

O-NEH-DA TE-CAR-NE-O-DI;

OR

**UP AND DOWN**

**THE**

**HEMLOCK**

**Including History, Commerce, Accidents**

**Incidents, Guide, Etc.**

**BY D. BYRON WAITE**

**CANADICE, N. Y.**

**G. E. Colvin & G. P. Waite, Printers**

**1883**

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Photos, Maps and **Text in Red** added for Historical Reference  
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## PREFACE – by D B Waite 1883

This little work is intended comprise in a cheap and convenient form all the pleasure and health-seeking public may wish to know concerning Hemlock Lake.

Most of those who have once paid it a visit regard it as a most enjoyable spot, and many say that the heart ever yearns for a re-visitation, and that it is one of the places in man's wildwood rambles where he esteems it a luxury to stay.

A lake like this, situated in the very heart of a long settled and highly cultivated portion of the Empire State, surrounded by hills of almost primitive wilderness; "Slumbering still in the midst of Nature's luxuriance," where the ripple of the tiny wave at your feet, the melody of the feathered warblers and the thousand and one rarer forest voices, all tuned to harmony, having still their own charm, and all singing their own native songs, from the freshness of the morning till long after the sun has gone behind the western hill and the gray twilight has settled on all things, without being disturbed by the woodman's ax or the plowshare of the agriculturist, is indeed one of the rarities of our country.

There is no lake in Western New York that has greater demands for our consideration or is faster gaining notoriety as a summer resort than this. Its cool, refreshing air, its pure waters, its lovely scenes; its beautiful points and picturesque nooks, and these old hills, all unite in one inviting, persuasive voice for man to occasionally step away from the tiresome routine of life and enjoy more of Nature in her pristine beauty and healthfulness.

The Hemlock has never been made classic ground. Her "Delphian ([Delphi](#), an ancient Greek sanctuary and home of a well-known oracle) cliffs and Etrurian (**Etruscan civilization is the modern English name given to a civilization of ancient Italy in the area corresponding roughly to [Tuscany](#)**) shades" have never been immortalized. No sightless Homer or Milton has ever sung its beauty, but in one respect, if in no other, does it possess more than the "wealth of Ormus (**The Kingdom of Ormus (also known as [Ohrmuzd](#), [Hormuz](#), and [Ohrmazd](#); Portuguese [Ormuz](#)) was a 10th to 17th century kingdom located within the [Persian Gulf](#) and extending as far as the [Strait of Hormuz](#)**), or of Ind" -- it is the summer home of untold thousands, and can truthfully and empathically be called "**Health's cheerful haunt.**"

A portion of the following pages were written by us (D.B.Waite) a few years since for the "Wayland Press" and had a limited circulation, and after having been rewritten, we trust it will not be amiss to include it here. Our first thought was to give cuts of several cottages along the lake, but the limited sale it must necessarily have, would not warrant the expense incident thereto.

We wherein acknowledge our indebtedness to nearly all the owners of sites along its shores, and to others for valuable suggestions and information of a historical nature. Many faults, no doubt, can be found in the work should they be looked for. The sketches may lack artistic finish, but we have endeavored to have them possess the merit of correct outline.

We do not challenge criticism in the least, nor do we make any special pretension to literary merit whatever, our greatest aim has been to gather up the fragments by piecemeal and preserve them in a shape so that the future historian of our ideal lake, can have something of a bas on which to build, if he wishes, a nobler superstructure, than he could, had we never made the attempt. THE AUTHOR.

HERMITAGE, MAY, 1883

## DESCRIPTION

It had been said and truly too that this lake is the "Most attractive of all the beautiful chain of lakes which adorn Western and Central New York."

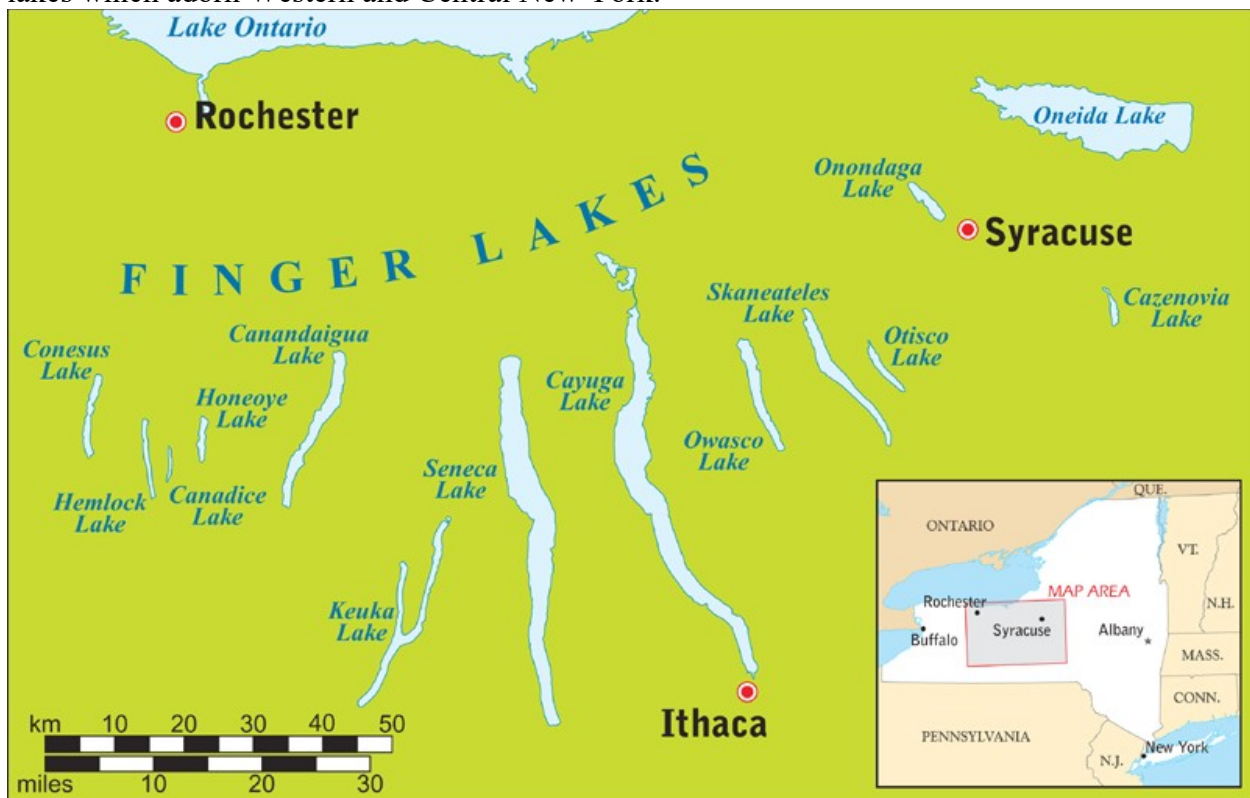


Figure 1 The Finger Lakes

It lies some twenty-eight miles a little to the east of south of the city of Rochester, and almost wholly between the towns of Canadice in Ontario County, and Conesus in Livingston, and situated in a retired rural district in a deep and narrow valley, the two spurs Marrowback and Ball Hill reaching far north of the great Appalachian chain, clasp this gem of waters between their giant arms. Its length as given by Engineer Tubbs is six and seven tenths miles; its average width six tenths of a mile; its water surface 1,828 acres; a drainage surface of 27,554 acres; and an average daily discharge of 20,000,000 gallons of water. **Its elevation above the Erie Canal at Rochester is 338 feet, and some 882 above tide, and except immediately at the head and foot its depth ranges from 40 to 90 feet throughout its length. Its greatest depth is said to be 92 feet.**

There is one main inlet, and that comes down the Hemlock Valley west of the village of Springwater, receiving numerous small streams from the high lands on either side. The amount of water brought into the lake by this stream is so small compared with that discharged by the outlet that, but one conclusion can be formed, and that is; the lake is "an immense mountain spring".

As it has its bed in the shales formation, and its shores lined with the same, the water coming from this immense fountain must, of necessity, be soft, softer in fact, says Professor Lattimore, than any other water supply on this continent, and excelled or equaled in Europe in purity, except, only a very few of the lakes in Scotland and Wales. This, in a great measure, induced the city of Rochester to take its waters thereto for drinking and domestic purposes.

The controversy over the water system proved more far reaching in its consequences. A Water Works Company, organized in 1852 by local capitalists who vainly sought municipal support, had made slow progress in its effort to bring **Hemlock** Lake water to Rochester. Several miles of a wooden conduit and some distributing pipes had been laid, but although the company held a contract binding the city to use its services, uncompleted gaps in its line held up the flow of water. Moreover the company had exhausted its resources and work was at a standstill. Many aldermen favored a scheme for the pumping of river water through special mains to scattered fire hydrants under the patent of the Holly Company of Lockport. When, finally, the out-of-town bond holders of the Water Works Company foreclosed, thus releasing the city from its former agreement, an investigation was ordered which cast doubt on the utility of the old mains. In desperation the mayor and a citizens association representing central business interests again sought the legislative aid of Assemblyman Lord. **1852**

**The Legislature of this state April 16, 1852**, passed an act incorporating the first Water Works Company of the city of Rochester. Certain residents of the city were named in the act, with others, with a capital stock of 200,000 dollars, to be taken in shares of \$25 each, with power to take water from any spring, lake, pond or river to the city. This is called the **Old Company**. **April 16, 1868**, all contracts entered into, and officers elected under the previous act were legalized and confirmed. The contract to take water from this lake to the city was let to Eastman, passed into the hands of Utley, thence to Ayers, of pill notoriety, and the second outlet was dug, pipes were laid, and considerable other work was done on a portion of the route, but the Legislature April 16, 1872 passed another Act to supply said City with pure and wholesome water.

Five Commissioners were appointed by the Mayor thereof who selected **J. N. Tubbs as Engineer**, and **Professor Lattimore** as Analyzer, with instructions to examine the waters of Genesee River and Lakes Ontario and Hemlock, and in the fall of that year their reports were to be made with the positive conclusion that for greater economy and operation expense, permanency in construction of works, greater purity and softness of water and its steady and abundant supply, the last named body of water should furnish to said city the much and long needed supply; also an act was passed by the Legislature June 3. 1873, giving power to said Commissioners as agents for said city "to raise the surface of the water, in said lake, not to exceed two feet, and to draw down the said water below low-water mark, not to exceed, eight feet; also the right to take such measures and make such constructions as shall be necessary to secure said waters for the purpose intended, and to protect the same from improper obstructions

or pollution. **After an outlay of some \$3,000,000, the water was let into the pipe in December, 1875.**

We cannot with the antiquary wander back to the time, that remote period when this whole region was swept over by an engulfing wave that tore from the bosom of mother earth this tray shaped basin, and left these grand old hills, which long ages since became clad in Nature's primeval garb, but we have endeavored to gather along the pathway of time some crude memorials in this lake's history, which are fast passing away to be numbered with the oblivious past, and to rescue them from the "effacing finger of time" will be our present aim. When we go to the buried past for items, we find the records dim, and all tradition vague and uncertain, but when we take a retrospective glance at the last decade in regard to this lake, We are obliged to say that its progress is onward, and the end not even the most sanguine can divine. The wildest daydreamer may wake on the morrow and find his schemes, air-castles and anticipations in a fair train for speedy realization, and others more vast, gigantic and unthought of treading on their heels. Every day brings new comers, and every boat comes swarming with new pleasure-seekers from all parts of our common country to mingle with those now here, to be a part and parcel to us.

Whoever has passed the shores or over the surface of this body of water, could not fail to be favorable and permanently impressed with its numerous indentations or coves; its beautiful wooded points or capes; its bold shores; its clean and gravelly beach; its cool, transparent water; its bracing, exhilarating atmosphere, and more than all, its apparent self-knowledge of its own ease, beauty and picturesqueness, living in its own basin, scooped by the hand of God and surrounded by hillsides clothed in the primitive garb of nature, seemingly more fresh and more verdant by having this gem of waters to lave their base and reflect their towering and protecting forms.

With all its inexhaustible supply of fish which man in a state of nature must at times almost wholly rely on for food, which this lake had been able to give, and a thousand other inducements, it does seem that it should have a history that might well be called ancient, but when and where the human eye first caught a glimpse of it, it will be very hard to determine.

Whether it had an existence long before the planting of the forbidden tree in Eden, or a date "anterior to the fall of Lucifer," or was partially stocked with bullheads and suckers when God said: "Let the waters bring forth abundantly," we know not.

This continent may have been an old one when Eden was first brought to light, as many men of science now agree, and if Adam's early education was not neglected, he might have made the tour of America and taken in the Hemlock on his way. This may be visionary, but who knows to the contrary? When the waters "assuaged" in the days of those old mariners, Noah or Deucalion, or ages long since (as some say) this, on account of its purity, might have been kept here for the very purpose for which it is now appropriated.

Laying aside all theory and speculation, and taking the best evidence we have, - and that is tradition, - of the early occupation of the hills around us, we are prone to believe that Munsee

maids were the Nereides of the lake, long before the discovery of America by Columbus, or the formation of the Iroquois League in 1450. In all probability, and we have tradition as the base, the Munsees were wholly exterminated at the death of the captive maiden On-no-lee by the Mengwees, and they in turn by the Senecas, previous to the league aforesaid.

Before the occupancy of this region by the Senecas we are unable to ascertain its name, but then became known in the Seneca tongue as the "O-neh-da Te-car-ne-o-di", or in our language Hemlock Lake - the latter word meaning lake. It was probably so named from the hemlock forest, lying along its western shore.

The story of the captive, Onnolee, is one of the numerous legends handed down to us from a very remote period, of the people who once lived, hunted, fished, and died in this locality. **(The legend of Onnolee is folklore only – similar stories are told throughout Western NY)**

Any nation, unschooled in the art of preserving records by a written language, its history must, of necessity, be vague and legendary, and these legendary remains were very often rude carvings or pictures on the war post, if they were reminiscences of glorious achievements on the battlefield.

We have seen the trunks of trees and the wigwams of the wild Indian, where in his hieroglyphical way, many a story or point in history is imperfectly transmitted to later generations.

The legend of the last survivor of the **Munsee nation**, and hence its total extermination, has been beautifully rendered in rhyme by the lamented scholar and poet, W. H. C. Hosmer. The story is, that sometime during the fourteenth century, probably between 1350 and 1375 the Munsees, a small and friendly tribe of Indians, dwelt on Ball Hill, their village being situated somewhere on the west shore of Canadice Lake while the surrounding country was occupied by the Mengwees, a restless, warlike tribe.

**The Munsee originally lived in what is today southern New York, northeastern New Jersey, and southeastern Connecticut. Decimated by European diseases and under increasing pressure from Dutch and English colonists, most of the Munsee merged with neighboring tribes: the Stockbridge Mohicans, Lenape, and Cayugas. The safety provided by numbers was only temporary, unfortunately, and the Munsees were soon deported to Wisconsin with the Mohicans, Ontario with the Cayugas, and Ohio, Indiana, and eventually Oklahoma with the Lenapes.**

The Munsees had so long lived in peace with other tribes that they little dreamed their small band was in danger. No ominous ghost, or serpent's rattle had brought them warning that the fall of their nation was at hand, but at the solemn hour of midnight, when sleep and stillness brooded around their homes, the Mengwees, with one fell swoop, bathed their tomahawks in the innocent blood of their quiet, unwarned defenseless neighbors. The onslaught was complete, for nothing was left of people or wigwams, save Onnolee, by some called a maiden, by others the cherished wife of the bravest chief of the nation. She was taken, bound to the red belt of a famous leader, called Mickinac, and compelled to follow him, but at noon they rested for dinner beneath the branches of a spreading oak.



While he was partaking of his parched corn and smoke-dried venison, she cast into the dust that offered her, and with eagle eye and stealthiness of hand, saw and grasped from his belt, and with one mighty thrust buried his belt-knife deep into the side of her captor. Her aim was perfect and the act effective.

She knew her life was forfeited, but having the fleetness and agility of a deer, she fled while arrows went whizzing by her in all directions. She gained at last a crag that beetled over some lake, either the Canadice or the Hemlock; Hosmer thinks the former, but as there were no overhanging cliffs on the shores of that lake, the presumption is, it must have been the Hemlock.

"Regardless of the whizzing storm of missiles raining round her form, imploring eye she then upcast, And a low, mournful death hymn sang; On hill and forest looked her last, One glance upon the water cast, And from that high rock she sprang."

It is said, for more than three hundred years afterwards, that "oft in the stilly night" of summer, as moonbeams stole glances to kiss the tiny waters of the lake, the sainted form of the once beautiful Onnolee could be seen to rise from its watery home, and either vanish in upper air or return again to the bosom of the deep.

Of the Iroquois, of which the Senecas were a part, it is only necessary to say that they were able, at one time, to sound their war hoop from the "dark pine forests of Maine to the barren shores of the Superior, and the southern fastness of the tall apoosa." When and where they commenced the work of retaliation, nature presented no barrier to a successful campaign; they had a daring will and hand to execute.



**Iroquois Warrior Circa 1775**

A more splendid race of savages than the Senecas perhaps never manned a war canoe or drew a bow, and though sometimes driven back by superior force, yet they were never beaten.





Niagara that winter, and many starved or froze to death. The survivors fled to British regions in Canada and the Niagara Falls and Buffalo areas.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Sullivan Expedition devastated the Iroquois crops and towns and left them at the mercy of the British for the harsh winter of 1779-80. Major Jeremiah Fogg of the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment noted in his journal: "The nests are destroyed, but the birds are still on the wing."<sup>[2]</sup>

Though the habits of the native denizen of the forests were migratory, yet how strong and deep-seated were his attachments for home. He loved his hunting and fishing grounds, but, more than all, he loved the graves of his fathers, and desired that his bones might mingle with theirs, as strenuously did the old Hebrew Patriarch, that his might be carried back to Canaan.

The heart-broken son of the wilderness, in his last melancholy march towards the reclining sun, paused and took a farewell look at the hunting grounds of his race and the graves of his ancestors; but these are no more his to look upon, nor will the guardian Manitou watch over the young warrior and his dusky maiden in their moonlight wooings on the beautiful Hemlock, and the plowshare of the pale-face has obliterated all traces of the graves of his kindred.

The first white man among the Senecas that we have account of, were the Franciscan Father, LaCaron, in 1616, and Dallion in 1626, who was a Recollect missionary, and as the Hemlock was one of the great fishing grounds of the Seneca nation, and as vast numbers encamped around the lakes in the fishing season, it is not improbable that they erected the cross (the emblem of salvation) on its shores as early as the first date.

