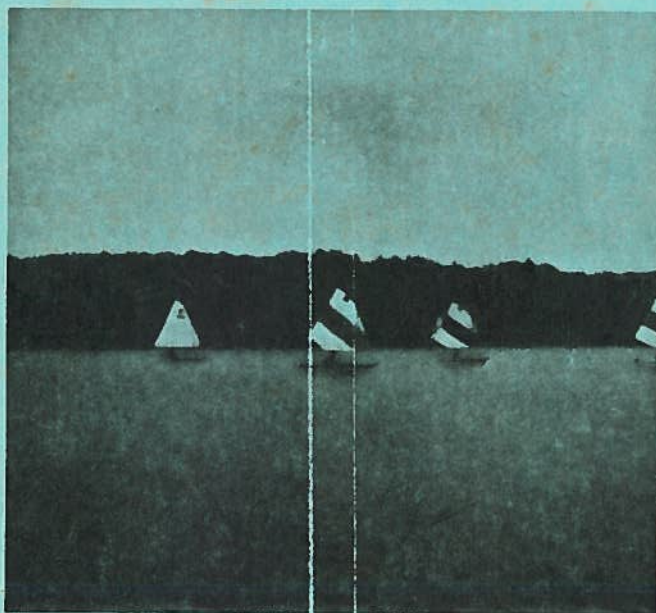


July 1980  
July 19, 1980



# LAKE TACONIC ASSOCIATION HISTORY



Petersburg  
New York

Taconic Lake is a "Spot of Heaven on Earth", as described by an early member, Mrs. Harriett Rhodes, who summered here for many years. It continues to be just that and the consensus of members, is that this will always be preserved.

Lake Taconic is located in the eastern part of the town of Grafton. It is the only one of a series of lakes and ponds in the town, that drains to the east into the Little Hoosick River (Troy Times 9-16-11). For those who enjoy knowing about the early land titles, we are grateful for the following research completed for us by a member, William Rodier.

"The first claim to Lake Taconic (and New York) was by the Dutch by virtue of the discoveries of Henry Hudson. The Dutch West India Company was the recipient of a grant of this territory. It, in turn, granted the land roughly encompassed by Rensselaer and Albany counties to Killian Van Rensselaer, as patron, quasi - governmental function. From that time, 1630, until the 1840's and 1850's, title to most of these two counties remained in the Van Rensselaer family, the lands being leased as farms."

"The area of Grafton was not settled to any extent until after the Revolution. Most of the early settlers built their homes along the Owens Road, a toll road from Troy to Petersburg. This road to large extent, parallels Route 2. Parts of the road are still used, others are passable with a jeep."

"The stretch of the Owens most familiar to us, is a part of Crandal Road from Lake Taconic Road to East Grafton. When you pass the farmhouse, go down a steep hill to a little cemetery and make a sharp left, you have turned onto the old Owens Road. It continues past the house on the left and then leaves the East Grafton road to take off into the woods, until it reaches Route 2, before you enter Grafton proper. Across Route 2, it is again used as a dirt road continuing until it passes the Catholic and Baptist churches."

"Owens Road is mentioned because there lived the Scrivens family, each on his farm (Thomas, Joshua, William, Zebulon, Joseph and John). The Association owns parts of three of these farms. Thomas Scriven's narrow farm extended from Owens Road to Lake Taconic. It was bounded in part by the outlet of

the lake, the shore of the lake from the outlet to a point about 150 feet west of the outlet, then north away from the lake. Thomas Scriven rented this farm from the Van Rensselaer family on March 30, 1793. (Washington was then President)."

"The next farm on the lake extended from the Thomas Scriven farm along the shore to the west, then south along the west shore, then east along the south shore to a point on the west shore of the cove, then across the cove to the shore near Marge Grogan's, where it follows the east shore northward to Dr. Bulger's. This farm was leased from the patroon by Asa Larraby on January 3, 1803. Subsequently, it became the farm of Elisha Crandall, who farmed the north shore of the lake up the hill to the Thomas home."

"The cove shoreline and lands to the south were first rented to Silas W. Waite. In 1925, the Association discovered that it did not own the Cove, when it commenced construction of the road around that part of the lake. It was acquired from the then owner."

"Picking up at Dr. Bulger's, the land on the shore to approximately the south end of the beach, was rented to Azariah Babcock on April 1, 1783. From that point to the outlet was leased to Godfrey Sweel on April 9, 1793."

"Familiar family names of later owners of our shoreline include Weeden, Covey, Cook, Allen and Hewitt."

"In 1791, the lake is shown on maps and other records Supown Pond, which may be a bad contraction of South Round Pond. Present day Pekham to the North was then also known as Round Pond. In any event, the lake was later Round Pond, then Crandall Pond, finally Taconic Lake."

