



PRESERVING AND PROMOTING OUR HISTORY

UPCOMING EVENTS: June 24, 7 pm — Annual Meeting and Presentation

HAGUE CENTRAL SCHOOL

MUSEUM EXHIBIT AND PRESENTATION

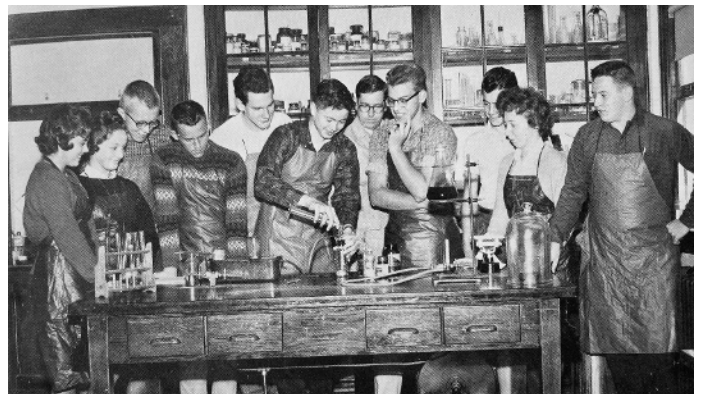
From 1927 until 1979, Hague had its own K-12 school, located where the Community Center now stands. To celebrate the decades and memories of Hague Central School, the Hague Historical Society searched in its archives and found a wealth of photos, banners, musical instruments, sports and cheerleading uniforms, trophies, yearbooks, newspaper clippings, and much more. These are all part of the exhibit opening later this month in our museum in the Community Center.

Our presentation at the annual meeting will include a walk through the history of the school – from acquiring the land all the way to the time it was consolidated with Ticonderoga. Learn how discussions first started about consolidating Hague’s eight school districts into one central district. See photos of senior class trips to Washington, DC, throughout the decades. We even have a clipping about when the senior class of 1928 met with then-President Calvin Coolidge. Decades later, the Italian language class wrote to candidate Jimmy Carter, inviting him to come to Hague. Although he was unable to visit, Carter did send a note of appreciation to the class.

With the help of our members' donations, we recently purchased a large digital photo frame for the museum on which to display some of the many school photos from our collection. Settle into our comfortable seating and watch as the photos scroll by. These include photos of the building, students, teachers, sports, clubs, school buses and their drivers, bands and choral concerts, lunchroom ladies and much more. Our lovely mannequin, who was a bartender in last year’s exhibit ("The Cave

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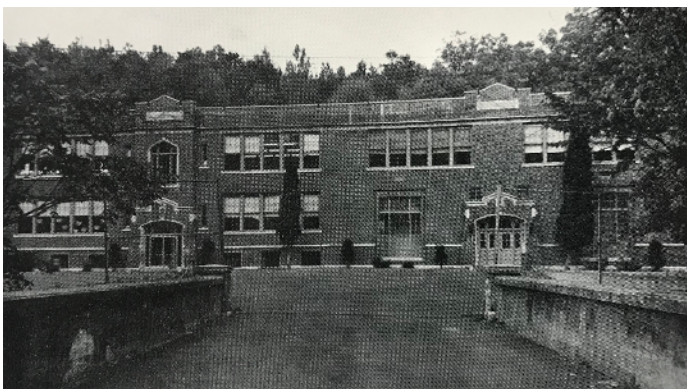
and Other Spirits of the Past") has now donned a Hague Raiders cheerleading outfit.

There's a lot to see at this year's exhibit, and we've only touched on some of it here. Be sure to make time to come and see it all for yourself. Whether you attended Hague Central or not, we think you'll learn a lot of interesting facts about this important period of our town's history. By the way, if you did attend Hague Central, we hope you'll also take the time to share some of your memories in our guestbook in the museum.

The museum is located in the Community Center and is open during normal business hours, 8:30 am - 4 pm on weekdays. Closed on holidays. //

ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION

Be sure to mark your calendar for June 24 at 7 pm, when we'll be holding our annual meeting. The highlight will be a slide presentation of the history of Hague Central School and hopefully some fun storytelling. If you attended Hague Central, please plan to attend and share some of your memories of the good old school days. Refreshments will be served. //



From 1927-79, Hague Central School stood on the site where where the Community Center is now located

Are your membership dues paid for 2026? See page 9 for how to pay online or via snail mail. Or come to the Annual Meeting and pay in person!

