The St. Lawrence County Historical Association

QUARTERLY

Volume LXVII · Number 2 · **SUMMER 2023**

FEATURED ARTICLES

The History of the Greater Horseshoe Lake Landscape Part Two: Recreational Development and Rewilding

Matthew M. Thomas and Mary Kunzler-Larmann

Introduction

One of the most popular canoe and kayak routes in the north central Adirondacks sees paddlers traveling from the Lower Dam of the Bog River near Horseshoe Lake, up the Bog River to Hitchins Pond and over the Upper Dam and into Low's Lake in southeastern St. Lawrence County. It is a beautiful and seemingly unspoiled, natural stretch of water that is easy to access. After years of rewilding, it is easy to overlook the reasons for the ease of access to this region, namely the preceding decades of industrial and recreational development by Abbot Augustus (A.A.) Low, Sr. and those who came after him.

As the second of a two-part series, this article traces the history of the many individuals, groups, and organizations that owned, occupied, modified, and enjoyed the forested lands around Horseshoe Lake and the Bog River corridor following the demise of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company in 1910 and the death of its owner, A.A. Low, Sr. in 1912. The first part of this article, published in the Spring 2023 edition of The St. Lawrence County Historical Association 's *The Quarterly*, traced the settlement and industrialization of these lands by A.A. Low, Sr.

In this article, the names of the geographic locations of the lake and settlement of Horseshoe are spelled as one word consistent with most recent naming conventions, despite the earlier name of Horse Shoe Lake and Horse Shoe Pond being written as two words. When referring to the Horse Shoe Forestry Company, it is always written as two words in following with the formal name of the company as designated and trademarked by A.A. Low, Sr.

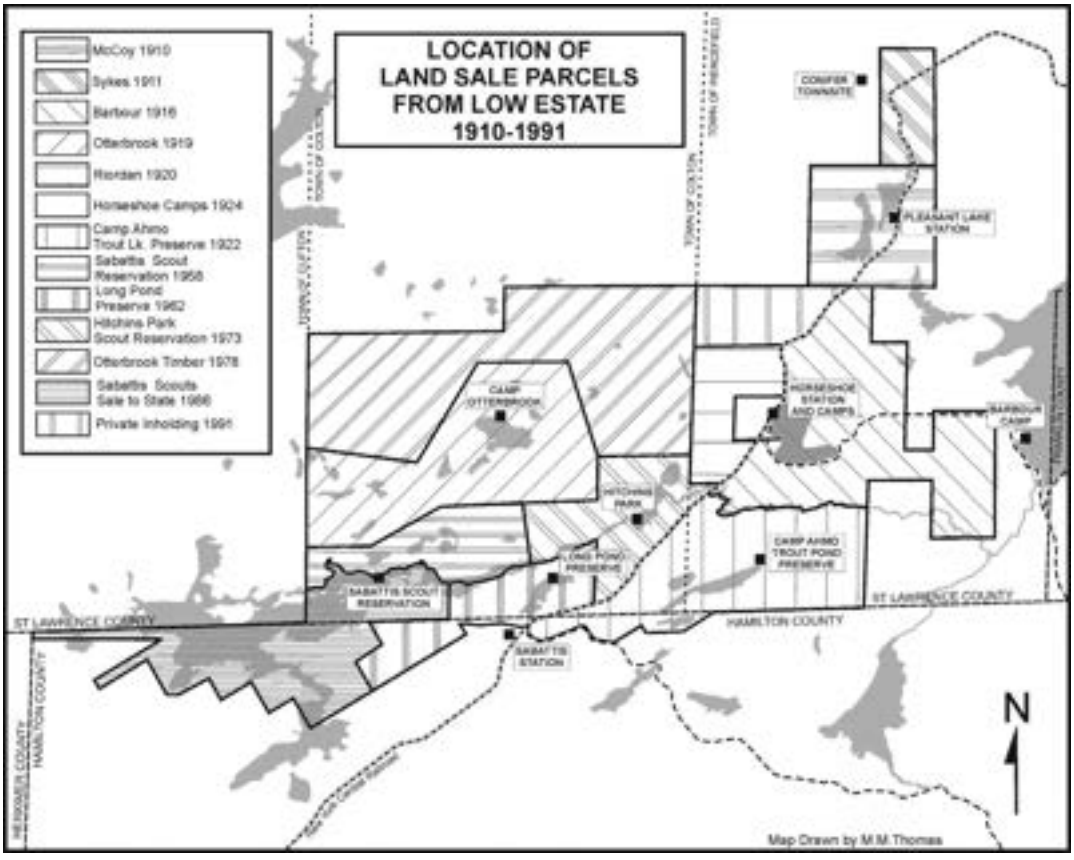


Figure 1. Parcels of Low estate sold over the course of the twentieth century. Map drawn by author.

Figure 2. Horseshoe Station, later named American Legion, circa 1950. Note the automobile and one of the Legion Camp Hill cottages in the background. Courtesy of John Taibi.

Dismantling and Dispossession

Following the devastating fires of 1908 that destroyed thousands of acres of forested lands, followed by the subsequent liquidation of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company and the death of A.A. Low, Sr., his wife, Marian Low, and their children began a process of dismantling the industrial features of the Horseshoe landscape and offered large sections of their Horseshoe estate for sale as private recreational camps *(Figure 1*). Equipment and machinery from the various lumber and wood processing mills of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company were sold and repurposed at new mill sites in the region. By 1920, the locomotives, rolling stock, and even the rails of A.A. Low, Sr.'s private railroad had all been sold and removed. With the sale and removal of the iron rails for reuse or scrap, the branches of the private railroad network were converted to unpaved wagon roads and truck roads, many of which continue to be maintained to this day as the primary automobile routes through the greater Horseshoe landscape. Less is known about the fate of much of the equipment from Low, Sr.'s five large maple syrup making plants. At least one of his enormous maple syrup evaporators was sold and reused at the Girard sugarbush near the former town of Griffin, New York, and hundreds if not thousands of the custom-made metal sap pails and covers found new homes in other sugarbushes around the northern Adirondacks.[1]

The settlement at Horseshoe was largely abandoned and unoccupied through the 19-teens. The New York Central Railroad continued to stop at the Horseshoe Station to accommodate the needs of outdoorsmen and families with private camps, such as the Low's camp at Lake Marian and the Barbour's at Tupper Lake *(Figure 2)*. Industrial activity and work in the woods had largely ceased, and the scores of Horse Shoe Forestry Company employees had moved elsewhere, never to return. During the years that the Horse Shoe Forestry Company operated in full force (1897-1908), census data tell us the employees of the New York Central Railroad and their family members were the only residents at the Horseshoe settlement who were not employees of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company. These railroad company men and their families stayed in the Horse Shoe Forestry Company boarding house or in one of the individual family cottages. With the closing of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company and its boarding house, the railroad station agent and caretaker likely continued to occupy one or two of the cottages in the settlement. Later, sale of the land and buildings at the Horseshoe settlement forced the railroad to provide housing of its own, and in 1922, two small bungalow-style cottages were built on the west side of the New York Central tracks just south of the Horseshoe station. One house was for the station agent and the other for the section foreman. One of these bungalows still stands, abandoned and in disrepair.[2]

Under the ownership of A.A. Low, Sr, very little logging activity happened in the forests of his estate, despite naming his endeavor a Forestry Company. After his death and the sale of his mill buildings, the Low family began selling the rights to cut timber in large tracts in the northern portions of the estate *(Figure 3)*. The sale of the 45,000-acre Low family estate occurred in two phases. Beginning in the 19-teens and 1920s, lands in the northern portion of the estate were sold. These lands encompassed Horseshoe Lake, Pleasant Lake (now Mt. Arab Lake), Long Pond (now Eagle Crag Lake), Lake Marian, and Big Trout Pond. From the late 1950s into the early 1970s, a later phase of land sales occurred in the southern portion of the estate around Hitchins Pond, Low's Lake, Bog River, and Long Pond near the hamlet of Sabattis. Following this pattern of land sales, the story of what became of these places is presented here, divided by the north and the south sectors of the estate. Within these two phases of land sales, the evolution of each area is described here in roughly chronological order.

Figure 3. Railroad logging at Low estate late 19-teens. Courtesy of private album.

Northern Lands in the Low Family Estate

The earliest sale of Low family lands was to George A. McCoy in 1910. It was for lands along the New York Central Railroad and surrounding Pleasant Lake (today's Mt. Arab Lake) and Long Pond (later called Longfellow Pond and today Eagle Crag Lake) immediately north of the Horseshoe settlement. This was followed by the sale of lands to Colonel William A. Barbour to the north, south and east of Horseshoe Lake. Additional parcels at Horseshoe Lake were developed in the 1920s as summer youth camps. Land on the west side of Horseshoe Lake, including much of the settlement around Horseshoe Station, was sold and the Riordan Wilderness Camp created in 1920 while property around Big Trout Pond was sold for the construction of Camp Ahmo in 1922.

