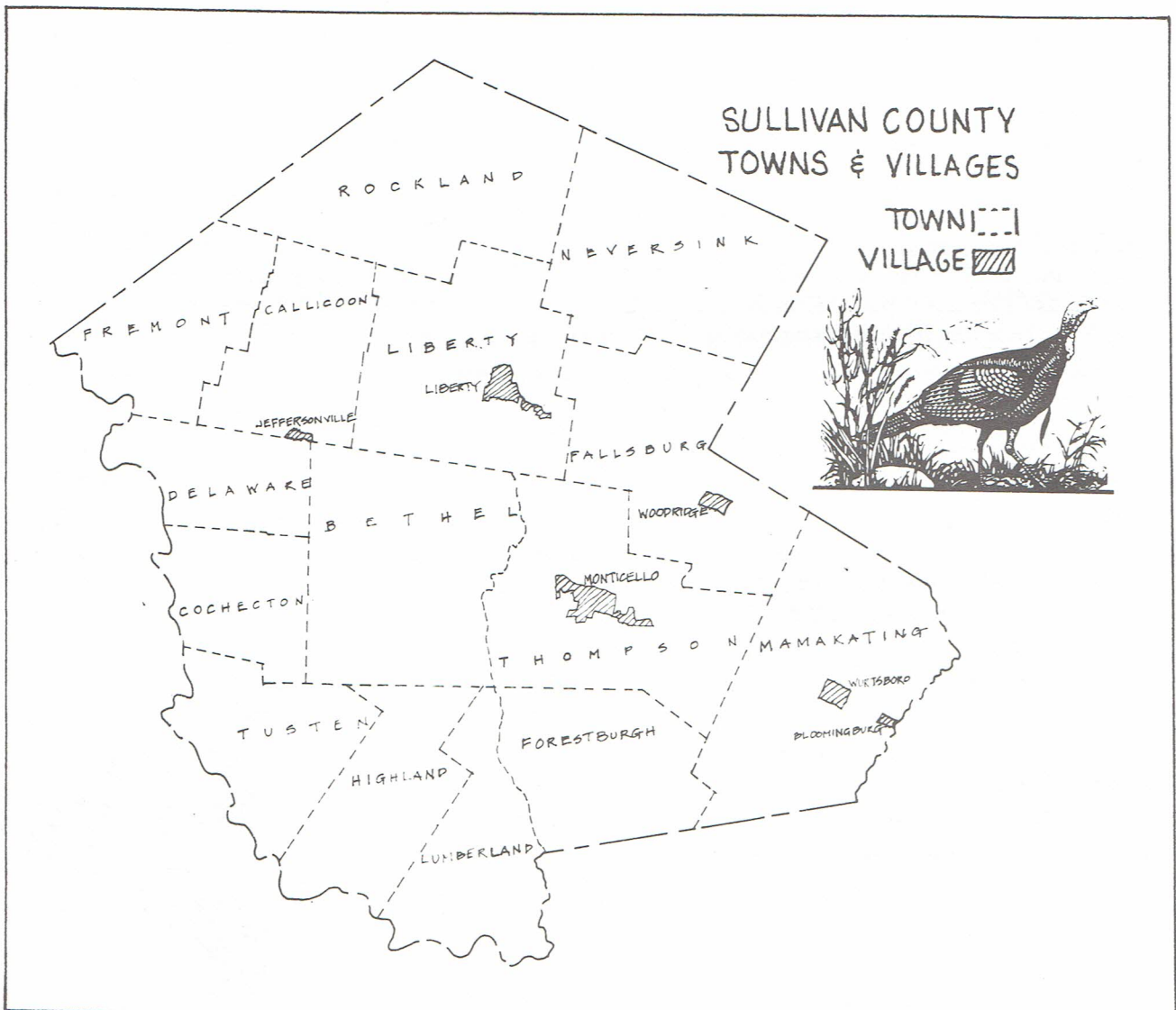
Before March 27, 1809, Sullivan County did not exist. It was part of Ulster County and Kingston was the county seat. Because it was cumbersome to administer so large a county, Sullivan was spun off from Ulster County on the above date by an act of the New York State Legislature.

It was the desire of the county founders to name it after a local hero, General James Clinton. But their claim for "Clinton County" was made too late. An upstate county made an earlier claim for the name, and the name claiming race was won by the swifter.

Why pick a name like Sullivan? Why not Lenape County? Because the name of another war hero was wanted, and the name of General John Sullivan had the necessary panache.

John Sullivan (1740 - 1795) was born in Berwick, ME. He practiced law in Durham, NH, and in 1774 was sent as a delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. During the war, Sullivan helped seize Fort William and Mary, Portsmouth, NH. He was commissioned Brigadier General in 1776 and later became one of eight Major Generals. From 1786 - 1789 he was a congressman and later was elected governor of New Hampshire. In 1795, he died at the age of 59. Although Sullivan was not a local boy who made good, nevertheless, he was a war hero whose name we will help perpetuate.

Today, Sullivan County encompasses 1,011 square miles and has a population of 65,155.