FROM OUR COLLECTION

WILLIAM CALDWELL STEAMBOAT MODEL

By Tina Barth-King

Did you know that the Hague Historical Society (HHS) has in its collection a 20"



model of the *William Caldwell* steamboat, which cruised up and down Lake George from 1838 - 1850? The model was donated to the HHS in 1964 by Mrs. Paul Bosse. It was built by her father, Abram Dunn Gillette, a long-time resident of Sabbath Day Point.

Launched in 1838, the *William Caldwell* was the third passenger boat built and operated by the Lake George Steamboat company, following the *James Caldwell* (1817-1821) and the *Mountaineer* (1824-1836). The 150-ton, side-wheel vessel was built at the Homelands Dock (1/2 mile north of Baldwin Landing) at a cost of \$18,000. With her Fulton-type "steeple-engine," the *William Caldwell* was able to achieve speeds of up to 12 mph.

During its heyday, the *William Caldwell* made daily trips from Lake George Village to Ticonderoga and back. Departure was at 8 am and, after arriving in Coates Landing (now known as Baldwin Dock), the boat moored for several hours while passengers took a stagecoach or other transport to the ruins of Fort Ticonderoga. The steamer then cruised back down the lake, returning passengers to the village well before nightfall.

See the model in the Community Center lobby! //



NEW FREE GUIDE TO HAGUE'S HISTORICAL MARKERS

By Kim Bryant



Hopefully you have seen our eight red and white historical markers around town and have stopped to read them. Maybe you wondered more about the local history each marker represents. Come learn the stories behind the markers!

As America reaches its 250th birthday, we have put together a free brochure with text, maps, and pictures of Hague's rich history, including the area's significance in our fight for freedom from tyranny.

Here are a few fun facts from the brochure:

~ Sabbath Day Point housed an encampment of more than 15,000 troops...more than once. Learn about the importance of those campaigns in American history.

~ Many Revolutionary War heroes (and founding families of Hague) found their eternal rest in the Hague Heritage Cemetery.

~ We have all waved to the Mohican when we are out on the lake. Did you know that she is the oldest continuously operating tour boat in the country?

~ The Cave was a legendary watering hole for many of us. But the property where it and other establishments stood served many generations before us.



Markers also commemorate Graphite, Hague Central School, boat racing, and Arcady. Once your interest is piqued, use the brochure's QR code to connect to our website for even more information and pictorial history of each site.

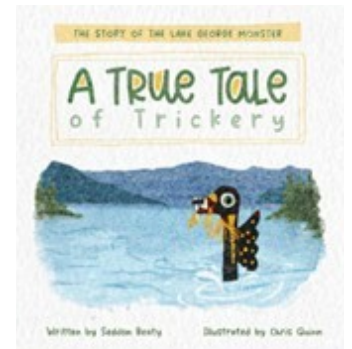
The brochures are available at the Visitors Center at the town park, the Hague Market, the Silver Bay Store, and the community center, which also houses the Hague Historical Museum. The community center and museum are open Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. //

NEW BOOK ABOUT THE LAKE GEORGE MONSTER

Written by Seddon Beaty, Illustrations by Chris Quinn

Many of you might already know the story of how famed Hague artist Harry Watrous created the Lake George monster to trick his neighbor on Waltonian Island, Colonel Mann.

Watrous perpetrated his creative hoax more than 120 years ago, and now Hague resident and retired teacher Seddon Beaty has written a children's book to bring this fantasy-filled tale to life for young and old alike. The whimsical illustrations by Chris Quinn, also of Hague, are sure to enchant kids and adults alike. At the end of the book, Seddon provides a list of fun activities to do before, during and after the reading experience.



We are thrilled that Seddon and Chris have graciously offered to donate the profits from sales of the book to the Hague Historical Society. The hardcover edition is available at several local stores. Seddon will also be signing and selling copies of her book at our Annual Meeting on June 24. //

HAGUE DISTRICT SCHOOLS: 1850-1926

Did you know that -- before Hague Central School -- the town had eight district schools, some dating back to the early 1800s? Click [HERE](#) to learn more and see photos of these schools on our website. //



Graphite school 1910

JACK ROBINSON REMEMBERS SUMMERS IN HAGUE

By Pat McDonough

In 2011, my husband Dennis and I received a surprise visit from the daughter of Jack Robinson, a former resident of our house. Passing through Hague with her husband, she took a chance and knocked on our door. "My father lived in this house when he was a boy," she told us. This was the beginning of our treasured friendship with Jack and his family.