Mt. Arab Preserve at Pleasant Lake

George A. McCoy, a lumberman and former superintendent with International Paper out of Tupper Lake, purchased over 2,400 acres from the Low estate in 1910 and, in conjunction with his son Clarence M. McCoy, established a private camp and land development called the Mt. Arab Preserve. At this time, McCoy purchased timber rights from Low, Sr. on 12,000 acres in the northern portion of the Low estate. McCoy also established a sawmill at Dead Creek near Childwold Station, a location that would later become the community of Conifer.[3] Under McCoy's ownership, a private station *(Figure 4)* was built alongside the New York Central Railroad, and the lands were subdivided for sale into lots lining the shores of Pleasant Lake and Long Pond. In 1915, George A. McCoy and his son purchased from the Low estate the mill building that stood near the Horseshoe Station, moved it to Pleasant Lake and started a novelty wood milling business.[4] George A. McCoy died in 1917, and his son sold the Mt. Arab Preserve in 1921, after which additional lots were sold and many individual recreational camps were established.[5]

Figure 4. Pleasant Lake Station built by George McCoy in 1911. Name later changed to Mt. Arab Station in 1922 to eliminate confusion with the village of Mt. Pleasant in Hamilton County. Courtesy of John Taibi.

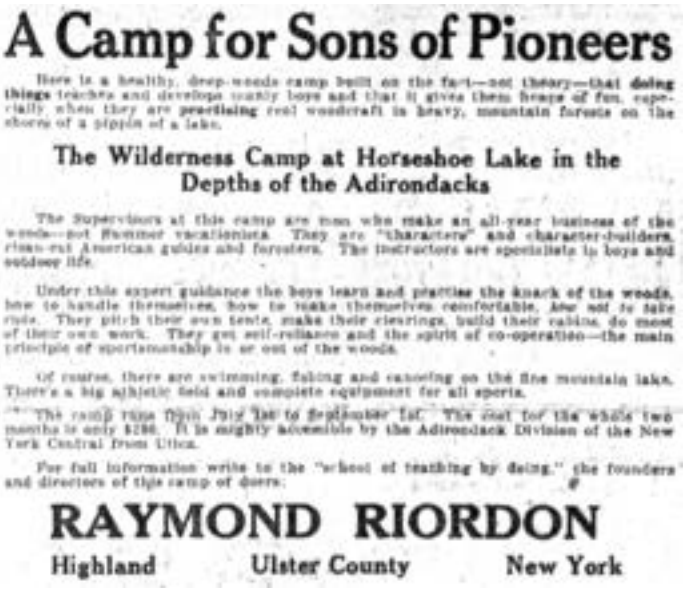
Before his death and as part of the liquidation of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company, A.A. Low, Sr. also sold 1,000 acres of his lands to the north of Pleasant Lake to William Sykes and the Emporium Forestry Company in January 1911. These lands were located along both sides of the New York Central Railroad, immediately east of the future location of Emporium Forestry's mill town of Conifer. The month before the sale of land to Sykes, Low, Sr. had sold Sykes most of the machines and equipment from his mills at Bog River and the Horseshoe settlement. They were added to the smaller mill started at Conifer by McCoy, forming the core of Emporium's substantial Conifer mill site.[6]

Barbour Estate

Beginning in the 1890s, Colonel William A. Barbour established a sprawling private camp at Paradise Point on the southwestern shores of Tupper Lake at the former location of the Tupper Lake House, a popular hotel that burned in 1894. At the time the Tupper Lake House burned, it was owned by a group of men from New York City who referred to themselves as the Lakeside Club, of which Colonel Barbour's father Thomas Barbour was a member. Following the destruction of the hotel and the club's private buildings, Thomas Barbour bought out the interests of other club members. Over the following decades, under the direction of his son, Colonel Barbour, the camp grew in size and sophistication. Barbour was able to substantially expand his holdings in 1916 when he purchased from Marian Low thousands of acres between Horseshoe Lake and Barbour's adjacent estate. Barbour's purchase included the former location of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company's Wake Robin maple syrup plant. In addition, with the closing of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company and the coming changes in ownership of the lands around the Horseshoe Station, Colonel Barbour wisely secured a right of way for a private road connecting his estate on Tupper Lake to the Horseshoe Station. This was a time when automobiles were a novelty, State Route 30 had yet to be built, and travel by railroad was quicker and easier than traversing rough and primitive wagon roads.[7]

With the death of Colonel Barbour in 1917, his family sold 13,190 acres of land, of which approximately a third came from the Low estate, to the State of New York for $150,000.[8] The Barbour camps at Paradise Point, Warren Point, and Fox Hall Farm on the shore of Tupper Lake were sold in 1922 to the American Legion at a cost of $85,000 and a convalescent and recreational camp for World War I veterans was established. The sale of Barbour's Tupper Lake estate to the American Legion included his right of way and his private road to the Horseshoe Station, which became Legion property.[9] Before Barbour's ownership, a portion of this right of way was the Wake Robin branch of A.A. Low, Sr.'s private railroad and is now part of today's State Route 421, running along the south shore of Horseshoe Lake. Improvements to Barbour's wagon road made for automobile traffic were carried out in 1922 as a work project for the young men and boys at Riordan's Horseshoe Lake Wilderness Camp as described in the Tupper Lake newspaper:

> A short distance from the New York Central Railroad station was an abandoned logging railroad which made off towards the Barbour estate... this was utilized, the boys removing the old water soaked ties, filling in the troughs, digging out big rocks and building culverts...they operated a disc-harrow and scraper to make a properly graded and crowned road, and the one bridge which was required was undertaken by the ex-service men themselves and is now well along towards completion...the boys working on the road range from 10 to 19 years of age and will in fifteen working days have completed a job grown-ups said would not be possible.[10]



A Camp for Sons of Pioneers

Here is a healthy, deep-woods camp built on the fact—not theory—that doing things teaches and develops manly boys and that it gives them heaps of fun, especially when they are practising real woodcraft in heavy, mountain forests on the shores of a pippin of a lake.

The Wilderness Camp at Horseshoe Lake in the Depths of the Adirondacks

The Supervisors at this camp are men who make an all-year business of the woods—not Summer vacationists. They are "characters" and character-builders, first-rate American guides and foresters. The instructors are specialists in boys and outdoor life.

Under this expert guidance the boys learn and practise the knack of the woods, how to handle themselves, how to make themselves comfortable. How not to take risks. They pitch their own tents, make their clearings, build their cabins, do most of their own work. They get self-reliance and the spirit of co-operation—the main principle of sportsmanship is ar out of the woods.

Of course, there are swimming, fishing and canoeing on the fine mountain lake. There's a big athletic field and complete equipment for all sports.

The camp runs from July 1st to September 1st. The cost for the whole two months is only $200. It is mighty accessible by the Adirondack Division of the New York Central from Utica.

For full information write to the "school of teaching by doing," the founders and directors of this camp of doers.

RAYMOND RIORDON

Highland Ulster County New York

Figure 5. Riordan Wilderness Camp advertisement from April 1922 edition of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

Riordan Wilderness Camp at Horseshoe

Raymond Riordan, a noted educator, established the Raymond Riordan School, a private, non-traditional boarding school for boys in 1914. Located at Highland, New York in the Catskills near Poughkeepsie, the school focused on learned skills and a hands-on curriculum. In early 1920, Riordan purchased 3,000 acres at Horseshoe Lake from the Low estate, including the land and remaining buildings of the former Horseshoe settlement west of the New York Central rails, minus the railroad station. With this purchase, he opened "The Wilderness Camp" in July 1920 and advertised *(Figure 5)* it as "an unusual camp for red-blooded American boys" and "The Camp Dad Would Have Gone To." Riordan's camp was "designed especially for big boys and young men – boys who have 'seen them all' boys who are too old for make believe – who want the REAL in woods life, in adventure and in training." In addition, Riordan also advertised "The Clubhouse at Horseshoe Lake" as a private vacation rental complete with "excellent cuisine and good service."[11] In converting A.A. Low, Sr.'s Horseshoe settlement to a summer youth camp, Riordan began the transformation of the Horseshoe settlement from an industrial and farm work space to a recreational camp, adding and removing buildings and making various other improvements. However, the records of Riordan's years at the camp are spotty, and it is not clear what changes were made by Riordan and what changes were made by later owners and managers of camps at Horseshoe.