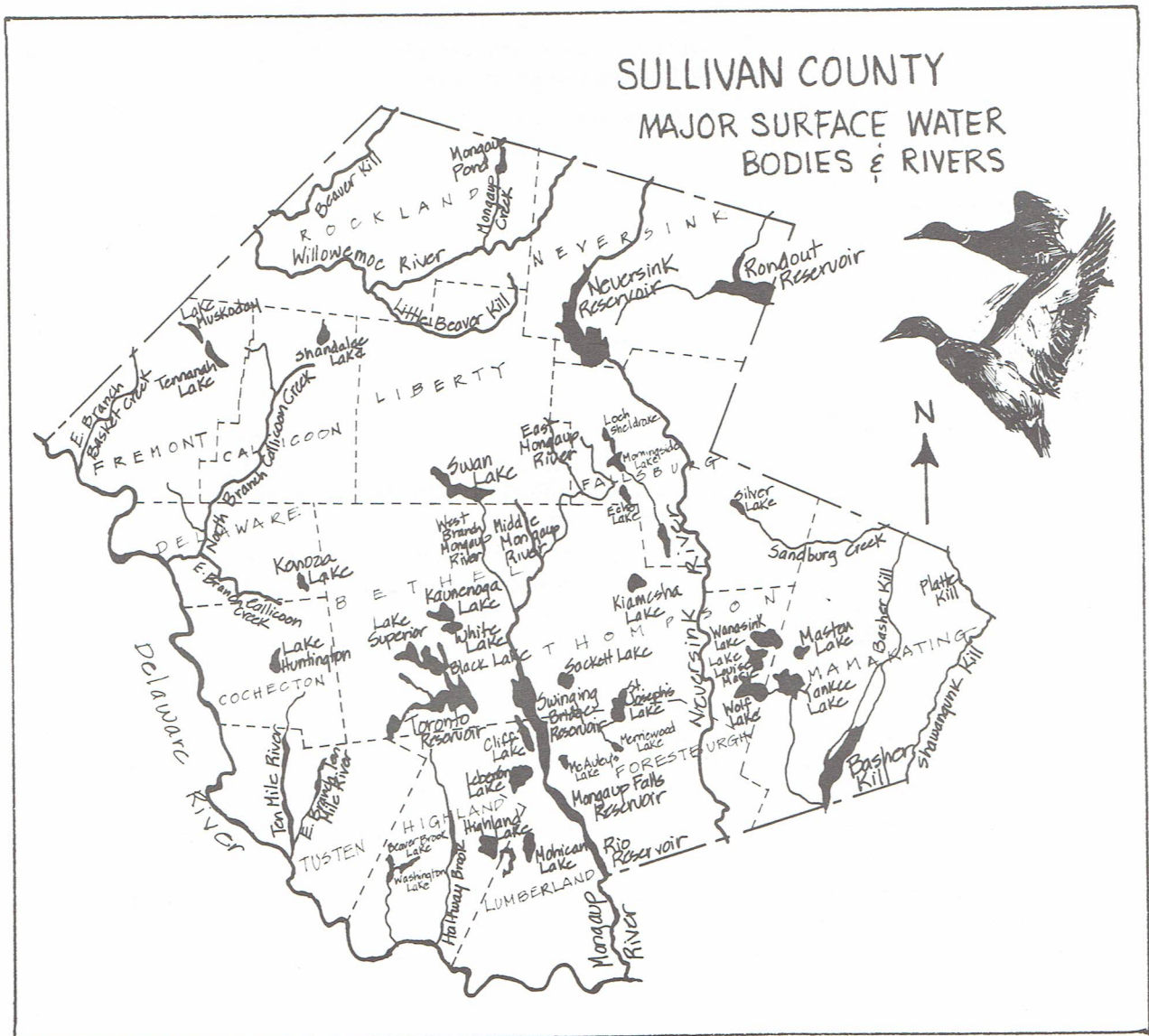
CANALS AND RAILROADS

In 1801, General George Clinton had a grand Idea: Build a national road from the Hudson River to the Great West..."The National Apron Way!" But it was thought that the fledgling country was too weak financially for such a costly undertaking. Furthermore, within a decade, prospectors seeking cheap land could ride up the Hudson on a steamboat and then ride west on a canal boat. For in 1825 the Erie Canal connecting the Hudson and Lake Erie was completed. America began to grow!

In 1828, the Delaware and Hudson Canal also was completed. And one year later, it began to haul coal from Honesdale to Carbondale, PA. The coal was then shipped to Philadelphia.

But a better way was needed to transport passengers and haul freight. All agreed earth and stone roads were good; that a water route was even better; that an iron road would be best. Thus began the railroads.

Citizens clamored for a railroad from the Hudson River to Lake Erie and their wishes were answered. In 1832, the New York and Harlem Railroad was begun. And in 1851 the Erie Railroad was born. Thus the railroads carried prospectors to inland destinations, Sullivan County included. It did not take much time for the railroads to undermine the commercial value of turnpikes and canals.



TURNPIKES AND SULLIVAN COUNTY

Before Sullivan County was created in 1809, few Europeans lived in the region. Yes, there were some living in Mamakating, Lumberland, Cocheton and Neversink but in 1790 they numbered only 1,763.

The same way that nature dislikes a vacuum, the large land owners disliked the sparsely settled areas. Property owners such as the Livingstons, the van Rensselaers, the Clintons and the Hardenburghs induced men to come to their regions either to buy or to lease land.

One route to Sullivan County was the Delaware River. Another was the Hudson. But, another avenue of approach began to appear: toll roads and turnpikes began to be built.

In 1801, construction of the Newburgh-Cochecton Turnpike began. This toll road helped immensely for Sullivan County to be born. In 1805, the Little Delaware Turnpike cut through the village of Catskill. The Ulster and Delaware Turnpike cut through the middle of the county. The Susquehanna Turnpike skimmed the northern mountains. Finally, the Neversink Turnpike penetrated the southwestern part of the county.

By today's standards, yesterday's turnpikes were crude highways. But they facilitated the passage of Europeans from port cities to interior lands. The region welcomed the people from the eastern seaboard.

OUR TOWN OF FREMONT

Before the War for Independence, few families lived in the valley of the Delaware. In May, 1839, one John Hankins moved to Fremont and he appears to have been its first settler. Yet when Hankins arrived, he found an old frame house, a saw mill, land which had been tilled years earlier.....all of which had been abandoned by persons unknown.

During his first year at Fremont, Hankins built a blacksmith shop, started a general store and built a handsome residence for his family. By 1847, Hankins built a second saw mill. Little wonder this man of diverse successful efforts was found dead on the road to Callicoon about one-quarter mile from his home.

Names of other earlier settlers: Adams, Kellam, Tyler, Dodge, Stewart, Sprague are borne today by their descendants.

In 1849, Charles W. and Benjamin C. Miles built a tannery in Fremont. Together with Carlos P. Holcomb, their tannery was built on Hankins Creek where today you will find Mileses. Other tanneries were built at Hortonville and Fremont Center.

At Long Pond within the Town of Fremont, Benjamin Misner and his brother, Jacobus, bought a tract of land from Herman M. Hardenburg in 1811. Twenty years later, Benjamin Misner built a saw mill at the outlet of Long Pond. In the same year - 1831, he stocked the lake with trout taken from Trout Brook. (Since "Long Lake" is not an alluring name, eventually it was renamed Tennanah Lake to make the ring of it more appealing to vacationers.)

In early times, settlers at Long Lake arrived via the Town of Rockland with its administrative center at Livingston Manor. Today, many of us drive on the Quickway past Livingston Manor to Roscoe. Both of the aforementioned communities are in the Town of Rockland. From Roscoe, we then travel to our Lake Muskoday in the Town of Fremont. Confusing, isn't it?

Because distances were great and communications were slow, it became increasingly difficult and arduous to administer counties and townships. By far, it was easier to administer smaller units. To cope with such problems, on November 1, 1851, the Town of Fremont was created by the Board of Supervisors of Sullivan County. It then became the 11th town in Sullivan County, having been separated from the Town of Callicoon. Today, there are 15 towns in the county, and Fremont is the smallest in size.

The stage is now set for the increased arrival of visitors. In May, 1851, the Erie Railroad was completed. A station was built at Hankins. The Erie brought a real estate boom to the Town of Fremont. The value of land skyrocketed. So exciting was the speculation and euphoria, in 1856 one Mr. Taylor built a railroad station for the Erie at his own expense. And for one year Taylor served as the Erie agent without pay.