The next year, Dennis and I threw a "Jack is Back" party at our home near the town dock. Afterward, we received an album of photos and commentary from Jack and his family, including a poem that encapsulated Jack's Lake George memories of his youth. You'll find a link to the poem below, but first the backstory.

Jack, born in 1924, summered in Hague from 1929 to 1940 in the house built by his step-great grandfather, Robert H. Robinson, a sea captain from Staten Island. His early adventures on Lake George engendered a life-long love of the water and most likely influenced his joining the Merchant Marine during World War II.

Jack's parents owned the house from the late 1920s until 1945. All his life, Jack carried a snapshot of the cottage in his wallet. He wrote, "The summer was filled with boating, hiking and mountain climbing. What summers we had! We were lucky kids to have parents that provided us with all these wonderful opportunities to commune with nature. To be able to play where the history of this country was written, between Fort Ticonderoga on the north and Fort William Henry at the south end of Lake George."

Jack had two special pals as a youth – Bruce Craig and Geoff Wilson; all three sailed with the Northern Lake George Yacht Club, and Jack was thrilled when both of these gentlemen were a part of the "Jack is Back" festivities.

Jack's racing career started when he was 10. Early on, the yacht club was at Rogers Rock. Geoff's dad owned the Rogers Rock Hotel, and the Wilsons let Jack sail one of their boats. Author of "Rogers Rock, The Hotel, The Club, The Cottage Colony," Geoff wrote: "Although Jack Robinson never let me win at pool, bowling, checkers, or attracting girls, I was incredibly lucky to have him as

a friend. His zest for living was truly remarkable, and his unique sense of humor turned blue days into gold. I'll never forget a humorous poem he wrote and read at a yacht club dinner toward the end of summer. Part of it touched on the activities of Helen ("Chubby") Corscaden and her Comet Class sailboat. It brought down the house."



L to r: Bruce Craig, Jack Robinson, Geoff Wilson

Jack said of his friend Bruce Craig: "We were fierce competitors in sailboats. One year we were tied going into the last race of the season. He beat me by seven seconds, by a little puff of air that came between one of the islands that he caught just before I did. It was a great summer of racing and probably ended the way it should have."

"The Henderson cousins were right next door, providing us with playmates for boating, swimming, tennis and hiking. Summertime was fun for everyone except the cooks – our mothers!"

Jack's love of Lake George and the cottage were memorialized in his personal memoir: "Our summers will never be forgotten, as long as we are alive, because it was a time in our lives that we were together as a family creating our own enjoyment by utilizing this magnificent playground that God had given us."

In August of 2012, Jack wrote a poem titled 'A Reunion Trifecta.' You can read the poem [HERE](#). //

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Baseball games are in full swing across the country. But did you know that the hotels of Hague also fielded their own baseball teams back when grand hotels dotted the shoreline from Hague to Sabbath Day Point? The games were a popular form of entertainment for guests and were even covered by New York City newspapers. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* ran the following story about the hotel guests' games:

Lake George, N.Y., August 19, 1902 There was much excitement in the lower part of the lake last week over baseball games played by the guests of Silver Bay, Uncas and Huletts. It happened that the Uncas team was largely recruited from the Sabbath Day Point House, where there are many Brooklynites. In the first of the matches F. R. Smith, who is principal of Public School No. 41 of Brooklyn, a guest at Uncas, was the captain. In the first game, Mr. Smith was disabled and thereafter he relinquished the captaincy of the victorious team to J. M. Wood, Jr., another Brooklyn school teacher. The Uncas team won all the games it played last week against heavy odds. The first was played with the nine from Silver Bay, picked from 500 stalwart young men from the YMCA, at present in convention there, and the score was 12 to 6 in favor of the Uncas team. The game was played on the Uncas grounds, a very short distance from the picturesque little church at Sabbath Day Point. There were over 500 spectators and a glee club from Silver Bay enlivened the proceedings. There were plenty of enthusiastic "rooters" from Uncas and Sabbath Day Point, including Charlie and John Wylie, sons of Dr. Wylie of Pottstown, PA, who were there to whoop things up for their uncle, Mr. Patterson, a lawyer of Pittsburg, and Charlie and George Levermore, sons of the president of Adelphi College, who were present to give encouragement to the Brooklyn players on the Uncas team. The majority of the members of the team were, indeed, from Sabbath Day Point, and these included Messrs. Patterson, Brewster, Meigs, Carney, Cobb, and Wood. Cobb pitched and Wood caught, holding the same position they had played often together on the old Arctic Club of Brooklyn, and the result was that the Silver Bay players were kept down to few safe hits. As stated, the score was 12 to 6 in favor of Uncas, a triumph that was celebrated by a joyous straw ride by the guests of Uncas and Sabbath Day Point a day or two later. //



The Uncas team, shown above. Perhaps the Trout House team, below, was making a joke about their name?