Camp Deer Trail at Horseshoe

Riordan's Wilderness Camp lasted a short four seasons and was sold in 1924 to Ruth Schonziet and Maurice Bernhardt, a future New York State Supreme Court Justice, who operated it as Camp Deer Trail, a summer camp for Jewish children. Like Riordan had done at Wilderness Camp, the owners and operators of Camp Deer Trail added a variety of amenities and made further improvements over the lifespan of the Camp. By the end of its duration, the camp had grown to "include rows of cottages for the guests' sleeping quarters, two dining halls, a community center, kitchens, quarters for the help, and barns, in addition to playing fields, tennis and handball courts, and riding trails." Camp Deer Trail operated for eight years before being sold to a group of three local men representing the S.C.L. Corporation - Frank Seigel, Andrew Callahan, and Joseph Leahy. Leahy was familiar with Horseshoe because of his work as the caretaker of Camp Deer Trail. In 1937, the S.C.L. Corporation sold the camp to a group from New York City who planned to operate a ranch-themed adult camp.[12]

Figure 6. Postcard for Horseshoe Lake Ranch. Private collection of the author.

Horseshoe Lake Ranch

Following the closure and sale of Camp Deer Trail, a new adult camp opened at Horseshoe, modeled on a western "dude ranch" theme and named Horseshoe Lake Ranch *(Figure 6)*. Operating in the 1940 and 1941 seasons, guests were invited to "Vacation in the Western Way – In the Heart of the Adirondacks". A stable of riding horses was brought to Horseshoe for guests to ride, no experience required, and a string of burros was available for pack trips into the backcountry. The "ranch" boasted additional amenities such as six clay tennis courts, a baseball diamond, areas for volleyball and badminton, beefsteak parties, hayrides, and all sorts of games and sporting tournaments. One summer, the ranch owners organized the American Cowboy Folk Festival as an attraction to bring guests to Horseshoe Lake.[13] Western-themed vacation camps were a very popular fad in New York and New England during the World War II years, with many similarly short-lived "dude ranches" advertised in regional and national magazines, offering affordable and "authentic" American holidays.

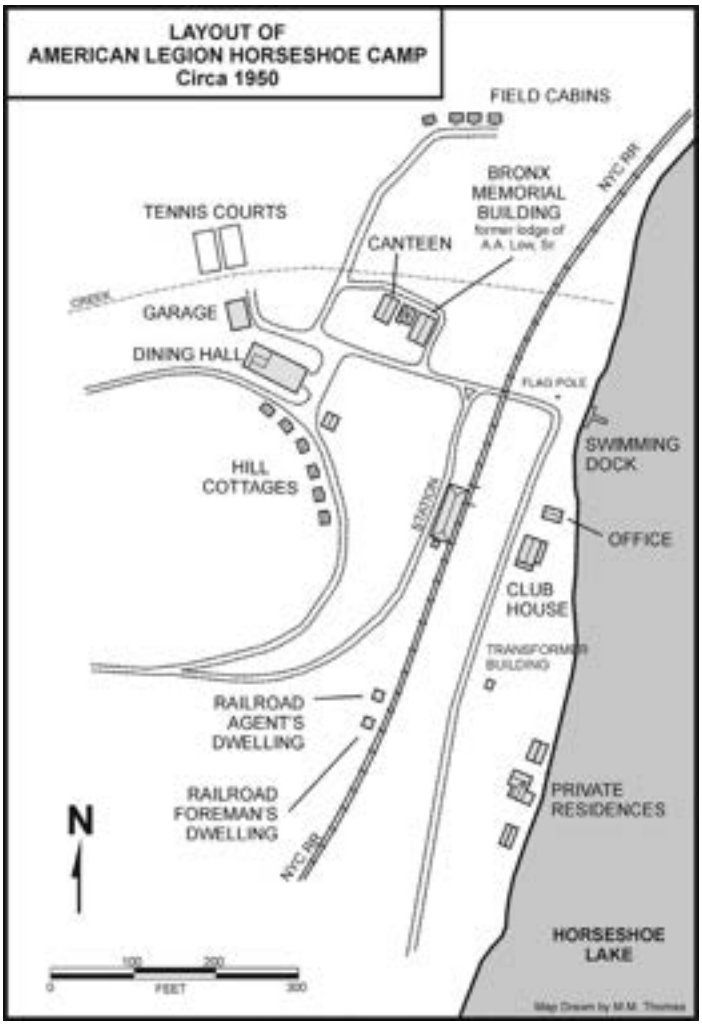


Figure 7. Layout of buildings at American Legion Horseshoe Lake Camp. Map drawn by author.

Figure 8. Canteen, laundry, and main building (former lodge of A.A. Low) at Horseshoe Lake Camp, circa 1956. Courtesy of Dwight Church Collections, St. Lawrence University.

American Legion Horseshoe Lake Camp

In 1944, the owners of the Horseshoe Lake Ranch sold their 227-acre western-style camp to the American Legion for $16,000. The American Legion Horseshoe Camp at Horseshoe Lake became an extension of the Legion's Tupper Lake Mountain Camp for convalescing sick and injured veterans. With acquisition of the land for the veteran's Horseshoe Lake Camp, improvements were made to the road (Barbour's old right-of-way; today's State Route 421) linking Paradise Point to the Horseshoe Station. Improvements involved bulldozing and blasting to smooth rough patches and installing new concrete bridges, including the scenic stone bridge at Bog River Falls. Additional upgrades were made to many of the structures and buildings built by the earlier summer camps at Horseshoe. On July 1, 1946, the Horseshoe Lake Camp opened to its first guests.[14] According to then-camp President, Colonel John J. Bennett, the primary purpose of the camp was to provide facilities for the care and recuperation of sick and injured patients with the cost of that care covered by revenue coming from paying recreational guests. Horseshoe Lake Camp was established with a thirty-bed hospital and accommodations for sixty recreational guests.

The American Legion acquisition at Horseshoe Lake consisted of twenty structures, including the original big house built by A.A. Low, Sr., and many smaller cabins and associated buildings built by the previous youth and adult summer camp operators. The layout of the Legion Camp at Horseshoe *(Figure 7)* included the main building or lodge, a laundry, a canteen, and a dining hall in a central core *(Figure 8)*, with small clusters of cottages up a short hill to the south *(Figure 9)*, another group of cabins across the field to the north, and the clubhouse and docks situated along the lakeshore to the east *(Figure 10)*. The New York Central Railroad Station still stood by the tracks running through the center of the camp; however, most camp guests now arrived by automobile, taking the newly improved road connecting the camp to Tupper Lake and Highway 30. Other amenities at the camp included a clubhouse, a barn and horses, tennis and handball courts, boats and canoes, and a swimming dock.

Figure 9. American Legion Horseshoe Lake Camp hill cottages, circa 1956. Courtesy of Dwight Church Collections, St. Lawrence University.

Many of the structures at the camp were "adopted" by various Legion posts from around the state whose members contributed funds for their maintenance and gave the cabins and administrative buildings names like the Richmond Cottage or the Johnson Canteen. In June 1954, the clubhouse/dining hall at Horseshoe Camp was destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning. In 1955, lightning struck again, this time at the camp laundry building, starting a fire that engulfed and destroyed the camp's adjacent main building. The three-story main camp building was A.A. Low, Sr.'s former lodge; it was used as the Legion camp's guest house and had enough rooms to accommodate twenty-five guests. A replacement structure, similar in size and appearance to the destroyed building was erected in place of the buildings lost in the fire.[15]

Following the first year of operation, the leadership of the Horseshoe Lake Camp successfully petitioned the Public Service Commission in March 1947 to change the name of the railroad station from Horseshoe to American Legion.[16] Despite immediate and easy access to the camp by rail, most visitors to the camp arrived by automobile. The New York Central Railroad soon after downgraded the station staffing from an agent

Figure 10. Aerial view of American Legion Horseshoe Lake Camp with railway station, lakeshore clubhouse, and field cottages in background, circa 1950. Courtesy of Dwight Church Collections, St. Lawrence University.

to a caretaker. Finding it difficult to retain a caretaker at the station, coupled with frequent vandalism and dwindling ridership, the New York Central and the Public Service Commission permanently retired the American Legion station in 1955. A short while later, the station was demolished by the railroad company and a small shelter erected for the protection of the occasional passenger.[17]

The New York Central Railroad tracks remain in place and have seen occasional traffic over the years, including regular use during the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid when special passenger train service from the New York metro area to the games was offered. From 2020 to 2022, with funding from the state, the non-profit Adirondack Railway Preservation Society, Inc. oversaw work to rehabilitate the tracks, ties, and grade along the former New York Central corridor, with expectations that recreational passenger trains will return to this section of the Adirondacks.