"Lake Taconic was in Mohegan Indian country. There can be no question that Indians inhabited the area of our lake. When the Van Rensselaers surveyed and divided their lands into farms in the early 1790's, there was an "Indian Lot" (a farm) reserved for them a short distance south of the Lake. It is accepted that some of the people of this area number Indians among their ancestors. Some of the older members will remember a dugout left at the lake."

According to the Troy Evening Standard of 5/23/05, "the Association originally consisted of four men, who appreciating the possibilities of the place, and the attractions for city people, bought up four hundred acres of woods around the shore and built there cottages close to the shore, each cottage with its own

little boat landing and special plot of ground." It is reputed that the price paid was \$24,000. These original men came with their families. One of them, with spirit of enterprise, not only built his own cottage, but also one for rental. Charles Reynolds was an original owner and his grandson, Dan Dole, and family are the only descendents now on the lake, of an early owner and founder.

Taconic Lake Association was incorporated under State of N.Y. 7/13/01, located in town of Grafton, Rensselaer County, five miles from Grafton Village; twenty-seven miles from Albany City Hall, twenty miles from center of business district of Troy and thirty-two miles from Schenectady. The elevation is 1800 feet above sea level. Early indications state the maximum temperature is 80 degrees in summer with cool nights. Electricity was brought to the lake in the 30's.

The Association controls about 500 acres, including lake, woodlands, cottage sights, store, post office, private bathing beach, roadway around lake in rear of lake shore cottages and a ten foot reservation around lake shore.

Membership is limited to sixty members, there are now forty-five members and forty-three cottages. Business is conducted by an organized Board of Governors, elected by the membership at the annual meeting, with President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and committee chairmen. Rules of conduct are established for the benefit and responsibility of all members and families. Services are provided by the Association from annual dues, for telephone, store, post office and garbage removal.

The lake is small, one and one half miles around it, fed by springs and in addition a never failing spring is available for drinking water. Swimming, canoeing, sailing and fishing, are all at hand for one's choice. Early descriptions indicated a good supply of bass, pickerel, perch, sunfish and bullheads.

Having now covered the early and physical descriptions of Taconic Lake, there are other items of interest, which have been supplied by members, interested persons and some printed material. Such expressions by members, as clean air, pure water, natural environment, good friends, peace and serenity, quiet, lovely Lake Taconic, love of the peacefulness of Taconic, etc., truly set the tone.

From the Evening Standard of Troy, May 23, 1905, the following is worth reflection, in our present stage of inflation. "Milk at three cents a quart from a yankee farmer (probably Charlie Weeden), one mile away, also fresh eggs, sweet butter and chickens, were readily

available. It has also been remembered that he delivered ice in a row boat. His daughter decided that the milk price should be five cents a quart, "Because I heard you had a cook and an automobile, so I calculated you might well pay me more for milk fresh from the keow." In the early days Lewis Spenser brought fresh meat from Peterburg, later fruits and vegetables were sold by Mel Piche. The same edition mentioned the relief from city living to sleep with screenless doors and windows, wide open and to sit out side evenings and to light lamps with never a bite, the only bites were from the young and lively fish.

Other reflections should include the tennis court, which was very popular and well used for years. Possibly, again it can be restored. It has been related that at one point mail was delivered RFD on the road around the lake, then at another time the mail boxes were nailed up on the Fireboat, which had been retired. Whether this boat was ever engaged in a fire situation is uncertain. An early member Jim Duffy, who had what is now the Meehan camp, built his garage out of the wood from the fireboat.

Before the days of electricity, there was an ice house, at the present location of Tucker Hall. On the corner opposite Mary Millard's and across from Wallace Taylor's was a public park, with seats and at that point the mail boxes were there.

Note is made here of the days before telephones, when members called to each other across the lake, such as Marge Curry (Vetoch camp), as reported by Nancy Meehan and Jim Devane, Lucy Ross (Joe Cavanaugh camp), Agnes Johnson (Hepfinger camp). The memory of Mr. Grogan, Mr. Baum, Irving Dole and others fishing and Mr. and Mrs. Cushman paddling around the lake can be remembered by some.

The high dive at Cushman's was great fun and challenge to the young swimmers for many years. Some will also remember the diving equipment which Henry Cushman used to explore the lake bottom. At times Mr. Cushman joined his son. Fourth of July events were exciting with fireworks, when they were legal.

Some may remember Cushman when he "buzzed" the lake with his single airplane.

Hikes to Dyken Pond and Long Pond, excited imagination about Indians appearing in the woods. Also familiar is the appearance of bats, at dusk, also the sound of a frog.

The beach has always been a happy spot for everyone, especially the children, with the slide and diving board on the float. Safety protections have been installed in later years. Also, in more recent years at the end of the summer and Labor Day, there is great excitement at the Regatta, with prizes and sail boat races, when the winner is awarded the Dole cup trophy, to hold till the next year's winner. This bowl was donated by Dan and Alice Dole in memory of his grandfather, Charles Reynolds, one of the Association founders.

In recent years the Annual Dinner Party, has been very popular and a most happy evening. This has been held at such places as Williams Inn and other restaurants. The 75th anniversary chicken barbeque evening was a big success held at the lake.

