

## LOOKING BACK

by Shelly Gatreau and Nancy Young



The text for this 1984 article was in the archives of the Hague Historical Society. The formatting of the photos and captions has been altered for clarity.

Mrs. Ursula Montbriand presented a very interesting paper on passenger-carrying ships on Lake George at the meeting of the Hague Historical Society May 15...

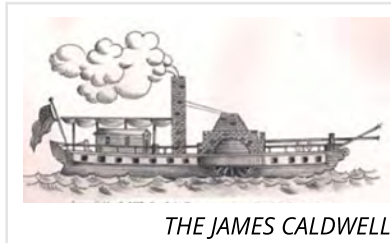
The first ship on Lake George made its appearance in 1816 and was named the James Caldwell. It was 8 feet in length and cost \$12,000 to construct. It was powered by steam generated in a wood-burning furnace. It had a brick smokestack. It took a full day to go from one end of the lake to the other. After four years of operation, it was struck by lightning and burned.

The Mountaineer followed in 1824. It was considerably faster than the Caldwell...It sank and rotted in Ti Creek.

The William Caldwell sailed from 1838-1848, when it was abandoned and sank.

The John Jay made its appearance in 1850, but it was destroyed by fire at Island Harbor in 1856. Six women died in the catastrophe. The engine and boiler were salvaged and installed on the Minne Ha Ha in 1857.

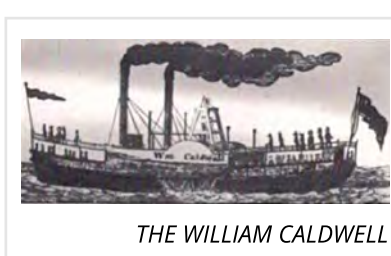
In 1857 the first Minne Ha Ha was launched and it operated until 1878 when it was disposed of and became a floating hotel near Black Mountain Point. (NO PHOTO)



THE JAMES CALDWELL



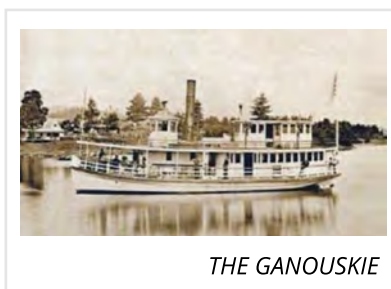
THE MOUNTAINEER



THE WILLIAM CALDWELL



THE JOHN JAY



THE GANOUSKIE

The Ganouskie (original name for Northwest Bay) commenced operations in 1869 with Captain Hewlett in command. In 1875, a branch of the D&H Railroad was opened between Montcalm Landing, a junction point on the D&H mainline, and Baldwin. Now people were able to go by train from New York City to Montcalm Landing, then to Baldwin Dock, and thence by steamer to summer and resort points on Lake George. It was dismantled in 1885.

The first paddle-wheel ship was the Horicon I, which was operating in 1877.



THE HORICON I



THE TICONDEROGA I



THE MOHICAN II



THE MINNIE HA HA II



THE LAC DU SAINT SACREMENT

The Ticonderoga I was the last large ship built on Lake George. It was launched in 1884 and operated until 1901, when it was destroyed by fire.

In the present century the Sagamore, Horicon II (which had a capacity of 1500 passengers), and the present Ticonderoga were launched. The latter was originally a World War II Naval vessel which arrived by land in two pieces which were then welded together.

### JULY 2024 – 50-YEAR UPDATE

There are three large tour boats still operating on Lake George. The Mohican II was renovated in 1947 and is the oldest continuously-operated tour boat in America.

The Minne Ha Ha was built in 1969 and is one of the last steam-powered ships in America.

The Lac du Saint Sacrement was built in 1989 and is the largest cruise ship on the inland waters of New York State at 190 feet long.

Information on all the boats and current cruises on Lake George are available by contacting the Lake George Steamboat Company [HERE](#). ▣