

PEOPLE OF HAGUE

Jack Henry

(Part II)

III. The Early Visitors 1830-1870

Population 610-708

(A) In 1836 Harriet Martineau said, 'Everyone who has heard of American scenery has heard of Lake George. What a wealth of beauty is there here for residents still unborn.'

(B) This was the era of the 'big lumberman', those who cleared the 200 foot pines, who planted nothing, who left little behind. Those people did what they thought was right to make money and then move on.

In 1860 Hoyt and Ackerman were the big lumbermen. 10 000 logs were sent to the mills in Ticonderoga. The Watrous family of Glens Falls also played an important role in lumber. After the civil war the cry changed from 'cut the trees' to 'save the trees'.

(C) Hunting and fishing were great sports. They came from Boston and New York. Life was casual but gradually changing. I quote 'The day is coming when all is going to be one vast boarding house. You can still go to dinner in a flannel shirt but as the snobby New Yorker and his snobbier wife turn up, the old set fades away.'

(D) Many of the visitors of this period came from Saratoga, even then famous for its springs and races. There the gentlemen became bored with billiards, tired of poker games and sick of sipping water three times daily. They welcomed a trip to Lake George-many may have stopped at The Hague Tavern.

(E) Without trains, lacking automobiles, the people needed and depended on steamboats.

In 1817 the James Caldwell was built. Twelve others have followed her.

On July 29 1856 the John Jay started to burn near Waltonian Is. and later sank at Calamity Rock. Six lives were lost. They were the only lives lost in Lake George steamboating.

IV. The Gilded Years 1870-1920

Population 807-1028

(A) Lake George had 13 steamboats from 1817 to 1939. The Horicon II built in 1910 became The Showboat before being burned for scrap in 1939. These boats made possible the development of 13 hotels in Hague.

The hotels were (with proprietors and capacities)

Sabbath Day Point House - Franklin E. Carney - 50

Bartlett House-Henry E. Bartlett  
Hawkeye Inn(later Mohican House)-  
Smith Sexton-80

Uncas-George Marshall - 75

Silver Bay Silas Paine-200

Phoenix Hotel-Frank A. Snow-50

Hillside Hotel-John McClanathan-

75

The Iroquois-E.T.Wilcox-50

Trout House-R.J.Bolton-80

Rising House-B.A.Rising-65

Island Harbor House-A.C.Clifton-  
50

Pinehurst and Ledgewood House, these two probably about where Indian Kettles is now.

(B) Alfred C. Clifton fought in the civil war as a drummer boy. He was captured and spent several months in Libby prison before escaping through a tunnel. He later did extensive guide work in the Adirondack forest. In 1868

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he ran the Larabees Point Ferry. In 1882 he bought the Island Harbor House property from Kilbourne Miller. Mr. Clifton's roaring "By Mighty" was famous.

1. The hotel opened on May 19, 1883. The first four guests were from Boston—L.W. Lawton, Joseph W. Cooledge, John S. Loring and Augustus Flagg.

2. My grandfather, J. Buchanan Henry, stayed there on August 28, 1883. On June 23, 1888 he stayed there with my father and three of his brothers.

3. Others who stayed in those early days were: The Robinsons of Staten Island, the Weed Family of Savannah and Mr. & Mrs. Harry William Watrous of New York on August 30, 1889. S.R. Stoddard of Glens Falls and Smith Sexton of Syracuse also were guests.

(C) Col. William D'Alton Mann (1839-1920) was born in Sandusky, Ohio. A soldier, inventor and editor, he joined the Michigan Cavalry as a captain in 1861 and later became a colonel.

In 1867 he settled in Mobile, formed three papers into The Register and ran for election as a Democrat. He won the election but the Federalists would not let him serve.

In 1891 he became editor of Town Topics and The Smart Set both financed with unwilling 5 figure sums furnished by prominent New Yorkers.

He had a summer house first up on Waltonian Island until the state made him move it to the mainland in 1917.

(D) Harry William Watrous of New York was a painter, future president of the National Academy of Design, fisherman and raconteur.

Col. Mann had a 30 lb. wooden trout that he used to display for Watrous to see.

To get even, Watrous developed his famous "monster" which he installed in the lake in front of his place.

(The Jack Henrys have a colorful drawing of this monster and the original is on display at the Lake George Institute of History, Art and Science at The Old Courthouse in Lake George Village.)