**Joseph Le Caron** (1586, near Paris—March 29, 1632, France) was one of the four pioneer missionaries of Canada (together with Father Denis Jamet, Father Jean D'Olbeau, and Brother Pacifique du Plessis), and the first missionary to the Hurons.

We can, as we look back to the earliest advent of the white race into the Indian country, but mark the strong contrast between the **Spanish, English and French**. The first came for gold, the second for territory, but the French, of both the Jesuit and Catholic orders, were men of faith and love. Whether they taught truth or falsehood; whether on the whole it had been better or worse for the cause of Christianity had they never been here, is foreign to our purpose.

It is enough for us to know that they were truly devoted to the cause of bettering the condition of the savage. "They went even where the sword of the conqueror could not cleave his way."



### **Tribute to Jesuit Priests Erected 1933 at Dann's Corners Honeoye Falls**

They built churches in the wilderness which were time-worn and crumbling when the first emigrant entered the forests. They preached to savages who never saw the face of another white man though they lived to three score and ten. They prayed upon the banks of lonely lakes and rivers which were not mapped by geographers for over a century after their deaths."

They took the wandering native by the hand, received him as a brother and won him over to listen patiently. They traveled unarmed and alone where an army could not march, and their affection and devotion to their mother church were never forgotten, and their latest prayer was for the salvation of the simple native.

Passing along over the establishment of the first regular permanent missions in Western New York in 1656 at East Avon, Bloomfield, West Mendon and Victor, down to the treaty of 1763, which forbade the introduction of more recruits of the Jesuit order, and we arrive at the time when the English came into possession of this locality. At this time a few Indian traders lived where Geneva now stands.

Jemima Wilkinson and a few Friends on the west bank of Seneca Lake, and two or three traders on Genesee River, and we have all the palefaces in what was then called the "**Genesee Country.**"

About **1765** the **Rev. Samuel Kirkland** came as the first Protestant missionary among the Senecas. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras, thanks in part to the influence of Presbyterian missionary Samuel Kirkland, joined the American revolutionaries. For the Iroquois, the American Revolution became a civil war. The earliest maps of the province of N. Y. viz : 1616, '18 & '31 are wholly silent in regard to Western New York, but in a map dated, 1768 (1687 French Map) the earliest one extant, giving anything like a correct view of any part of this region defining the boundaries according to the treaty of Fort Stanwix, we find no lakes laid down west of the Seneca.

In 1771 Guy Johnson, who was then the deputy agent of Indian affairs, drew and inscribed to Governor Tryon "a map of the countries of the Six Nations" and Canandaigua lake and the smaller lakes in this vicinity were not down, but they were known to exist, for he says "there are other lakes hereabouts but they cannot be laid down with certainty."

In 1779 General Sullivan passed through Richmond and Livonia, touching the Hemlock near the residence of **Prentice Chesbro** thence north around the foot of the lake and towards the head of the Conesus, after destroying large quantities of beans and corn on the planting grounds of the Senecas at the foot of the lake.

Sullivan's forces were composed partly of young stalwart men from the sterile (played out) soil of the mountains and hillsides of New England.

The contrast, the change of the rugged scenery of the far eastern home to the beautiful landscapes, fine rolling up lands, fertile vales, and lovely lakes of this western Canaan, must have been with them in dreamland, as well as, in their wakeful hours, long after their return to their native land. Many of them, guided by that star of empire that ever wends its way westwardly, as soon as, the Revolution was over and state titles were settled, passed this way, and took a portion of the much wished for heritage, from Phelps and Gorham purchase in 1788 and '89, but said purchase was not mapped till 1790, when the Hemlock, for the first time, had a place on the maps of Western New York, but as the Canadice lay not on a township line, it was left out - may be it was not known to the surveyors.

The first map giving the lakes in this vicinity their true position was drawn in 1804, but made Hemlock much smaller than the Canadice, but in a map dated 1809, the lakes were given their relative size and true location.



Livonia, which encloses the northern end of the lake, was settled in 1789, Conesus in 1793, and Canadice in 1795. The first near settler to the Hemlock was **Philip Short**, who took up lands near the foot in 1795. **Maloy the Hermit** came from the lakes east of this, and, built a cabin on what is now called "**Blake's Point**", in about 1800, and after living there three or four years, went to Ohio. **Hawley, Daniels, Little, Mitchell** and **Blake** have each had their names attached to this point. John Hanna was an early settler on the lands now owned by **Russell R. Jacques**, and sold to **Darius Jacques** in 1824.

John Emmonds was also an early settler south of the St. James Hotel, on the west end of the Joseph Wemett farm, and east side of the road. **Perez H. Curtice, Abner Goodrich, Hiram Bowen, Martin Bowen, Tom Saxby, Elijah Goodrich** and **Roswell and Charles Bliss**, all had early home on the shores of this lake, and all of whom we will speak of hereafter.

Sir William Pultney and William Bowers who owned quite a tract of land in the town of Conesus and bordering on this lake, and that from a noted Indian chief of that name, and Canadice is from the Indian name of its lake, Ska-ne-a-dice.

**Long before the formation of the town of Springwater, the whole interval at the head of the lake, some three miles in length was called "Hemlock Valley",** and said name was applied to the present village of Springwater, by the earliest settlers for many years afterwards. The hill that bounds the eastern shore is called both **Ball and Bald**, the former, from being a pretty true segment of a circle some thirteen or more miles in diameter, and the latter from its bald appearance in a very early day, caused by the frequent fires of the Senecas. The former is by far, at present, the more appropriate name.



**Marrowback**, the western hill, is said to get its name from the fact that two men, one from Turkey Hill in the western part of the town of Conesus, and the other from this hill once engaged in personal conflict: the one from this hill getting the better of his adversary, a by-stander said to

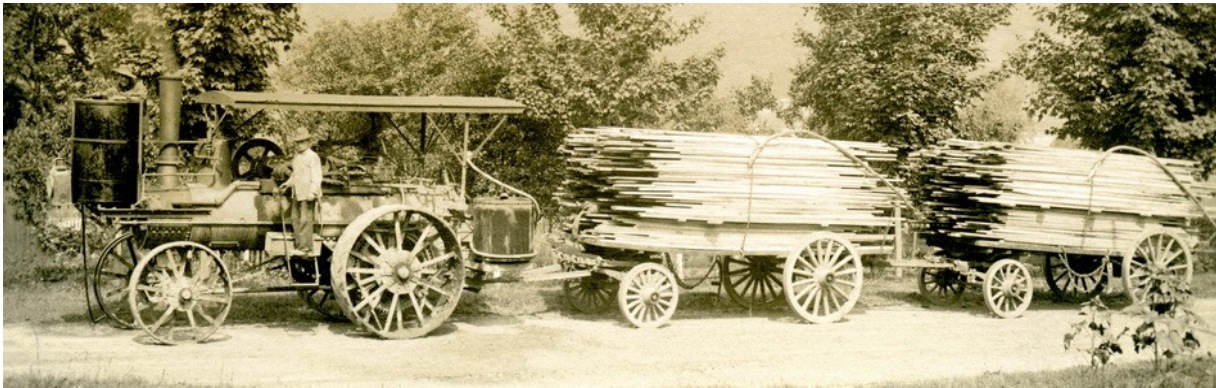
the vanquished, "he has too much marrow in his back for you, Sir." How much truth there is in this, or how else it obtained its name we are unable to say.



## COMMERCE

At a very early day in the settlement of this section of country, when highways were little better than "corduroys," (refers either to making a road across a swamp by laying down whole logs, or split logs round-face-up, or to the crossing of such a road: "to corduroy".) lumber though cheap, was still an item of very great importance, and Hemlock Lake seemed to be the intermediate link between the pine and hemlock lands of the south, and the harder varieties of timber at the north, and the great demand for softer building material in the older settled regions at the north, and the bread stuffs of the north finding a ready market in the southern woods, made this a great commercial highway.

As early as 1790, Samuel Hines erected a saw mill, and very soon afterwards D. Goff and Samuel Story had erected others, on the inlet west of the present village of Springwater, and John Alger and Phineas Gilbert, in 1811, built one on the stream that comes tumbling down from the highlands at the present residence of William H. Norton, and a road was cut to the head of the lake, and was surveyed as a public highway May 6th 1815. These men employed many hands in floating large quantities of lumber during the warm season, and when the ice was sufficiently strong of times it had the appearance of a band of pilgrims to the shrine of some high worthy, and often during the winter of 1838 and '39 as many as two hundred teams could be seen at one time, drawing the productions of the southern mills. Within the memory of some now living the mills already spoken of, together with those of Patchinville, Perkinsville, Spaffords and other ones above the "Hemlock Valley" furnished lumber in almost unlimited quantities. While cedar from the swamps of Cohocton and Hemlock bark from the same vicinity, and sash, doors blinds, etc. from the factory of Chamberlin, Grover and Tyler were not very small items in the trade.



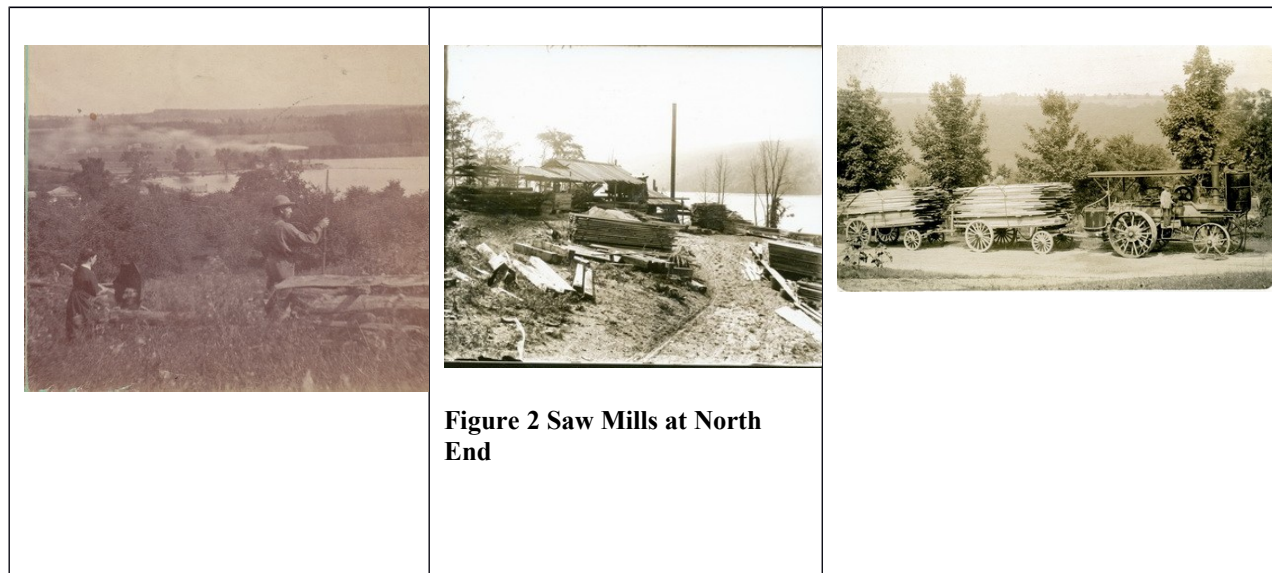
Flat boats or scows, as they were then called, were also placed upon the lake for safer transportation of lumber and such articles they did not desire to raft. Roswell and Charles Bliss were perhaps the fathers of scow commerce on the lake. Hiram Loomis for a number of years kept an extensive lumber yard at the foot of the lake with lumber furnished by Reuben Gilbert alone, and, he owned a scow which run in connection therewith; and hundreds of acres were cleared of the pine in the region of the head of the lake by the

**Gilberts and sold to other large dealers in the shape of frames ready for erection or otherwise. One who is now living says: "The whole foot of the lake in my recollection with piled up with lumber for sale. Teams from all parts of the country were there every hour of the day loading up with lumber." This same Loomis had a brick yard in the vicinity of his lumber, which not only furnished brick for regions north, east and west, but also to the inhabitants living south of the head.**

**About 1829 a blacksmith shop, a Shoe shop etc., were doing a very lively business around the foot of the lake. At a much later date Ebenezer Lincoln and George Johnson, living and clearing at the head on the west shore, did considerable business with a scow transporting wood, rails, fence posts etc. to the foot.**

**The Higby mill was built at the foot on the outlet as early as 1795, and Philip Short, who settled below the foot in 1796, ran an extensive saw mill where immense quantities of logs were sawed that were rafted or otherwise down the lake.**

**Since these mills have ceased to operate, the present one (1883) at the foot has done at times, considerable business in logs taken from the hills in the immediate vicinity of the lake.**



The lake was also the highway over which the earliest settlers to the southwest corner of Canadice and western portion of Springwater took their families and all their worldly effects. **Seth Knowles** the first settler in the western part of the present town of Springwater, came up on the ice from the town of Livonia, with all his earthly possessions, both animate and inanimate, on the last day of March **1807**; and **David Badgro**, accompanied by his brother-in-law, **Reuben Gilbert**, and his own wife and a large family of children, together with all the worldly gear he possessed, came up the lake in canoes, or Indian "dugouts," in the spring of **1809**, and settled on the present farm of **Harlow Colegrove** in Canadice.



## ACCIDENTS

Drowned.

William Bowen.

Like all bodies which the public frequent at all seasons of the year, and have from the time of the white man's recollection down to the present, accidents, both fatal and otherwise, must of necessity happen, for where can man be placed on this sublunary sphere, and not be the victim, sooner or later, of such misfortunes.

The first fatal accident of which we are acquainted that happened since the Seneca nation held absolute sway around this lake, took place on the 29th day of March 1827.

William Bowen, who was born in Oneida County in 1795, and living at the time, and following the hard but honest trade of a blacksmith, at the village of Hemlock Lake, together with his brother John, were drawing the seine on the **western shore of the lake, some three fourths of a mile from the Jacques house, or somewhere near where now stands the Lake Shore House.**

They were using a boat to spread the seine.

John was doing the rowing, and William was the meanwhile was casting out the net, when unrepentantly his foot became entangled in the rope, and suddenly, without a moment's warning he was taken to the bottom of the lake, and not being able to extricate himself, perished.

His son William, now living at the Village of Hemlock Lake who was a small lad at the time is the living witness of this first fatal disaster.

Alvin Marsh  
Waylaid, Robbed & Slain

On the 15th day of June, 1829, Alvin Marsh, then about 45 years of age, and living in the town of Livonia, some one and a half miles west of the foot of the lake, started on business that took him eastward past the foot, and was to return the same day. Not returning as expected, inquires and searches were made, but were of no avail.

Some three or four days afterwards a violent thunderstorm passed over the lake, and all those who have been witnesses to these commotions of nature, can fully attest that they are terrible in this vicinity. The water has been known to be considerably agitated at such times, and the old hills send back frowning and deafening echoes and reverberations that seem to come from the very bowels of the earth. Soon after, his body was found floating in the lake about one third of the way across eastwardly from the **"Title" point**. When he went away from home, it was

known that he carried money with him, but when his body was found, neither money nor wallet was with it; no bones could be found that were broken, but a gash extending from the left eye to the ear, was plainly discernable, and his clothes were badly rent, showing beyond the possibility of a doubt, that previous to death, there had been a desperate struggle, and he evidently was the victim.

A Coroner's Inquest was held, but nothing elicited that would in any way go to clear up the mystery, but the opinion was freely expressed, that he had been waylaid, robbed, and his body thrown into the lake.

#### Tanner and Waters.

The next one occurred April 14th 1833.

Willis Waters, aged 18, son of Jonathan Waters who came from Sheffield in the State of Massachusetts in 1814, and settled on the west part of the present farm of **Andrew Brown on Ball Hill**, and John Tanner, from Conesus, who had hired or leased the Half Way House, and had moved there-to on Saturday and intended to open it as a Tavern on Monday, started out in company, much against the advice of friends, to take a mess of fish. The wind was blowing strong, and white caps showed themselves like maddened spirits on the surface of this, at times, unruly lake. It was considered a fool-hardy move by everyone, but it is thought they intended to cross over to the west shore pretty well towards the head of the lake where the water was less rough, but their fatal hour had arrived. When nearly two thirds of the distance towards the place of their destination, it was thought by those on shore, they attempted to change places, when their little bark capsized. One of them, supposed to be Tanner, who was a very good swimmer, was seen to mount the inverted boat several times, and was heard to call loudly for help, but no one dared go to their assistance.

Their hats or caps floated, and were afterwards picked up, and the boat was caught by some brush on the **western shore, somewhere south of the cabin which Dr. Norton** used to frequent in his last days. The bed of the lake was thoroughly raked, times without number, cannons were fired, and every available means were used to recover the bodies, but all in vain - they were destined to rest in a watery grave.

Months afterwards, a boot was found with the bones of the foot and leg to the knee nearly covered with sand, which was thought to be the one that belonged to Tanner. Tanner was a married man and left a wife and one child.



### John Martin Jr.

It seems that fatality was to attend those who fixed their abode at the Half Way House, for in the month of June, 1842, John Martin Jr., (whose father left the "sweet land of Erin," but one short year before, to follow the business of a drover, had bought one half the property of Porter Fowler,) together with John Wilkinson started on an errand to Lawrence Webster's in Conesus, to obtain some turnip seed.



Figure 3 Cave Banks on the Western Shore

After they had crossed over near the **cave banks on the western shore**, Martin thought it was a good time to make his first attempt at swimming, so, after Wilkinson had departed on his errand, he, on that pleasant Sabbath morning, anchored his boat, disrobed himself and put his clothes in the boat, but shortly afterwards a spy-glass from the eastern shore failed to see the form of Martin anywhere.

Search was made and his body was found nearly under the boat in a little over five feet of water, and Westmore hooked a trout hook into his under jaw and trolled the body across the lake. We are also told that Martin was alone on that fatal day, and not with Wilkinson, and also that he was drowned south of **Fisher's point**, but we have given the generally accepted version of the case.

### Mary J. Williams. GWS Student Suicide

This was truly a sad case. For one in the bloom of life, with all the happiness seemingly that mortal can ask, a pleasant home, kind and loving associates, and a genial, Christian spirit, to voluntarily so rash an act as suicide, during a temporary aberration of mind, seems ever a sad tale to tell.

Mary was born September 19th 1839, and on the 12th day of June, 1859, when a little less than twenty years of age, while attending school at the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary at Lima, the latter date being on Sunday, she was at the morning services at the Methodist church, in the afternoon at the College Chapel, and at the prayer meeting in the evening until 9 o'clock.