We were indebted to Marion and Art Breton for information on the "Store", which has played a very important role for Lake Taconic. It was built by Phil Elgeizer. The first operator was Mr. Bennett, the second Art Powers mother. Next came Allen and Lucy Stewart. Allen was an active person at Lake Taconic for some years with construction and work for members. He also did much taxi business, bringing people in and out of Taconic for transportation connections, etc. Following the Stewarts the Madsens managed the store. The fifth couple, about 1929 was Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy (parents of Marion Breton). During that time, the Porch was enlarged and became a meeting place and social center. People still sit on the porch, a smaller version, at night and visit but it is not like it was in those early days.

A soft ball team was formed, called "Taconic Lakers". The original members were Jack and Harry Grogan, Harold Rhodes, Jack Comesky, Allen Stewart, Clarence Weeden, Bill Wilder, Vince McCarthy and Ray Mason. The team enjoyed support from members by attendance at evening and Sunday games. They played all nearby towns and the Schermerhorns, who had their own team.

In June 1948, Marion and Art Breton were asked by the Association President, Jack Rourke to continue with the store and Post Office after Mr. McCarthy died. Also in 1948 Members decided to build Tucker Hall for the children as a playhouse which is also used for meetings and parties. At that time also, Allen Stewart was generous to bring his big truck with hay for hayrides to Petersburg, for the square dances. Some of the now senior members

will remember, as juniors how they and the then seniors, enjoyed these fun times. The store has always been amply stocked with bread, milk, dairy products, groceries, canned goods, soda, candy, etc.

The tradition of the store has continued to the present, under the competent, congenial and considerate management of Marion and Art. The kind attention the children receive every evening at treat time is literally an institution, as each generation comes along. The Bretons are always ready to bandage a child's cuts and bruises to listen to the problems of a worried laker, to hurry to the aid of someone who needs help, to be friendly, loving and kind to all.

Their three children, Jimmie, Artie and Kathy grew up on the Lake. It was a sad summer, when Artie was killed in an automobile accident, the month before his wife Mary Kay had their son. Marion and Art Breton have donated a golf trophy in memory of their son Artie, to be awarded to the annual winner of the Lake golf tournament.

Many members and families have been at Lake Taconic, since childhood. Of the senior members, who are still enjoying Taconic since childhood, are Bill Rodier, his brother Ed, who just recently sold his property, Martin Buerger and Dan Dole. Families of these members have spent many happy years at the lake.

### BECKS

We appreciate the help of all those who responded to our inquiry. A quotation from Carl Beck, ex-president, is most appropriate at the beginning of this history . . .

"We appreciate the structure of the Lake Association, the constitution and by-laws which protect all members of the association by preserving the natural surroundings and way of life. We realize this doesn't just happen, the members contribute their social skills, their time and their money to protect their investment in their lake property.

Certainly, this is a tribute to the able men who formulated the rules which have endured these many years, and to people like ourselves who are preserving this heritage . . ."

Beck's house was built by the Beck family over a period of several years beginning in 1967. Their land was owned formerly by Lyall J. Deyoe, Hilda Le Roy Crounse, Kenneth E. Crounse, Leonard L. Palmer, T.L.A., and Catherine L. Palmer.

### BARNES

John Duffy, a charter member of the Association, built the Barnes cottage. His daughter Lucy and her husband John Morton lived in the cottage after that. John Morton died sitting in a rocking chair in the camp one night. John and Dorothy Barnes bought the place from the Morton estate in 1957.

About 1970 they retired the outhouse when they remodeled part of the house to make room for a new kitchen and a bathroom. They also enclosed the front porch and had vinyl siding put on the house.

John is a vice president of Marine Midland Bank and has served as Treasurer for the Association for some years. The Barnes have three children: Jeff, whose wife's name is Christy; Laurie and Jason.

### BITEMAN

James and Jane Biteman, bought from Arthur Jr. and Lois M. Stuart. Owners from the original were Bertha Leeming (widow of Al) 1917, Mary Elizabeth Reynolds 1918, Hugh Cogan, Gladys Cogan (widow of Hugh), Arthur Stuart Jr. 1962. John Quencher, 1918 was involved, Mary Studwell sold to Lake Taconic Association 1933.

Heirs of Mary E. Reynolds were Daisy Cogan, Quentin Reynolds, James Reynolds, Constance Fury, Marjorie Kirk. (Hugh Cogan inherited it.)

The present building, a chalet, was erected August 1969. The original was built in 1903; new dock in 1963, small guest cottage in 1964. The Stuart's always considered the lake as a place to rest, relax and enjoy the quiet, good air and friendly people.

### BUEHLER

Althea Buehler's husband bought their camp in 1936. He made many improvements including piers, a porch around the camp, a new kitchen and bathroom. They kept the outhouse and Althea is glad they did. It was Paul Buehler who got members to sign a petition to have electricity brought into the Lake.