By the late 1950s, the number of patients and guests convalescing at Horseshoe Camp was in serious decline. Horseshoe Camp was scheduled to be closed for the 1960 season when major repairs were planned to Highway 421. With dropping interest and a low number of reservations for the 1961 season, the decision was made to close the American Legion Horseshoe Camp permanently, making 1959 the last season of operation.[18] In 1963, Legionnaires voted at their state convention to put the Horseshoe Lake Camp up for sale.[19]

A few years later, in 1966, the Legion transferred its right-of-way for State Route 421 to the state which resulted in the state reconstructing and repaving the road into Horseshoe Lake. The fishing and paddling community welcomed the improvements in access to the area and began using it in greater and greater numbers.[20] Likewise, the formal designation of new snowmobile trails further increased the recreational use of the area.[21] For much of the 1960s and early 1970s, the camp and buildings at the former Horseshoe settlement and Legion Camp were left unused and largely unattended. It was also during this time that the area around the south shore of Horseshoe Lake and along State Route 421 became known as a popular spot to view and sometimes feed black bears from the safety of one's automobile.[22]

Horseshoe Lake Recreation Area

James and Harriet Peck formed the Horseshoe Lake Recreation Development Corporation and purchased the American Legion Camp at Horseshoe Lake in 1972.[23] Operating as the Horseshoe Lake Recreation Area, it catered to locals and summer vacationers. In the summer months of 1973 and 1974, there was live music and dancing on the weekends, and a restaurant offered breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as drinks from the bar. In the fall, they welcomed hunters who rented their rustic cabins, and in winter months, they served the increasingly popular snowmobile routes.[24] The Peck family sold 225 acres of the Horseshoe Recreation Area to the state in 1978 while retaining a pair of small parcels on the west shore of Horseshoe Lake for their own use; it remains in private ownership to this day.[25]

In October 1979, following the purchase of the Horseshoe Lake Recreation Area lands from James and Harriet Peck, the state advertised for the sale and removal of the remaining structures at Horseshoe. Included in the sale list were thirteen buildings consisting of a caretaker's house, a pair of two-story dormitories, a mess hall, a pump house, a generator house, six small frame-built cabins, and a log cabin. It is not clear how successful the state's sale of the Horseshoe buildings was or if any were moved intact or dismantled and rebuilt at other locations. Some of the materials from buildings that were demolished at Horseshoe in 1979 were reused in the construction of a municipal building in Buckton, New York.[26]

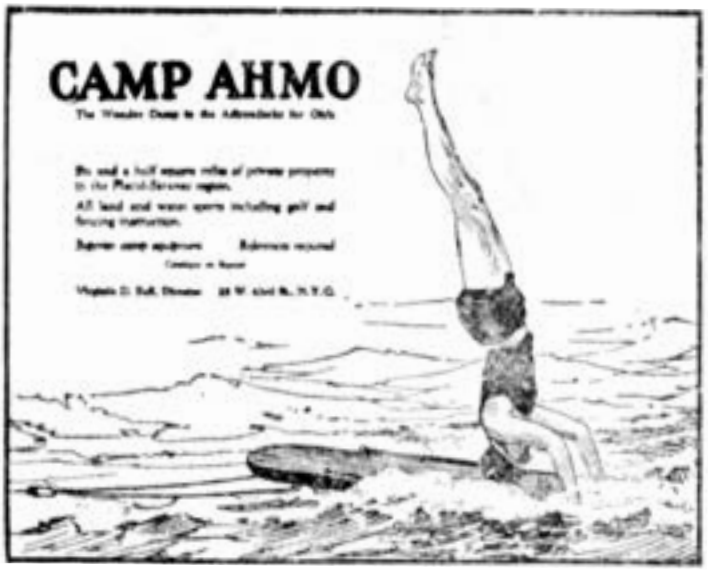


Figure 11. Camp Ahmo advertisement from the April 1924 Democrat and Chronicle.

Figure 12. Camp Ahmo on the shoreline of Trout Pond with cabins and dock for swimming and boating, circa 1923. Courtesy of private album.

Figure 13. Elevated plank walkway at Camp Ahmo, circa 1923. Courtesy of private album.

Camp Ahmo and the Big Trout Preserve

Among the many smaller camps and work sites developed by A.A. Low, Sr., one of the more picturesque and remote was a small cluster of cabins at the northeast end of Big Trout Pond, sometimes called Big Trout Lake or simply Trout Pond. As part of the efforts to sell off the Low estate, in 1919, the Low family advertised in the *New York Times* the sale of the Big Trout Preserve covering 4,000 acres and including Big Trout Pond, Little Trout Pond, and High Pond.[27]

The advertisements in *The New York Times* paid off, and in the autumn of 1922, for a sum of $80,000, Virginia Bell, the daughter of a New York City millionaire, purchased the land around Big Trout Pond with plans to establish a summer camp for girls. Bell expanded Low's simple camp facilities with additional cabins and recreational amenities. The following summer, Bell's *Camp Ahmo* welcomed its first campers *(Figure 11).*[28] This "wonder camp in the Adirondacks for girls" offered land and water sports, including riding, sailing, aquaplaning (waterskiing), and motor canoes *(Figure 12 and Figure 13)*. One author later described it as a progressive camp, stating that "with no rigid program to follow, the monotony of the usual camp life is a thing of the past."[29]

Even with its novel, laissez-faire approach, *Camp Ahmo* was only open for two summers. In 1925, Bell sold the land and camp with its nineteen buildings to a group of six men from New York City, including William Raymond, the son-in-law of A.A. Low, Sr. Referring to themselves as the Big Trout Lake Club and to the land as the Big Trout Preserve, the New Yorkers enjoyed the camp for another eight years *(Figure 14)*. In 1933, the 4,023-acre preserve was sold to the state with the acreage added to the Adirondack State Forest

Figure 14. Cabin at the Big Trout Lake camp with substantial high stone foundation that is still visible as ruins at the north end of Trout Pond, circa 1930. Courtesy of private album.

Preserve. The state removed the structures at the camp in keeping with the requirements of the wild forest classification as designated in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.[30] Nevertheless, one can still observe the stone foundations, the remains of cabins and other buildings at the north end of Big Trout Pond, most notably the still-standing large stone fireplace and chimney of the camp lodge.

Camp Otterbrook

One of the centerpieces of the Low estate was the family's Camp Marian retreat on the shore of Lake Marian. As early as 1917, the Low family began advertising the sale of "Wonderful Camp Marian," with 22,000 acres and 24 lakes and ponds, that was "ready for immediate occupancy." Despite the focus on the natural features of this tract, it was also the former location of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company's Pine Pond mill and the Grasse River and Little Pine Pond maple syrup plants. However, sale was not immediate, and the family continued to advertise its availability before agreeing to a sale in 1919.[31] The Low estate sold a block of over 14,000 contiguous acres surrounding Lake Marian to a group of six friends and businessmen who formed the Lake Marian Association, Inc. The shareholders in the group were Paul Moore, Sr. and George P. Smith of Convent, New Jersey; Peter H.B. Frelinghuysen and Wynant D. Vanderpool of Morristown, New Jersey; Bradford Brinton of Dixon, Illinois; and A.A. Low, Jr. It was agreed that should any of the men decide to relinquish their ownership, their shares would be sold to Paul Moore, Sr., an attorney and financier. By the end of 1923, the other members had sold their interests to Moore who then became the sole shareholder. He changed the name of the retreat from Camp Marian to Camp Otterbrook.[32]

In the hands of the Moore family, very little of the appearance and layout of the lakeside buildings has changed from the Low family era. The main camp complex consists of approximately twenty buildings with a row of small cabins, a boathouse, and a kitchen and dining hall lining the lakeshore, all connected by a wooden boardwalk. Behind this row of structures are a series of larger stand-alone guest cabins, with additional barns, work sheds, workers' cabins, and a recreation hall or "pleasure dome." A library cabin once stood to the west of the main complex but was destroyed by fire; only a stone foundation and large stone chimney remain. Located up the hill northeast of the main camp was a workers' camp and stable where stock and farm animals were kept. The buildings are primarily shingled and wood-sided. In the late 1890s, a small number of prefabricated cabins manufactured by the Ducker Portable House Company were added. Unlike many Great Camps in the Adirondacks, Camp Otterbrook lacked a central great lodge and, instead, was built on a dispersed plan with guest accommodations in individual units physically separate from the communal recreation, dining, and cooking spaces, albeit connected by a walkway. The owners of Camp Otterbrook also constructed and maintained a number of small boat houses on their many private lakes and ponds.

Paul Moore, Sr. died in 1959, passing control of Camp Otterbrook to his two children, Rev. Paul Moore, Jr. (later Bishop Moore) and Pauline Moore Nickerson, who together passed control to a family-held corporation, Camp Otterbrook, Inc., in 1973. The Moore family and their descendants continue to hold the camp in private ownership as they have done for the last one hundred years. In 1978, a 9,435-acre parcel known as the Otterbrook Tract was sold to the Otterbrook Timber Company, a subsidiary of Lyme Timber of Lyme, New Hampshire, for a reported $950,000. At roughly the same time in 1978, Camp Otterbrook, Inc. placed the remaining 4,686 acres of the estate under a conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy, preventing any further

development or timber harvest and preserving the wild nature of the forested lands.[33] The lands around Lake Marian and Camp Otterbrook itself continue to be privately-owned and are not part of the state-owned Forest Preserve of the Adirondack Park; the privacy of the owners should be respected by all.

Figure 15. Low Family lodge at Hitchins Park in 1922. Note the denuded hillside in the background decimated by fire of 1908. Courtesy of private album.