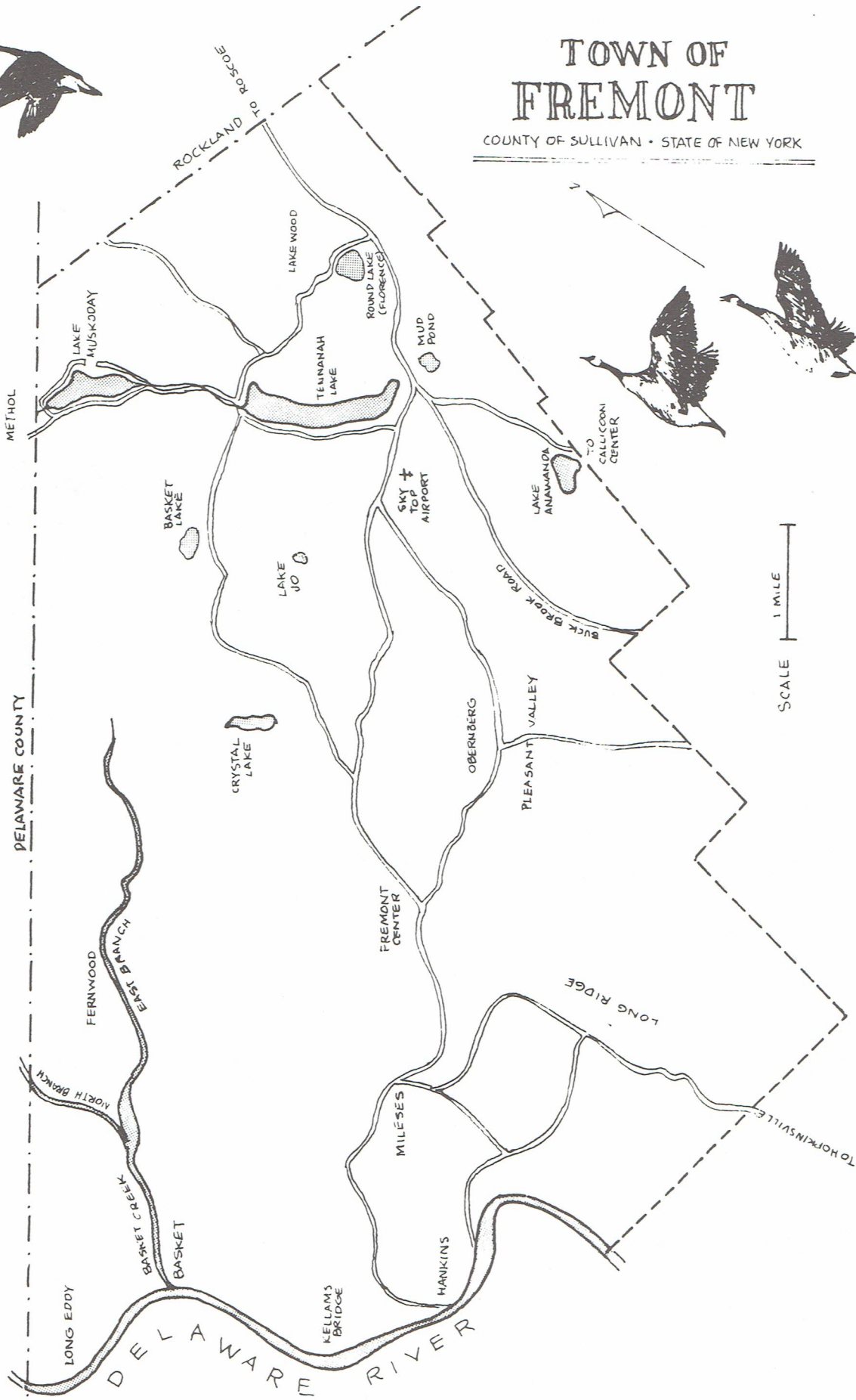
In September, 1852, a post office was established in Fremont Center. Today, both the post office and the railroad station are called Fremont.

The speculation in land and the increase population peaked, then faded. By 1870, the population of the Town of Fremont diminished 50%. Today, 1,392 people live within Fremont's 51.37 square miles.



TOWN OF FREMONT

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN • STATE OF NEW YORK



DELAWARE COUNTY

METHOL

ROCKLAND
TO ROSCOE

TO CALICOON CENTER

SCALE 1 MILE

LONG EDDY

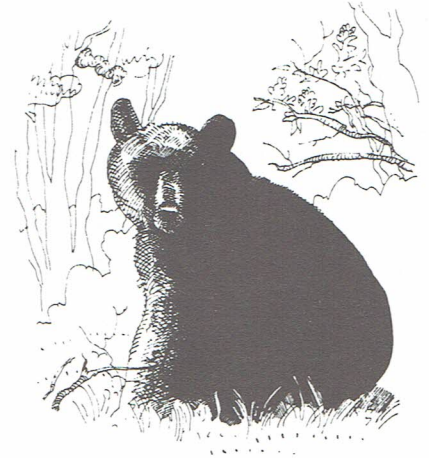
DELAWARE RIVER

JOHN CHARLES FREMONT (1813 - 1890) "THE PATHFINDER"

In search of a name for the new township, it was found in a dazzling character..... John C. Fremont. He was born in Savannah, GA, in 1813. By 1841, he was an explorer of the West. In 1846, he was the leader of the independence movement of California from Mexico.

In 1850, Fremont was a U.S. Senator from California and in 1856, he was the Republican candidate for President. (He lost the election to James Buchanan). As a general in the Union Army during the Civil War, Fremont commanded the Western Department but was removed because of his friendly treatment of slaveholders. While military commander in the Missouri Theatre based in St. Louis, Fremont became the darling of the German immigrants whose votes he had solicited. And it was the German immigrants who brought Fremont's name to the northwest corner of Sullivan County.

In 1870, Fremont lost his fortune in a railroad venture. Later he became governor of the Arizona Territory (1878 - 1883). "The Pathfinder," he was nicknamed, and he was one of the most controversial figures in Western history. And to this adventurous man, John Charles Fremont, we are indebted for use of his name for our fair township.



TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Because of the village of Roscoe in the Town of Rockland is important to us here at Lake Muskoday, let us pay passing attention to it and to its administrative center, Livingston Manor.

Robert R. Livingston (whom we met earlier) was the first-born of 10 children sired by Robert Livingston (1654 - 1728). Primogeniture was the law of the day, and lucky Robert R. inherited 160,000 acres. But he shared his good fortune with brothers and sisters by giving them a total of 151,000 acres. And when he died in Red Hook, N.Y., Robert R. still owned 9,000 acres!

The Town of Rockland was sliced from the Town of Neversink on April 1, 1810. Because the soil was rocky, it was easy to coin a descriptive name for the new township. And because of its name, many settlers avoided the Town of Rockland. On April 1, 1810, its entire population was 309.

No town in Sullivan County has more rivers and creeks, e.g. the Beaverkill and the Willowemoc; 15 or more lakes and ponds; mountains; valleys. It was an Indian paradise abounding in wild life, fish and maize. Not until the settlers began to surround the region did the Lenapes abandon it.

Earliest record of settlers was 1788 when Jehiel Stuart, his wife and family and his brother, Luther arrived. In 1796 Samuel Darbee and Levi Kimball arrived and set up a general store where the Beaverkill and the Willowemoc meet. Call the confluence of these two streams Junction Pool, and you will be right on target. Abel Sprague also was an early settler, and his son, William, became interested in a general store.

