

## **Beginnings:      The Clubhouse**

The yacht club property was purchased on October 24, 1896, for \$400.00 under the direction of Commodore Bartle. The land was purchased from a Charles Perkins of Newark, and had been the site of a warehouse with “enough water on two sides for any lake vessel to land.” On September 16, 1900 a great day of celebration was had at the new Sodus Bay Yacht Club. The new building and dock had been completed under then Commodore Meade and the trustees, for \$ 2,200.00. Our history book tells us that the formal opening was attended by 105 members and guests, complete with dinner served by “the ladies of Sodus Point.” Rides around the Bay on a few of the larger yachts of the day, among them a steam yacht and a naphtha launch, were a highlight of the afternoon. The day concluded with music and dancing to George Sutton’s orchestra, who was Fanny Ball’s grandfather. (Fanny was a life member who passed away in 2010.) The party ended at midnight, with Commodore Meade providing transportation for those living in Newark in his private railroad car. A reporter from the Newark Gazette, there to report on the festivities and the new clubhouse, remarked that, “ on the whole the clubhouse is very satisfactory although a few defects are noticeable. There has been no provision of any sort for toilet purposes, which in a building of this sort should have been one of the first considerations.” While there is no mention of when that “defect” was actually corrected, I’d like to think that “the ladies of Sodus Point” were instrumental in getting the job done!

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