Through the 1980s, lands under Otterbrook Timber Company ownership were placed in active timber management, focusing on improving forest stands using selective logging that removed poor quality, diseased and over-mature trees, thus promoting maximum growth of primarily hardwoods like maple, cherry, and yellow birch.[34] After a little over ten years of ownership, Lyme Timber Company and their subsidiary Otterbrook Timber decided to sell the Otterbrook Tract. Following lengthy negotiations and some legal challenges, 7,573 acres of the Otterbrook Tract were sold to the state in 1991 through a purchase and conveyance by the Trust for Public Land.[35] These lands were added to the Five Ponds Wilderness, the Hitchins Pond Primitive Area, and the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. As part of the legal settlement and negotiations for the sale of the Otterbrook Tract, a small group of four land owners purchased an 1,142-acre block on the northeastern corner of the Tract from the Otterbrook Timber Company and continue to hold that block in private ownership.

According to Adirondack historian Barbara McMartin, when the Lyme Timber Company purchased the Otterbrook Tract, four hunting clubs, known as the Sucker Brook, Maple Valley, Pine Pond East, and Pine Pond West clubs, had leased hunting rights from the Moore family since the 1950s. As the new owners, Lyme Timber honored those hunting leases.[36] When the Otterbrook Tract was sold to the state in 1991, the balance of the time on these hunting club leases was likewise honored by the state until they expired at the end of 1995.[37]

Southern Lands in the Low Family Estate

The southern portion of the Low estate was centered on the Bog River and associated bodies of water. Unlike the more northern lands in the Low estate, the southern portion lacked the same history of timber management witnessed in the years after the demise of the Horse Shoe Forestry Company. This was, in part, a result of the extreme damage and destruction to the forests in the southern portion of the estate caused by the fires of 1903 and 1908.

Hitchins Park / Halcyon Rod and Gun Club

After divestment of Camp Marian and the lands around Horseshoe Lake and Big Trout Lake, the Low family shifted its attention to lands around the Bog River, Hitchins Pond, and the impoundment formed upstream from the Upper Dam, known as Low's Lake. Within these lands, the center of recreational activity of the now smaller Low family estate refocused on the buildings and infrastructure that remained near the Upper Dam on the Bog River.

In the early 1920s, under the guidance of A.A. Low, Jr., the Low estate began to make improvements on the two-and-a-half story boarding house that once served the Bog River mill, converting the site to the Low family's second summer camp, calling it Hitchins Park. Low, Jr. gutted the boarding house *(Figure 15)*, and added a third floor, rear additions, and porches and patios to the sides. The lowly boarding house was now a fourteen-room lodge with nine bedrooms where the family retreated in the summer months and entertained guests. With the removal in the previous decade of the mill and associated buildings as well as the Maple Valley Railroad tracks, the area was no longer an industrial site. To support life as the Low family's new Adirondack camp *(Figure 16)*, the family saw construction of a variety of other structures such as automobile garages, a wine cellar, a smokehouse, a caretaker's and workers' quarters, a spring house, and a dock *(Figure 17)*. The Upper Dam and powerhouse were maintained and remained operational, providing power to the guests at Hitchins Park *(Figure 18)*. The grounds around the large house and toward the lakeshore were more formally landscaped.

Marian Low died in 1928 at the age of 72. Following the death of his mother, A.A. Low, Jr. took full control of the estate and management of its lands, forming the Hitchins Corporation in 1931 as a real estate holding company for the management of the Low estate's remaining lands in and around Hitchins Park. The Hitchins Corporation's land management plan at this time focused largely on maintaining roads for hunting and recreational access as well as on some reforestation efforts. In the 1950s, 30,000 seedlings of scotch or Norway pine and 10,000 seedlings of red pine were planted in areas formerly cleared for industrial activity and agriculture. Most notable were the pine plantations at the site of the former Maple Valley Mill and Maple Valley syrup plant and in an area that later became part of the Sabattis Scout Reservation.[38] The Bog River Power Corporation was also formed and sold electrical power generated by the Upper Dam's power plant to the railway stations at Sabattis and Horseshoe as well as to Camp Otterbrook in the 1920s and 1930s.[39]

A.A. Low, Jr. took advantage of the improvements to the big house at Hitchins Park and formed the Halcyon Rod and Gun Club in 1927 *(Figure 19)*, a private club for outdoorsmen who fished and hunted on the 9,000

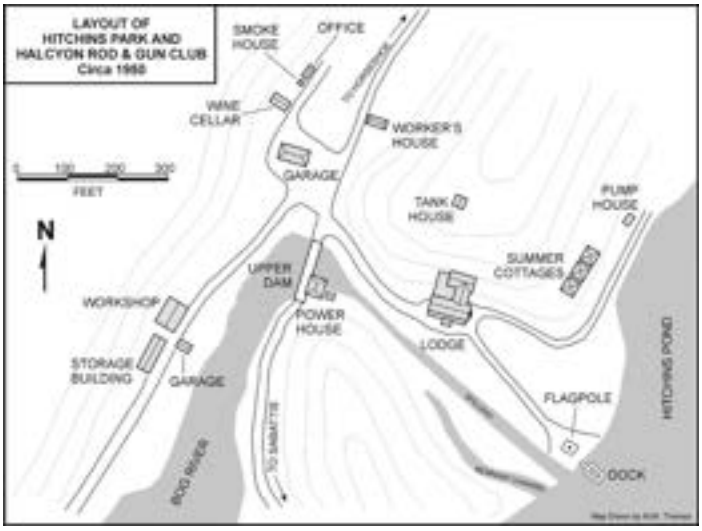


Figure 16. Layout of buildings at Hitchins Park. Map drawn by author.

Figure 17. Low family cannon at dock on Hitchins Pond, circa 1950. Courtesy of Adirondack Experience.

Figure 18. Power house at Upper Dam, note Hitchins Park lodge in background, May 1950. Courtesy of Adirondack Experience.

Figure 19. Cover of a promotional brochure for the Halcyon Rod and Gun Club. Courtesy of Mike Romeo.

acres of Hitchins Corporation lands, lakes, and rivers. To accommodate the Rod and Gun Club, he built an additional group of small cabins *(Figure 20)* north of the Hitchins Park lodge; the stone foundations are still visible today. Over the next three decades, Low and his family entertained many prominent guests at this retreat.[40]

At different times, Low, Jr. held positions as the Executive Vice President of Brooklyn Edison Power Company, Executive Vice President of the Utica Gas and Electric Company, and President of the Old Forge Electric Company.[41] In these roles, he maintained an apartment in New York City and later, a home in Utica. However, A.A. Low, Jr. and his wife Vada considered Hitchins Park and the nearest town of Sabattis as their primary residence. Low, Jr. even voted in Hamilton County. From the 1930s to the early 1970s, Armand Vaillancourt was employed as the Hitchins Corporation's on-site, year-round superintendent. In addition, the services of a cook and other support staff were employed as needed. In the 1940s, Superintendent Vaillancourt and the staff at Hitchins Park maintained the buildings, roads, and hydro dam facilities *(Figure 21)* under the guise of the Bog River Power Company. The staff raised hogs and maintained an extensive potato patch and canning gardens that helped meet the food needs of the Low family and their many guests. The Low family members held shares in the Hitchins Corporation and shared the costs of maintaining Hitchins Park by paying use fees to the Corporation when staying at the camp. However, the greater part of the Hitchins Corporation's income and operating budget came from the sale of water from the Bog River to the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation for their power generation downstream.

Figure 20. Guest cabins at Hitchins Park, circa 1930. Courtesy of Mike Romeo.

State vs. A.A. Low – Flooding of Bog River Lands

As the leader of the Hitchins Corporation and administrator of the Low estate, A.A. Low, Jr. became aware of a $7,000 fine levied by the state against his father in 1908 for flooding state lands along the Bog River when Low, Sr. constructed the Upper Dam. The fine from the state may have been made in error, or it was fraudulent with the state knowingly making a false claim to ownership and demanding payment of an unjustifiable fine. Closer inspection of early land surveys found several discrepancies and omissions

Figure 21. Garage with caretaker's residence above, maintained grounds, and road across the Upper Dam at Hitchins Park, circa 1960. Courtesy Mike Romeo.

leading to Low, Jr.'s conclusion that his father and not the State of New York was in fact the owner of the land that was flooded by construction of the Upper Dam. From 1930 to 1939, A.A. Low, Jr. attempted to negotiate a settlement agreement with the state. Unsuccessful in his efforts, he then initiated formal court action against the state in 1939 followed by a formal petition in 1950 asserting claim to the title of the flooded lands and attempting to recoup the fine paid by his father in 1908. In April of 1952, State Court of Claims Judge Gorman agreed with A.A. Low, Jr. and, 44 years later, awarded Low $20,000 as compensation for the fine and damages.[42] The state promptly appealed, arguing that fraud was not demonstrated or actionable, that a period of limitations had expired for making a claim, and that the Court of Claims judge had no authority to award $20,000. In 1953, the State Court of Appeals ruled that the earlier judgment in favor of A.A. Low, Jr. should be reversed and his claim dismissed on the grounds of insufficient evidence of fraud and that, at the time of the fine, the state did in fact have a 5/6th claim of ownership to the flooded land in question. Specifically, in the words of the appeals court, "the State in 1908, despite its knowledge of surveying errors in the general area, had a fairly sound reason for believing that it had a complete title to the tract afterwards partitioned."[43]