In 1799, lumbering started in the area. With difficulty, logs were floated down the Beaverkill and the Willowemoc to the Delaware River. From there, the logs were floated downriver to Philadelphia. At that time, the sawmill nearest Roscoe was in Warwasing, a 90 mile round trip.

Today, the Town of Rockland's 97.27 square miles contain 4,207 residents.

INDUSTRY IN SULLIVAN COUNTY

In the beginning, life was difficult for the settlers. They hunted, fished and planted crops in order to survive. If a surplus resulted, bartering for supplies was the way of life.

Roads were few. Distances were great. In 1790, the nearest post office to Callicoon on the Delaware was in the Kingston on the Hudson.....about 60 miles as the crow flies. Imagine following trails through forests - trails blazed on trees - for incoming and outgoing mail!

As survival levels were exceeded, the settlers took to industry aided and fostered by bountiful Nature's raw materials. At the start, the settlers felled trees and built cabins. Next, some became loggers. Saw mills were built. Wood working and cooperage plants came into being.

As we have learned, some areas were rocky and poor for farming. These areas were for dairying. For the cattle, their ultimate end was their hides. This led to the start of many tanneries.

Tanneries need a product called methanol - better known as wood alcohol (CH_3OH). This chemical is used in the first step for converting raw hides into leather. To produce wood alcohol (called ACID in the trade), hemlock trees were felled and their bark was stripped. In the total absence of air, the bark was subjected to high heat and wood alcohol resulted. From this process called destructive distillation, other products issued to make formaldehyde, smokeless powder, paints and charcoal.

Today, it is difficult to understand the importance of the settler's wood alcohol industry, but consider this:

*Not far from our Lake Muskoday is a community named ACIDALIA

*Only a few miles from our lake is what remains of a former busy community called METHOL (more about Methol will follow shortly).

Another industry which flourished was quarrying blue stone/flag stone. Until the arrival of Portland cement, side walks were covered with blue stone. And with the advent of cement, many quarrying ventures perished.

With the building of railroads, the last industry we will mention in this brief account of industry in Sullivan County is tourism.....vacationers. The early arrivers stayed on farms, enjoyed fresh farm food, fresh air and a relief from urban tensions. As catering for profit became apparent, more and more farm homes accepted boarders. Eventually, larger and larger hotels were built, their names too familiar to mention.



METHOL

The year is 1867. From Long Pond (Tennanah Lake) to the next community, Trout Brook, lay six difficult-to-travel miles. From Long Pond's outlet, the brook flowed through marshland and thickets. The place was swampy, boggy and overgrown with alder bushes, willow and poplar trees. There it was, six miles of unbroken wilderness.

At that time - 1867 - Hoyt Bros., leading leather dealers, arrive. From 2,000 acres of hemlock trees, they bought only the bark. The bark was stripped from the trees and shipped to their factory at Thomasville. Hoyt wanted only the wood alcohol from the bark for tanning leather.

Autumn 1867, A.B. Beals & Co. built a circular saw mill at Trout Brook Falls. Hemlock and other trees were felled, floated downstream to the mill pond and were then sawed into lumber. From the saw mill most of the lumber was made into temporary rafts to be floated down Trout Brook, to the Beaverkill then onto the Delaware River.

Spring 1868, the Beals built a wood chute 6-1/2 miles long from their saw mill to the Beaverkill's mouth. Though costly, the chute proved impractical, and after two years it was abandoned.

Greater water force was needed; accordingly, a crude dam was built across Trout Brook approximately where today's dam stands. Behind this dam a lake formed, but the dam was not just right. When the lake was high, water overflowed onto the road and onto bordering meadows. Complaints arose, and the dam was removed.

In 1891, another acid factory and another saw mill were built at Trout Brook. Involved in this venture was Irving Holcomb, father of Albert Holcomb. Irving was deeply in debt. All he owned was heavily mortgaged. When he could not pay his debts, along came one Arthur Leighton. By a strategy unknown, Leighton got possession of Holcomb's property. The Holcomb Family lost everything.

Albert and Sarah Holcomb had a nephew, Irving Burnham. Irving Burnham is still with us today, and he has three children: Nellie, Frank and Richard Burnham. Nellie and Frank are valued members of our Association.

Because methol alcohol was in great demand, Arthur Leighton was riding high in Trout Brook. Indeed, he was a man of means and influence. So, Leighton renamed Trout Brook - Methol. Workers moved into Methol, bought land, built homes. A post office was inside the general store. A one-room school house was built. So was a church. All was in place, and the small community thrived. But a severe change was coming.

By 1910, the price for wood alcohol plummeted. The once profitable factory was abandoned. Workers lost their jobs. Workers left their homes standing and they moved away: Arthur Leighton died with his business. Today, Methol is truly a ghost town..... a spot on the road in Delaware County, just a few miles across the Sullivan County line. Methol is a short distance north of our dam at Lake Muskoday. 2 to 3 miles away is its former site. Today Method is but a skeleton - from what little remains beyond its nameMethol.

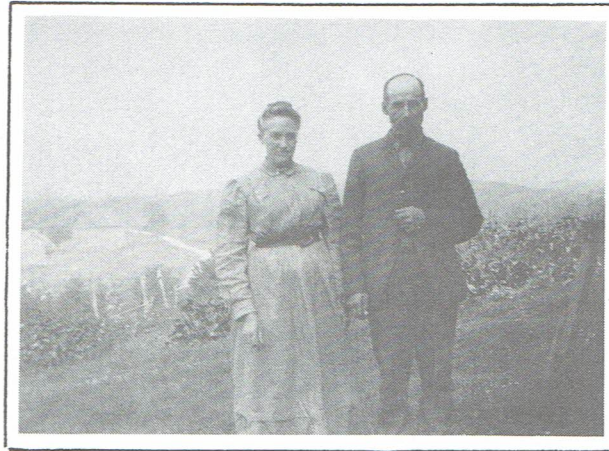


AFTER THE CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)

Shortly after the Civil War had ended, a veteran named James Curtis Layton (1817-1875) arrived in this area. In a deed dated April 10, 1873, Layton bought land from Oliver B. and Emma C. Beals and from Irving and Sarah Holcomb. This was the nucleus of what became of our Lake Muskoday.

When James Curtis Layton was 21, he married Ursula Brown (1820-1903). From this union, 13 children were born. The youngest, Frances (1866 - 1954). In 1893, Frances Layton married John Taylor Graham (?-1918).

Frances Layton Graham



John Taylor Graham

And from this marriage three children were born:

Elizabeth Layton Graham	(1896-1962)
Raymond Dinsmore Graham	(1898-1960)
Charles Layton Graham	(1899-1904)

Elizabeth L. Graham did not marry. But her brother, Raymond D. Graham in 1934, married Dorothy Adelaide Bury (1909-1986). Ray and Dottie produced one child: Donna Rae Ackerly (1935 -). And to make current the vital statistics, Donna had two children: Kathleen Ann Werlau (1955 -) and Thomas Richard Bose (1959 -).