COLORFUL CHARACTER: MAMIE BESTE

By Ginger Henry Kuenzel

In this issue, we introduce you to Mamie Beste (1883-1974). Miss Beste (as we all called her) first came to Hague as a young woman with her friend Enid Alden, whose mother and stepfather owned the property known today as Chipwick. Miss Alden expanded the family holdings, eventually owning about 50 acres, stretching from south of Chipwick to north of Cape Cod Village, on both sides of Route 9N. Upon her death in 1934, she bequeathed all of it to Miss Beste.



Miss Beste grew up in a relatively wealthy family from the New York City area and studied music in Bremen, Germany, her father's birthplace. She later met Miss Alden, and the two became life-long friends, traveling through Europe and eventually settling in Hague. Their home still stands today, just south of Cape Cod Village on the west side of 9N.

We are fortunate to have several wonderful recollections of Miss Beste from people who knew her. From these recollections, we get a picture of her as someone who had an incredibly broad range of interests.

Miss Beste was a splendid athlete, an ardent angler, and a pioneer conservationist. She is said to have known all the best fishing spots on the lake. Virginia Shattuck wrote, "She was opposed to pesticides before Rachel Carson learned to write." Among the many organizations she was involved in were the Hague Grange and the Council of the Society for the Preservation of Indian Lore.

Miss Beste and Miss Alden had a herd of Jersey cows and supplied milk and cream to many summer visitors. Their farmland stretched from today's Springdale Manor to Cape Cod Village. Miss Beste loved her gardens and greenhouse and usually had an arrangement of flowers in an elegant vase in her house.

In fact, the word 'elegant' is a good segue here to show just how diverse her interests were. Virginia Shattuck wrote, "She could chat with boys who came for milk, talk and laugh with farmers about local goings-on, and discuss opening night at the Philharmonic or international finance with friends from New York, all with equal zest. At the same time, she was taking each one's measure with the insight of a master psychologist and learning something from each." In fact, when Miss Beste was in her 60s, she became a real estate broker in Hague, something she succeeded at because she understood and enjoyed all kinds of people. In May of 1943, she brokered the sale of the residence of famed artist Harry Watrous, near the Waltonian Islands.

Miss Beste herself was an amateur artist. She painted and sketched in oils, water colors, and crayons, and also created wood carvings. She had a great love of music, and at age 91, shortly before her death, was thinking of composing music. She also enjoyed woodworking and made a table and chairs in her woodshop.

As Virginia Shattuck recalled, "She loved to entertain, over coffee and doughnuts in the morning, a quiet glass of sherry in the afternoon, or at dinner with good food served on either her favorite pottery or beautiful china. With large groups, she would hover around the edges, with people babbling across her and at her, then suddenly drop a pertinent comment or tell a funny story that would stop the show. She would cheerfully herd cows if necessary but was also a woman of great dignity, with sensitivity and a relish for life."

Dan Belden, who was caretaker for Miss Beste from 1954 to 1974 and later built a house next door, remembered her as a great lady who was always good to him and never argued. "She told me to 'do what I want done, even if you do it the way you want to do it.'"

But she could also be feisty, he said. When the owner of the property across the street from her -- the former Norwood Shores cabin rentals -- put up an "Open" sign with a red light bulb in it, she told him to go over and unscrew the light bulb.

Miss Beste loved children. I remember walking over to her house from my home at Viewpoint nearly every afternoon in the winters when I was in fourth and fifth grade. She was always glad to see me, and invariably had cookies on hand. But most of all, I remember that



Miss Beste's painting of her own house

she and her companion Mrs. Hendrikson stopped everything at 4 or 4:30, when "The Edge of Night" soap opera came on. They never missed an episode.

Dan said that his children also loved spending time with Miss Beste. One day, his daughter Tina came home and

said to him, "Miss Beste isn't well. You need to check up on her." He went over to her house, and saw that she wasn't really sick. He realized just what she needed and proceeded to pour her a bourbon and ginger ale, which was her drink of choice.