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, at the direction of A.A. Low, Jr., the Hitchins Corporation began selling large tracts of what was left of the Low family estate, starting with the sale of over 5,000 acres along the Bog River in 1958, followed by another tract of 1,800 acres surrounding Long Pond adjacent to the Bog River in 1962. A.A. Low, Jr. died in 1963 at the age of 74. In 1973, surviving members of the Low family completed one more large sale of the lands encompassing and surrounding Hitchins Park, extinguishing their land-owning legacy and presence on the greater Horseshoe Lake and Bog River landscape.[44]

Hitchins Park Scout Reservation

The Suffolk County Council of the Boy Scouts of America purchased 2,326 acres in the Hitchins Pond and Low's Lake area from the Hitchins Corporation and the Low family for $500,000 in 1973. This became the Hitchins Park Scout Reservation.[45] This purchase

included all of Hitchins Pond, Middle Pond, North Pond and four miles of shoreline on the Bog River Flow/Low's Lake. In addition to the land, the sale included the Hitchins Park lodge and furnishings, all the associated buildings at Hitchins Park, the Upper Dam and hydroelectric powerhouse, and a detached 13.5-acre parcel containing the Lower Dam on the Bog River. During their period of ownership, the Suffolk County Council never operated the hydroelectric generators at the Upper or Lower Dam.

Figure 22. Remains of stone walls and foundation of the lodge at Hitchins Park near Upper Dam following removal of the structure by the Department of Environmental Conservation, circa 2000. Courtesy of Mike Romeo.

Between 1974 and 1980, the Hitchins Park Scout Reservation saw its greatest use. Unfortunately, the Suffolk County Council was having financial difficulties, and leadership began exploring options to sell the camp in ways that would keep the camp in scout ownership or secure access to the lands. The Council explored selling to an association of scout camps made up of eight Boy Scout Councils or selling to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and leasing use of the camp and lands.

In the end, the Suffolk County Council decided in 1985 to sell the entire Hitchins Park property, acreage and structures to the state. At the time of this purchase, the Hitchins Park tract was one of four large tracts of private lands covering 10,000 acres surrounding the Bog River that the state acquired.[46]

Hydroelectric Development at the Upper and Lower Dams

From the 1930s to the 1970s, the Upper and Lower Dams were operational hydroelectric dams that provided power to the American Legion Camp, Camp Otterbrook, and Hitchins Park. The water barrier at the Upper Dam was still in place and working as a water control device to maintain the levels of Low's Lake, but the powerhouse at the Upper Dam was destroyed by fire in 1979 or 1980, and the dam was no longer able to produce hydroelectric power.[47]

In the early 1980s, against the wishes of the Suffolk County Boy Scout Council that held the title to the dams, the Village of Tupper Lake applied for a license to generate power from both the Upper Dam and Lower Dam, with the village threatening to use its condemnation powers to take ownership of the dam from the scouts. The Village of Tupper Lake had competition for securing the rights to develop the dams. In 1983, Geldart Enterprises, a private development firm from Seaford, New York, proposed to purchase the entire Hitchins Park Scout Camp and construct fifty house sites on the shore of Hitchins Pond and Low's Lake. In the end, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) denied the village's permit application, and the idea of revitalizing the Bog River's Upper and Lower Dams for power generation was dropped.[48] However, before FERC was forced to make a ruling on the permit application, an agreement was reached with the Suffolk County Council in 1985 to sell the entire Hitchins Park Scout Camp to the state, laying to rest the power and residential development plans along the Bog River.[49]

Figure 23. Road signs for entrance to Sabattis Scout Reservation when the camp was still referred to as the Sabattis Training Center, circa 1960. Courtesy of Mike Romeo.

Hitchins Park Under State Ownership

Following the purchase from the Suffolk County Council of Boy Scouts, and under state ownership, the buildings at Hitchins Park were left unused and fell into a state of disrepair and neglect, and experienced outright vandalism. The dangers, risks, and liabilities these abandoned buildings posed, in particular the asbestos siding on the lodge, were of great concern for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) managers. Coupled with a re-wilding philosophy that allowed little room for active preservation and management of historical and cultural resources in the park, the DEC, following the guidance and direction of the Adirondack State Park Master Plan and the Bog River Unit Management Plan, carried through on the decision to remove the Hitchins Park structures by burning them in January of 1999.[50] Today, paddlers traveling along the Bog River and portaging at the Upper Dam are often curiously amazed to see the remains of the high stone walls and chimney from the Hitchins Park lodge *(Figure 22)*. In some cases, these remains have been incorrectly identified as the former headquarters of A.A. Low, Sr.'s Horse Shoe Forestry Company, when in truth they are the remains of the Low family's second camp at Horseshoe and are more accurately associated with the era of A.A. Low, Jr.

In 1992, the DEC did repairs at the Lower Dam and, in 1993, the DEC rebuilt the Upper Dam. Major work was done again at the Upper Dam in 2017 and 2018, while major renovation work is planned for the Lower Dam in 2023 to preserve the recreational assets along the Bog River.

Sabattis Training Center – Sabattis Scout Reservation

In 1957, leaders from the Onondaga Council of the Boy Scouts of America began discussions with A.A. Low, Jr. regarding the purchase of a large parcel of land along the Bog River for a scout camp.[51] By March 1958, the Low family, through the Hitchins Corporation, sold a continuous block of 5,200 acres to the Onondaga Council for $120,000.[52] Originally named the Sabattis Training Center *(Figure 23)*, this camp later became known as the Sabattis Scout Reservation. In addition to the 5,200 acres that were purchased from the Hitchins Corporation, there was also a proposal to acquire the adjacent 2,800 acres to the northwest, known as the Draper Property, for approximately $42,500 in 1960. For reasons unknown, this purchase never occurred, and that tract was later sold to Yorkshire Timber before being sold to the state in 1985.[53]

The initial season of scouts camping at Sabattis was the summer of 1958 with all activities and accommodations carried out under canvas tents. The following year, under the leadership of the first camp director Bill Wadsworth, road construction and the siting of future buildings and activity areas began in earnest. The camp became fully operational on July 21, 1963, a date marked by an official dedication. Between 1963 and 1965, substantial improvements were completed, with a large amount of the physical labor performed by older scouts, adult leaders, and volunteers known affectionately as "Camp Beavers." Facilities added at the Trout Ponds Camp and, later, at

the Three Islands Camp, were commissaries, a pair of Director's lodges, a headquarters building, a generator building, a health lodge, a chapel, staff cabins, storage, and work buildings, and a 10,000-gallon water tank. In addition, docks, a swimming beach, camp sites, and a shooting range were added as recreational infrastructure. Over the years, older worn and weathered buildings have been replaced or have received additions and upgrades.

From 1958 to 1965, some of the campers arrived by train, disembarking at the nearby New York Central's Sabattis Station. Arrival by train ended in 1965 when passenger service on this line was discontinued.[54] In subsequent years, campers arrived exclusively by automobile, traversing thirteen miles of the unpaved Sabattis Road between the intersection of Hamilton County Route 10A at Little Tupper Lake and the camp gates. In 1965, Pete Luchsinger and his wife Dorothy were brought on as the first year-round camp rangers, serving as caretakers and maintenance staff until 1978. As year-round residents at the camp, the rangers and their families have had a significant role in the history of Sabattis Scout Camp, most notably first with the Luchsigners, followed by Dick and Irene Bailey, and later by Greg and Nicole Andrews. Over the years, a half dozen men and their families have served in that role.[55]

The Onondaga Council merged into the Hiawatha Council in 1969, and in April of 1986, the Hiawatha Council sold a 3,322-acre section of the Sabattis Scout Camp to the state for a reported $400,000.[56] These lands line the southern shore of Low's Lake along the Bog River and were added to the Five Ponds Wilderness Area of the Adirondack Park Preserve. Purchase of these lands allowed the state to open Low's Lake to the public and permit canoe travel along the full length of the Bog River. As part of the transfer of Low's Lake to the state, the Hiawatha Council reserved exclusive rights to the continued use of Gooseneck, Pole, and Frying Pan Islands in Low's Lake for scout camping during the months of June, July, and August.[57] The Hiawatha Council merged with two other councils in 2010 under the new name of Longhouse Council.[58] Today, the Longhouse Council retains ownership of the remaining 2,569 acres of the camp's original 5,200 acres and continues to operate the Sabattis Scout Reservation for summer season camping.