The original owner was Jessie Moses who sold to Harry and Mary Lewis who sold to Charles Otto of New York City in 1907. Liddy Otto, the next owner, sold to John Sambroke who sold to Paul Buehler in 1936. Paul Buehler died in 1958. Althea rents her cottage during July and August.

## BRYCE

Merrick and Helen Bryce bought the cottage next to the beach in June of 1978 from Peter Taylor who inherited it from his father Congressman Dean P. Taylor. Former owners were Dorothy Lackey Drummond, H. Jesse Moses, John J. Quencer, and Bertha M. Leeming.

Helen says many important people frequented the cottage when Dean served as a U.S. Congressman. Among the newspaper pictures in our file is one of the Honorable Congressman and his friend, the then Vice President Richard M. Nixon, having "A Chummy Chat" The picture appeared in the KNICKERBOCKER NEWS of January 15, 1969, with a story about Mr. Taylor having to return his tickets for Mr. Nixon's inaugural ceremonies because of the illness of his brother Donald.

The cellar area of this attractive cottage has brick flooring said to be from the original 16th century Albany Dutch settlers.

The Bryces are not new to the lake having started renting here in 1948. Helen says "it would take a Frost or a Hemingway to say what Taconic Lake means to each member of our family."

Bryce's children are Susan (Mrs. Jim Cluett), Barbara (Mrs. Bill Clark), and Craig whose wife's name is Mary Jean.

Helen was elected to serve on the Board of Governors at the Annual Meeting on July 12, 1980.

## BULGER'S

Marian and Paul Bulger first bought the "Baum cottage" from Ruth Baum Altura in 1969. In 1977 they sold that cottage to John Costa and purchased "the Cushman property" from Eugene J. (Jack) Taylor, brother of Wallace Taylor. Jack Taylor used the place mostly as a guest cottage for his many friends. Extensive work was done to add a modern kitchen and bathroom at that time.

Marian reports that the original cottage was built by a Williams College professor in 1923. Then about 1930 the Cushmans of the Cushman Furniture Co. bought it and added a porch and four out buildings. One of the buildings was a kitchen where the Cushman maids did all the cooking.

Bulgers have extended the living room and put in sliding glass doors "to bring the outside, inside."

Bulgers have a son John whose wife is Martha; and a daughter Cindy who is married to Paul Wydysh.

## JOE CAVANAUGH

In 1955 Joe and Mary Carey Cavanaugh bought from Vera and Milt Flanders who had bought from Lucy Ross. Lucy Ross had two sisters on the lake: Agnes Johnson and Mrs. Palmer. Their children are Joe, Jr.; Joanne Bleu, and David.

Much of the fun and laughter left the lake with Mary's untimely death in 1968.

## MARGE DALTON

Edwin "Buzz" Dalton came to the Lake from New York as a young boy with his parents, Elizabeth and Edwin. He and Marge with their children, John, Marie and Glen summered here for many years.

In the early 70's the plumbing facilities came indoors with the addition of a bathroom and other improvements.

After Buzz's death in 1975 Marge learned to drive and so continues to drive up from Long Island to spend her summer's at the lake.

## DEVANE'S

In 1971 Jim and Mary Anne Devane inherited their camp from Jim's mother, Anna, who inherited it from her husband, Thomas A. Devane, Sr. who bought it from Augustus Hellmuth in 1937, the year Jim was born.

The Devanes have two sons, James H., Jr. and Brendan Sullivan.

Jim writes: "Taconic Lake to me is Home, Heaven, Health and Happiness -- and that's a 4 H Club that I hope will remain in my family for many generations to come."

Jim was elected to the Board and began his sterling services as Secretary in 1976.

## DANIEL AND ALICE DOLE

Daniel R. Dole became the owner after his mother, Grace R. Dole. She became owner, when her father, Charles W. Reynolds, deeded the property to her. Mr. Reynolds was an original founder of Lake Taconic Association. He lived in Petersburg, where he was born, conducting his shirt factory business. He also had a home on State Street, Albany, when he was in Legislature. Irving and Grace Dole enjoyed many happy summers at Taconic, as Dan did from infancy.



He and his wife, Alice have much nostalgia for "the lake" with many happy memories. In memory of his grandfather, Charles Reynolds, Dan donated a Revere Bowl, as the Dole cup, that is awarded to the winner of the annual sail boat race.

Their daughter Danielle (Bricky) has followed the pattern from childhood and now continues with her husband, Ronald Duquette and daughter Angela. They all "love" Taconic, which is part of their lives.

The building is original and there have been some additions.

### FRANCISCAN SISTERS

The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany purchased their two story cottage from Judge Michael V. and Lillian Tepedino in March of 1966. Previous owners beginning with Walter O. Knowlson, 1907-1923, were: Peter Wright and wife Jessie Gratton; Theresa A. and James W. Gaynor, Peter F. Gaynor and Anne Gaynor Lane.