(E) There was a most amusing article in The New York Evening Sun on June 28, 1904, written by Acton Davies, the drama critic. It indicates that all was not dull and boring in this era. I quote:

"The heroic rescue by Paymaster H.E. Jewett (of the Kentucky) of Mrs. Frank M. Bates the dowager actress who, in her younger days, was known as the most famous Juliet of the Pacific Slope but to later day audiences is known as the mother of that brilliant young star, Miss Blanch Bates

Mrs. Bates was so excited by the appearance of the monster, some thirty yards away from the launch in which she was a passenger that she leaped into the lake. Paymaster Jewett sprang after her and, seizing her gallantly but somewhat peremptorily by her nearest leg, towed her into shallow water."

He goes on to speak of the party they had been attending (at Mann's, I think).

"The refreshments at this party had consisted entirely of cold tea, Albert biscuits and lemonade. So there was no possibility of the imagination of the spectators having been in any way heightened or illuminated at the time.

(F) Graphite: Samuel Ackerman discovered graphite while plowing on Round Mountain in West Hague during 1877. The first mill was built in 1888. It burned in 1891. The second mill gave Hague its industrial boom during the years from 1891-1921. Population boomed 21.498%. Wilford Ross' book Graphite makes it seem like a happy life led rather grandly by Thom as Lonergan who must have been a good personnel man. Prominent

## PEOPLE OF HAGUE cont.

names connected with the mine were:

Russell, Scripture, Duell, Rob-olee, McCoy, Nelson Porter, Ernest DeLarm, Fletcher Beadnell and Joe Pelkey.

## V. The Roaring Twenties 1920-30 Population 1028-741

(A) Automobiles appeared in an increasing quantity. Unknowingly they forecast the death of the steamboats except for tours, and the death of the hotels as a key way of life.

The closing of Graphite Mine also contributed to decrease in the population.

(B) I remember well sleeping on the back porch of the Henry Cottage at the Island Harbor House and waking to hear car after car careening through with their loads of bootleg whiskey.

(C) The days of the Hague regatta were gay with the competition between Henry and Moore, Reis and Moore, Spear and Moore! They were exciting but nearly as extinct as the steamboats.

(D) We did not think we were 'snobby', but the flannel shirt was not the common garb.

(E) Roscoe Slack bought the old Lake George Country Club property at Indian Kettles and sought to sell it in lots. Some were sold but it was then too close to 1930.

(F) Many men were prominent in my boyish eye: Will Keenan the storekeeper, Reuben Haskins, the driver; Pete Barnett, the master stonemason; Adrian Davis, the master mechanic; Leroy Scott who trained Adrian Davis; Brayton Baldwin, the carpenter.

(This is part two of a three part article, researched by Mr. Henry for The Historical Society. List of sources available on request.)

## TOWN BOARD

Town budget has been adjusted downward as a result of Federal monies made available to the County as a high unemployment area. Lower county taxes means lower town taxes and expected increase in Hague taxes will therefore be less than 75¢ per thousand.

Tax exemption for businesses with construction costs over \$10 000. was discussed and will be studied further. This proposal has been opposed by Warren Co. Board of Supervisors, several other towns and our School Board because it increases the tax burden on wage earners and middle income families.

Dec. 28 bids will be let for new snow plow--dump truck. And re-bids for gravel.

Contract awarded T & T Sales Corporation of Latham, NY for tail-gate sander.

Town will now use services of Lake George Park Commission for sewer inspections. Herbert Belknap resigned as Sanitation Inspector.

Harry White was given permission to attend NY State Assessors Convention at Grossingers. He is Chairman of our Board of Assessors.

Warren County Bicentennial committee will present a Colonial Uniform, a maple tree and a bronze plaque--commemorating the bicentennial--in a ceremony at the public beach on Fri. Dec. 17.

Mr. W. Keith DeLarm will accept for the town. The uniform will be displayed in the Town Hall. The tree will be planted in the public beach area and the plaque will be imbedded in cement this spring.

Ski Tow will be operative for Christmas vacation and thereafter.

Mrs. Malcolm Grimes Sr. has been advised by the Lake George Park Comm. and Town Supervisor that they will need permit from the town to install motor homes court.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is edited and published monthly by H. Virginia Shattuck Holman Hill Hague NY. It is supported by civic minded citizens and local organizations mimeographed by Silver Bay Association as a public service and news items are solicited.

