LOOKING BACK

by HHS Board Members Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

July 1975 – 50 years ago – an interview

NELSON WATERS RECALLS

The name Sabbath Day Point was used in Rogers Journal, June 25, 1758, the season before General Amherst landed there. Therefore, says Nelson Waters, the origin of the name is still and always has been in doubt.

When the John Jay burned near Garfield's Bay, the six who jumped overboard drowned, the rest (number unknown) were rescued by boats from the shore.

The year the old town shed was built, a saw mill called an "up and down" mill was run by Nathan Yaw. Later he built a saw mill powered by a water wheel which was underneath it. Logs were reduced to lumber at ground level. Slabs and edgings were sold and dry lumber was planed into finished products upstairs.

I was in school, Mr. Waters continued, when we had the greatest downpour of short duration that I ever witnessed. The mill collapsed and some of the large timbers and parts of the mill went all the way down to the lake. The plane, a Champion, weighing approximately one to two tons, came to rest just below Stanley Frasier's house. Steel shafting was washed as far as the post office. The plane stopped at a point where there was once a bridge over the brook. The abutments for the bridge were washed away as well as two-thirds of the new state road which had just been built. Also washed away were two piers which had been on the state road side, a low wall, 16 to 20 feet long and two large millstones, one of which can still be seen in the brook.

After this loss, a new mill was built on the edge of the bank. The steam engine, boiler and saw mill were purchased from Zilbert Eichen in Ticonderoga and drawn to the site with horses.

When Frank Crossman's house burned my father sold him and Fred Fish the grist mill and adjoining brush back buildings to tear down and build a new house for Frank. This is the house where Clifton Frasier now lives. The shafting and pulleys were sold to Nathan Yaw who built a new cider mill which was operated by water power into the 1920's. The mill was eventually moved to my property where it was operated with a gasoline engine from about 1931 to 1945. It could again be made operational in about 30 days.

According to the history of Warren County, the original name of Hague Brook was Quaker Brook. It flowed into Lake George at McDonald's Bay. Ed Davis and Henry Shattuck tell me they can remember when there was no road alongside this brook. In those days it was called Alder Brook by town residents. Others called it Mill Brook because of all the mills on its banks.

When the original road went over Battle Hill, up Split Rock Road and Toad Hollow Road, the first voting place was up there in a house later owned by my father. There was also a cider mill there. Cider Mill Hill received its name because of it.

Jabe's Pond was originally called 7th Pond which was near an abandoned iron mine which is on the south-southwest side of Spruce Mountain.

Written by Mr. Nelson F. Waters (1909–1982), son of Francis and Alta.

July 2025 — 50 years later

The Hague Historical Society has conducted many interviews of local, lifelong residents of Hague. Past historians, such as Mr. West, collected and personally wrote about the people, the social, religious, academic, and even comical events, comings and goings and just plain interesting facts about the Town of Hague and the characters who put a face on it.

Some interviews and/or stories may well be part of your past, your family and, perhaps, something to add to your own personal story. Many of these interviews are available to read while visiting the museum at the Hague Community Center. Please contact an HHS board member or Town Historian Sally DeLarm Rypkema and we will do our best to point you in the right direction.

LGA GALA SET

The Lake George Association's (LGA) 2025 Summer Gala will be held on **Friday, July 11 at 6 pm** at the Sagamore Resort in Bolton Landing. Doors open at **5:30 pm**.

Guests will enjoy live music by the Silver Arrow Band, a lobster feast, and a live auction featuring exclusive experiences. Auction items include a Florida getaway for two couples at Opal Resorts, a private cocktail party at The Chateau on the Lake, a dinner cruise for 30 aboard the Lac Du Saint Sacrement, a handcrafted black walnut sideboard with a Lake George inlay made by Hague resident Al Rider, and a DeSantis cocktail cruise and dinner party.

Tickets and sponsorships are available through July 8th, but are going fast. All proceeds support the LGA's mission to protect the Queen of American Lakes.

Click HERE for more information.

LGLC GALA

Tickets to attend the Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC) annual gala at the Fort William Henry Carriage House on **August 1, 2025** are available HERE.

The evening will feature a cocktail reception, gourmet plated dinner, live music and dancing, a silent auction, and the Fund-A-Need, all in support of vital land conservation efforts.