The Sisters own and operate The Villa Mary Immaculate, a nursing home on Manning Blvd. in Albany. Sister Teresa Mary was the administrator at the time of the purchase and she and her staff when they were in residence sometimes had a Franciscan priest come out from the city to celebrate a week day Mass on their porch by the Lake. The altar was a card table with a white linen cloth, the altar boy was usually Mike Cavanaugh. For those of us fortunate enough to be there with the Sisters (always dressed in their spotless white habits) it was like a Special Benediction. We felt pretty close to Heaven with the lake sparkling beside us and the peace and stillness of this place surrounding us.

Sister Clement Mary in her response to our questionnaire wrote:

In the lives of all of us space is needed for quiet time. The lake has been ideal for us, not only for days of recreation, but for retreats, weekends of prayer, and Days of Recollection. There is a peace and serenity at the Lake that we value. This appears to be an ideal place to bring young children up with the knowledge that there can be fun and recreation but also introduce them to the need in their lives for quiet. God is found in stillness. His voice and guidance when sought comes out of the stillness where He can be heard.

### MARGE GROGAN, M.D.

Marge Grogan says her place is haunted. When asked "By whom, she replied: "By Indians who used to live around here." Her convictions are upheld by incidents that have happened there like extremely vivid dreams completely peopled with Indians, by lights that hadn't lit in years suddenly coming alight, and other strange happenings.

Marge's camp was bought by her grandfather. In 1937, following a party, it burned to the ground, and was rebuilt by Allen Stewart. Marge Uncle Jack Grogan was the next owner. He was always the first one into the lake for a swim after the ice went and the last before winter set in. In winter he skated on the lake. Marge bought the camp from the estate after her Uncle's death in 1971. She received her M.D. degree from Albany Med in June of 1979.

### HEPFINGER

The log house by the spring was bought by Jerry and Kay Fulnecky from Caroline and David Stevens in 1979. They sold to Norbert F. Hepfinger. The Stevens bought in 1966 from Emmet Roe and Richard Gage who bought from Charles Collins who bought from Benson and Bettina Myers. Earlier owners were Charles Baumis, Howard Smith, and Agnes Johnson (sister of Lucy Ross).

### KREIGER

In 1952 Mary and Frank Kreiger rented "Lakeview Lodge" which they bought the following year from the owner, Mattie B. Reynolds. Family gatherings have included welcome homes, farewells, birthdays, and even a christening.

When Janet and Frank, Jr. were growing up, Mary, a school teacher, could always be counted on to organize activities for the young people on the lake.

Janet is married to Ned McLaughlin and they have three children: Kevin, Norine, and Sheila. Frank, Jr. is married to Madonna Lamphier and they have five: Dorie, Jennifer, Stephen, Sara, and Kathleen. It was Jennifer who was christened on the Lawn at the cottage in July of 1974 with Father John Riley officiating.

Frank, Sr. died in 1972.

## MEEHAN

Nancy and Jim Meehan have four children: Linda, Jamie, Pat and John. Nancy's Aunt Juel Eckert bought the camp from John Duffey in 1927. Over the years the house has been enlarged several times and many improvements made. Nancy has been coming to the Lake since she was a child and has many happy memories of those early summers and all the summers that have followed.

Juel Eckert served on the Board as treasurer for many years. She and her sister, Ann Geyer, (Nancy's mother) were daily walkers around the lake into their 80's.

## MEYER

Charlie and Lib Meyer bought their camp in 1972 from Anne Helmuth Bittner whose mother had inherited it from her father, Charles Strebel, in 1919 . . . Meyers put in a foundation, a native stone fireplace, enclosed the front porch and did many other things to turn the "camp" into a year round house. It is a three hour drive from their four daughters in Massachusetts and a three hour drive from New Jersey where their two sons live and Charlie has his office -- a perfect location for the gathering of the clan

This is not a lake front cottage but they have a right of way and a "ramble" down to the water. Meandering down the Ramble is a relaxing pasttime, writes Lib.

Meyers' six grown up children are: Kim Clark-Doolittle; Melissa, Lynn (Mrs. Richard Tucker); Charles, Jr.; Jenny (Mrs. Donald O'Neil)? and Robert.

## MILLARD

Steve and Mary Millard bought their house from Louis Kehn in 1958. Mr. Kehn bought in 1944 from Blanche (Blanca) R. Berger who had inherited from her grandmother Rose Kruescher who came from Ridgewood, N.Y. Rose and Fred Kruescher bought from Carrie Elgeizer whose husband Philip conveyed lots 156 and 157 to her in 1911 when the purchase was made from James H. Duffie.

Jesse Lewis, a native of Petersburg, and the descendent of one of the first settlers on the Lake, said he thought that Elgeizers built the house in 1915.

One of the biggest projects in the list of the improvements made by the Millards was the drilling of a well in 1974.

The Millard children are: Stephen H., Jr., and Kathryn Ingle whose children are Suzanne and Darrell Read.