PLANNING BOARD Edward H. Crabbs Chairman reports that a Zoning Ordinance for the town of Hague will be presented to the Town Board on Dec. 28.

A public hearing will then be announced and copies will be made available to the public before the hearing.

This represents many hours of meetings and study on the part of our Planning Board. Mr. Crabbs, John Carney, Norman Strum, Alfred Zeese (alternate Everett Lee), William Cobb--Town Board liason man and Keith DeLarm ex-officio as Town Supervisor have been working with William Davidson the Director of Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board.

Tentative plans and maps were made by Adirondack Park Agency on basis of geography. These were submitted to the towns who in turn made corrections based on knowledge and study of actual conditions in each town. Mr. Davidson would then forward them to APA for approval. For example in October Mr. D. had submitted a revised map to Mr. Gregg Hill of APA and was advised that three sections of our town exceeded the density allowed by APA and it would be necessary to file for map amendments. This will be done.

In the meantime, the plans for our town's zoning ordinance have been worked through and will go to the Town Board etc.

CHOICE Keep Hague beautiful clean & quiet or squander our chief assets in fast buck projects? Let the Board know what you think.

Letters are tabulated by Keith DeLarm for presentation at Board Meetings or Public Hearings.

#### ADRA SEERUP

Mrs. Emil Seerup is very much a person in her own right. With the instincts of a good teacher she shares her knowledge and skills freely and likes to bring out the best in others.

Mrs. Margaret Neilson made some notes for us:

She grew up in Oak Park, Ill. graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School then attended The Art Institute in Chicago.

Taught ceramics and oil painting in Port Washington Long Island, N.Y.

Was a volunteer worker at the Sands Point Nursing Home in Port Washington where she headed the Arts and Crafts Department for three years.

In Hague she has run the Hague Arts Fair since it started four years ago.

Chairman of the Mohican Chapter of the Home Bureau in Hague for three years and chairman of the Warren County Home Bureaus for two years. Also on the County Executive Craft Committee for five years and advisor to the county chairman.

Bowls with the Adirondack mixed couples league and a summer league.

Is an artist and paints in all media.

Assists at Silver Bay Association, teaching Arts and Crafts and acting as hostess in the dining room when needed.

Mrs. Wallace Hamilton writes

...She already has a fine purpose and makes a real contribution with her mind and hands in all the beautiful things God has given her the talent to make which make other people happy.'

Busy with three children, a home and her arts and crafts work Adra did not travel with Emil very often but in 1976 they sailed on the Kungsholm to Europe and the Scandinavian countries visiting Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Spain, and Portugal. They were unable to land in the Azores because of a hurricane!

Everyone is delighted to know that she plans to stay in Silver Bay except for short trips to visit friends and relatives.

Son Galen gets home often, for weekends, from Plattsburg University where his major is in biology. She keeps in close touch with Maren and Darryl by phone, letter and holiday visits.

Her paintings, in oil on canvas and Lake George scenes in oil on wooden shingles are selling at twice the value she placed on them, in the gift shop in Aviation Mall, the Adventure Inn in Schroon Lake and from her home.

Adra says she is staying in this area because she likes living on The Lake. "It is always changing, never the same scene and all of them beautiful."

And she has "so many friends here." She likes the combination of friendliness and independent spirit she finds in the people and, in the summer, she enjoys the activities at Silver Bay Association and the many friends she has made there in the past twenty years.

BILL MORGAN'S PARENTS Mary and George Morgan of Bolton Landing, driving south with their daughter Mary Burry, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, were struck by a northbound car driving to the left of pavement markings. Mrs Morgan died in the Glens Falls Hospital later that day. Mr. Morgan has left hip and pelvis injuries. Mrs. Burry is also reported in serious condition with multiple injuries.

Mrs. Morgan is also survived by another son, George Jr of Cleveland, Ohio and a sister, Evelyn Clements of Cleveland. (Nov. 23)

J. FLOYD McTYIER just celebrated his 96th birthday and is looking forward to his own Centennial in three years.

He writes that he is in excellent health and enjoying his home and friends in Leisure Manor, retirement residence for the young at heart, in St. Petersburg.

MR. LOUIS SPELMAN, SR. at age 90. had recently survived a heart attack but expired on Nov. 23 at Community Hospital in San Bernardino, Calif. where he had been spending the winter months with his son Wallace.

He was well known to most of our readers. Mr. Seerup told his full story in the Dec. 1974 issue of The Chronicle.