She was living with her uncle, the late **Professor Bragdon** and occupied the same room that her cousin Miss Bragdon did. They both retired to bed, but at 12 o'clock Miss Bragdon awoke and found Mary up reading her Bible. She requested her to come to bed, and she replied "I will in a

minute." Miss Bragdon dropped asleep and that was the last that was seen of Mary while alive. A thorough search and investigation was made, and a reward of fifty dollars was offered, but not until the next Saturday was her body found.

The late Albert Chapman, who was fishing with some other comrades from Lima, found her floating in this lake southward of the present Steam Saw Mill and some one fourth of a mile distant there from. The body was immediately taken to Lima, a Coroner's Inquest held, and the Jury brought in a verdict of "suicide while deranged." Mr. Chapman received the reward, but he benevolently used it in placing a fitting memorial at her grave.

It was found after her departure that she had packed all her clothes carefully in her trunk, except her poorest suit which she wore to the lake. A kind and loving letter, received that week from one to whom she was engaged to be married, containing nothing to cause her to commit so hasty an act, and from the closest investigation possible nothing has ever been elicited that should mar her happiness or character in the least. Numerous rumors were afloat at the time, but they were all void of truth, and the name of Mary Jane Williams remains to-day in the memory of her surviving schoolmates as that of a much esteemed, Christian lady.

#### Charles Sheppard.

Charles Sheppard a lad of eleven years of age, son of A. G. Sheppard living on Ball Hill in the town of Canadice, was sent by his father in the early morning of the 18th day of August 1867, to ask **S. W. Wheaton**, a neighbor, for a boat in which her father and uncle Isaac Stevenson wished to cross the Lake. The boat lay at the "**Lima**" house, and after he had done his errand, he crossed the lots in the direction of the lake, and, was afterwards seen to cross the lake and return, in the boat. He had often been at his uncle's (Henry J. Wemett) at the Half Way House and there learned to use the boat.

Search was made for him; the boat was found containing his clothing, but not until the 20th was his body recovered. Previous to going away, his mother had spoken to him about changing his clothes, and as he had been assisting some in threshing, she suggested that he should have a good wash before he putting on his clean garments, and while in bathing from some cause or other, he met his death. **His body was found in some twelve feet of water, in the neighborhood of where now stands the St. James Hotel.**

#### Polly Austin.

Here we shall place as an immediate link in our order, the case of Polly Austin.

An aged widow, mother of the late Nathan Austin of Hemlock Lake Village, was found dead some three fourths of a mile from the head of the lake, and a short distance away from the west shore, in the woods, in May 1844.

She was an inmate of the Almshouse, and was often allowed to go away on furlough, and was often gone for quite a number of weeks, staying where charity would permit her so to do.

It is said by some, that she had been at Cohocton, and on her return stopped at Ebenezer Lincoln's, and said she was on her way to Conesus, and by others, that she was on her way to Lincoln's. This was in the month of February, three months before her body was found by some boys while fishing. As she had so often been away under similar circumstances, no search or inquiries were made in regard to her whereabouts. During the time her body had lain there in the forest, the wild animals had feasted there from, and it was in an advanced state of purification when found. From all appearances she had become weary, lost her way, and had lain down for the night, at the foot of an aged Hemlock. A pair of new shoes she had taken from her feet and placed them under her head. Her scanty supply of provisions were carefully tied up in a shawl, and she had evidently arranged herself as comfortably as she could for a rest, but there is no doubt but she perished from the cold.

A coroner was notified, and with him came her son Nathan, who said he supposed to be his mother, but he was given away so early in infancy, that all he knew in regard to it was, that she had once told him that she was his mother, but he discredited it until he learned other facts after her remains were found.

In that lonely wild, a prayer made by the Reverend A. B. Green, now of South Pultney, and her son took the body down the lake for burial.

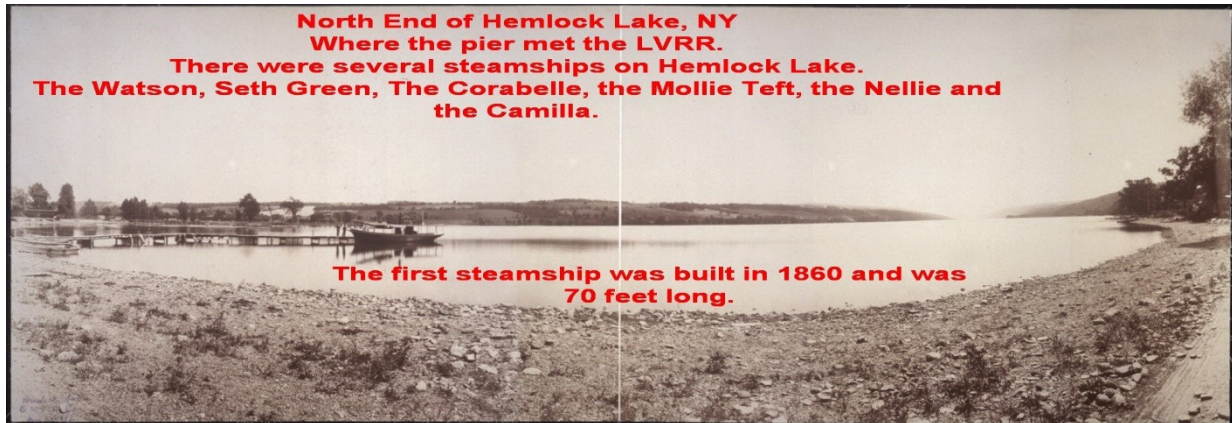
A vast number of accidents which were not fatal to human life might be noticed under this head, but we will mention but a few and those only where a loss of some domestic animal, has been sustained.

In 1779, Ephriam Tucker while living in Livonia, was on the ice with two yoke of oxen. The ice giving way, all were precipitated into the deep, and Ephriam was no swimmer, but still he managed to unyoke his oxen, and clinging to the back of one, came out at last, minus one ox only.

**Jasper Marvin** from Lima, while drawing lumber from Springwater in 1838, lost a nice span of horses through the ice, near the foot of the lake.

**David Barnhart**, mentioned in another place, once lost an ox here, and William H. Norton who had been to Hemlock Lake village mill with a heavy load of corn, went through the ice opposite the Rosenkrans cottage in 1860, and lost a valuable span of horses. These are all of this nature that we can recall at this time.

## STEAMBOATS



### WATSON.

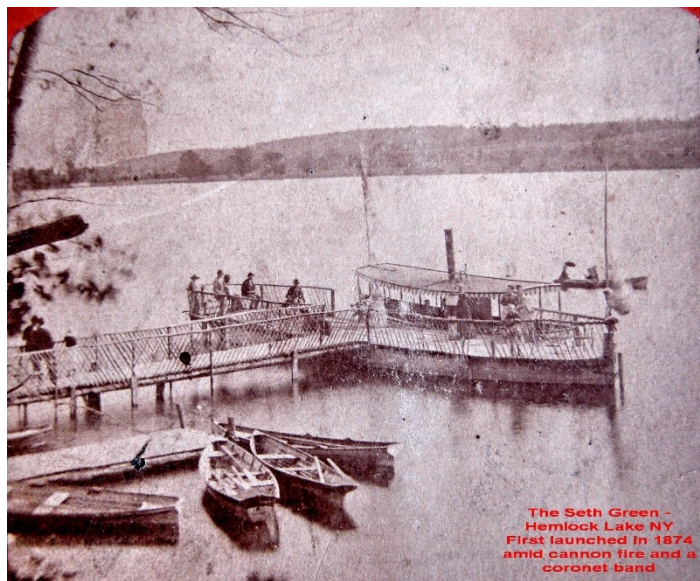
Steam was not used for the purpose of propelling water craft on this lake till comparatively a late date.

In the year 1860, George Watson of the city of Rochester, an old, experienced canal boat builder conceived the idea that a boat built after the canal boat pattern somewhat, but large enough to carry a boiler and engine, besides some room for some passengers, would be a nice thing for both pleasure and profit. A house was erected and a son, Stephen Watson moved therein to work on it under his father's superintendence.

The boat when finished was seventy feet long and eighteen feet beam and proved as unwieldy as a canal scow. The boiler and engine were taken from the old steam saw mill nearby and put into the boat, and though it did considerable puffing in its way, yet it made very little progress. On the day of the launching, quite a large assemblage of people were present to witness the scene. It made frequent trips to the head of the lake, and dancing parties were not infrequent on this deck, but not proving a success, as anticipated, it closed its career as a steamer, at the end of the second summer, and the boiler and engine were replaced in the old mill, and it was used as a scow for some time afterwards.

Most of the means used in its construction was furnished by Stephen's wife, and it eventually passed into her hands, in satisfaction for her claim, and, also, through the hands of Vidette Wright, Arminius Bugbee, Printice Chesbro and Alonzo B. Hosford, and at last was scuttled, filled with rocks, and the last relics of form a portion of the landing for the Lake Shore House, proving no more worthy of a good and successful record than "that fatal and perfidious bark, built in the eclipse, and rigged with curses bark."

## SETH GREEN.



While the "Seth" was being built, a lively interest was taking hold of a goodly number of those who annually rusticate for a few days or weeks, and from the increasing numbers who were trending hitherward, many could safely divine, that in the near future this lake must become a noted place for summer resort, and as the day for its launching was quite a gala one, we know of no better way to chronicle said event than to copy somewhat from our own report, published the week following in the "Ontario County Times."

"A few days previous to the 25th day of June in the year of grace one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, handbills proclaiming that the "New Steamer Seth Green" would be launched, and make a trip on that day on Hemlock Lake, having been scattered as thickly around as "autumnal leaves that strode the brooks of Vallombrosia," we, your humble correspondent, threw "care to the dogs" and proceeded to the scene of action, where we arrived at half-past nine.

The morning was the loveliest in June and the lake, a beautiful sheet of water, whose surface was as smooth and placid as ever was broken by a Seneca's oar, some seven miles long and from one to two wide, and while standing at the foot and looking up towards the head we could see on either side flocks and herds feeding in green fields, or the young luxuriant grain of old Livonia; while farther up, in Canadice, on the left, and Conesus on the right, the green old hills looming up in solemn grandeur along whose sides gigantic shadows chased each other as the light clouds flit before the sun, and clad in their primeval garb just as they were spoken into existence by the voice of God.

As we had plenty of time we spent some two hours or more lounging around on the west shore visiting the little cabins and summer homes dotting the banks for some distance up the lake, and also the "Jacques House," which has been a fashionable resort for not only transient but permanent borders through the summer season for a number of years; the "Lake Shore House,"



first opened to the public about eleven months ago, which will be, for the present at least, the headquarters of the new steamer in question.

At both of these places, plenty of boats, fishing tackle and stabling for teams can be had at any time at reasonable rates. Those wishing a "temperance" house can be satisfied at Jacques, while those who wish to get a little "Old Rye" can pass a little farther up the lake and be accommodated at the Lake Shore House.



Figure 4 Lake Shore House built 1882

When we had arrived but a few had gathered to partake of the festivities of the day, But by eleven o'clock the balcony of the Shore House, the shore of the lake, and the rustic pass-way leading to where the young "Seth" was safely secured, (for it had slid into the lake two days in advance of us) were pretty well packed with the young and old, of all nations and all shades from the sable Congo to unnatural whiteness of the invalid, for "the cradle and the grave had been robbed" of their inmates to witness a scene not common in this vicinity.



Soon came the **coronet band of Lima**, which was received by the discharge of a terrible load from a "bell metal" brought from Wayland for the occasion by the Hon. James G. Bennett late member from Assembly from old Steuben, - a naval piece that did good service and spoke well all through the rebellion. At a little past eleven, the band, together with a favored few, started down the lake with the steamer to the Jacques House amid the booming of cannon and music by the band, and while they are gone it will be a good time to tell "Seth's" history, etc.

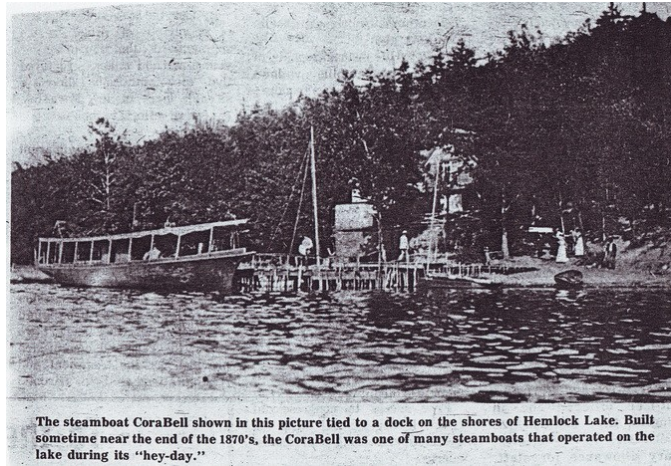
The **steamer was built in 1873**, by **Hingston Brothers of Buffalo**, (**William and John Hingston who had a shipyard at Jersey St, Buffalo, William J. Hingston & Co.**) (**JOHN TOWNSEND HINGSTON was born in Ireland July 1, 1822, the son of William Hingston and Jane Carroll, died in Buffalo on 26 Aug 1879**) for Clark Morehouse of Wayland, and delivered a few weeks ago. It is **thirty-eight feet in length, nine feet beam and draws between two and three feet of water**. The boiler is of the Baxter pattern, of six horsepower, and the engine was made at Corning by Preston.

After landing, and dinner at the **Lake Shore House**, it was ascertained that the veritable Seth Green who was advertised to be present and present a flag for the steamer was not on hand, but Miss Mattie Atkinson, about fifteen years of age, from Lima was, and after a few introductory remarks by **Mr. Jacob Galentine** from the same place, and "Hail Columbia," by the band, she, while standing on the deck of the little steamer, and in the name of Seth Green, presented the flag in the following words: "We are called here today to christen and set afloat this small, neat and tiny steamer, 'Seth Green,' and fling to the breeze the beautiful steamer which he has given, bearing his name, which I have now the honor to present." Barnes, of the Steuben Courier, was called on to respond, who mounted the deck and read a half sheet or less of poolscap, the words we were unable to obtain because he said he "spoke from notes." Then came the "Star Spangled Banner," from the band, three cheers for the steamer and three more for the **Coronet Band of Lima**, then "Seth," with fifty persons on board, slowly and silently left for a trip up the lake, while the band gave us the "Marsellaise Hymn," and Bennett, another word from his little Commodore; but after going up as far as "**Echo Rock**" it swung around the circle, and landed again, the trip ending with "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning."

A few short trips were made when the visitors from the head of the lake went on board and with music by the Band, interspersed with martial strains which were not unpleasant to take from H. A. Clark and son of Springwater, and Bennett and Newman of Wayland, we passed the romantic possessions of **Bishop McQuaid**, of Rochester, who has erected on a slightly eminence a "**Home for the retired Priests in his Diocese**," and landed safely at about six at the **Half Way House**."

The steamer passed into the hands of L. B. Onley of Wayland, who ran it for two seasons. T. J. Reynolds became the next owner who sold it to H. J. Wemett, to whom it belonged during its after existence as a boat. Captain Fox leased and ran it two seasons, and in the fall of 1878, it was pronounced unseaworthy, and laid aside, to make room for the next season for the Corabelle.

## CORABELLE.



The Seth Green having proved a complete success, its owner, Wemett, did not venture a farthing, when he concluded to replace it with a larger craft, made of superior material, and capable of accommodating the rapidly increasing business of the lake. Early in the season of 1879, Samuel Hingston the old, experienced boat builder of Buffalo, employed by the said Henry J. Wemett, commenced, and on the July following, finished, and successfully launched the present worthy **Corabelle**. She measures, **forty-five feet on the keel, with ten and a half in the beam**, capable of carrying a load, respectable in numbers.

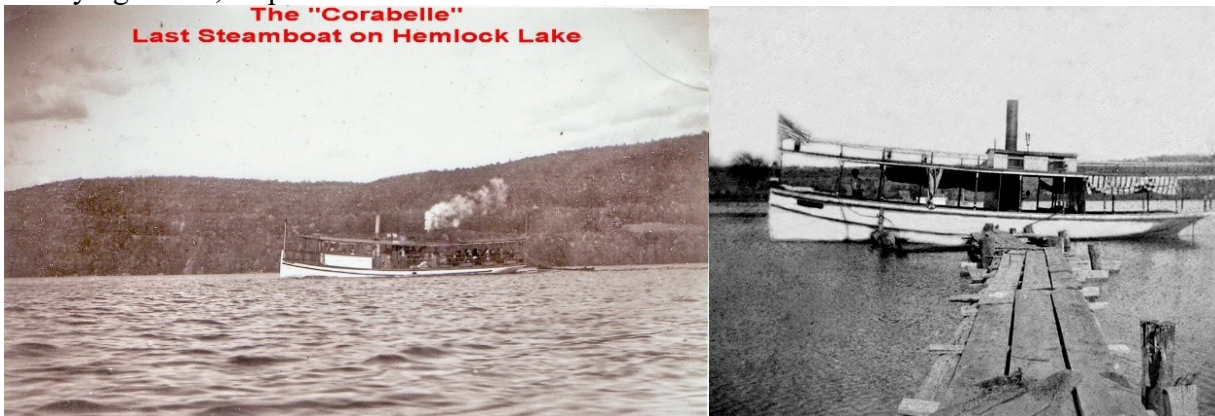


Figure 5 The Corabelle

Editor's note: The Corabelle has been listed in other writings as having been sunk, burned and transported to Irondequoit Bay. I cannot definitely confirm either report.

## MOLLY TEFFT.

The vast amount of work done; the immense crowds of passengers consistently being carried by the Corabelle in 1879, created quite a desire to share in what was considered by everyone a Bonanza. The same Samuel Hingston was again brought into requisition; and rather late in the season of **1880**, was successfully launched the Mollie Tefft. **The Mollie was built more in the style of the larger lake steamers, with the pilot house on top.** It measures **sixty feet in extreme length** and **twelve and five twelfths (inches) feet in the beam**, and has an **engine of nineteen, and a boiler of twenty two horse power.**

**Mrs. Mollie Tefft** of Rochester, who owns "**Maple Hill**" Cottage, is the owner. George Snyder ran it two seasons, and Frank Tefft, son of Mollie, the last.

In the spring of 1882, the pilot house was removed, and thus it was arranged so that one less hand is required to handle it. The Mollie is a staunch boat, and, has a capacity to stow away a goodly congregation.