Steve served on the Board and as secretary of the Association for 14 years. He died of a coronary at the Lake on the morning of June 18, 1979.

## Stan and Florence Nagel

Purchased from brother Charles H. Butzgy 3/59, original owner was man from Berlin, and it was purchased by Uncle Charles Butzgy in 1932. Original log cabin built in early 1900's, two additions have been added. Over the years Mrs. Nagel's mother Anna and daughter Mary, Kathy and Noreen have enjoyed the lake. Cousins John Hyde and nephews Kenny and Robby Barbera spent summers at the lake. The change from busy New York City to peaceful life at the lake has been a boost. Closing camp is a depressing feeling at the end of a season.

## John (Jack) and Margaret (Peggy) Cavanaugh Poulin

Original owner was James H. Duffie of Petersburg who bought land for \$25.00 He was one of the first officers, Vice President. The building was a small box type with hot dog type wagon, drop window. This window frame still is part of the kitchen. His daughter Lucy M. Morton inherited the camp. Her husband John Morton owned and died at Taconic in property now owned by Jack and Dottie Barnes. July 1933 Morton sold to William Beaupain.

For over five years before 1948 camp was idle, tied up in Beaupain Estate. During that time it was a favorite place of play, with entry through the kitchen sky-light window by youth of the lake. The creek out back (overflow from the lake) was a favorite for frog catching. In 1948 Frank Tucker an officer in the Association tried to contact several estate owner of property. He loved children and large families. Tucker Hall - the Playhouse is named after him.

August 17, 1978 through the efforts of Mr. Tucker, the Beaupain Estate was sold to James F. and Margaret Hayes Cavanaugh and their five children, James, Gerald, Brian, Mary Ellen, Peggy and late in 1952



Michael. Indoor plumbing and hot water was put in 1949. Changes to the porch and interior were made over the years.

Jack and Peggy bought the camp from the Cavanaugh estate on 10/31/74. Their four children are Kathy, Nancy, Debbie and Aimee. They all love the spirit of Taconic, peacefulness, privacy, clean water and our "Little piece of heaven."

#### Walter and Marie Prediger

E.W. Greenman, August 1, 1901, owner for one day, sold to Frank E. and Lucy Reynolds 8/2/01, sold to Helen E. and Elmer Towne 8/12/09, sold to Henry E. and Edith Lisk 4/30/28 (he died June 6, 1950). Walter J and Marie Prediger bought in 7/19/50 (Walter died 7/13/78). The Predigers enjoyed 27 years at Taconic, with daughter Joan and Gail and their families. They had fun and still think it the best summer vacation.

#### Rhodes Camp

Harriett, Harold and Owen Rhodes inherited from the Rhodes estate. The original owners were Harry Lewis and H. Jesse Moses who sold to Sidney and Alice Morse of Foxboro, Mass. 9/16/05. Mr. and Mrs. Morse sold to Frank and Lucy Reynolds of Petersburg, N.Y. 10/5/09. They sold to Harry A. and Harriett M. Rhodes 12/24/23.

About 1959 or 60, Mary Millard interviewed Mrs. Rhodes, who related some of the above. Also that Frank Reynolds built the house and bought 100 extra feet of land from Harry Lewis, whose cottage was next door. His young son became ill and died. Mrs. Reynolds blamed the fact they were on the lake for his death. She refused to stay there any longer and they rented for 3 years until the Association decreed no more rentals. Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes looked at the cottage through the efforts of Harry Young. "He loved and she detested it." Dec. 1922, the Rhodes bought the camp. The first year Mrs. Rhodes cried "buckets", she hated it and was miserable. Her architect husband was working on St. Joseph's Church in Rensselaer and only came home week-ends. The wood stove was impossible and she could not learn to build a proper fire, she burned things to a crisp or the fire went out. "I don't know how we survived," she said of that first year.

The following year her husband bought her a new five burner oil stove for cooking and chopped up the old stove, buried it in the back lot. She began to enjoy the place and loved it. Mr. Rhodes commuted the 27 miles to Rensselaer every day.

Their first car was a Chevrolet rather high off the ground for which they paid \$1,200. Roads were narrow and full of holes. People kept places neat and clean. Charm was in the peace and quiet.

Mrs. Rhodes was well remembered for daily swims, regardless of the weather.

#### William and Martha Rodier

Bill and Marty acquired the cottage July 29, 1964 by deed from his step mother Ethel Deutsch Rodier, who inherited it from his father. On June 21, 1907 the Association deeded the property to Francis and Kate S. Donofrio of the "Bureau of Highways, Engineer's Office, Borough Building, Long Island City, New York for \$50. This was conveyed by them on May 19, 1911 to Roscoe V. Wolfe and Susan R. Wolfe, his wife (also Bill's aunt), who conveyed to William J. Rodier on August 30, 1911. June 14, 1935 conveyed to William J. and Clara A. (his wife) Rodier, on Oct. 18, 1939, to William J. and Ethel D. Rodier his wife.

