

Important Places – The First Hundred Years

Before the settlers came, native Indians paddled up and down Lake George passing and stopping at Sabbath Day Point and the beautiful islands of Lake George. During the years of Europeans claiming lands for their countries, the British and French brought troops and fought each other to keep the lands claimed by their kings. The French held Fort Carillon at Ticonderoga on the north end of Lake George. In 1757 French troops and almost 2000 Ottawa Indians stopped here on their way to capture the British at Fort William Henry at the south end of the Lake.

In the next two years of 1758 and 1759 the British used Sabbath Day Point as their landing place on the way to Ticonderoga from Fort Edward. They were on the way to oust the French from their Fort Carillon. The British troops succeeded under General Jeffery Amherst and renamed it Fort Ticonderoga.

Benjamin Franklin's son, Captain William Franklin, served under General Amherst in 1759. Benjamin Franklin himself passed through Lake George in a bateaux in April of 1776, where he "stopped and made tea" a little north of Sabbath Day Point. During the Revolution, Ben Franklin was on a mission to get support for the American Revolution by the Canadian people. -Ref: Vol 17, p. 346-CAPT. WILLIAM FRANKLIN; BENJAMIN FRANKLIN *Proceedings of the New York State Historical Association. New York State Historical Association. Pub. 1919*

During the American Revolution, General Henry Knox and his troops started out from Ticonderoga on a mission for George Washington from Fort Ticonderoga to the south end of Lake George. He was transporting canon and artillery all the way to Boston. He stopped at the beach of Sabbath Day Point. On December 9, 1775, Henry Knox wrote in his diary,

"Employ'd in loading the scow, Pettyaugre and a battoe. At 3 O'Clock in the afternoon set sail to go down the lake in the Pettyaugre, the Scow coming after us run aground we being about a mile ahead with a fair wind to go down but unfair to help the Scow.the wind dying away we with the utmost difficulty reach'd Sabbath day Point about 9 O'Clock in the evening -- went ashore & warm'd ourselves by an exceeding good fire in an hut made by some civil indians who were with their Ladies abed - they gave us some Vension, roasted after their manner which was very relishing."

Source: <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov>

Pioneer Sam Adams lived at Sabbath Day Point. He had applied and received a land grant from the British Crown. In the words of Hague Historian Clifton West, "Perhaps Sam Adams's "House of Entertainment" existed as far back as 1764. This "boarding house" was later expanded to be the Sabbath Day Point House and was run by the Carney family for 57 years.

Wardboro aka Wardsboro

Wardboro is in the Northwest Bay Valley, about eight miles north of Bolton Landing. It was once a productive farming settlement presumably named for the Ward family. Fifteen headstones in the cemetery are carved with the Ward family name. Sextons, Merrills and Dalrymples from Hague settled there, too. The farmers in Wardboro marketed maple sugar, potatoes, dairy products and lumber to neighbors in Bolton and Hague.

Dates of burials are between 1842 and 1909. The Civil War years intervened.

Rogers Rock aka Rogers Slide

Rogers Rock was first known as Rogers Slide. Quoting the late Hague historian Clifton West: "In 1758 General Abercrombie landed at Sabbath Day Point with 15,000 men and the following year, General Amherst landed there with 12,000 men. Both were on their way to battles at Fort Ticonderoga. Major Robert Rogers's famous escape from the Indians by sliding down a rock precipice, took place in the northern most corner of the Town of Hague, where Rogers Rock Campsite is now located."

Major Robert Rogers took part in that ill-fated battle in the fierce winter of March 1785 which has the romantic name of the "Battle of the Snowshoes." But it was a total massacre. Scalps were taken on both sides. The majority of Rogers's Rangers were slain during the night at their campsite in **Trout Brook Valley**. How Robert Rogers escaped from the Indians who chased him to the summit of Rogers Rock is part of Hague's folklore. The British at Fort Ti were badly defeated by the French and Indians. Rogers is supposed to have slid down the snow-covered rock slide. Oddly, Robert Rogers didn't record his daring feat in his diary. Nor has any mention of it been documented elsewhere to substantiate it. Major Rogers did, most likely, slide his supply sack down the bare rock face where these days, rock climbers can be seen in the summers hanging on to their ropes to ascend to the top. From the bottom of the lake's edge, Robert Rogers did in fact, walk to safety southward on the frozen water towards **Fort Edward**. The Indians didn't pursue him further. The story is that when the Indians saw him walking on the ice uninjured, they thought they had been chasing a devil or else that he was being protected by the Great Spirit and they let him go.

Silver Bay

Silver Bay and its 400 acres of buildings and lakefront began its existence as “The Silver Bay Association for Christian Conference and Training” in 1902. The resort owned about one-half acre of lakefront and included about 400 acres of land and buildings. Silas Paine bought the Silver Bay Hotel in 1899 operated it until 1902. By 1913 the resort held conferences for the Young Men’s Christian Association and Young Women’s Christian Association (YMCA and YWCA) and The Missionary Education Movement.

– source: S.R. Stoddard, *Lake George Illustrated* 1913. p. 101.

Today the resort is known as The YMCA of the Adirondacks.

Garfield’s - Phoenix Hotel-Beachside

Garfield’s was one of the oldest hotels on Lake George. It burned several times, and rose out of the ashes as the Phoenix hotel in 1863. It burned again and became the Beachside in 1958.

In a 1907 Brochure about Lake George,

The visitor will remember the locality of Garfield’s—one of the oldest and most esteemed summer camps. Judge Garfield would seem to have an intimate acquaintance with every deer on the hillside, and with every trout in the waters, so habitually are these gentry found at his luxurious table.

In Seneca Ray Stoddard’s 1888 edition of his *Lake George Illustrated* and *Lake Champlain* he cites four of Hague’s Hotels—the Phoenix, Hillside, Trout House and Island Harbor. He describes the Phoenix, the hotel which was first called Garfield’s before it burned down and was renamed Phoenix.

3-story building seen a little way north of the steamboat landing. The house can accommodate fifty, comfortably. A level grassy lawn stretches from the house out to the sandy beach along the waterfront. A new proprietor will greet old friends here, in the person of K.A. Miller, assisted by C.B. Pease, a thoroughly efficient and experienced hotelman, as manager. The house has been newly furnished throughout, and is bright and clean as a new button. The beds are first class; the table exceptionally nice and inviting.

– from S.R. Stoddard-1888

Before it became the Phoenix, historian Francis Parkman wrote in his diary in 1842 about man (White) who wanted to pay for the repair of a broken oar with "out of town" money. (1842 each state still had its own currency; exchange rates were complex, and counterfeiting abounded.)

Returned to Garfield's and found there Mr. Gibbs, with his wife the "vocalist." Presently a man appeared with the oar finished. White undertook to pay him with a Naumkeak Bank bill, the only bills he had.

"Don't know nothing about that money. Wait till Garfield comes, and he'll tell whether it's genuine or not."

"There's the paper, said I. "Look and see." He looked. All was right.

"Well, are you satisfied?"

"How do I know but what that ere bill is counterfeit? It has a sort of counterfeit look about it to my eyes. Deacon, what do you say to it?" The deacon put on his spectacles, held the bill to the light, turned it this way and that, tasted it, and finally pronounced that, according to his calculation, it was good. But the carpenter was not contented.

"Bijah, you're a judge of bills. What do you think?"

Bijah, after a long examination, gave his opinion that it was counterfeit. All parties were beginning to wax wroth [wrathfully], when the Judge [Judge Garfield] and decided that the bill was good.