#### **NELLIE.**

The Nellie was not first launched in these waters. It was first built as a **Ship lifeboat**, and has seen service in "Merry old England," before it cleft the waves of **Canandaigua** and **Honeoye lakes** and was introduced here in the season of **1881**, by **Captain William Wicks**, by whom it has been successfully managed, for the two seasons. **The hull is wholly built of iron**, and as long as it is sound, it should be perfectly seaworthy. It measures some **twenty-four feet in length, and eight or nine feet beam**, and last summer, it made a daily morning trip around the lake, taking orders, and feeding the hungry cottagers and campers.

As it was called Nellie at the time it made its appearance here, we have so called it, but the name was hauled down during the past season, and "A, Bronson" placed in its stead.

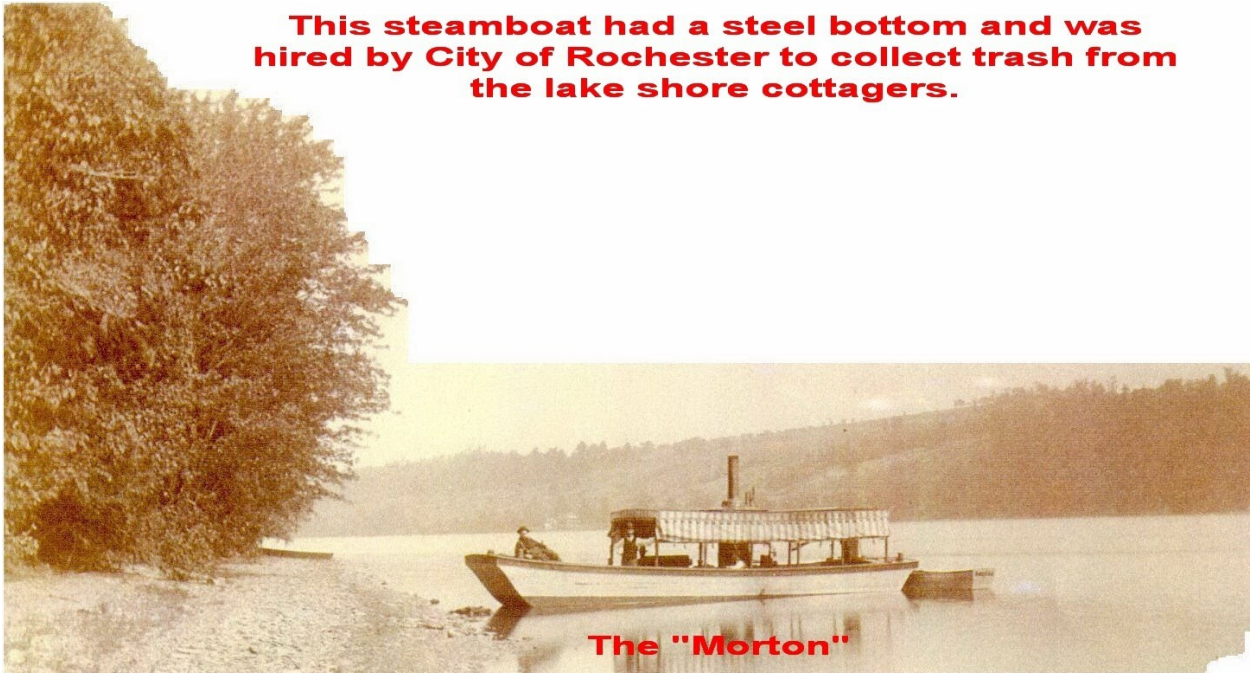
#### **CAMILLA.**

The Camilla is somewhat smaller than the Nellie and has also seen service before it came here. It belongs to McDonald and Reynolds of the city of Rochester and was successfully managed last season by the youthful Captain, Bert Reynolds. This was the first season here, and like all the before-mentioned boats, it ran as a regular passenger carrier.



## MORTON.

**This steamboat had a steel bottom and was hired by City of Rochester to collect trash from the lake shore cottagers.**



## WAVE.

This little clipper is smaller than any other steamer on the lake, and quite different in many respects, from any of them. It belongs, and, was run last season for the first, by Farnsworth of Lima, and is exclusively a family pleasure boat.

It was built expressly for this lake, and, will be remodeled somewhat for the coming season.

## INCIDENTS

When the whites first became acquainted with this section of the country, an Indian trail led along the eastern shore of Canadice Lake; one over Ball Hill, and another along the eastern shore of this lake, uniting at the present residence of Harlow Colegrove, and then passed on southwardly to the Susquehanna River.

Large bodies of Indians encamped during the warmer portions of the year on the flats at the foot, where they raised large quantities of corn, beans and squashes. The present farm of C. H. Mack at the head of the lake was also a camping ground, and Indian Pestles, etc. are still occasionally found there, while farther southward on the trail was another one on the farm of the late Aldrich Wiley.

In about the year 1791, Austin, son of Solomon Woodruff who was the first settler in this present town of Livonia, was stolen by the Indians while his father was away from home. Solomon, on his return, ascertained the direction taken by them with his stolen boy, and having followed, alone and unarmed, pretty well up the eastern shore of this lake on the trail spoken of, overtook the band and obtained his little four-year-old lad.

\* \* \* \* \*

One year previous to 1800, Ephriam Tucker came from the state of Connecticut to the town of Livonia and settled the Sylvester Francis farm and after a few years residence in Dansville on the old plank road, where the yellow willows are above the toll-gate, he returned to Ball Hill, and after living to a ripe, old age, in full view of the lovely Hemlock where he had caught many of the fine race, and of the green hillsides on which he had hunted the wild and prowling denizens of the primitive forests during more than three decades of the present century, he died and was buried in the eastern slope of the hill of his adoption.

While living in Livonia his young cattle one day strayed up the Hemlock, and towards sunset he put off in pursuit, with two dogs for company, one a cur and the other, part hound. When will up towards the **cave banks** he saw two young cubs, which on his approach quickly found a retreat in the branches of a smooth maple sapling, and forgetting his cattle for the while, thought he would procure one of the little fellows in the tree, so up he goes in pursuit. The tree, like all saplings growing closely together, was surmounted by a tall, slim top, to which the cube resorted far, far beyond his reach.

While trying to dislodge the little fellows, old Bruin put in an appearance, much to the discomfiture of both dogs and owner, and after making a few circular observations, the dogs sitting on their haunches the while with backs to the maple, one eye taking careful notes of Bruin's survey and the other askantly resting on their master up in the tree, she beat a retreat; this she repeated three or four times, each absence being longer than the former one. The hero of our story thinking that Bruin was mustering her forces for a nightly carnival, sans cubs, quickly descended from his uncomfortable quarters, and if legs were ever faithful to their owner, the



terrible inroads made on fundamental quarters, before considering as invulnerable as were the "Seven Bull Hides of Ajax," by the fallen trees and underbrush of the eastern shores of the Hemlock, fully attest that Ephraim's legs were true and loyal to him.

\* \* \* \* \*

Often in company with Ephraim was an old Hermit by the name of **Maloy**, who, after passing a few year on what is now Cook's point on Canandaigua lake, and also beneath "Malloy's Bluff" at the head of the Honeoye, in a lonely cabin, came to the Hemlock and built another cabin on the west side on lot No. 19.

The Hemlock than had its weird and solitary nooks for abodes for the bear, catamount or panther, or ghosts of departed spirits; and while Maloy was one morning catching a few fish for his "chowder" breakfast, happily seated in his "dug-out," an old bear came from one of these secluded nooks with the evident intention of breakfasting on Maloy. Armed with nothing save what his Creator gave him, it was a native tussle. Old Bruin gave the affray, mounted the boat, which not being able to hold two at variance, upset, thus giving them both an equal chance for their lives, Maloy, who was amphibious in his habits and as much at home in the watery element as was his aggressor, clambered onto his dug-out, caught a small floating paddle, and knowing the brute's tenderest point, gave him a clip on the nasal protuberance, depressing the fore and elevating the after portions of the monster, which Maloy quickly took the advantage of by grasping, with a grip like the infant Hercules in the Theban serpents, the cadual appendage of his said antagonist, and after much writhing and blubbing, old Bruin came out second best, and graced the table of Maloy for many an after meal.

\* \* \* \* \*

In an early day on the farm of C. H. Mack before mentioned, at the head of the lake lived **David Tomkins**. He was not what the world would call handsome, but from a rickety scaffold he hand built over the "dead inlet," he could charm and take in one night more Bullheads with a spear than any fifty men that ever attempted to practice the "gentle art." He was a blacksmith by trade, had two boys, David Jr. and Fortunatus, who were very apt Vulcans in their way.

Once on a time it was said, when Jews-harps were more fashionable than Organs, these boys took it into their heads to make one, - a large one - one whose music would "soothe a savage."



The **jaw harp, Jew's harp, mouth harp, Ozark harp, trump , juice harp, space harp, Pikon/Pikonane or Chung** is thought to be one of the oldest musical instruments in the world;<sup>[1]</sup> a musician apparently playing it can be seen in a Chinese drawing from the 4th century BC.<sup>[2]</sup> Despite its common English name, and the sometimes used **Jew's trump**, it has no particular connection with the Jewish people. This instrument is native to Asia and used in all tribes of Turkic peoples in Asia where it is variously referred to as a temir komuz (literally, iron komuz), agiz komuzu (literally, mouth komuz) or gubuz.

They closed the doors of the shop and went to work and forged out one so bulky that it was music for two.

As the sun was falling behind the western hill, an unearthly noise was heard in the direction of the shop. David Sr. and the better half were lively to investigate the condition of the boys. As they opened the shop door Fortunatus with the sledge handle gave the tongue of the harp, which David was holding in his mouth firmly with both hands, another wipe, when lo!, both father and mother fell perfectly paralyzed!

Among the accidents on this unbriny sheet of water, but which was unavoidably crept in under this heading, was the loss of an ox belonging to David Barnhart.

David's organ of caution was naturally very large and active, and it has usually kept him out of harm's way, but once when the "Hill Turnpike" was "melodiously miserable," David ventured to come up the lake on the ice. The result was, he went home with one ox, while the other became food for the finny dwellers of the deep.

David often declares he will never trust himself on the ice again until he knows to a "dead certainty" that the water commenced at the bottom to freeze, and froze up solid, and it is said that he hesitates to take even now, a full meal of fish caught through the ice, for fear it may incline him lake ward!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Dick Wetmore** was a man who in some respects lived somewhat like his ancestral brothers in the forest. Whenever he went a-fishing his luck was invariably good, while his neighbor who

accompanied him and who had stored at home something for present and future use, often sat basking in the sun for hours and did not get even a nibble, save from mosquitoes.

The reason Dick assigned for his better luck was: "that the Almighty knew whose pork barrel was empty."

\* \* \* \* \*

It was in this lake or some other, if it ever happened, that old Mrs. Smith was deprived of her dear copartner for life by drowning. After he had lain at the bottom for a number of weeks, and sympathetic neighbors had diligently raked for the body, it was at last fortunately brought to the shore, when behold, twenty-two fair sized Pickerel had sought a home therein. The bereaved widow was immediately notified and asked what disposition to make of the body. She feelingly replied: "Save the pickerel and set the body again."

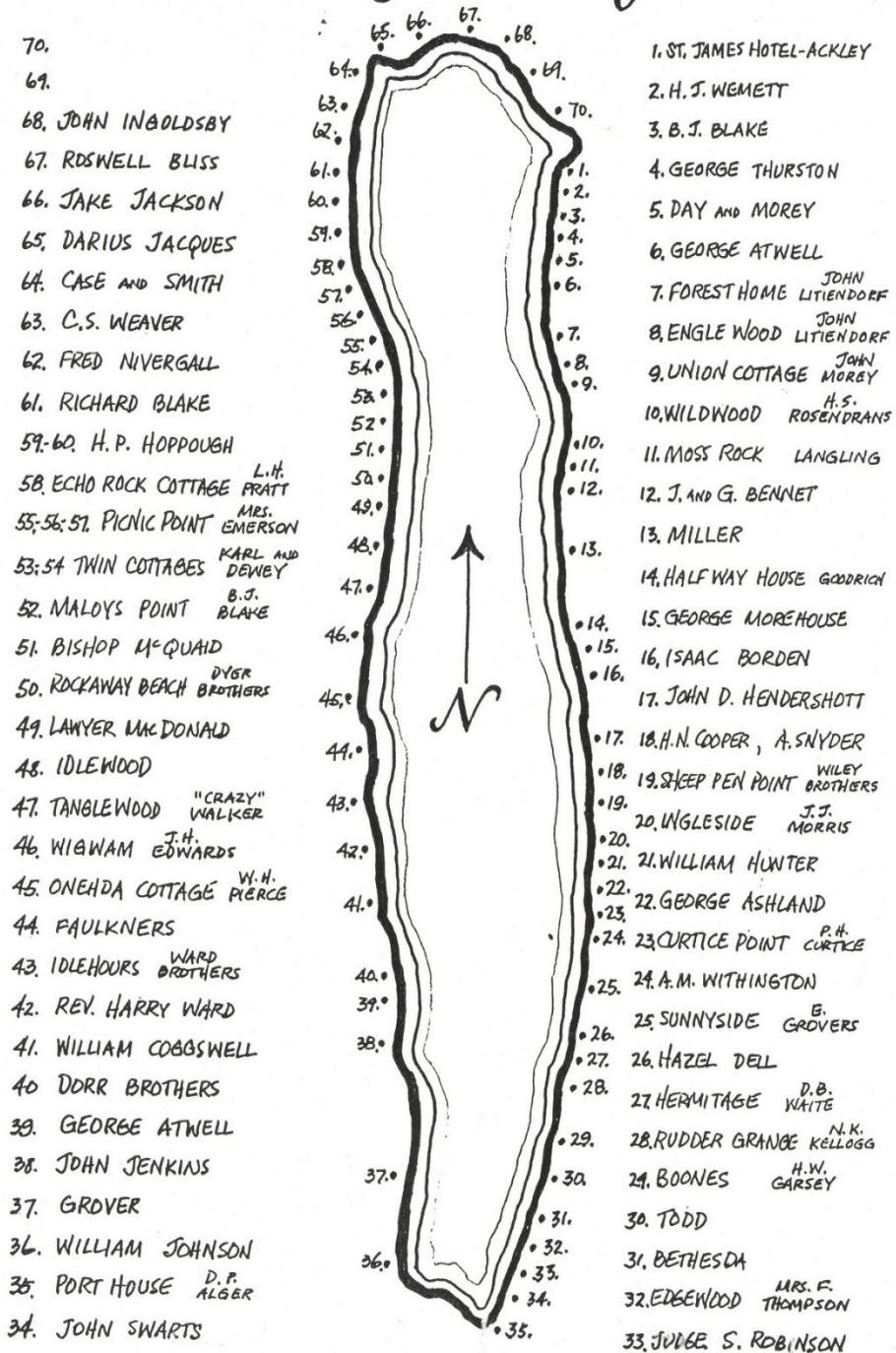
From time immortal this lake has been noted as good fishing grounds, but in a way back in an early day, we are told, that but few varieties could be caught here. **Lake Trout, Suckers, Sunfish and Herring** or more properly **Whitefish**, were here in abundance when the whites first became fishermen here. Charles Bliss, long years since placed some new varieties here. Some thirty-five years ago the Whitefish were so plenty, that wagon loaded were caught in one night; but that time also can be counted as the beginning of their decline, and now perhaps not a scale of them can be found here. Some of the largest of them would weigh a pound each. Large quantities of fish of different kinds have been put in here from time to time. **S. G. Grover and H. S. Tyler placed pickerel and Perch here in the winter of 1838 and '39; George A. Pierce and Dr. Requa, Oswego Bass in 1859; Black Bass from Irondequoit Bay by a Lima company, the same year; Black Bass, Rock Bass, Silver Bass, Strawberry Bass, and Yellow Pike by W. H. Atkins on, furnished by Seth Green, Supt. of N. Y. State Fish Commission.** The first lot of Salmon Trout was put into the head by Pierce brothers, and the next lot of 100,000 by Atkinson, off **Uckley's point**, and Green has also furnished large quantities at divers times since to different parties for the same propose.

\* \* \* \* \*

A few catches or so, we will mention, so a successor can have a starting point of "fish stories."

George A. Pierce and Charles Sedgwick were once fishing here on the ice, when Charles attempted to draw up his hook, found he had caught a Whitefish weighing a pound, which had been swallowed by a monstrous Trout which did not disgorge him until being drawn through the hole in the ice. Fred Millard caught a Trout, opposite the Half Way House, July 15th, 1878, that weighed 12 ½ pounds; In March 1845, George Williams, some that weighed 16 pounds; George King, one that weighed 15 ½ pounds; Amidon Goodrich, one that weighed 20 pounds; Spaulding Sheppard one, Dec. 24th, 1846, that weighed in a frozen state, next morning, 19 ¾ pounds, Phillip Wetmore, in the winter of 1838 and '9, one that weighed 26 pounds, and it was taken to where Dr. Gibbs now lives, by Sylvanus and George Williams. They tied its head to a pole which they carried on their shoulders, and its tail trailed along the ground.

# Hemlock Lake Cottages 1883



We now purpose to write up the items pertaining to the history of each cottage, briefly, or, so much thereof as we have been able to obtain. We shall not attempt to draw pictures of fancy, nor claim that those who were the earliest here, "reaped immortal fruits of uninterrupted joy and love in blissful solitude."

Our starting will be the **St. James, not because it had been more years in business here than any other public house**, nor will we call this or any other place on the lake an "Elysium," for each little rustic summer home has its own peculiar attractions, and to the several owners of sites along its shores, each has his or her "Eden," but as it will subserve our purpose a little better, and as it is here no doubt, that most will congregate, and from here more will commence to take the tour of the lake, than from any other place, and as all the steamers, plowing these waters daily, touch at this dock, we will commence and end our pleasure trip here.

ST. JAMES. #1 1883 Map





The St. James Hotel on Hemlock Lake NY circa 1880.  
This view is of the east facing side of the building.  
Hemlock Lake is behind the hotel and trees.  
Photo courtesy of Karen Roberts Chrysler.

Before we take our departure, we will say, that this well built and commodious Hotel stands **forty by eighty feet** on the ground, three stories in height, is well finished and furnished throughout, for one located on an inland resort like this, was built in the season of **1879**, by **Daniel S. Beam**, for **Whitney and Ackley**, and was opened to the public in the summer of that year. Whitney and Ackley have been its constant proprietors, and the business it has done must be its best recommendations. It is capable of accommodating **sixty regular boarders besides transient ones**. Here will be found free picnic tables and seats; accommodating employees, and decidedly the best arranged public grounds on the lake. In the cove on the north of the landing, is where young Sheppard was drowned.