#### Wallace W. and Isabelle W. Taylor

1. Purchased by Eugene J. Taylor from the National Commercial Bank and Trust Co., Committee for the Property of Joseph W. Coyle, in 1961. Deeded to Wallace W. and Isabelle W. Taylor in 1967.
2. Sequence of ownership:
  - 1907: Purchased by Charles Otto of Evergreen, Long Island, from the Taconic Lake Association. Reference is made to the fact that this was Lot 2, separate from Lot 1 previously purchased from Harry A. and Mary Lewis.
  - 1915: Lot 2 purchased by C. Brandenstein of Meriden, Conn. Lot 1 retained by Charles Otto.
  - ? Sometime between 1915 and 1925 it appeared that Lot 2 was purchased by Wesley D. and Lucinda A. Weeden.

- 1925: Purchased by Asher Bleiman (there is some confusion here since another document suggests a 1932 date for this purchase).
- 1935: Purchased by John T. and Irma Mason Comesky; it now appears that Lots 1, 2, and 102 are involved.
- 1947: Purchased by Joseph W. Coyle of Albany. Lots 1, 2, and 102 are specified
- 1961: Purchased by Eugene J. Taylor
- 1967: Deeded to Wallace W. and Isabelle W. Taylor

There is confusion concerning the sequence of ownership of Lot 1: a 1907 reference is made to a Lucy R. Ross of New York City, and a 1927 reference to an Elizabeth Kirk Reynolds of Santa Monica, California, formerly Miss Elizabeth P. Kirk. It appears at times that the lot numbers used in deeds are not consistent. The point at which Lot 102 enters the picture is not clear, through the later deeds definitely mention the three lots.

3. There is no information as to when the original camp was erected. The 1907 deed of Charles Otto makes no reference to a building. We have been told that the original core of the present residence building was a two-story structure, and that Mr. Coyle made extensive alterations and additions, probably around 1950, after he purchased the property. Mr. Coyle brought in a small building, approximately 12 by 12 feet in size, which was used as a washhouse, and a garage. This garage building was moved fairly close to the lake front, presumably with the idea of making it into a boathouse. We had this building put on piers and a floor installed, and have used it as a workshop and storage building. In 1978 a garage was erected near the main building, and the small cottage moved closer to the workshop building.

4. We have enjoyed our time spent at Taconic Lake, and hope that it can continue to be a quiet, restful place with a minimum of noise. Early documents specifically indicate that the property is to be enjoyed "in quiet and peace."

Historical Survey for the Taconic Lake Association  
Jan. 16, 1979

Property of Jackson W. Taylor, Lots 3 and 103

The property was purchased from William H. and Irma J. Merrigan by Wallace W. and Isabelle W. Taylor in 1965, who deeded the property to their son Jackson W. Taylor in 1967.

The sequence of ownership was as follows:

- 1903: Land purchased from the Taconic Lake Association (which had been incorporated in 1901 and made its first official survey of the land in this year) by Dr. Arthur R. and Thirza E. Mandel. Apparently Dr. Mandel bought four lots from the association, since in one deed Lot 103 is referred to as the "Dr. Arthur R. Mandel Lot No. 4"
- 1915: Purchased by May C. Baird
- 1937? Purchased by Paul F. and Ann R. Donahue — *Mason?*
- 1958: Purchased by William H. and Irma J. Merrigan
- 1965: Purchased by Wallace W. and Isabelle W. Taylor
- 1967: Deeded to Jackson W. Taylor

Whether the two lots were involved in all earlier transactions was not clear, but at least by 1958 it was certain that both lots were involved. In the 1907 deed of Charles Otto's purchase of Lot 2 (now owned by Wallace W. Taylor and Isabelle W. Taylor) from the Taconic Lake Association, mention is made of its being adjacent to Lot 3 owned by Baldwin Palmer. But another 1907 document refers to Lot 3 of Marjorie Curry; probably there is an error in the lot reference here.

It should be noted that there is no information as to when the camp building was erected, and whether any changes were made in the original structure. Since its acquisition in 1965, no changes have been made except that a shed used for storing wood was torn down.

#### THIERINGER

Herman and Peg Thieringer became owners and members December 6, 1945. Purchased from the BEUTH ESTATE.

For many years before buying - they rented the Oberg cottage. The Beuth family might have been the original owner. The camp had an oilcloth covering on all of the rooms. This no doubt helped to keep the place warm. It was also said that Mr. Beuth was in the oil cloth business.

This is the original building. When purchased by the Thieringers the first big job was putting in electricity, cleaning out a few trees and

boulders. This was brought about by the careful direction and planning of a wonderful person named Allen Stewart who could do all kinds of work and was a terrific loss to the Association when he was drowned while fishing in Canada (many years ago).

Family members are A. Robert Thieringer, Mary K. Thieringer, and Eric Thieringer plus Margaret (Peg) Thieringer.

