Hague Regatta – 1913 - June 2014

One of my favorite sights on Lake George is right here in Hague when we celebrate Independence Day with the 4th of July fireworks. The fireworks are always spectacular of course, but the spectacle of scores of boats idling out on the water at dusk with their red and green lights aglow is truly a wonder. More than a hundred years ago the Hague Regatta brought similar activity to our stretch of Lake George.

Can you picture this? As reported in the Post Star of August 22, 1913, "More than six thousand people witnessed the twenty-sixth annual regatta held at Hague today by the Lake George Regatta Association. With the exception of a strong south wind that was responsible for slower times in the events than last year the day was ideal for the races.

"Long before 10:30 o'clock, the time for the starting of the first event, hundreds of people had arrived at Hague by motorboat and automobile.



"At noon the steamer Horicon landed more than a thousand people, part of whom were excursionists who had arrived at the head of the lake by train. At every landing north the steamer picked up many more boat racing enthusiasts en route for Hague.

"Interest centered on the motorboat races and the sixth event, the race for the championship of Lake George, was the big race of the day."

Although participants came for these regattas from places far and wide, many local residents competed. In 1913 the list of winners included such Hague names as Charles Foote, Robert Millington, Anna Marshall, Fred Hart, Michael Tobin, Enid Alden, and G. W. Stebbins who won the Championship Cup with the *Carol II*!

How I wish I had been here for the decades-long tradition of Regattas in Hague!