According to Donna Ackerly, her father, Ray Graham, attended Hancock High School. When the U.S. of A. entered World War I, Ray enlisted in the Army of the United States on December 9, 1917, at Fort Slocum, NY. He was discharged on November 14, 1918 and he was sent home to run the Graham family farm. Shortly after the war, Ray Graham attended Cornell University and studied in the Dept. of Dairy Industry.

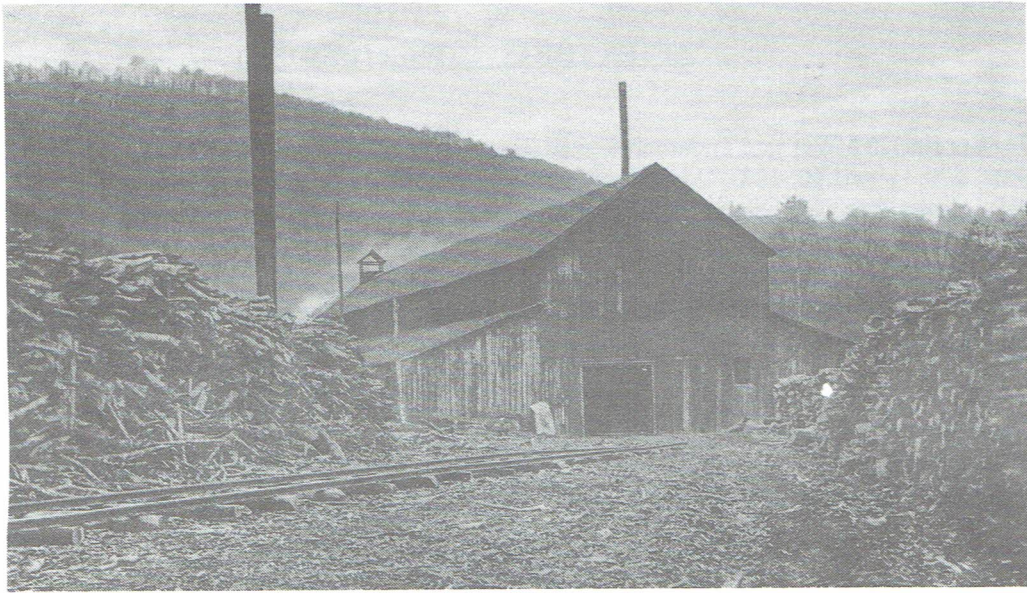
Dorothy Graham was graduated from Oneonta Normal School and Boston University. Her major subject was Physical Education; her minor, Elementary Education.

While the Graham family acquired children, Raymond Graham began to acquire more land for he had an idea in mind.

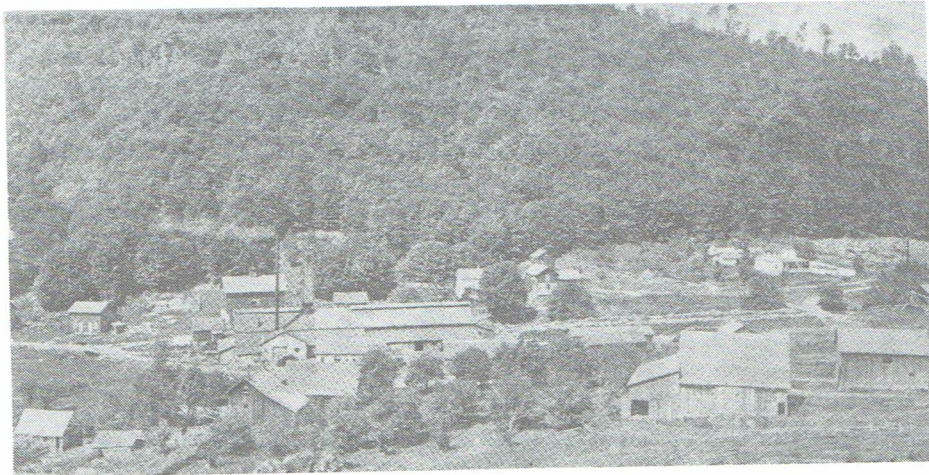
On June 28, 1924, Ray bought from Christian and Christina Maus a tract of land which loosely corresponds to the middle one-third of our lake.

On August 6, 1927, Ray and his sister, Elizabeth, bought from Albert and Elizabeth K. Holcomb the balance of the land which bounds our Lake Muskoday area.

Finally, on September 12, 1984, Dorothy B. Graham sold 206.83 acres to the Lake Muskoday Home Owners Association, Inc.



The Acid Factory in Methol, (Acidalia), circa 1890



The Village of Methol, circa 1890



Work being done on the original Muskoday dam, 1921.

BIRTH OF OUR LAKE MUSKODAY

In 1920, one year after the end of World War I, the Grahams, Albert and Elizabeth Holcomb and one John Kutcher (he owned the southern one-third of what will soon become Lake Muskoday) formalized a plan to build a dam on Trout Brook where today our dam now stands. The State of New York granted permission to build the dam.

In 1921, work began. Where a beaver dam stood on Trout Brook - between Tennanah Lake and Methol hamlet - a dam began to rise. The lake bed to be cleared of trees, shrubs and bushes. Then the dam was closed and by Spring, 1923, the work had been completed. A man-made lake one mile long and almost one-half mile wide began to form.

For this new-born lake, a name was needed. From a list of names considered, an Indian name - MUSKODAY was chosen. In the Algonquian language, Muskoday means "Wild Meadow". And so, our Lake Muskoday was born and named in 1924.

The sale of land was Ray Graham's next project. He wrote and published a sales pamphlet from which we borrow liberally:

"This paradise of a mountain greenery is surrounded mostly by woods. Excellent hunting for deer, fox, coons, rabbits, squirrels and partridge is provided. Wild ducks and Canadian geese, in their seasonal migrations, visit Lake Muskoday. In addition to fishing in the lake, there are many splendid trout streams in the region including the renowned Beaverkill and the famous Willowemoc. That a colony will develop on the shores of Lake Muskoday seems assured. For several lots already have been bought, and the new owners plan to build in the spring."

Lots were offered at \$3.50 to \$5.00 per foot on the lake front, according to location. These lots measured 175 feet to 225 feet deep.

Five summer bungalows were built and furnished. Rentals were \$25 a week; or, \$300 for the entire summer. How about those good, old prices?

On March 3, 1928, the first meeting of the Lake Muskoday Bungalow Colony, Inc., was held. Raymond Graham was elected president. Until his death in 1960, Ray Graham led the "Colony".

After our loss of Ray, the "Colony" was fortunate to have had a group of excellent presidents. However, always in control was Ray's widow, Dorothy. Finally, when operating costs for taxes and insurance became excessive, Dorothy B. Graham sold all of the family holdings on September 12, 1984. The buyer.....**Lake Muskoday Homeowners Association, Inc.**



CONCISE ACCOUNT OF "COLONY" AND "ASSOCIATION" MINUTES FROM MEETINGS
MARCH 3, 1928 TO AUGUST 27, 1988

On March 3, 1928, the first meeting of the Lake Muskoday Bungalow Colony, Inc. was held at the home of Clare Hallenbeck. The following officers were elected:

Raymond Graham, President
Marion A. Brown, Secretary - Treasurer

Also elected directors were:

Fred A. Canovello
Frank Murch
Tom Quick
Frank Wood

Only lot owners could be members of the Association; family members could be associate members. Annual dues were \$10 for members; \$5 for association members. Initial sale of land was to be made by the BOD. Each house with a lavatory must have a septic tank. Much discussion and many motions concerning fishing limitations and fees.