Miss Beste in her later years

When Miss Beste died in 1974, she left many people with many wonderful memories. But perhaps her greatest gift to the town was her establishment of a scholarship for the children of Hague. Kathy Santinello shared with us the history of this scholarship fund, which started in 1964, when Miss Beste met at her house with Keith Delarm (Supervisor of Hague), Tom Smith (school principal), teacher Norm Strum, Dan Belden, and a lawyer to discuss it. She put

in \$5,000 to start it. Mr and Mrs. Hendrikson put in \$7,000, and Miss Beste later added another \$10,000. In 1987, responding to an appeal from Rudy Meola, former Hague School principal, the Hague Winter Carnival Committee took over responsibility for administering the Beste Scholarship Fund, which had been depleted of the original bequest. The Hague Winter Carnival Committee formed a Beste Steering Committee and developed bylaws for the program going forward. Since then, awards have been given every year to Hague students. The individual scholarship amounts have increased, and students can receive awards even for masters' programs. Approximately 200 scholarships have been awarded as of 2026, with approximately \$60,000 in funds dispensed.

Note: The scholarship fund relies solely on individual donations and is now officially recognized as a nonprofit organization. If you would like to donate, please send your check - payable to Beste Scholarship Fund - to Kathy Santaniello, 14 Braisted Hill Road, Silver Bay, NY 12874. //

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN THE 2026 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Tim and Shelly Gautreau, joined by their son Thor and board member Nancy Young, were a hit in their 1925 antique car. The vehicle first took to the road just two years before Hague Central School opened in 1927. Our other board members were cheerleaders and banner carriers, while Zeb Denno joined us as the youngest member of our school team.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN HAGUE AND SURROUNDING TOWNS

Hague Central School (1927 - 1979) Presentation

Wednesday, June 24, 7 pm
Hague Community Center



Parallel to our ongoing museum exhibit, we'll have a slide show about the history of the school. See a selection from the hundreds of photos from our collection, and hear from some of the 'kids' who attended Hague Central School. If you're one of those 'kids,' we hope you'll come with a story or two to tell! Even if you didn't attend school here – or maybe didn't even know that Hague ever had a school – we think you'll enjoy the presentation and the stories. Hague has a very proud history and some very fun and interesting 'kids.' Refreshments will be served, and the museum will be open before and after the meeting.

Loyal to the Crown: Who were the Tories?

Monday, August 3, 7 pm
Hague Community Center

Many of those living in the colonies had a strong loyalty to Britain and did not support growing Patriot violence in the colonies. What were their motivations? Join us to learn more about New York's Loyalist leaders and the price they would pay. Speaker: Brian O'Connor

Chestertown: Summer Program Series

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Town of Chester Historical Society summer lectures.

Lower Adirondack Regional Center for History (LARCH) Summer Programs

Hancock House, Ticonderoga

Friday, July 17 at 7 pm

Musical Program: Raise a Glass to Freedom*

Saturday, July 18 at 2 pm

Music of the American Revolution*

*Reservations required.

Friday, August 7 at 7 pm

The "Paine" of Revolution. Thomas Paine had a remarkable influence on our fight for independence. Speaker: Diane O'Connor

Friday, August 21, 7 pm

Impacting History: 100 Years of Television. TV influences every aspect of our lives, including our understanding of history. Speaker: Diane O'Connor

Friday, September 11 at 7 pm

The First Invasion of Canada: Heroic Failure. What role did Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allen, and Benjamin Franklin play? Speaker: Brian O'Connor

Click [HERE](#) for more information on LARCH programs.

Warren County Historical Society

Monday, July 20th at 7pm at Warren County Historical Society, 50 Gurney Lane, Queensbury

The Warren County Historical Society will host Adirondack historian and author Glenn Pearsall, who will give a talk titled "The American Revolution: What They Didn't Teach Us in High School." Click [HERE](#) for more information about this event and others.

The Islands of Lake George: Exploring the History and Mysteries

Thursday, July 16, 6:30 pm

Bolton Free Library, 4922 Lake Shore Drive

Author Noah Chirnomas introduces his new book about the history of 124 named islands on Lake George. Learn about which island Georgia O'Keeffe included in a painting, who moved their house across the ice from an island to the mainland, and more. //

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Your membership enables us to preserve and promote Hague's rich and fascinating history.

Individual membership: \$20

Family membership: \$40

How to join or renew your membership:

Join and pay online — OR —

Join via snail mail: See form below

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

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MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Membership dues are \$20/person. Your check can be made out to "Hague Historical Society" and mailed with this form to: HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 794, HAGUE, NY 12836

Name _____

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

\$ _____ Dues \$20/person

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