The St. James Hotel #1 1883 Map Hemlock Lake NY.  
From the Livonia Gazette, 6 August 1884.



Hemlock - In the early spring we published an article relating to and describing the new hotel projected by Messrs. Whitney & Ackley on the east side of Hemlock Lake.

At that time the building which was to be used as a billiard parlor, with a second story as a dancing hall, and also the barns, were erected, only the ground being broken for the hotel proper. This it will be remembered is several rods from the other building, and is three stories high, with the basement.

The dining and sitting rooms are on the lower floor, where also is a separate dinning room for private parties. The office is on the second floor. The sleeping rooms are large and so arranged as to secure the most fresh air. One of the best features of the hotel - a feature that most hotel proprietors seem to forget in building - are the two large verandas on both the east and west sides, so it is the fault of the guest himself if he allows the hot rays of the sun to get at him at all.

In addition to this, a large cupola has been erected on the top, so that a view of almost the entire length of the lake can be had.

The inside of the hotel will be finished in hard woods. A large ladies' sitting room faces the lake, protected by the shade, though the beautiful view remains unobstructed.

One of the nicest groves on the lake is found here, which the proprietors offer free of charge to Sunday-school and other picnic parties. This is a gradual slope to the lake and is furnished with tables, rustic benches, etc., for their use.

The home dock of the steamer Corabelle is at this house, which makes regular trips, and can be chartered for parties of all kinds at reasonable rates.

A free stage to and from the trains will also be run by Hawley Bishop for the benefit of regular guests of the house.

The terms of the hotel are as follows: Board by the week, from seven to ten dollars; by the day, two dollars; children under twelve years of age and servants, half price. Satisfactory terms will be made for families desiring to remain several weeks.

This hotel has been built at a large expense, and no pains have been spared in suitably furnishing it. It will be conducted as a first-class hotel should be, and we believe the proprietors will find that their money has been well invested.

The fame of Hemlock as a summer resort is increasing so rapidly that the accommodations are becoming inadequate to the demand upon them, though the lake boasts of good hotels and is dotted thickly with cottages; and the building of the St. James is still another invitation for tourists to come and enjoy the beautiful scenery the lake affords. No time has yet been decided upon for the formal opening, but due notice will be given.



St. James Hotel at Hemlock Lake NY in 1884.  
No one has been identified.  
Courtesy of the Tom Westbrook.

The St. James Hotel (1) Accommodates Camp Meeting  
From the Livonia Gazette, 8 August 1884.

Hemlock - The grounds of the St. James last Sunday were crowded with carriages, and hundreds took the boat at the dock, leaving their horses at the hotel barns. This was the handiest way to attend the camp-meeting.

The St. James does its share of the hotel business on the lake, and a pleasanter location, or a more convenient spot for picnics and excursions, cannot be found anywhere.

Whitney & Ackley give the free use of their grounds and tables to Sunday schools and other societies, a fact which ought to be and probably is appreciated.

WEMETT'S. #2 1883 Map

Before you fairly get under way, you pass the summer residence of H. J. Wemett, the owner and manager of the steamer "Corabelle." He built here in 1881, and the headquarters of his boat are here, or at the dock of the St. James.

Wemett, Henry J. of Springwater died Apr 1922, ae 81. He died in his farm home on the east side of Hemlock Lake. He had been superintendent of schools, teacher, soldier, farmer, and operator of pleasure boats on Hemlock and Conesus lakes.

BLAKE'S. #3 1883 Map

The next one in order, is where Bradner J. Blake (Blake, Bradner J. 20 acres PO Livonia Station res. Town of Livonia 1891), of Livonia, spends many odd hours. It was built on the extreme

north end of the Maloy point many years ago, and was taken over on the ice, in the winter of 1878 and '9.

#### THURSTON'S. #4 1883 Map

Last season George Thurston (**Thurston, G. G. 29 acres PO Hemlock Lake res. Town of Livonia 1891**), also of Livonia, built the rather tasty cottage, on nearly the identical ground where McCloud lived, "in the days of old lang syne." He is an old camper on this lake, and before we end our tour, we shall pass his trail for the third time.

#### DAY AND MOREY'S. #5 1883 Map

At the little ravine, stands the humble house of the Rev. S. Mills Day and Morey of Honeoye. It dates its erection in the year 1880. **Rev. S. Mills Day Pastor of the Congregational Church of Honeoye 1862-1905**

#### ATWELL'S. #6 1883 Map

Before this lake became frequented, as now, with the busy throngs of pleasure-seekers, **George Atwell, of Lima, (Atwell, George W. Feb 22 1852 Dec 14 1920 born Lima, died Lima, NY) built a cottage on the west side of the foot**, and each summer passed such time as leisure gave him, there. This was in **1870**, and in the fall of **1881**, he sold to Kendall of the Jacques House, and built the cool, shady, gables we are now passing. A short distance south of here, you will perceive a small pile of stones below the road, and just north of the run. Here is where **Joe Barnhart** lived, long years ago.

#### FOREST HOME. #7 1883 Map

**On this point will be found three Cottages.** The first was built in 1882 by John Litiendorf (**aka Lichendorf (John) (Litzendorf) (Litzendorf, John 1859 1913, Lima Oak Ridge Cem)**), and he calls it Forest Home, and the name is very well applied.

#### ENGLE WOOD. #8 1883 Map

The second one, (owned by John Litzendorf) was erected by the Millards (Millard, H. A. horticultural agent PO Hemlock Lake resident Town of Livonia 1868), of Hemlock Lake Village in 1878.

UNION COTTAGE. #9 1883 Map

The third one, (owned by John Litzendorf) During the season of 1879, **John Morley from Lima?** (Morey, John B. 1836-1905: established J.C. Morey & Sons Nursery Dansville NY) commenced a series of improvements, which have culminated in one of the most lovely and delightful places of resort on this lake. John knows how to make the wilderness blossom, and out of a tangled wood, he has made a pleasant retreat. South of this a short distance, **Hiram Bowen** and **Tom Saxby**, in about **1840, had log cabins**; Bowen's at the pile of stones above the road, and Saxby's, where the portable Steam saw mill was. Tom was a thorough-bred boxer.

WILD WOOD. #10 1883 Map

H. S. Rosendrants (aka H. S. Rosencrans (Rosenkrans) of Wayland, in '78, selected a shady grove, and has a comfortable cottage and stables, where he enjoys himself, during the sultry days of summer, when other duties will permit.

MOSS ROCK. #11 1883 Map  
Langling?

This is the **Tambling-Larrowe Cottage**, erected in **1879**, by Tambling, and wife who was the widow Larrowe. They are residents of **Liberty**, (D.B. Woodruff owned) and have one of the

best made and most comfortable houses on the lake.



#### BENNETT'S. #12 1883 Map

The Hon. J. G. Bennett of Wayland, bought of William Scidmore, in August, '73, and erected a portion of his present cottage in '74, on nearly the same spot where Martin Bowen, upwards of forty years ago, put up a frame for a house, and Guy Bennett (**Bennett, Guy E., of Dansville died btw 1873 & 1898 ae 77 & was buried by Rev. Ward of the Dansville Presbyterian Church**) in the latter year purchased of Wells and moved his cottage thereto.

#### MILLER'S. #13 1883 Map

Listed as J. Albert Miller (**Miller, J A boards F W Dansville 1908 Rural Route No 4**) **George A. Miller** (**Miller, George, 29, farmer 88 acres. 1891 Wayland Dir**) and **William Shannon** (**Shannon, William PO Springwater res. Town of Springwater 1891**) **of Springwater**, bought a few acres, including the **Sulphur Spring**, in 1878 and Shannon sold to Miller soon afterwards. In 1881, Miller put up his summer house, and he has spent much of his time here, since then. Just south of his house is the Spring.

#### HALF WAY HOUSE.





## HEMLOCK LAKE ROAD BUILT SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

### Started As a Toll Road But Was a Financial Failure



The following [undated] from the Livonia Gazette of recent date, is one of a series of historical articles written for that paper by Frank Connor of Hemlock:

The road along the east side of Hemlock Lake, running south from Glenville corner to Springwater, and which was closed a few years ago, was built by John Hill. Not much is known about the early life of this man except that he was born in Chemung county and as a young man drove mules on the Erie canal. Later he bought a canal boat which he operated for some time, making some money at it. It is not known what brought him to Hemlock in the early forties.....

As mentioned in a previous article, there was a large amount of traffic going through Hemlock from the south for Rochester. All of this traffic had to come over Bald Hill, which was a hard pull for teams up out of Springwater valley. Hill thought that if he built a road along the shore of Hemlock Lake eliminating the hills this traffic would come over his road in preference to the other route, and so he secured the right-of-way and built the road at an expense of \$5,000, completing the job about 1853.

He erected his toll-gate a short distance south of Glenville corner. (This gate is now the kitchen of the house where Roy Redmond lives.) Hill's venture was not a financial success, sentiment was against him, people thought they should be permitted to use this road without toll. Hill, naturally, thought differently and one day in 1854 when he was in the blacksmith shop of Harry Millard (grandfather to Harry Rogers) he became engaged in an argument over the matter of tolls, became greatly excited and fell dead.

In opening the highway along the eastern shore of the lake in 1826, hands found it so inconvenient to climb the hill after a day at hard labor, that Abner Goodrich, erected a double log house below the road on this point, and moved thereto for his, and their accommodation. The next year when the road was completed, he built the old part for the present structure, and the balance was added by King in after years.



In 1834 he sold to Porter Fowler, who leased it to **Joseph King** for eight years, then sold one half to John Martin, and the other half to John Jenkins who built a house on the hill. Philip Wetmore rented Martin's half for two years. Five years from Fowler's sale, the whole came back into his hands again. Samuel Darling was the next occupant, then Joseph King again.

George (King, George 9 acres PO Hemlock Lake res. Town of Livonia 1891) and John King (King, John farmer PO Bloods res. Town of Springwater 1891) purchased it, and sold to H. J. Wemett, since that sale, Wemett, Yorks, Nivergall and Barnhart have occupied it. The log house in which Goodrich first lived, a son Charles, Patrick O'Neil and Martin Bowen afterwards occupied. This property passed from the hands of Wemett into those of George W. Fisher and Charles E. Upton, both of Rochester. Not having the same views in regard to what improvements to place thereon, and Upton's late entanglement in Bank matters and failure to fulfill his part of the contract with Fisher, give to the place a truly desolate appearance, where the "thistle shakes its lonely head," and the "wild fox digs his hole unscarred." The only cheering ray to be noticed here is a little to the southward, the fondly intertwining embrace of those two brotherly elms.

#### SYLVAN RETREAT. #15 1883 Map

Here on **Long Point, George W. Morehouse**, of Wayland purchased and built, especially for his invalid wife, the present tastily arranged cottage. She spent a portion of that season here, but that fell disease consumption had so strong a hold on her delicate constitution that death closed her earthly existence soon after her return to Wayland. The next winter Wesley Doughty now of Springwater became the purchaser, and one year after, his wife, in whose hands it now remains.

#### CAMP GROUNDS. ISAAC BORDEN #16 1883 Map

A short distance up this point is where the "Stantonites" held a Camp Meeting which lasted some two weeks in the summer of 1878, and had an overflowing attendance especially on the Sabbath. Before we reach the next cottage we pass where **Isaac B. Borden** had a shanty, where he stayed while putting through the lake road in '26 and '7.

#### NATIVE LAND. #17 1883 Map

In 1878 **John D. Hendershott** (Hendershott, J. D. mechanic PO Springwater res. Town of Springwater 1891) of Springwater purchased the building in which Rufus Grover lived one season on near the Reynolds farm near the butternut tree on the valley road and moved it to the next place we come to. After covering it over anew and adding a kitchen, a very comfortable

home for summer resort was made, and each season other families besides John's occupy the cottage as renters.

#### THE WILDERNESS COOPER AND ANYDER'S. #18 1883 Map

Next on the list is the cottage of H. R. Cooper, late of Washington but now of Springwater, and A. Snyder of the latter place. This was built in 1881. Though rather too near the water for pleasant surroundings to most people, yet, the well-kept grounds, the fine looking structure, and so well built and nicely arranged throughout, it leaves a very good impression in the eye of the tourist.

#### SHEEP-PEN POINT. #19 1883 Map

**Another feature which the committee will condemn in its report is the practice by farmers of washing sheep in the lake. Two years ago, the inspector put a stop to this custom, but lack of inspection on the part of those appointed to attend to this duty has allowed the habit to be revived. 1890**

This point, which is a pretty one, derives its name from the fact that for a very long period of years the farmers of Ball Hill had a pen here, and where they annually came to wash their sheep. It is now owned by the brothers, Robert H., an Attorney at Law, and Major Henry A. Wiley, both of Springwater. When N. A. Kellogg erected his present cottage he disposed of his former one to their brothers, and in the winter of 1881-2 it was taken here on the ice. They have otherwise built and have now a cozy summer home. These bachelor brothers spend hours very pleasantly here when other duties will permit them so to do.

#### INGLESIDE. #20 1883 Map

Professor John J. Morris built the next in the season of 1881. The Prof. is here only during vacations, and for a bachelor, entertains a very social, agreeable family of young ladies and gentlemen of the literary class at such times, besides very many other acquaintances.

#### HUNTER'S. #21 1883 Map

The Rev. William Hunter, long a Presbyterian Clergyman of Springwater purchased the next point and erected the red building on the north end, and after cleaning off the improving considerably, sold the south end thereof to George Higgins, of Springwater, and he in 1880 erected.

#### ASHLAND. #22 1883 Map

Whether this cottage received its name because a few white ash trees stand around it, or from the old home of Henry Clay, we cannot tell. George and his better half put in some spare time each year.

#### CURTICE POINT. #23 1883 Map

This is quite an extensive projection of land and has long been known as "Curtice Point." Perez H. Curtice a millwright by trade, but who loved fishing more than other employment, moved an unoccupied, small framed building from Hemlock Lake Village, on the ice in the winter of 1840-1 to this place. Here he lived alone, working occasionally a few days at a time at his trade, until 1849, when he went to William Mackie's in Livonia to live. In the year 1864 during harvest time, he started at noon to go to Slab City and not returning, search was made but he was not found until in a fair state of decomposition, in the field near the west line of Jacques farm.

His habitation on this point was torn down and portions of it were afterwards used by boys as a raft.

#### WITHINGTON'S. #24 1883 Map



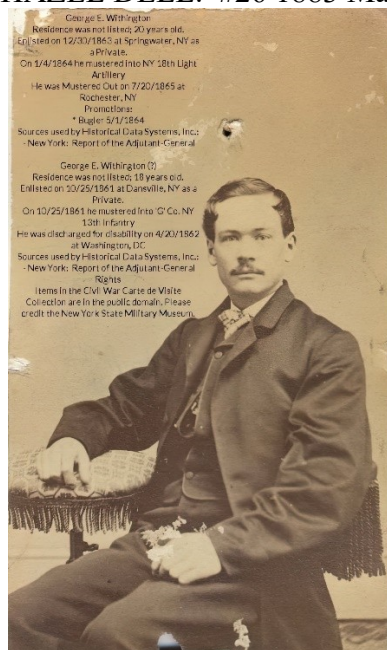
Albert M. Withington of Springwater NY circa 1900.  
Photo courtesy of Douglas Morgan and the  
Springwater-Webster Crossing Historical Society.

On this point **Albert M. Withington**, then **Erie Depot agent** at Springwater, bought and built the north structure, a very much better one than any cottage away from the foot of the lake at that time. This was in the summer of 1876, and at the time when the excitement had fairly commenced at the south end of the lake.

#### SUNNYSIDE. #25 1883 Map

Withington sold a portion of his purchase in 1878, to the Grovers and Morris of the same place, and they, foreseeing the future of this body of water, put up the same season what was then considered an extreme in summer resorts, by far the best building in its vicinity. Its name is suggested by the unobstructed view from its sunny side, or from, perchance, (**Washington**) Irving's pleasant home on the Hudson.

#### HAZEL DELL. #26 1883 Map



The same year, on the extreme south end of Withington's purchase, **George E. Withington** now an Agent at Springwater Depot, and Alexander M. Brown of Rochester, completed the cottage in the cove above, and christened it Hazel Dell.

#### HERMITAGE. #27 1883 Map

The next one we hail seems to be an old veteran on these shores, which in fact it is.

The first brush cut on this lake south of the Half Way House on the eastern shore, was where this cottage now stands. On Saturday May 29th, 1875, D. B. Waite took possession of this point and opened a road through as tangled a mass as ever grew, and on Monday the 31st, the sill were on the ground. The frame was raised the 11th, of June, and when fully enclosed, received the name of the Hermitage. **The first landing built south of the center of the lake was built here July 26th**, where the Seth Green landed a few days afterwards. All the business for the south end of the lake was done here for three consecutive seasons.

Picnics have been of frequent occurrence here from the first to the present, in fact, **were the only free picnic grounds on the lake.**

The kitchen on the north was added in 1878. In 1848, Ebenezer Goodrich cleared this point for Perez H. Curtice who had a lease of it from Rufus Garey, and it was cultivated nine years. The timber has all grown since that time.

#### RUDDER GRANGE. #28 1883 Map

The sound of the ax had all but died away in a measure at the Hermitage when a peculiar looking craft was seen floating northward on the still bosom of the lake and landed on Kellogg's Point. The old boat house near the head had been demolished, and the debris soon assumed a cozy appearance, and after many remodelings took the name of Rudder Grange. This was in pioneer times and but a few days after Waite commenced on his grounds.

No one on the lake has enjoyed himself better, wearing away the rough points in nature than has Nathan A. Kellogg (**KELLOGG, N. A. agricultural works PO Springwater resident Town of Springwater 1868**), and his present and commodious and tasty cottage erected in 1880, bespeaks a man that aims to enjoy all this silvery gem of water has in store for him.

#### BOONE'S. #29 1883 Map

The year following, Henry W. Garnsey, then a hardware merchant at Wayland, put the main building on the next point. It was soon afterwards deeded to his wife and sister, Mrs. Stewart. In 1881 the addition was made, and in 1882, the property by purchase passed into the hands of Dr. Boone of Springwater.

#### TODD'S. #30 1883 Map

In 1878, Mrs. Garnsey and Mrs. Stewart sold that portion of their land on the south end and lying in the cove to Todd of Spencerport, and he soon after erected the present small but agreeably arranged cottage.

BETHESDA. #31 1883 Map

On the next point is a fountain, where the water is brought in a pipe from a spring on the side of the hill some twenty-five rods distant. It is very strongly impregnated with iron, and a careful analysis may disclose some chemicals held in a solution that may be of vast benefit to us ailing mortals.