Long Pond Preserve

In 1962, under the direction of A.A. Low, Jr., the Hitchins Corporation sold 1,800 acres of land surrounding Long Pond to a group of nine men who formed the Sabattis Land Company, calling the parcel the Long Pond Preserve. Among the men was John Knox, an heir to the Knox Gelatin Company, who later bought out the interests of the other owners. Although the preserve includes over four miles of shoreline on Low's Lake, the Knox family maintained a fairly primitive camp of five small cabins on the north shore of Long Pond, getting by without electricity or indoor plumbing.[59]

In 2006, through the help of the Adirondack Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy, the Knox family and their Sabattis Land Company agreed to sell 1,000 acres of their preserve to the state at a cost of $1.5 million. With that purchase and agreement, the remaining 800 acres of their preserve were placed into a conservation easement held by the Adirondack Land Trust that would prevent future development of that portion of the shoreline of Low's Lake.[60]

Conclusion

The landscape of the Bog River and greater Horseshoe Lake area has progressively changed over the last 130 years, building upon the infrastructure and legacy of A.A. Low, Sr. It began with a bustling industrial landscape of mills and railroads based on forest products, shifted to one of camp-based seasonal recreation, and finally entered a period of rewilding, as large portions of the land have been left to grow into mature forests and wetlands. In reality, as this article shows, the greater Horseshoe Lake landscape is an ever-changing natural and cultural mosaic of wild lands interspersed with the remnants of its industrial and recreational past and present, despite appearing to be a pristine, untrammeled wilderness and naturally-formed forest. A great example of this is the small stand of mature white pines that tower over DEC Campsite 8 on the west side of Horseshoe Lake. It is common for visitors to believe that this small group of a dozen or so trees is an ancient remnant stand of pines that have survived the logging and settlement histories of the area. On the contrary, A.A. Low, Sr. planted these trees in the late 1890s in what was then the grassy

and a landscaped yard in front of his lodge facing Horseshoe Lake. Apart from the Camp Otterbrook lands, the Sabattis Scout Reservation, and a few smaller private inholdings, the lands that originally comprised the Low family estate are now lands of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, managed by the DEC as either Wilderness, Primitive Area, or Wild Forest, despite the fact that the Low family never directly sold any of its acreage to the state.

The erasure of most of the Horse Shore Forestry Company presence on this landscape has slowly progressed over time, from removal and, in some cases, abandonment and deterioration, into a later phase of recreational construction, followed by its own period of abandonment and removal. Additionally, the effects of the forest fires of 1903 and 1908 severely damaged thousands of acres of this landscape, resulting in extensive burned over stretches that continue to slowly grow back as they reestablish viable healthy soils and transition from raspberry, blackberry and other brush and weeds, to white birch and other successional trees. Select logging and forest management in the past have also had a role in modifying the species, age, density, and diversity of trees we see in the forest today.

About the Authors:

Matthew M. Thomas
Born and raised in Minnesota, Matt Thomas came to research the A.A. Low story from his interest in the history of the maple syrup industry. Using his university and professional training in archaeology and history (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.), he has found a calling to gather and share the details and stories of maple syrup makers of the northern United States and adjacent Canada. Initially, planning to focus his research on the maple syrup operation of A.A. Low and the Horseshoe Forestry Company, Matt quickly learned there was much more to discover and write about in the landscape and history of the Horseshoe Lake area.

In doing so, Matt was fortunate to find a formidable and dedicated research partner in Mary Kunzler-Larmann. Matt has compiled a substantial collection of their Horseshoe area research efforts in his recently published book A Sugarbush Like None Other: Adirondack Maple Syrup and the Horse Shoe Forestry Company, available at eBay and select locations in the Adirondack region.
Matt can be reached at maplesyruphistory@gmail.com and through his website www.maplesyruphistory.com.

Mary Kunzler-Larmann
From age four, Mary Kunzler-Larmann was a woods-wanderer in the Catskills and later the Adirondack Mountains. After attending Syracuse University where she obtained a B.S. in Communications and a corporate management career, she became an adventure guide, trekking the Canadian Barren Lands, the High Arctic, and Mongolia. Mary's mantra is, "If I hadn't gone there, I wouldn't have been there."

Now she is back in the Adirondacks where she has been exploring the Beaver River and Bog River basins for many years, most recently "drilling down" into the details of the story of A.A. Low and the Horse Shoe Forestry Company. She and Matthew Thomas met in 2018 after he began researching the Horseshoe Maple Story. Mary and Matt's research at Horseshoe continues and they welcome contacts with individuals that may have stories and information to share related to the history of Horseshoe.
Mary can be reached at mk-l@juno.com.

Endnotes

1 Ouida Girard, *Griffin: Ghost Town in the Adirondacks And Other Tales*. (no location or publisher, 1980), 43-45.
2 John Taibi, *Silver Rails Through the Heart of the Park*. (Gates Mills, OH: New York Central System Historical Society, 2019), 399.
3 "New Lumber Industry," *Courier and Freeman*, 27 July 1910, 6; "Notice of Establishment of a Private Park," *Courier and Freeman*, 28 September 1910, 1.
4 *Ogdensburg Journal*, 15 May 1915, 6; Tupper Lake Herald, 27 August 1915, 8.
5 "Pleasant Lake Preserve Sold," *Watertown Daily Times*, 12 October 1921, 3; Daniel D. Reiff, *Historic Camps of Mt. Arab and Eagle Crag Lakes*, (Dunkirk, NY; Service Print Inc. and Mt. Arab Preserve Association Memorial Fund, 1995); Deed of Sale between William Allaire Shortt and Lucy E. Shortt and Abbot Augustus Low, Sr., December 7, 1904.
6 *Norwood News*, 24 January 1911, 1; Letter of Agreement between A.A. Low, Sr. and Emporium Lumber Company, December 30, 1910. Emporium Lumber Company Collections of the Adirondack Experience.
7 Deed for sale of land between Marian Low and William Barbour, September 18, 1916.
8 "Colonel Barbour Dies in His Motor," *The Sun*, 2 March 1917; *Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Land Office for the Year 1918* (Albany, NY, J.B. Lyon Company), 467-473; *State Service: An Illustrated Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Government of the State of New York and Its Affairs*, vol. 2, no. 5, (May 1918): 87; "Dispose of Big Preserve," *New York Herald Sun*, 16 March 1919, 22.
9 " 'Asking Price' For Barbour Holdings Here in 1917 Brochure was $350,000," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Herald*, 6 December 1972, 5 and 8; "Progress at American Legion Mountain Camp...," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Herald*, 15 January 1948, 1 and 6.
10 "Boys Build Road at Horseshoe," *Tupper Lake Herald*, 15 September 1922, 8.
11 "Large Adirondack Tract is Sold," *Tupper Lake Herald*, 8 October 1920, 1; "Wilderness Camp" advertisement, *Harper's Magazine*, 1921; "The Clubhouse at Horseshoe Lake in the Adirondacks (advertisement)," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 27 May 1923, 200.
12 "Camp Deer Trail Property at Horseshoe Sold by S.C.L., Inc.

to New York City Investors," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 10 March 1938, 1. A handwritten note regarding the land transaction in the DEC files for Bog River Unit Management Plan indicates that Horseshoe Estates (presumably Schonziet and Bernhardt) sold their holdings to SCL Realty Corp. on October 26, 1937.

13 "Western Accent," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 9 June 1940, 46; "Brooklyn Cowboys Try Hard to Make It Seem 'Wild West'," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 21 July 1940, 41; Daily News, 16 May 1941, 186; "Old Advertising Card Recalls Dude Ranch Venture of Half-Century Ago at Horseshoe," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 29 January 1970, 4.

14 "Legion Buys Large Adirondack Estate," *The Troy Record*, 18 September 1944, 1; "American Legion to Open Convalescent Camp at Horseshoe," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 21 September 1944, 1; "Assurance Plans for Developing Legion Horseshoe Property," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 19 July 1945, 1; "5-Year Repair, Building Plan at Legion Camp," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 20 June 1946, 4.

15 "Fire Damages State Legion Camp," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, 4 June 1954, 4; "Free Press Flashback," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 20 June 1979, 4.

16 John Taibi, *Silver Rails Through the Heart of the Park* (Gates Mills, OH: New York Central System Historical Society, 2019), 399.

17 "Public Service Commission Okays Retirement of Station Facilities at Horseshoe Lake," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 18 August 1955, 1; Taibi, Silver Rails, 401.

18 Louis J Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock: Historical Highlights of Tupper Lake and the Town of Altamont* (Tupper Lake, NY: Vail-Ballou Press, 1976), 242-247.

19 "Legionnaires Elect, Head for Home," *Democrat and Chronicle*, 4 August 1963, 19.

20 "Legion Road Bill Signed by Governor," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 1 April 1948, 1; "Norwood Co. Has Contract Route 421," *Massena Observer*, 26 May 1966, 11.