He came to this country from Germany. Starting at age 16. in a bakery in Syracuse, he moved to New Rochelle worked as maintenance man in New York City and took courses in construction work and other sciences.

He was discovered by Silas H. Paine became Superintendent of grounds and buildings for Silver Bay Association and taught algebra, chemistry, physics, general science and supervised theory and practice in construction at the Silver Bay Boy's Prep School.

He arranged summer rentals designed and constructed several houses and in 1958 became a licensed real estate broker.

He was active in The Hague Baptist Church, the Mount Defiance Masonic Lodge and the Mohican Council of Boy Scouts of America.

He is survived by a daughter Mrs. Katherine Proctor of West Hartford, Conn. four sons-- Irving L. of Morristown N.J., Wallace R. and Dr. George M. both of San Bernardino. Louis Jr. of Silver Bay--ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

An additional memorial service is planned for July 20 at the Silver Bay Chapel.

Memorial gifts are being made to Mohican Council of Boy Scouts or to Silver Bay Association.

ANNUAL FORMAL TEA FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS held by The Ticonderoga College Club at the home of Mrs. Gerald Lawson was attended by Debbie Bly and Valerie May of Hague High School in Nov.

HAGUE CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Residents interested in filling the position of Board Member, resigned by Mrs. Shirley Smith in November please contact any board member.

First Quarter High Honors: Richard Strum 92% Bonnie Thibault 91% Colleen Goetsch, 90% Kathleen Hudak, 90% Michael Streeter, 90%.

Annual Christmas Concert to be held in school auditorium Dec. 20. Two bands, several choral groups and Miss Julie Frasier vocal soloist under Mrs. Laura Meade.

Annual November 'Open House' was well attended. Refreshments by Jane Fitzgerald and Mary Beadnell were 'excellent'.

Basketball season is underway. Linda Fish and Laura Riley are proud of their cheerleaders. Games at Hague Dec 21, Jan 14 25, 28, Feb 8 and 11.

FOUR BIG WEEK-ENDS PLANNED FOR GREATER LAKE GEORGE WINTER

CARNIVAL Events include: Carnival Dinner and Coronation of Carnival Queen -- Jan 29  
Carnival Parade -- Jan 30  
Snow and Ice Sculpture Competition -- Jan 29

For Snowmobiles:

Races at Bolton Landing -- Jan 30  
Feb 6, 13 & 20  
Demonstration Race -- Feb 5  
Chambers of Commerce Race with \$5000 guaranteed purse -- Feb. 12  
Ride-in Twilight Parade -- Feb. 11 and 19th.

Ride In Sunrise Ride - Feb 12 and 19th  
Ride-In - Feb 12  
Snowmobile Water Jump -- Feb 12 and 19th  
Torchlight Parade - Feb 12 & 20  
Snowmobile Raffle Feb. 20  
Sky Diving Exhibitions -- Feb 5, 6, 12 and 13th  
Delta Wing Kites - Feb 5 6 12 13 19 and 20th  
U.S. Army Helicopter Demonstrations Feb 5 6 12 13 19 & 20th  
Children's Olympics (ages 5 12) games and prizes - Jan 30  
Junior Fishing Contest - Jan 29  
23 Day Fishing Contest: Starts Jan 29. Prizes awarded Feb. 20  
Motorcycle Ice Races (Trophies) Feb 5&6  
Polar Bear Club Feb 5 12 & 19th  
Musket Shoots Feb 5 6 12 13 19 & 20th  
Dog Teams -- Feb 5 6 12 13 19 & 20  
Sports Car Races - Feb 12 & 13  
Model Airplane Demonstration Feb 12 & 13th  
Dance for all visitors Feb 12  
Fireworks Feb 12 & 20  
4-Wheel Drive Races -- Feb 19 & 20  
Rogers Ranger Run -- Feb 19  
Polar Ice Cap Golf Tournament Feb 19  
Cross Country Ski Competition Feb 19  
Snowshoe Races - Feb 20  
All events free to spectators.  
24 HOUR SNOW PHONE FOR WARREN COUNTY Snow conditions on slopes trails and roads. Events planned or postponed and cite changes.  
Dial 1 and (518) 793-1300.

H. Virginia Shattuck Box 16  
Hague, N.Y. 12836  
(address correction requested)

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
7.5¢ PAID  
Silver Bay, NY  
Permit #3

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!