EDGEWOOD. #32 1883 Map

Mrs. Thompson, wife of **Furman Thompson of Springwater**, (**Thompson, Furman 96 acres PO Springwater res. Town of Springwater 1891**) is the proprietor of the next improvements. The cottage has received the name of Edgewood. This was built in 1879, and each season finds it pretty well appropriated to the uses intended.

VESPER CLIFF ROBINSON'S. #33 1883 Map

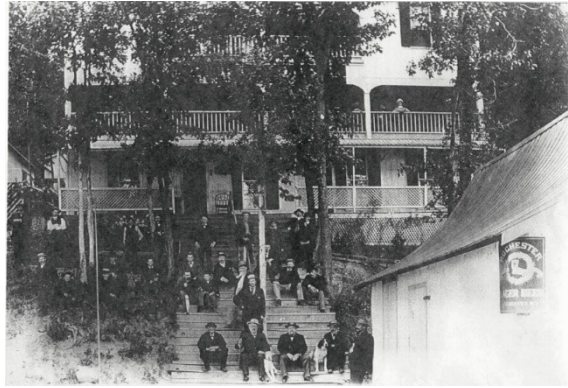
Judge Stephen Robinson became the owner in the next, and put up the present building in 1877, and while his partner in life was able to enjoy a summer rest here, the aged, happy twain, accompanied by children and grandchildren spent many a pleasant day in and around their humble cottage. Since her decease The Judge passed but a few days here each season.

SWARTS'. #34 1883 Map

John Swarts, (**Swarts, John G. 60 acres PO Webster's Crossing res. Town of Sparta 1891 of Dansville**), purchased of Judge Robinson in '79, a portion from the south end of his premises and placed a cottage thereon the same year.

PORT HOUSE. #35 1883 Map





**D. P. Alger** of Springwater, the next in order of location, erected the small building now attached to the north side of the main structure in 1876. In the fall of 1877, he commenced, and in the following spring finished the present boarding house, which soon after completion was named the Port House. It was first opened to the public on June 12th, 1878. The grounds on which it stands, though rather romantic, are not very pleasant or inviting for parties, picnics and gatherings that love to recline where "Some shady bower their couch could be, Or rustling oak their canopy."

The buildings are well arranged for summer visitors, and though cheaply built like many of the cottages along the lake, yet they are commodious and comfortable enough for all who may wish to spend a few days or weeks here.

The steam boats all run regularly to this place, and it is practically the head of the lake, though a short distance farther south stands the spacious farm house of

#### WILLIAM JOHNSON. #36 1883 Map

**Johnson, William** In 1850 lived in the town of Canadice, NY. This was erected in 1881, a little north and west of where Elijah Goodrich in 1828, put up a log cabin in which he resided many years, and after he left, it was occupied by Tucker, Gordon and others. At this point a landing was built of the Seth Green, in '75, but it was ephemeral in its existence.

#### DOWN THE LAKE.

#### ANGLER'S CABIN #37 1883 Map HENRY T GROVER

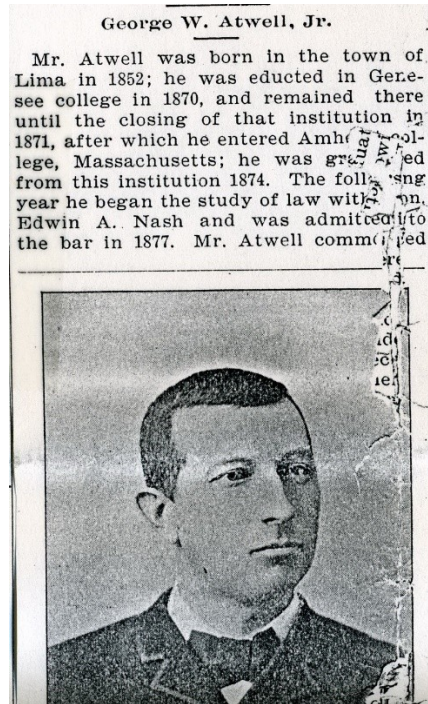
We now cross the lake and commence our return, and in doing so we first pass near the place where young Willis was drowned in 1880, just south of the humble shelter where the late Dr. Norton from 1877 until his death, used to spend many a happy hour during the warmer portions of the year. His messmate, **H. T. Grover**, (**Grover, Henry T. merchant PO Springwater res.**)

Town of Springwater 1891) still continues to spend considerable time hereabouts, and is one of the few who follow the gentle art, that invariably have good luck. Harvey is endowed with a mighty taking way, especially when he goes a-fishing.

#### JENKIN'S. #38 1883 Map

The building in the cove we next pass was built last fall by John Jenkins, in which to live while lumbering, and the next, is where Harvey Humphrey from Webster's Crossing, in 1881 commenced to build, but left just enough relics to bring from the passer-by the thought, "who has been here?" Humphrey's relics and the devastation of fire below leave a deadening feeling as we pass.

#### FISH COTTAGE #39 1883 Map ATWELL'S.



George Atwell of Lima, who also had a cottage at the foot, built a 12 x 12 cottage here in 1878 solely for the purpose of sheltering him during his trout fishing excursions up the lake, for it is well known that trout are more plenty here than towards the foot.

#### DORR'S. #40 1883 Map

The people of Dansville are of late choosing building places nearer the head than they did a few years ago. The next cottage, with its cool, spacious verandas, was erected last year by the Dorr brothers from the aforesaid place.

LAKEWOOD COTTAGE #41 1883 Map  
COGSWELL'S.

The fancifully-trimmed we are next to pass, belongs to William Cogswell (Cogswell, William p o Dansville lumber merchant born Dansville 1850; father David Cogswell; wife Mehitable Owen Dansville 1881), and took a place on this lake last year.

If Hemlock will lower the temperature of summer heat, then his southern grove must give him ease and comfort.

Before we arrive at the next cottage, we pass building sites, soon to be converted into pleasant resting places, and a patch of alders or gnarled oak, may suggest names for the new erections.

PARSONAGE. #42 1883 Map

It is extremely rare that we find so devoted a lover of nature as the Rev. George K. Ward of Dansville (Ward, G. K. pastor of Dansville Presbyterian Church 1873-1898), for the last eighteen years, he has been a frequenter in these parts, and was one of the original proprietors of the old parsonage, and a partner in the cottage, erected by the Wards last season, and now is busily engaged in the erection of this one, which will be completed early in the season. At his touch the wilderness is quickly converted into a pleasing home.

IDLE HOUR. #43 1883 Map

During the last season, the Rev. G. K. Ward, of Dansville, Frank A. Ward, of Rochester, and Wm. S. Ward, of Leadville, Colorado, united, and the next summer home was the result.

The sturdy elm on the south with one huge arm twisted off or that decaying parent oak in the cove below, leaning hopefully on its stronger brother, might have suggested a very appropriate name, but the one selected is very good.

FAULKNER'S. #44 1883 Map

In '81 the Faulkners (Faulkner, Dr. James p o Dansville physician & surgeon born Washington co. 1790 settled 1797 studied in Bath & was graduated from College of Physicians & Surgeons 1810 is President of First National bank of Dansville No. 75 organized 1868. Dansville 1881) of Dansville, who annually seek the shores of some wildwood lake, or resort at the north, or the balmy air of Florida, put thought and some means into as pleasant and home-lake resort as any on the lake - in fact we can but call its style "symmetrical and intrinsically beautiful." On the north edge of this point the Barnharts had a cabin, in which they lived while getting lumber for the Rochester Water Company in 1875.

ONEHDA COTTAGE. #45 1883 Map



The Onehda Cottage at Hemlock NY. Pierce, Boardman (center) and Requa proprietors. Photo by Betts of Dansville, courtesy of Sierra Lowe.

Figure 6 Onehda Cottage

W. Henry Pierce of Springwater, (Pierce, William Henry & George A. merchants PO Springwater resident Town of Springwater 1868) H. E. Bordman and Dr. Requa both of Rochester, in the year 1874, erected the first place for resort on this lake south of the "Maloy or Tittle Point."

As the building was constructed **wholly of hemlock lumber**, the name **Onehda**, was decidedly a very appropriate one.

In a state of nature, before fishing campers were plenty on the shores of this lake, one of the largest grape vines overran the timber on the outer projection of this point, and from that circumstance it received, and has long been called "**Grape-vine Point**". Since Pierce became sole proprietor, he has taken off the timber and set the whole with fruit trees, and is beginning to enjoy the pleasure of having fresh-picked fruit for his otherwise well-furnished table.





The Wigwam cottage of J. M. Edwards on Hemlock Lake NY circa 1900. Photo is courtesy of Amanda Wagner.

#### WIGWAM. #46 1883 Map

J. M. Edwards of Dansville (**Edwards, James M. (Oberdorf & Edwards) hardware Main corner Ossian. president Board of Education Dansville 1891**), in 1879, chose his wigwam on the next building place.

On the south lies "Sassafras Bay," and from a huge cement tube on the shore of said bay, you can regale your olfactory's, if you desire thusly to do, and enjoy his cooling, hemlock shade. We pass a fine building spot, and, northward "in sequestered cove the wild duck's oiled his breast, and dove."

#### TANGLEWOOD. #47 1883 Map

This is the original **Parsonage**, and was built by G. K. Ward, J. J. Bailey, F. Fielder, M. A. Sterns, J. P. McCurdy, E. M. Parmelee, Horatio F. Dyer, J. M. Edwards, J. F. Williams, H. J. Faulkner, S. N. Hedges, H. W. Delong and George Sweet, in 1877. In '79, Ward, Fielder and Sterns bought out their partners; in '81, Ward sold to his partners, and Fielder, in '82, disposed of his interest to Sterns (**Stearns, M. A. of Dansville - Resignation of as commander of Seth N. Hedges post May 8 1883**), who is sole owner at present.



A little in the back-ground, "Crazy" Walker commenced to build a home, away from the busy scenes of civilization, in 1862; the cellar remained till lately disturbed, though somewhat dilapidated.

IDLE WOOD. #48 1883 Map  
"Camp Happy, 1872, Geneseo, N. Y."

George W. Fisher of Rochester, in 1875 commenced to build here, and almost each year he added somewhat, either to his buildings or to the improvement of his grounds. The proprietor is decidedly a man of fine taste and has shown in its numerous instances on his premises.

It seems somebody was happy here in the year 1872, for on twin basswoods in the foreground you will find in large letters, "Camp Happy, 1872, Geneseo, N. Y."

As you pass southwardly on this point, you reach **Glen Bridge**, leading across a miniature run to the grove; to the west are **Glen Hill**, **Glen Avenue**, and other appropriate appellations as you ascend the zigzag walk up the hill.

MC DONALD'S. #49 1883 Map

Lawyer McDonald, from Rochester, owns the next cottage. I was numbered with the west side improvements of this lake, in the season of 1882, and just below, we pass the cave banks, where John Martin Jr. was drowned, in 1842.

ROCKAWAY BEACH. #50 1883 Map



Figure 7 Belle Haven

Here on the old "**Tim Bailey Point**" stand five summer rests. We will tell them in order northwardly. **Maple Hill**, belonging to Mollie Tefft, of Rochester; **Cedar Cottage**, owned by George Reynolds, of the same place; **Belle Haven**, the property of A. C. Coleman, Washington D. C., all built in '79, and **Glen Iris**, belonging to Mrs. Robinson, of Rochester, and **Sumac Lodge**, owned by the Dyer brothers (**Dyer, Brothers (Solon S. & Horatio F.) dry goods & carpets 148 & 150 Main Dansville 1891**), of Dansville. These two were built in '78. When well populated, as these cottages are overtimes, they form quite a lively, little hamlet. The Charter Oak in the foreground, reminds one but very little of the genuine, old oak at Hartford.

MC QUAID'S. #51 1883 Map

Bisop McQuaid of Rochester, NY, Summer Residence on Hemlock Lake, NY



Figure 8 Bishop McQuaid Retreat House

We next pass the boat house, from which starts the angling road up this miniature mountain, to the country home of **Bishop McQuaid**, and a little distance on, through the pleasing, cooling shade of pine and hemlock, northwardly, we find J. C. O'Brien's. He is a Rochestarian, and much esteemed as the legal counselor for the Bishop.

MALOY'S POINT. #52 1883 Map

This is by far the largest cape or point on this lake:

"Outstretching far into the mere, An emerald set in crystal clear."

A cabin, in which hermit Maloy passed a few years, was built here in the year 1800, or one year later. Previous to the former date, he passed awhile on what is now called Cook's Point, on Canandaigua Lake; from thence he came to the Honeoye and settled beneath Maloy's Bluff, and from thence to this place, as before stated.

Daniels, Tittle, Farr, Jenkins and Mitchell have each made his home here; but as Samuel Tittle resided here longer than any of the others, it oftener receives his name than theirs. Ruel Blake was owner of the land for many years, and hence his name is often attached to it; but we see no good reason why it should not, by universal consent, have that old, veteran hunter Maloy's name restored to it.

A few years ago, Bradner J. Blake (**Blake, Bradner J. 20 acres PO Livonia Station res. Town of Livonia 1891**) had a summer cottage on the north end or prolongation of this point; but it was moved across the lake, and we have already noticed it.

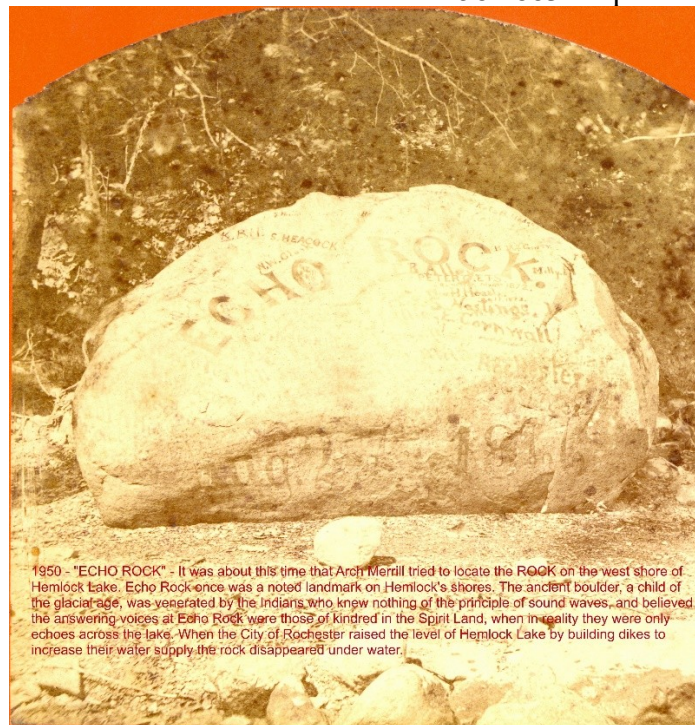
TWIN COTTAGE. #53 #54 1883 Map

The twins belong to Tom Karl, the celebrated musician (**Irish Tenor**), and D. M. Dewy Jr. of Rochester. They were erected in '79, and they indicate unity and brotherly love.

#### PICNIC POINT. #55 #56 #57 1883 Map

We find here a pleasant trio, belonging, in order, to Mrs. Ex-Senator Emerson, Martin and Cline, and C. Meyers, all of Rochester. The first was built in '79, the second in '77 and the last in 1880.

#### ECHO ROCK COTTAGE. #58 1883 Map



L. A. Pratt, of Rochester, has settled a noble site, and erected an imposing home on the elevation of west Echo Rock. This was built in 1881.

**Echo Rock** is an ancient boulder, a waif from some old glacier, about which, many a fabulous story is told, famed in the legends of the Senecas.

Many a war-hoop has here, no doubt, been sounded, and many an answer has been echoed back by a departed brother in the spirit land.

Long years after their departure, a few lone chieftains would annually resort to this sacred relic, to renew sweet communication with the loved and lost; and ever when we have visited it, even in the stillness of twilight, we have fancied that "Lake and hill are busy with their echoes still."



EDENWILD KILLKARE HOPPOUGH'S. #59 #60 1883 Map



H. P. Hoppough of Livonia (**Hoppough, Horace P. 8 acres PO Hemlock Lake res. Town of Livonia 1891**), and Hoppough and Short, own the next two cottages. The former was placed here in 1879, the latter in 1880.

VESPER CLIFF. #28 1883 Map

Richard Blake of Livonia, in about '74, built the next, and Professor Barnes of Rochester, in '80, the following cottage. Barnes has since sold his to Close and Reynolds, and their cottage bears the name **Chestnut Grove**.

NIVERGALL'S. #62 1883 Map

Fred Nivergall bought of Jacques in '68, quite a piece of land along the shore of the lake, and soon after put up the house in which he has since resided.

POINT COMFORT #63 1883 Map  
WEAVER, BARNES ECT.  
BOTH SIDES OF THE GULLEY – THREE COTTAGES





The Weaver Cottage on Hemlock Lake NY taken circa 1910.  
Photo taken by F. M. Bailey. Photo courtesy of Lore Disalvo.



**C. S. Weaver** of Rochester, in '79, and **Editor Barnes** of the Steuben Courier, in '77, built on different sides of the gully, and **Prof. Cook** of New York, in '79, a little lower down on the lake; **Mrs. Dixon of N. J.**, the hexagon in '73, and **Mrs. Parmalee** of Livonia, the Wren's Nest in '79.

LAKE SHORE HOUSE. #64 1883 Map



Here **Case and Daniel Smith** (**SMITH, Daniel E. 1824/1827 - 19 Nov 1908 Civil War. NY 21st Cavalry Co. F (1863 - 1866). Buried Erwin Cemetery.**) in 1873, erected the south portion, and the increasing throngs of visitors demanding more room, the next season the north building was added, called when built, the Dancing Hall. There has been more business done here some seasons than at any other house on the lake. It is very well arranged and will accommodate a goodly number of boarders.