It was in or around 1915 when Mr. John Sambrook bought a cottage, now owned by Mrs. Buehler. For many years the Thieringer's had a great time at this cottage and were a close friend of the family. During this period, a Mr. Weeden delivered ice via ROW BOAT. The ice house I think used to be where the playhouse now stands. The road in to the lake at that time was pretty poor and narrow with many large boulders to combat. Mr. Sambrook always managed to get through with his ever powerful STERNS KNIGHT and of course not much traffic.

A family named RHODES lived next door. At that time Owen (present owner) was a cute little blonde boy almost too small for church on Sunday so the Sambrooks took over. The Rhodes were about the first family to have a diving board. Mrs. Rhodes (Harriet) was an excellent swimmer and diver. Most interesting, that she was able to live so many years and enjoy the lake in summer.

At that time when Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy were running the store and we use to go and sit at small tables to enjoy an ice cream soda. That was the youthful HAPPY HOUR.

Taconic Lake is a place Peg can hardly wait to visit. If it can be kept on a rural basis and not too many modern ideas put across, all will be fine. A great place for health with the nice mountain air.

Three instances stand out in her mind: 1) seeing elderly Mr. Grogan out fishing in the wee small hours of the morning, 2) Mr. Baum one of the original owners fishing in front of his cottage, 3) After dinner in the early evening, it was a very pleasant sight to behold Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cushman paddling around the lake in their yellow canoe.

During the time Mr. Thieringer was president of the association, many improvements were made. He and Mr. Louis Kehn were a terrific team, with many suggestions coming from Miss Jule Eckert. To me, it is most interesting to see how the next generation have become so interested.

One cannot forget to mention the many hayrides that took place every Friday night to Petersburg from the store, truck provided by Allen Stewart. After arrival in Petersburg, an evening of square dancing was enjoyed.

Ella Vetoich

Marjorie Curry purchased property from the Taconic Lake Association September 15, 1905. On October 16, 1944 Marjorie Curry sold the property to Ella Vetoich and her sister Mary Beeble. On October 28, 1952 Mary Beeble sold her share to Ella Vetoich who has solely owned the property since then without any structural changes.

Adelaide Vetoich Kowansky and her husband Michael visit annually from Washington, D.C.

Eleanor Vetoich Hinshelwood and her husband Paul are not able to visit from California as frequently. The Hinshelwood children, Margaret Mary, Paula, Anne and Clyde would like to live closer than Hacienda Heights, California because they love Taconic Lake.

Iona Vetoich Zmud and her husband Bill are seen at the lake all season. Their children, Tom and his wife, Andrea, Elaine and Carol are always at Taconic whenever possible during the season.

Bill Schermerhorn

THE TROY RECORD in reporting the shooting on the Taconic Lake Road on August 25, 1966, said the seriously wounded William Schermerhorn was "a caretaker of property at Taconic Lake." And so he was for many years. No history of Taconic Lake would be complete without some mention of Bill Schermerhorn.

Just outside the pillars and down the road apiece he resides in a new house built by "friends" following a fire in 1978 that leveled his flimsy one room dwelling. He's been known to complain about certain aspects of the new house and in the next breath say that it is the best house he ever lived in. It has no electricity or plumbing -- neither did his other houses.

Bill is a survivor. In spite of fires (his house burned down once before), years of bad liquid refreshment, the shooting, and a life time of really severe winters on this mountain top, he stays in comparatively good health and most every day walks the mile into

the lake to chat with his friends. At 82 he's talking of buying a bicycle and riding again -- something he hasn't been able to do since the shooting when his brother Albert seriously wounded Bill and killed brother Milford following a drinking party.

Bill was in the hospital a long time after the shooting. Whether it was due to the fact that they took out his "digester" or "spleen" or whether he got religion, Bill gave up drinking after that. His favorite foods are spaghetti and baked beans -- not an adequate diet by most standards but fine for Bill.

When his shack burned down in 1978 the burns on his legs could have been fatal to a less hardy man. His new house was built under the generous supervision of Charlie Meyer who not only contributed money and labor but collected money from Lake people and organized a group of neighbors and friends for the construction work. Furnishings also came from the people on the lake.

For over 40 years Bill has been a worker, a friend, a visitor, a sometimes problem, a sage, a story teller, the colorful character of Taconic Lake. He no longer takes care of other people's property but spends his time now in retirement cutting up wood for his own place, arranging the thousands of plastic flowers in his garden, and visiting with neighbors and friends.

Hopefully, with the completion of this history, it will mean as much to each member, as it does to those of us, who have been here for so many years. So much has happened in this plus seventy-five years, it is regrettable, if even the slightest detail has been omitted. There are many and numerous stories and anecdotes connected with each camp, that were supplied by members.

July 19, 1980

We, the compilers of this history, find it impossible to incorporate all the information available to us in writing and hearsay. For that reason we are having this printed with some blank pages in the back for each member to record important details that he or she would like to preserve for family members or future owners.

Alice Dole, Chairperson  
Mary Millard  
Lila Buerger