21 "160 Additional Miles of Adirondack Trails Opened to Snowmobiles, Some in This Area," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 3 October 1968, 8.

22 "Land Purchases," *Post Star* (Glen Falls), 18 August 1977, 24.

23 "County Property Sales Reported," *Ogdensburg Advance News*, 23 July 1972, 10.

24 Advertisements for Horseshoe Lake Recreation Area, *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 2 May 1973, 3; *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 1 May 1974, 2; "Progress at American Legion Mountain Camp in Last 25 Years Noted in Annual Report," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Herald*, 15 January 1948, 1, 6.

25 *Bog River Unit Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement* (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2002).

26 "For Sale," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 17 October 1979, 8; "Will Rise Again," *Currier & Freeman*, 23 October 1979, 10.

27 "The Story of a Deer That Knew Its Own Mind," *New York Times*, 15 June 1919, 42.

28 "Woman Buys Trout Tract," *New York Times*, 12 October 1922.

29 "Camp Ahmo," *Democrat and Chronicle* (Rochester, NY), 12 April 1924, 2; Hallie E. Bond, Joan Jacobs Brumberg, and Leslie Paris, *A Paradise for Boys and Girls": Children's Camps in the Adirondacks* (Syracuse: Adirondack Museum and Syracuse University Press, 2006), 96.

30 "Big Trout Club Buys Adirondack Preserve," *Tupper Lake Herald*, 2 October 1925, 1; "Add 4000 Acres to Ad'k Park Near Whitney Estate," *Lake Placid News*, 2 June 1933. 3; *Bog River Unit Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement* (Albany: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2002).

31 "Wonderful Camp Marian," *The New Country Life*, vol. 31, March (1917): 4; "Camp Marian," *New York Times*, 9 February 1919, real estate section, 10.

32 "Lake Marian Preserve Sold to Club," *The Sun*, 10 July 1919, 20; Richard C. Youngken, *Camp Otterbrook Historic and Natural Districts Inventory Form*, (Preservation League of New York, 1979). On file with the State Historic Preservation Office, New York State Division of Historic Preservation; Barbara McMartin, *The Privately-Owned Adirondacks* (Canada Lake, NY: Lakeview Press, 2004), 143.

33 "County Property Sales Reported," *The Journal* (Ogdensburg, NY), 11 July 1973, 1; "Otterbrook sells acreage," *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*, 8 September 1978, 1; Barbara McMartin, *The Privately-Owned Adirondacks* (Canada Lake, NY: Lakeview Press, 2004), 211-213, 241; Otterbrook Timber later sold 6,968 acres of land to the State of New York in 1991.

34 Interview by authors with Larry Denis, Otterbrook Timber Company's former Managing Forester for the Otterbrook Tract, March 20, 2021.

35 "Sale to State OK'd," *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*, 21 August 1989, 1;"New Hampshire firm purchases 9435-acre Otterbrook tract," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 6 September 1978, 1; "Lawsuit settlement leads to NY purchase of Otterbrook land," *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*, 1 May 1991, 1 and 10.

36 Barbara McMartin, *The Privately Owned Adirondacks* (Canada Lake, NY: The Lake View Press, 2004), 212.

37 "State adds to land holdings," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 8 May 1991, 11; Bog River Unit Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (2002), 274.

38 St Lawrence County Tree Planting Book, on file in the Potsdam Office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

39 Personal communication with William Raymond, Jr. March 30, 2023.

40 "New Club," *The Ogden Standard-Examiner* (Ogden, UT), 24 May 1927, 11; Halcyon Rod and Gun Club brochure in the collections of the Adirondack Experience; Barbara McMartin, *The Privately-Owned Adirondacks* (Canada Lake, NY: Lakeview Press, 2004), 143.

41 "Parker Resigns Edison Co. Job; Joins Con Gas," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 27 Jan 1936, 1 and 4.

42 A. Augustus Low, Individually and as Administrator with the Will Annexed of Abbott A. Low, Deceased, et al., Claimants, v. State of New York, Defendant. Court of Claims (Claim No. 30361.) 202 Misc. 455 (1952), April 2, 1952.

43 Low vs. State of New York, Court of Claims, 202 Misc. 455 (1952), decided April 2, 1952; Low vs. State of New York, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Third Department, 281 A.D. 309 (1953) decided March 11, 1953.

44 "Suffolk Boy Scouts Buy Hitchins Park," *The Post Standard*, 15 August 1973, 92; "Scouts pay $500,000 for Parcel," *Watertown Daily Times*, 22 August 1973, 28; Barbara McMartin, *The Privately-Owned Adirondacks* (Canada Lake, NY: Lakeview Press, 2004), 99-101, 143.

45 "Suffolk Boy Scouts Buy Hitchins Park," *The Post Standard*, 15 August 1973: 92; "Scouts pay $500,000 for Parcel," *Watertown Daily Times*, 22 August 1973, 28; Barbara McMartin, *The Privately-Owned Adirondacks* (Canada Lake, NY: Lakeview Press, 2004), 99-101, 143.

46 "State buys 10,000 Acre Bog River Tract," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 28 August 1985, 1. .

47 "Lower dam site studied," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 1 April 1981, 1.

48 "Lower dam site studied," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 1 April 1981, 1; "Bog River, Ontario Hydro Possibilities Considered," *Tupper Lake Free Press and Tupper Lake Herald*, 1 February 1984, 1; "Village wants Bog River Dams for hydro," *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*, April 17, 1984: 8.

49 "First of Four Tracts added to State's Bog River Flow lands," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 4 September 1985, 5.

50 Bill Frenette, "An Entrepreneur's Legacy," *Transitions: Notes on A Proud Past with Attention to Future Annals. The Collection of William C. Frenette* (Tupper Lake, NY: CreateSpace, 2014), 108-111. (originally published 6 January 1999 *Tupper Lake Free Press*); Bill Frenette, "Former A.A. Low Buildings Razed by State," Tupper Lake Free Press, 10 February 1999, 4; Michael Wilson, "The Uses of Bog River's Ruins," *Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies*, 1 (Winter 1994), 21; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, "Bog River Unit Management Plan – Environmental Impact Statement", November 12, 2002. .

51 A significant amount of detailed documentary and first-hand information on the history of the Sabattis Scout Reservation has come from Mike Romeo, long-time Boy Scout volunteer, who has been visiting Sabattis Scout Reservation for over 50 years; Letter from William H. Wadsworth to Abbot August Low, Jr, Dec. 12, 1957, collections of Mike Romeo.

52 Per Lee Noxon, *Boy Scouts of America Hiawatha Council 1913-1980: Sabattis Scout Reservation* (1980); "Proposed Sabattis Station Cut Draws Vigorous Protest at PCS Hearing Here," *Tupper Lake Free Press*, 4 June 1958, 4.

53 Scout Camp at Sabattis – Trip of August 29, 1957; William H. Wadsworth to A. Augustus Low, December 12, 1957; A. Augustus Low to William H. Wadsworth, December 19, 1957; William H. Wadsworth to Bradford Sears, January 27, 1959; Onondaga Council Inc., Report of the Sub-Committee on Utilization of the Physical Properties of the Council, May 16, 1960; "State Buys Parcel Along Waterway," *The Press and Sun Bulletin* (Binghamton, NY), 29 August 1985, 37; *A Moment in Local Scouting History: A Bridge to Sabattis* (Constantia, NY: William Hillcourt Museum, n.d.).

54 Henry A. Harter, *Fairy Tale Railroad: The Mohawk and Malone, From the Mohawk, through the Adirondacks to the St. Lawrence* (Utica, NY: North Country Books, 1979) 249.

55 Mike Romeo, *Sabattis Scout Reservation 50th Anniversary - 2008.* (July 2008); Mike Romeo, personal communication (2021).

56 The Onondaga Council went through a number of mergers and name changes over the years, becoming the Hiawatha Council in 1969, the Hiawatha-Seaway Council in 1999 and the Longhouse Council in 2010 - http://www.cnyscouts.org/about/history/.

57 "9,000 acres added to Forest Preserve: State dedicates acquisition at Bog River," *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* 29 August 1985, 1; *Unit Management Plan for Five Pond Wilderness* (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 1994); Record of Indenture between The Hiawatha Council, Boy Scouts of America and the people of the State of New York, April 11, 1986, Deed on file with the Register of Deed, County Clerk of St. Lawrence County, NY.

58 http://www.cnyscouts.org/about/history.

59 Barbara McMartin, *The Privately Owned Adirondacks* (Canada Lake, NY: Lake View Press, 2006), 167-68.

60 Michael Virtanen and Noelle Short, "State to protect 1,800 acres," *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*, 22 March 2006, 1; "State Buys 1,000 Acres of Woodlands," *New York Times*, 22 March 2006, B6; "Lows Lake shoreline protected, wilderness canoe route significantly enhanced," *Keene Valley News*, 1 April 2006, 8.