BELOW. 1883 Map

From here towards the foot, we pass the cottages of Ex-Mayor Farland, built in '72; Kendall, in '71; Chambers and Martin; in '71; Case and Huntingdon, in '76, and Atwell (sold to Kendall in '81) built in '70. Then we come to **Greenwood Avenue** (**West Lake Road aka Kendall's Alley**), and a short distance in the background, the cottages of Ashley of the Clinton House, Rochester, and James Peck (**Peck, James B. 72 acres PO Lima res. Town of Lima 1891**) of Lima, similar in construction, erected in '80, Lake View, belonging to George Baker of Dansville, and the Johnson cottage, both erected in '81, and the long, and widely known home-lake farm house and most noted rural retreat upon the shores of this lake, the



JAQUES HOUSE. #65 1883 Map

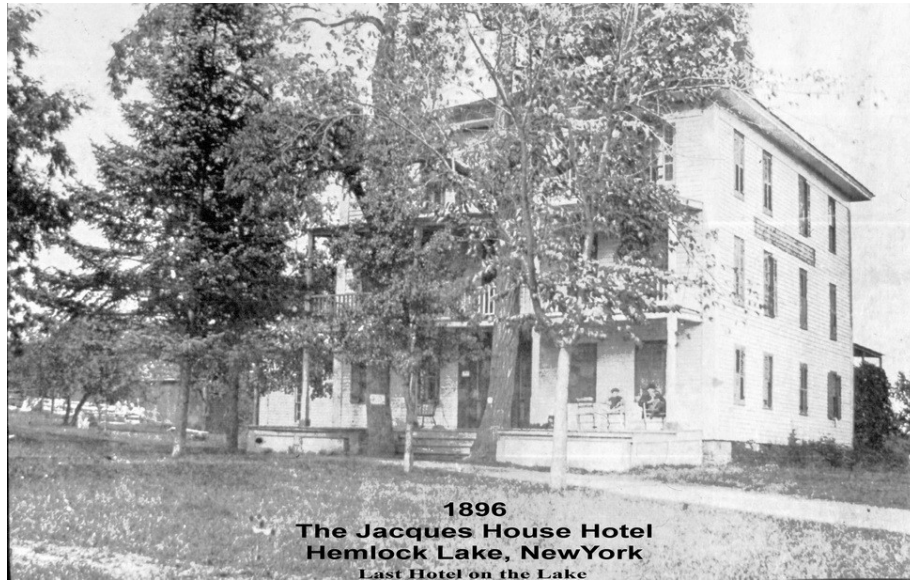


Figure 9 Jacques House 36x42, stands three stories in height

In years long gone by, John Hannah was a humble dweller where now stands the **Jacques House**. When he sold in **1824** to **Darius Jacques's** father to the present owner, little did he dream that the few fishermen that then occasionally called at his cabin, would ever make way for the numerous throngs of visitors that now pass the summer months at this pleasant, quiet home. **Russell R. Jacques (JACQUES, R. R. summer boarding house and farmer 275 acres PO Hemlock Lake resident Town of Livonia 1868)** in 1851, built, for his own connivance, a comfortable farmhouse, not expecting at that day, any visitors, save now and then, a fisherman; but in **August, 1861**, a **Mr. and Mrs. Merryman and two children of New York City, but who came directly from the Dansville Water Cure, called to make it their home for a while.**

A short time afterwards, a Wheeler family, from the same place, took up residence here until the next October. The year following, they came again, friends accompanied them, and from that time to the present, business has increased.

In after years, this Mrs. Merryman became the wife of the noted Pere Hyacinthe.



Figure 10 Jacques House looking West

In 1872 or 3, he enlarged the building until the upright, **36x42, stands three stories in height and a two storied wing 80 feet in length**, with very pleasant rooms; long, rambling piazzas, and cool, shady, cheerful surroundings.

**Seventy-five to one hundred visitors can be comfortably cared for at a time.** After the house was enlarged, Alfred Kendall, a brother-in-law to Russell, had charge of it seven years, then E. R. Thompson, a son-in-law of Kendall, took the premises in charge, and it remained so for two years, when it again passed back into the hands of Jacques and Kendall.

Those wishing to make much of a stay at this lake will find this as pleasant and as rural a home as any on its shores.

Under the Rev. Kendall the "House" speciality was Sunday chicken dinner, and this was ceremony. The dining room was large and the tables long. After the diners were seated the Rev. would make his entry and take his seat at the first table. He said grace and it usually was about half the length of his Sunday sermon. Then the girls entered, one carrying a large kettle of chicken, another the potatoes, and so on until the dinner was all on the board, then the Rev. filled each plate and the girls passed them around. (One of the kitchen girls had defective eyesight and on one occasion didn't remove all the feathers from the chicken she picked and the Rev. was some surprised when he fished a piece out of the kettle and put it on a plate and the feathers showed. He was greatly embarrassed and ever after he stirred the kettle up in the kitchen before he made his entry).

"Miss Jakes," as Mrs. Jacques was known far and wide, was the best dumpling maker in these parts and she was best known for this art. Woe unto anyone who spoke or walked around the kitchen after she had dropped the dumplings into the kettle. One of the men who was employed at the "House" said Mrs. Jakes served them American style, "Every man for himself."

#### AT THE FOOT. 1883 Map

In crossing the foot we pass where **Daniel or Hiram Loomis**, upwards of sixty years ago lived, and did extensive business. **His house was on the west bank of the outlet, and north of the road.** You'll also pass **Connor's, Kinney's, the Mill House and the Brick**, the last of which was erected in 1875-76, and in which resides **Thomas M. Blossom** who has charge of the water supply to the city of Rochester.





Figure 11 Often incorrectly identified as the "Gate House". It is also called "The Brick"

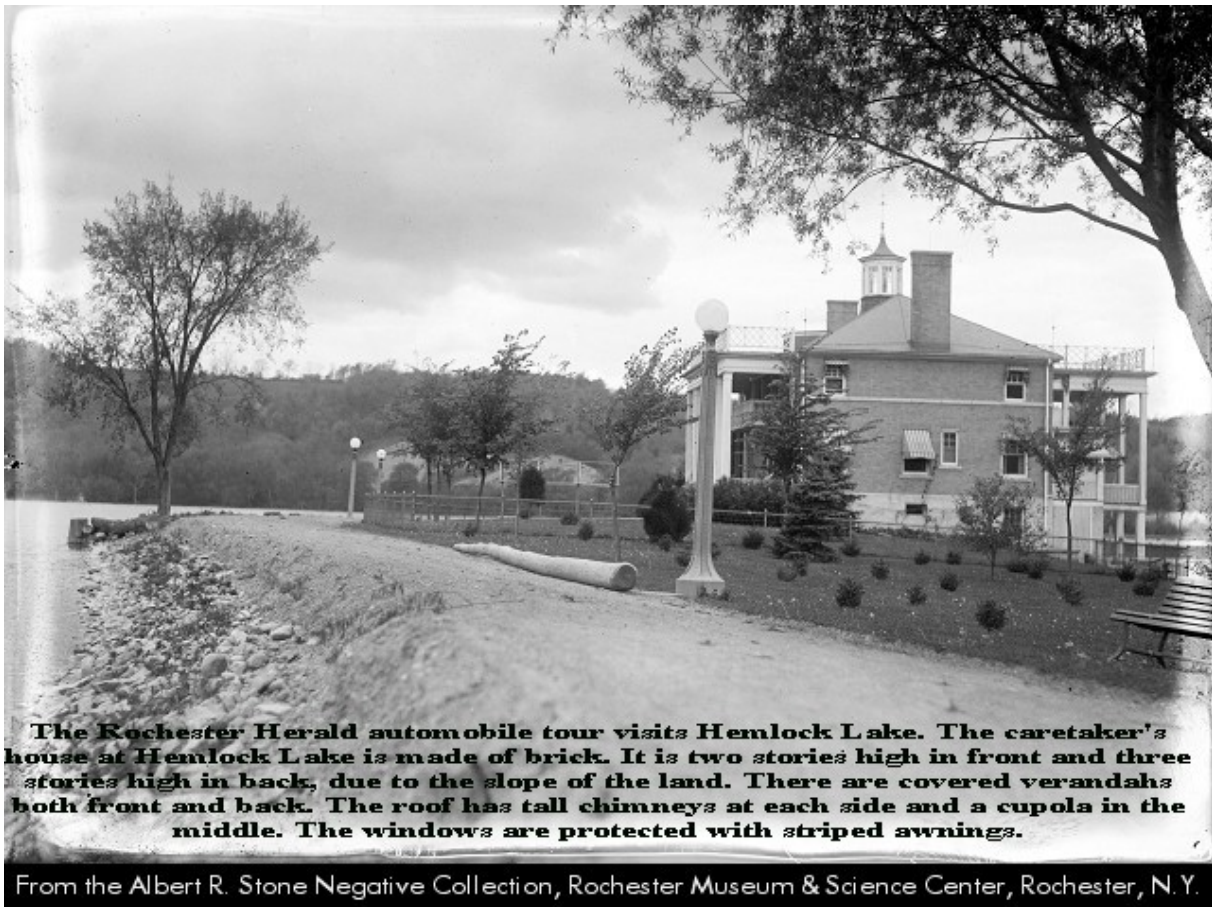


Figure 12 This was the Superintends House that replaced the earlier one. It stood until 1955

#### UP THE LAKE.

In passing up the east shore, we have **Jane Jackson**, the **Stillwell Cottage** (sold to Adam Bauter of Lima, in '82); Printice Chesbro, built in '74 and we arrive at

#### UNCLE TOM'S CABIN. #28 1883 Map

Seven years less than a century ago, Roswell Bliss, a descendant of Thomas Bliss who landed among the Plymouth Rockers in 1635, from cause or other, sought a home in the wilderness on the shores of this lake. He built a log house a short distance south of the present "Lima" house, now called **Uncle Tom's Cabin**, and there his two children named Charles and Andy, were born, and Roswell died there in the spring of 1836. On the 21st page, we said that Phillip Short was the first settler to this lake; but since that was printed we learn that Roswell preceded him five years, and we here make the correction. This place was called "**Blissport**", for a long time, in fact until the property changed hands. Our dates, though obtained through what we should consider a reliable standpoint, are nevertheless very conflicting. Some would have Charles Bliss

born in 1814; **the Lima house built in 1834 or 5, and sold in 1857.** William R. Bliss says, that his father was married in about 1820; **Lima house was built in 1828, and sold in '47 or 8.**

**The original purchasers of the building and grounds were: G. W. Atwell Sr., Levi Yorks, Harvey J. Wood and Albert Chapman, and they were bought for a Sportsman's Club House.**

**Mr. Wood afterward bought more land, and set out grape vines, fruit and ornamental trees.**

Atwell was the first to dispose of his interest, and Thomas P. Bishop was the purchaser, then Ambrose Hyde bought out Yorks. Josiah Leach put on the kitchen and thus obtained an interest; in the time Bishop bought out his partners and now remains the sole owner. Of the original owners, Atwell and Yorks are still living.

The last before we close our tour was built in 1880 by John Ihgoldsby. This has since been sold, and is now under the care and supervision of the St. James.

In a portion of this edition, make the following corrections:

Page 10 - train instead of "tain."

Page 11 - ever aftr "has," 2nd line.

Page 46 - 1799 instead of 1779.

Page 60 - western for "eastern," 5th linr from the bottom.

Page 61 - descended instead of "descending."

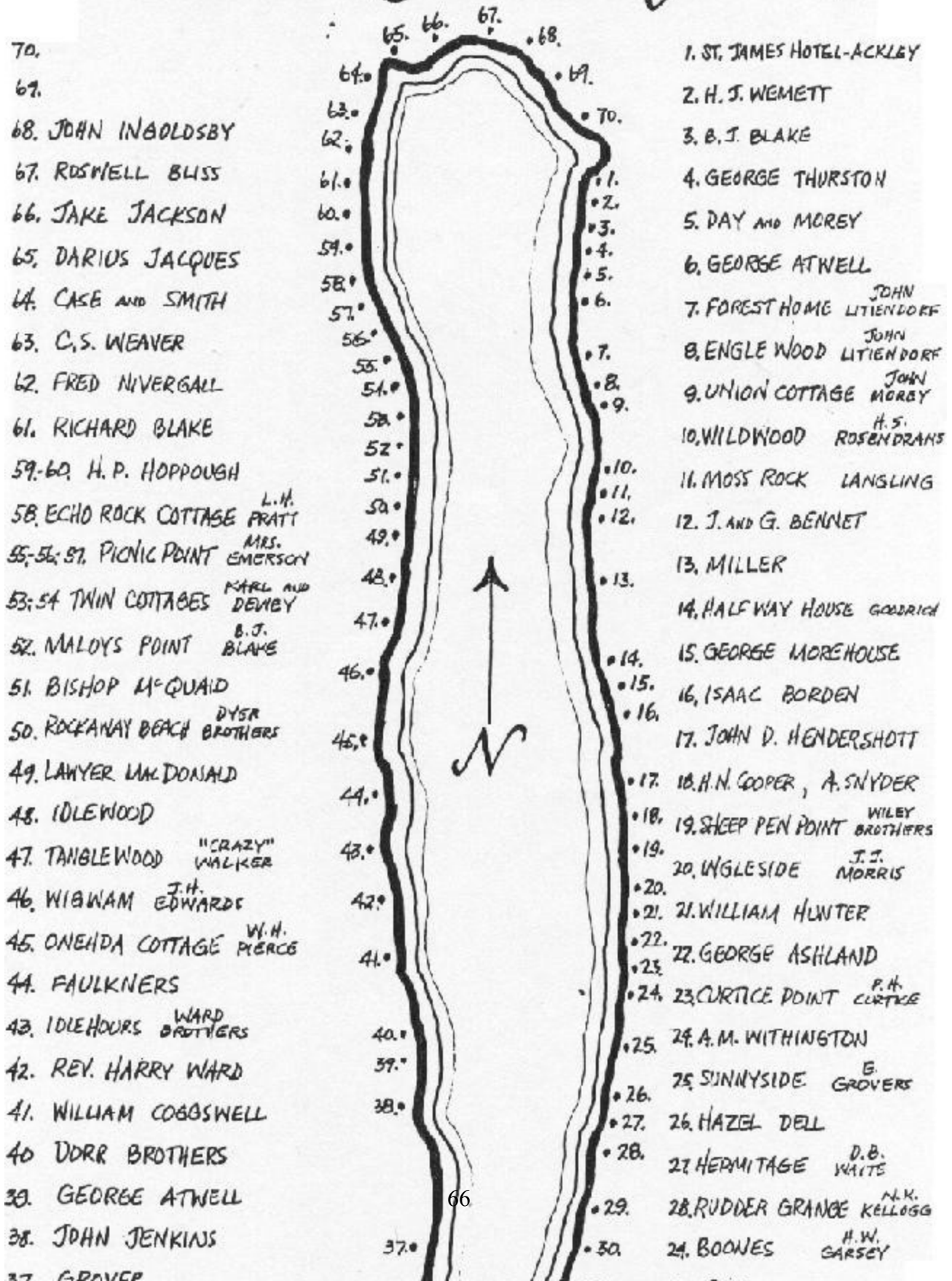
Page 72 - John B. Thurston instead of "George", and then erase the last sentence.

Page 79 - H. K. Cooper instead of "H. R."

Page 103 - after Darius Jacques read father to the present owner.

Credit for this map should go to my Aunt, Ruth Wemett Woodruff, who journeyed to her final resting place in 1990.

# Hemlock Lake Cottages 1883





36. WILLIAM JOHNSON  
35. PORT HOUSE D.P. ALGER  
34. JOHN SWARTS



31. BETHESDA  
32. EDGEWOOD MRS. F. THOMPSON  
33. JUDGE S. ROBINSON

## CONCLUSION

We have but to say in conclusion, that we have aimed to arrive at facts in the preceding pages; in most of instances, memory alone has been our best guide, and that quite often proves itself to be a very poor source; may letters to those who are or should be able to give correct data, still remain unanswered, and we know of no better way than by publishing the best we have; truth will find the light, and all corrections can be properly made.



Figure 13 Erie Depots Springwater & Livonia



Amateur printers have done the work; but all typographical and other errors found, are noticed on page 107, and the most important point, left unsaid is, how to get here. The N. Y. Lake Erie and Western R. R. runs almost parallel with it on the west of Marrowback hill, and the two Stations, Springwater at the head, and Livonia at the foot, will be the best places to stop off. The former is some four, and the latter, five miles distant here from, and conveyances usually run regularly during the summer season, from either point to the lake, on the arrival of all passenger trains.

## HEMLOCK LAKE.

CONTRIBUTED BY W. N.

Beautiful, lovely Hemlock Lake.  
Grant me the liberty I take -  
Once more I come, here to abide  
Awhile by thee, and at thy side,  
Will wait the coming morn, -  
The rising sun the hills adorn -  
To pass the day in somber thought,



And view the works by nature wrought.  
In shade and sunshine I will bask,  
And of thee a few questions ask;  
Who first upon thy shores did tread?  
Was he a White man or a Red?  
Was he youthful or was he old?  
Was he fearful or was he bold?  
Did he come from an ice-bound coast  
Alone, or with a num'ous host,  
With sword in hand, bearing a shield  
Fresh from a gory battle-field?  
Or, was he alone one coast away,  
Wan'dring from morn till close of day  
To find some food to strengthen life  
Till his return to child and wife,  
From whom at early morn he strayed,  
To fill the promise he had made  
To her, the choice of early youth  
Who knew he spake the sacred truth;  
That he for her ever would care,  
The heaviest of life's burdens bear.

If such he was, who first did tread  
Along thy shores? Where rests his head  
Or hares, for whom he hunted o'er  
These hill and 'long thy beauteous shore?  
Rest they together side by side  
Here, Close by thee, or where the tide  
Beats the shore of some briny sea?  
If this you know pray tell it me.

Tell it me by some little wave,  
Where rest the maiden and the brave  
Leige-like lord, and an only child,  
Their only joy when in the wild  
Wild woods, or along thy shore,  
Where they'll ne'er be seen or heard of more.

Yes, by some little, silent wave  
Pray tell it me; I much do crave  
To know, who first thy shore did tread,  
And now where rest those silent dead.

I'll sit alone on thy wavy shore,  
And ne'er again ask thee more;

I'll sit and sing a merry song  
Till that little wave'll come along  
Bearing on it a "bubble bright".  
Transparent as the purest light  
That ever shone on land or sea,  
On heathen slave or on the free.

If on the shore it doth alight  
In all its dazzling beauty bright,  
Whilst other waves do come and go,  
And zephyrs pass it to and fro,  
Yet still the little bubble stands  
Firm and bright on little sands,  
Sufficient this will be to me  
They rest "long side" and by the sea.

No more I'll question thee old lake;  
In silence, leave of thee I'll take;  
On shore I'll view thy placid face,  
On which there looked a former race  
Who basked along thy beauteous shore,  
A long, long time, ere this, before  
A white man either old or young  
Had joyous been or e'er had sung  
Along thy lovely, sandy shore,  
"Or sank in thee to rise no more."