September 2, 1928 - no gasoline motors on the lake.

September 2, 1928 - meeting held in new club house built by Ray Graham for \$530.39. For building tennis court, Graham was paid \$155. Graham authorized to buy and stock lake with 10,000 pickerel. Douglas Linslay was elected director to replace Frank Wood. Cash on hand: \$11.

August 15, 1931 - Fred Canovello suspended for non-payment of dues.

September 7, 1931 - Treasurer reported \$110.71 in the bank plus \$56.51 raised from parties, dances and suppers. The following were re-elected: Raymond Graham, President; Garrett Hallenbeck, V.P.; Mattie Dewes was elected Secretary-Treasurer; William Peterson, Director. Annual dues were raised to \$12, the extra \$2 to be used for delivery of ice and removal of garbage. Mr. Dibrow's offer to restock lake with bull heads gratefully accepted. Ray Graham offered to use \$100 to build a beach, balance to be raised by subscription.

Sept. 2, 1933 - Ray Graham authorized to buy 1,000 pickerel and restock lake. Messrs. Graham, Quick and Lindsay offered to donate materials and labor to build a dam. \$10 was appropriated for game warden to prevent non-members from fishing in lake.

Sept. 8, 1936 - Club house to be sold and lake to be restocked with 2,000 fish. Bank balance: \$105.42.

Sept. 1, 1941 - Still trying to sell or rent the club house.

No record of meetings during the war years 1943, 1944, 1945.

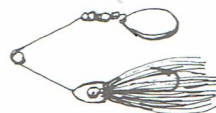
Sept. 4, 1948 - Tom Golden suggested a beach be built near the dam.

Sept. 3, 1949 - Club house still not sold - needs a new roof.

Sept. 3, 1950 - New screen needed at dam to keep fish in lake.
Membership buttons to be investigated.

August 29, 1955 - Agreed to enlarge beach. New York State Police asked to patrol lake and catch the boys who have shot out windows.

July 3, 1960 - Special meeting to replace Ray Graham, Wilmer Sipple elected President.



July 17, 1960 - Dorothy Graham elected to replace Ray Graham as Director.

July 14, 1963 - Dogs prohibited to swim with owners at beach.

July 20, 1966 - New rifle range erected behind farm house.

July 9, 1978 - Dorothy Graham agrees to permit a tennis and basketball court to be built on her land.

July 13, 1980 - Donna Bose announced Dorothy Graham's intention to sell the lake and all surrounding land. The colony will have first opportunity to buy the properties (280 acres, low taxes). Committee formed to consider the matter.

June 27, 1981 - First annual picnic to be held on the Lisi lawn. First membership buttons given out to paid members.

June 1982 - Vote to have first newsletter to go out to the members.

July 31, 1982 - Vote to have two meetings a year.

July 21, 1984 - At a special meeting re: Real Estate purchase - the following information was given out: we will be a non-profit organization; cost \$100,000; pay-out over a period of 10 years with interest at 10%; title search - title clean; legal fees - \$2,000; 100 families to participate; price per share, \$1,100; number of families pledging to buy a share - 44; fasten your seat belts - we are on our way!

May 25, 1985 - FIRST MEETING OF THE LAKE MUSKODAY HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION.

Annual membership fees \$75 - Ralph Woythaler, President, Dorothy McMurrer, Vice President, Rita Sweeny, Treasurer, Betty Heath, Secretary, New Board member - Fred Sklenar. Treasury \$6,730.71

July 1985 - Motion unanimously passed to pay Graham up to 50% of mortgage. Sale of land discussed.

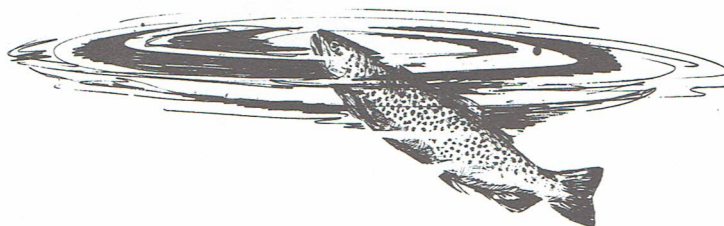
May 25, 1986 - New Constitution unanimously approved.

May 23, 1987 - New By-Laws unanimously approved.

August 29, 1987 - Proposal to build a pavilion near the tennis court. Motion passed. Motion passed to pay balance of mortgage in full to Donna Graham Ackerly.

May 28, 1988 - Logging earned \$13,000 for our Association. Ten members apply to buy adjoining lots. Maintenance fees raised to \$95.25.

July 1988 - Survey of land has begun.