I long to come and visit more  
With friends and neighbors on thy shore,  
And with me bring my hook and line  
Ere I shall leave the "shores of time."  
Should I ne'er come to thee again,  
In mem'ry thou wilt long remain.

As long as life remains in me ,  
I'll ever love to come and see  
Thy waves that roll before the breeze,  
That "bends the oak" and all the trees  
That line the beauteous, lovely shore,  
And echo back the midnight roar;  
And fog is seen for miles away,  
Adown thy shores; it seems to play  
Along the hills; it meets my eyes  
In clouds next seen, far in the skies.

The sun hath climbed the eastern hill,  
The birds are singing lone and shrill;  
Their notes are heard in distant wood  
Each hunting for his daily food.

I'll close my musings on thy shore,  
And hope to see thee often, more.  
It will to give me great delight,  
Of thee, loved lake, again to write.

HISTORY OF HEMLOCK, NY  
Livonia Historical Society  
1779-1989

1779 - Sunday, May 12 the Sullivan-Clinton army crossed the flats at the foot of Hemlock Lake, destroying the crops as they proceeded over the west hill toward Conesus Lake. This action opened up the area for the early settlers.

1796 - Phillip Short built a cabin about 1/4 mile in the valley north of Hemlock Lake. He was the forerunner of the Short family whose members were numerous in the area for many decades. (Arch Merrill' book "The lakes Country") states that Roswell Bliss came about 1795 and built a cabin and a saw mill).

1797 - At about this same time Mr. Higby, from Livonia, established a saw mill on the outlet. Logs were coming in large quantities down the lake from Springwater and logging was taking place on the lake shore.

1798 - Mr. Seth Simons, from Bristol, came and located a Grist Mill somewhere on the outlet.

1800 - A hermit, named Maloy, came and built a cabin on the west shore. He was a hunter and trapper. The story is told that he had a bad encounter with a black bear. Maloy must have survived because he lived to tell about the fight.

1801 - From this time on there was rapid change all the way from Hemlock Lake to Big Tree Rd. Many new settlers came. The saw mills produced lumber, slab cabins were built and later on, frame buildings and businesses.

1803 - Isaac Bishop opened a store in the area near the foot of the lake which came to be known as Gullburg. The area around the Canadice outlet, where it crosses the main road, became known as Glennville. Sometime later, just east of the road a dam across the outlet was built to back up the water and provide water power for a Gristmill which was built.

1808 - The township of Livonia was formed; the Hemlock area being a part of it.

1829 - This was a banner year. A Post Office was established in Hemlock, called the Post Office of Hemlock Lake. Mail came in from Gullburg, Glennville and Holden (later called Jacksonville). The first postmaster was John Van Fossen - 1/17/1829 - 10/18/36. The P.O. became Hemlock, New York on December 12, 1895.

1832 - The Archer family, early settlers, were operating a saw mill on the outlet.

1838 - The Baptist of the area organized as the 1st Baptist Church of Hemlock Lake, N.Y. The building was erected in 1844 at a cost of \$1,400.00. It was located near the south end of Hemlock Village and still stands.

1843 - A Methodist building was put up, which was destroyed by fire in 1948 and the present church was erected.

1845 - Jacksonville was probably in its heyday. According to an Historical Marker, which was erected at the site by the Hemlock outlet 1 1/4 miles north-east of Hemlock, there were 130 houses, a brick yard, 10 mills and two distilleries. Almost all of the village was gone by 1850. The marker was installed in 1939 by the efforts of Ernest Short, Frank Connor and others.

1850 - The Plank Road - A Company was organized in Rochester, N.Y. Much lumber was available at the time, so they decided to try planks. It is reported that 25 miles were completed and a Tollgate erected at the south end (where the Country Store is located now, corner of Big Tree and Rt. 15A). The road worked very well for a few years until the lumber began to warp and twist. It finally got so bad it was abandoned.

1850 - The Metropolitan Hotel on South Main Street opened its doors for business after being under construction for about two years. There were three floors. The top floor was used for a ballroom and with a stage, it provided a great place for entertainment. An addition was built on a few years later on the south end.

1851 - It was reported that Russell Jacque built a large farm house near the lake on the north end. The house was later (in 1873) made in to the three-story famous "Jacque-House", one of the five hotels that existed on the lake during the steamboat days when excursions were offered on the lake.

1853 - Due to the Old Bald Hill Road getting so much traffic, there arose a need for the East Lake Road. Mr. John Hill caused the road to be built at a cost of \$5,000.00. Soon after its completion, a Tollgate was set up at the Hemlock end. The story is told that one day while he was downtown, he became involved in an argument over the toll prices and fell dead with a heart attack. He never collected much toll. The road served the public for many years. Just the north end of the road is traveled now.

1860 - Mr. George Watson built one of the first steamboats to ply the waters of the lake. This became one of the five boats that carried passengers on the lake from the dock at the foot of the lake to the hotels.

1860 - The Baptist church, which had been established on the Curtis Corners about half way between Hemlock and Honeoye, disbanded and joined with the Hemlock church. The Rev. Ira Justin was pastor at that time.

1866 - Frank Connor's history tells us that one day in '66 a large crowd assembled in front of the Metropolitan Hotel to discuss a Fair. That was the beginning of what later became known as "The Slab City Fair" "The Little World's Fair" and the just plain Hemlock Fair. In 1877 a two-day Fair was held and the Ladies Hall was erected. From then on it grew into what largely became contests of horse racing until the early 1900's.

1876 - The gates were opened at Hemlock Lake and Hemlock Lake water rushed down the pipe line toward the city. This was the beginning of a gravity flow water system which has supplied the city of Rochester with millions and millions of gallons up to this very day. The system always needed improvements and later on Canadice Lake water was tunneled into the lake. On file are several accounts of the growth of this famous water system.

1879 - The three-story St. James Hotel was opened on the east side of the lake. In the following years it was to accommodate many passengers from the steamships that were plying the lake.

1882 - The Beam family built their first mill on the Canadice outlet. The dam and mill were just east of the main road. Powered by water power, the mill served the public for many years. Later the Beam family went on to build a mill on the Hemlock outlet in the village of Hemlock, just west of the main road. The family also operated a small store near the Canadice outlet.

1888 - At this time, there were 112 buildings along the shores of Hemlock Lake, 96 cottages, 5 hotels, 5 permanent residents and 6 cabins.

1890 - A while back in our notes, we mentioned the "hermit" Maloy who came early to the foot of the lake. Around 1890, there came another man named Prinny Chesbro. He had been a sailor, and it is said that he was the only man around who could safely splice a rope. He located a cabin somewhere near the half-way house. It is said that he lived to be 100 years old and came to be known as "The Hermit of Hemlock Lake."

1895 - The Lehigh Valley R.R. Co. railroad line was extended to Hemlock village and Hemlock Lake. Much could be written here about the Lehigh. With the coming of the railroad, Hemlock became alive. Quickly passenger service and the freight service grew until the middle of the 20th century many trains were in and out every week. Later on changing times caused the company to quit the runs to Hemlock and the rails were torn up in 1968. Eugene Spencer was one of the last station agents. The last passenger train pulled out of Hemlock in 1937. The "section gang" with their hand-car provided work for local men all those years.

1898 - It is known that about this time there was a band in Hemlock. It was known as "The Hemlock Cornet Band". We do know of 3 or 4 of the members; Will Hoppough, Parker Hoppough, Chas. Briggs and possibly Will Mallaber. No doubt they played band music at the "Slab City Fair".

1900 - Great days ahead for Hemlock, the village of Jacksonville had ceased to exist, Glennville and Gullburg had grown together and joined Hemlock, and activity at the lake was lively with new businesses.

1904 - The Rebekah Lodge was organized. The I.O.O.F Order of Odd-Fellows had been established earlier (1898). The I. O.O.F. later went on to build a three-story lodge building south of the outlet on the east side of Main Street. In later years, the building was torn down.

1906 - The Wemett Company incorporated. The hardware store, which had been owned and operated by Bacon & Wemett, changed hands due to the death of Mr. Bacon. C.E. Wemett started in the oil business selling Eldred Oil and later became distributor for the Shell Oil Co. 45 stations and about 4,500 customers were served as the oil business prospered.

1911 - The old Gullburg school district, which was located just up the Old Bald Hill Road and on the east side of the road, voted to join the Hemlock district. The building was later used as a home and is still standing.

1912 - At this time, Mr. V.P. Owen operated a Ford automobile agency from a building on the west side of South Main Street. It was the Ford agency and was selling Chevrolets.

1915 - A little after this date some local people were busy. A few of the older people remember that the Nelson Cary family made baskets in their home on Clay Street. The Bates family lived near the entrance to the fair grounds. Thomas and Harry had a blacksmith and woodworking shop. Also, they made fine quality cutlery. Some of their knives are in the museum at the Livonia Library.

1919 - This year the first hand-drawn chemical fire truck was purchased for the local firemen and a cider mill was established on Clay St. by Mr. Olin Mather. The building that housed the mill was torn down in Dixon Hollow and hauled to Hemlock. At the present time, it is an apartment house. It is believed that Olin Mather was the first man in the area to own and operate a self-propelled grain combine.

1920 - There were three grocery and dry goods stores operating on the South Main Street. They were Beckers, Knapps, and LaMonts. Later Beckers was torn down to make room for a house, Knapps is now an apartment house and Earl Collins bought the LaMont property. There were two blacksmith shops on South Main; B. Naracong and Lewis Schneck, owners. By 1920, the Livingston County Canning Co. was in full operation on Railroad Avenue north side of the Lehigh Valley depot. Many local people were employed canning sweet corn, peas, and string beans. Many cases of canned vegetables were shipped out on the Lehigh R.R. The plant was destroyed by fire the fall of 1931. The Osborne brothers were owners.



1925 - Niagara Power brought electricity to Hemlock. This brought an end to the use of water power which had been used to power the mills along the outlet. Soon the water was released from the old Hoppough mill pond west of Main Street. The pond, over the years, had been great for winter skating and fishing in summer.

1925 - The Sullivan-Clinton Memorial marker was dedicated at the entrance of Hemlock Lake Park. It was made partly of Mill stones and inlaid with Indian arrowheads. It was a beautiful reminder of the past. The Hon. James W. Wadsworth was the guest speaker. Vandals have caused destruction to the monument in past years.

1929 - The newly built present High School was completed and made ready for use.

1930 - This year marked the end of an era. For 75 years, the Scott family had been coming every summer to their cottage and property on the west side of Hemlock Lake. They were, at last, forced to sell their property to the City of Rochester, which consisted of 175 acres of side hill land. Some of the land had been converted to grape vineyards several years earlier. There was also 1 1/2 acres and 175 feet of lake frontage. According to the records they were paid \$55,000.00 for the property they had enjoyed for so long. They were just about the last people to sell out. NOTE: Grapes from their vineyard were at one time picked, packed and sold from a small building by the side of the road near the foot of the lake.

1935 - At this time, there was a drug store in Hemlock. The druggist name was H. W. Thurston.

1937 - 1941 - A weekly paper was published here in Hemlock. It was called the "Hemlock Courier". It was published by Mr. William Fletcher at his home on Clay Street.

1941 - 1946 - There was no Hemlock Fair due to scarcity of gas and tires and the war effort of World War II.

1942 - The Hemlock Church Club was organized. The first meeting was held at the home of Lee and Mabel Coykendall on Main Street. The Club meets once a month and they have planned and promoted religious services as well as helping the two local churches financially. The club is still active.

1943 - This year the Hemlock High School boy's basketball team won the Class C Sectional championship.

1943 - A Service Man's plaque was dedicated. There were 34 names listed of men of the area. The stone plaque is located on the lawn of the High School and it is dated 1941-1945.

1944 - The Hemlock Baptist Church celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the erection of the church building. It was a two day affair held on August 5th and 6th.

1947 - At this time we mention "The Roadside Craftsmen". In a new building across the main road from the 1812 Country Store, the Iron Works were operating. Clarence Curtis of Lakeville, New York and his workmen were turning out useful and ornamental iron articles. Roadside Craftsmen, Inc. went on to establish unit in Avon and East Bloomfield.

1949 - Kidnapped and murdered, the 11 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Lynn was walking to school from their home in Gullburg to Hemlock. She was picked up somewhere between there and town. Two days later, her body was found in a ravine south of Lima. She had been shot to death. Her killer has never been found.

1950 - "ECHO ROCK" - It was about this time that Arch Merrill tried to locate the ROCK on the west shore of Hemlock Lake. Echo Rock once was a noted landmark on Hemlock's shores. The ancient boulder, a child of the glacial age, was venerated by the superstitious Indians who knew nothing of the principle of sound waves, and believed the answering voices at Echo Rock were those of kindred in the Spirit Land, when in reality they were only echoes across the lake. When the City of Rochester raised the level of Hemlock Lake by building dikes to increase their water supply the rock disappeared under water.

1950 - At this time Frank Connor, Historian, was writing 24 installments of history for "The Livonia Gazette". Much of our material has come from these writings.

1958 - June 16th, Hemlock voted to centralize with Livonia school. Ted Henry, of Hemlock, was elected to the School Board.

1961 - Mark Wemett purchased the Hemlock hardware store from Hugh Drain. The store was destroyed by fire in 1977.

1965 - "Livingston Leasing" was established by Mark Wemett for making and selling ice cubes.

1972 - The new fire house was completed on Al Sharpe Avenue (Old Railroad Street). It replaced the old one on N. Main St. which had, for a long time, been too small.

1976 - The Bicentennial of '76 was celebrated along with the Village of Livonia, where there was a parade and other activities. Hemlock had a special program at the firehouse on May 8, 1976.

1977 - The Metropolitan Hotel burned to the ground. It had first opened for business in 1850. The hardware store, to the north burned at the same time.

1982 - Dick and Donna Jopson bought the old Shell Station at the intersection of 15A and 20A and remodeled it into a grocery store, service station and an upstairs apartment. In 1985, Doug and Bonnie Rumfelt bought the business from the Jopson's and continue to run it as a convenient store and gas station for the hamlet.

1984 - Mr. Jack Evans, former resident and student of Hemlock, now owner of Velmex, Inc., East Bloomfield, N.Y. purchased the school building. Jim Sutton uses some rooms for his youth work. There has been some manufacturing there in recent years.

1984 - The Hemlock Methodist Church celebrated their bicentennial with a special program at the church April 29th.

1985 - A few acres of the old canning factory property were purchased by the Hemlock Firemen and leveled off for a park. A pavilion has been built and a nice playground. It is a good place for family picnics.

1985 - The 1812 Country Store (a landmark on the corner of Big Tree and Rt. 15A) was sold to the Rapelje family. The store had been operated by Ruth Woodruff since 1951.

1989 - This year celebrates the 160th Anniversary of the Hemlock Post Office and the 25th year of service by our present Postmaster, Shirley Marshall.

OLD TIME BUSINESSES - LONG GONE

Burch & Powell - Coal

Caskey & Hoppough - Hay, Straw & Produce

Hoppough & Affolter - Hay, Straw & Produce

John Dooley - Farm Machinery

Beam Milling Co. - Beans & Grain

Carl Scutt - Garage

Frank Miller - Gas Station

Hemlock Filter Plant - Water Purifier

Earl Collins - Red & White Store

## DOCTORS OF HEMLOCK FROM ABOUT 1920

Dr. Mills Dr. Grigham

Dr. Fred Kenzie Dr. Hamilton

Dr. Wilson Dr. H.W. Trott

Dr. Mildred Jackson, still living

Dr. Trott, while he was practicing here either owned or leased several acres of land north of the village where he established an airport. "Honky" Reese was a pilot for a time. Records show there were flying lessons taught and that at one time there was an airplane race from Hemlock to Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Hamilton occupied a house that was made over from the old school building at the top of North Main Street and it is still a private home.

## FOOT NOTES

Mrs. Mae Short Woodworth tells us that her first husband, the late Nathan Short, who had built their home on East Avenue in Livonia, N.Y. had passed away December 2, 1966. Nathan was the last living male member of the Short family who had come to Hemlock as the first settler (Philip Short). "Nate" was a first class carpenter and he worked around the Hemlock and Livonia areas for most of his life. He always had the interest of the community at heart. He was 70 years of age when he passed away.

### "Death of Mrs. Clarence Wemett", (newspaper article)

Ada Jennings Wemett, wife of Clarence Wemett of Hemlock, died at her home there at 6 o'clock Sunday morning, of pneumonia. She was taken sick the preceding Monday, and failed to respond to the medical treatment which was unsparingly given her. Funeral services were held at the Hemlock Methodist church Tuesday afternoon. Burial was in Union cemetery, Livonia.

Mrs. Wemett was born forty-seven years ago in Naples, the daughter of Nelson and Arvilla Bower Jennings. There she lived with her family until 1910, when she married Clarence E. Wemett and moved to Hemlock, where her husband was in business. Five children were born, all of whom survive; Mrs. Fred Kenzie of Prattsburg; Norris, a medical student at the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada; Bruce a senior in hemlock high school; and the 8 year old twins, Mark and Mary.

Surviving also are Mrs. Wemett's husband; her father; two sisters, Mrs. W. J. Brown of Geneseo and Miss Anna Jennings of hemlock; one brother, James of Naples, and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Wemett was a member of the Hemlock Methodist church, of the Rebekahs, of the W.C.T.U., and very active in these organizations as well as in every movement or enterprise whose merit commended itself to her. She gave freely of her interest, counsel and ability in every good work, in addition to devoting herself unsparingly to the welfare and happiness of her family.

The suddenness of Mrs. Wemett's illness and death, the season of the year and many other factors combine to make her passing one of extreme sadness.

Children of ADA JENNINGS and CLARENCE WEMETT are:

i. RUTH ARVILLA WEMETT, b. January 22, 1911, Hemlock NY; d. April 4, 1990, St. Petersburg FL. buried Livonia NY; m. (1) JOSEPH FREDERICK KENZIE, May 3, 1930, Hemlock NY at Wemett Home; m. (2) CHAMBERLAIN HOYT WOODRUFF, April 2, 1949.

ii. NORRIS GEORGE WEMETT, b. August 10, 1912, Hemlock NY; m. DORIS ELAINE MARLEY, October 1, 1935, Hornell NY.

iii. BRUCE CLAYTON WEMETT, b. August 29, 1917, Hemlock NY; m. JEAN CARMAN BAKER, July 12, 1941, Rochester NY.

iv. MARY FRANCES WEMETT, b. October 31, 1926, Hemlock NY - twin of Mark.

v. MARK JENNINGS WEMETT, b. October 31, 1926, Hemlock NY - twin of Mary; m. PEGGY PEELER, April 19, 1952, Nashville TN.