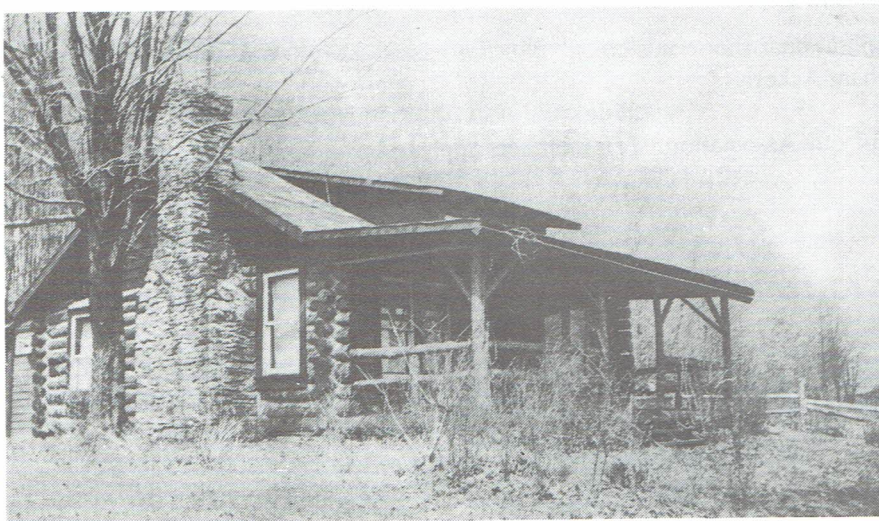
SEVERAL ORIGINAL
AND OLDER HOMES
ON LAKE MUSKODAY



DARBEE Cottage, present owner, Darby



STEBBINS Cottage , present owner, Frink



DEWES Cottage, present owner, Dewes-Lederer





HALLENBECK Cottage, present owner, Woodford

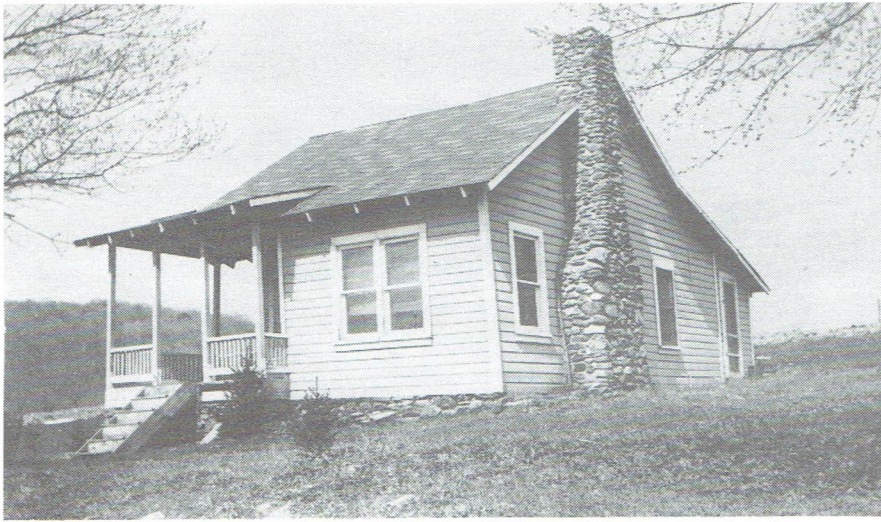


TAPKEN Cottage, present owner, Tapkin-Gordon

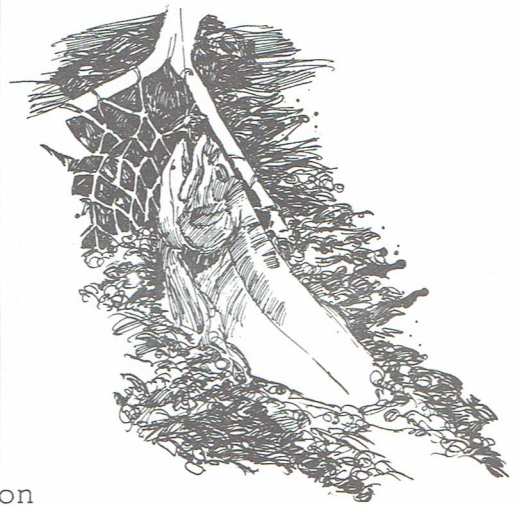


KINNE Cottage, present owner, Kinne

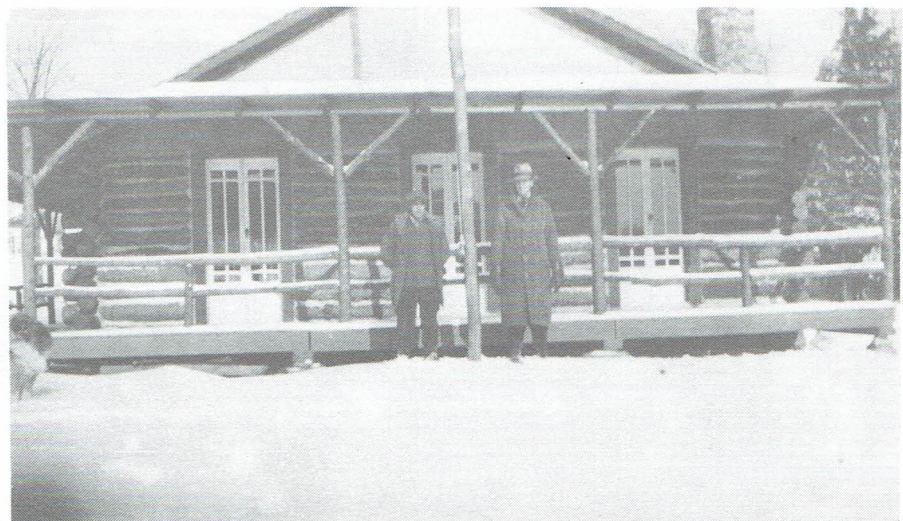
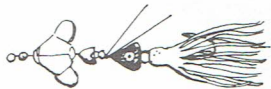




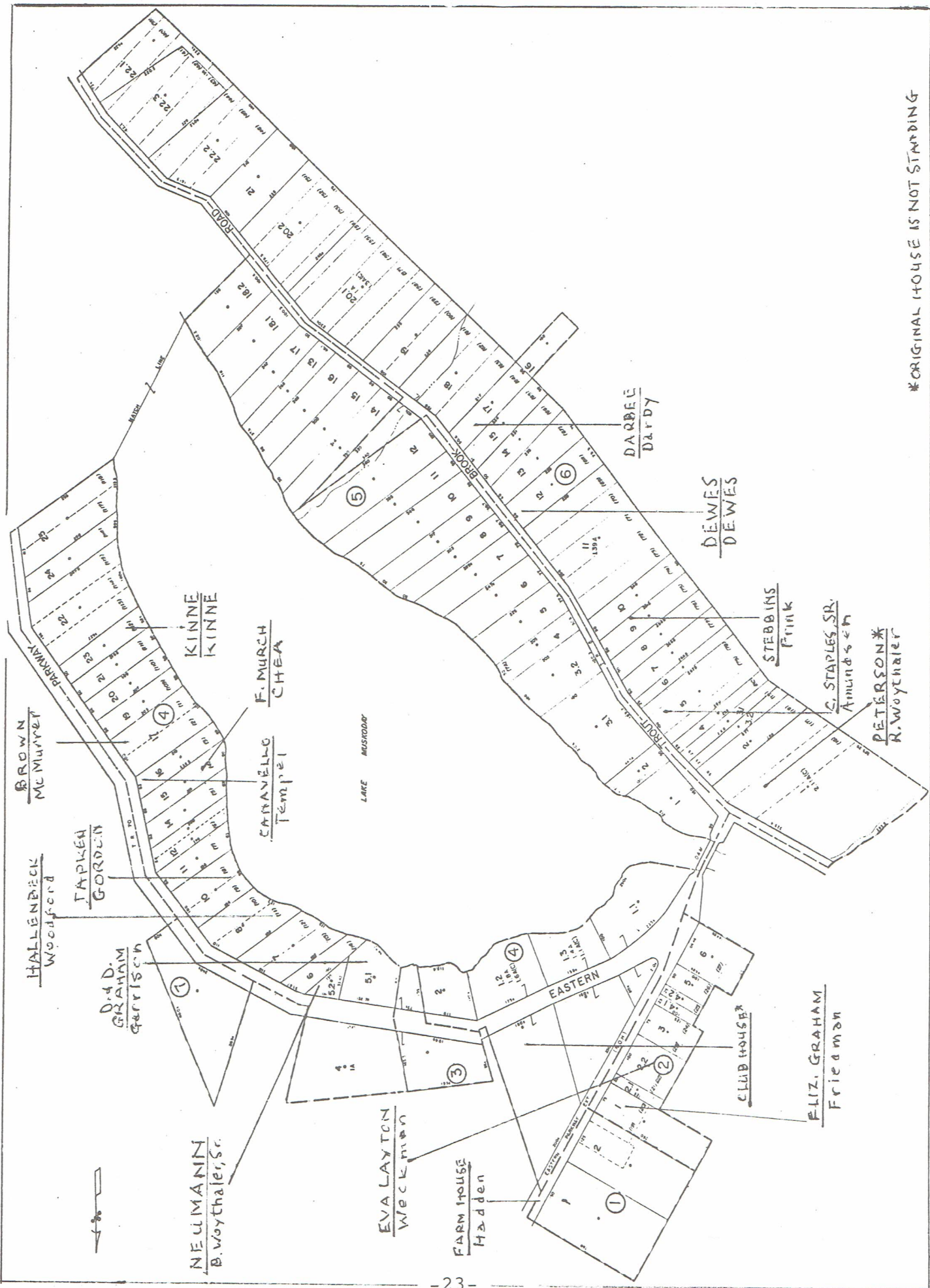
EVA LAYTON Cottage, present owner, Weckman/Nixon



LINDSAY Cottage, present owner, Baker



THE CLUB HOUSE, No longer standing



*ORIGINAL HOUSE IS NOT STANDING

THE BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF THE BIRTH OF OUR ASSOCIATION

THE LAKE MUSKODAY HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

July 13, 1980 At this Annual Meeting, Donna Graham Bose, announces that her mother, Dorothy Graham, wishes to sell all of the Graham property here at Lake Muskoday; that her mother wants our 'Colony' be given first opportunity to buy this property.

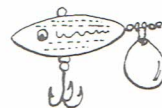
August 15, 1980 Our lawyer, Ira J. Cohen, Monticello, advises Ralph Woythaler, Chairman, Real Estate Committee to continue to negotiate with Mrs. Graham about the price.

September 4, 1980 Our appraiser, Mr. Rutkowski, estimates the value of the 48 acre lake at \$750 an acre, \$36,000. Likewise, lakefront parcels at \$750 an acre. All other lands Rubkowski said that market value is \$450 an acre.

September 10, 1980 Ralph Woythaler writes members that Executive Board and Real Estate Committee will meet October 11th to discuss prices and a counter offer.

December 11, 1980 On behalf of the seller, Allen D. Werlau, Dorothy Graham's son-in-law, writes that January 1, 1981, is the dead line for us to buy all of the Graham parcels.

December 23, 1980 In a newsletter to members, Graham's asking price is \$165,000. (That's \$797.76 an acre) But on December 15th, Werlau phoned Ralph Woythaler and stated that a compromise - \$125,000 would be accepted. A 10 year mortgage at 9% was offered. Ralph counter-offers \$48,500. Accompanying the newsletter was a questionnaire asking for all possible help from members. Not enough had been forthcoming.



March 16, 1981 In a second newsletter, disappointment is mentioned. Few solid financial offers are received to help buy the Graham property. Mention to the membership is made saying a revised counter offer to Graham would be made.

April 3, 1981 Ralph sends a beautiful letter to Dot Graham suggesting that they meet and resolve their differences. On the same date, a two page newsletter is sent to members listing suggestions for a new owners organization.

May 6, 1981 Ralph sends the Grahams a counter offer: \$65,000.

June 16, 1981 Ralph receives a personal "thank you.....there's no hard feeling" letter from Donna Graham Bose.

January 25, 1984 In a letter to Dorothy McMurrer, the Grahams' lawyer, Jacob J. Epstein, writes that a conference with the Grahams can be set up on a Saturday, and that he wants a \$250 fee paid in advance by our Colony.

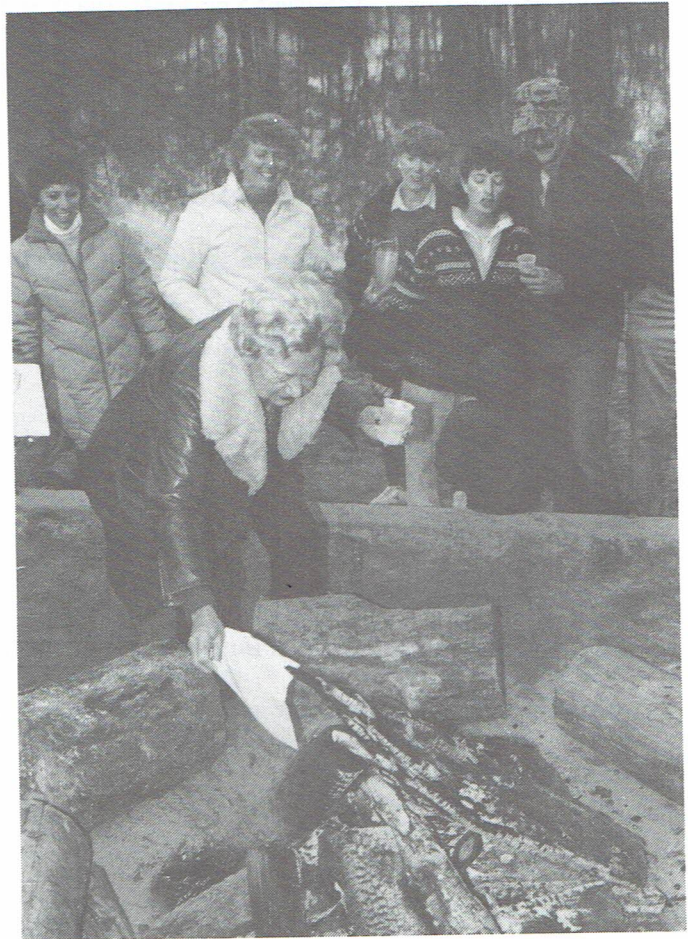
February 2, 1984 Dorothy McMurrer replies the \$250 fee is too high; that we would like to know in advance the Grahams' final price.

April 19, 1984 Donna Graham Bose writes to Dorothy McMurrer to warn all members to keep off all Graham property: the beach and the woods. Because the lake privileges are mentioned in all deeds, members may continue to use the lake.



April 24, 1984 Dorothy writes to Donna and requests a delay to the exclusions until our Executive Board meeting May 5th.

July 20, 1984 Real Estate Committee meets in the office of Harold Laufer, Liberty, NY. Laufer searched Graham's titles and finds all okay. Next, the Committee went to the offices of our lawyer, Ira J. Cohen, Monticello, NY. Mr. Cohen phoned Graham's lawyer, Jacob J. Epstein. The two lawyers discussed certain items in the transaction, and the deal was settled. We buy 206.83 acres, including the lake, for \$100,000. (Our cost per acre: \$484.49 against original asking price of \$797.76! We saved \$314.27 an acre!) We pay \$5,000 at once and \$5,000 again on September 15, 1984. Dorothy Graham holds \$90,000 mortgage to be paid semiannually. We pay mortgage and interest in **3 YEARS** and save more than \$20,000 in interest. At long last.....206.83 acres including the lake are ours!!!



Surrounded by fellow members, Mattie Dewes Lederer burns the mortgage at the Association's annual October Fest bonfire, Columbus Day weekend, 1987.