

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 43
April 2014
Editor
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PARKVILLE

Also known as "The Dam"
Where is it? I should say, "Where **was** it?"

Many articles have been written over the years about the little hamlet of Parkville that was inundated when the Conklingville Dam was built. I was going to write another one but thought maybe hearing it from someone who lived there might be more authentic and more interesting. Nellie Acker lived there for 40 years and wrote the following in 1930.

(Excerpts from Nellie's article)

Parkville was a small settlement situated on the east bank of the Sacandaga River, about one - quarter mile north of the village of Northville on the road leading to Wells, Hamilton County. At one time this was a beautiful place, nestled between the hills with the old Sacandaga River flowing by it's side with rows of large maple trees spreading their branches across the main street. Our little settlement boasted a large tannery owned and operated by LeFever Brothers, and a prosperous saw mill owned and operated by the late Sheldon Hubbell, grandfather of Frank B Hubbell of Northville. Fire destroyed both the tannery and the saw mill. We also had a tin shop which was owned by Benjamin Palmer, where all kinds of tin articles were made, two good stores and a hotel owned by the late Ruben Willard, father of James R Willard, Sr. and Clarence Willard. There was also a broom factory and a turning mill.

We had a fine school building which seated 50 pupils. The Northville bridge spanned the river at Parkville. High water carried it away and it was deemed best to build the new (iron) bridge at it's present location.

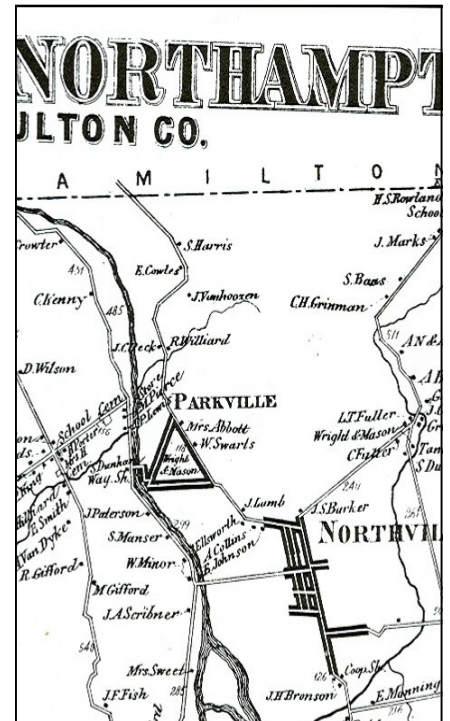
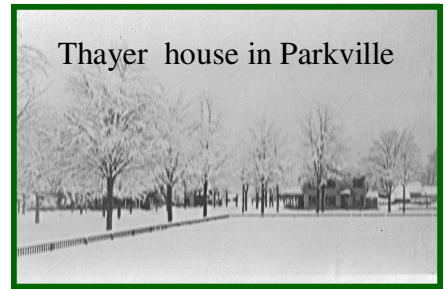
We were like one large family, happy and contented always to live at Parkville until the agents of the Hudson River Regulating District came and told us that the water to be impounded by the Conklingville Dam would flood us out. They decided the price they would pay us for our homes, and we had no voice in the matter. I have heard the remark, "well you all received a good and adequate price for your property" Some did and some didn't . The only choice we had was to buy a lot and move our house or move miles away.

Directions to where Parkville was and the Parkville Historical Sign. Drive north out of town on Reed Street toward Hope Falls road. The sign is on the left hand side of the road as you leave the village.

Museum Notes

The museum will be open for the celebration in the village , June 6 & 7 . If you haven't visited it yet or for quite some time, this will be a good weekend to come and see our collections and history

Thayer house in Parkville



1856 Map showing Northville and Parkville

Pictures taken in Parkville



Abandoned House Goes Up In Smoke

Waver Residence at Parkville Destroyed by Hudson Board Employees.

NORTHVILLE—A few days ago workmen for the Hudson River Regulating Board burned what remained of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Waver at Parkville. Mr. and Mrs. Waver moved several weeks ago to this village on First street where they had purchased a residence at the time they sold to the H. R. R. B. Parkville is now nearly surrounded by water. All that remains of the once little settlement is a few foundations and cellars to show that there was once 150 or 200 homes there. Sunday boats were seen rowing up to what used to be called the back road, nearly to the home of George Groff, a sight that a few years ago would be scoffed at. This is only one of the many changes brought by the impounded waters.

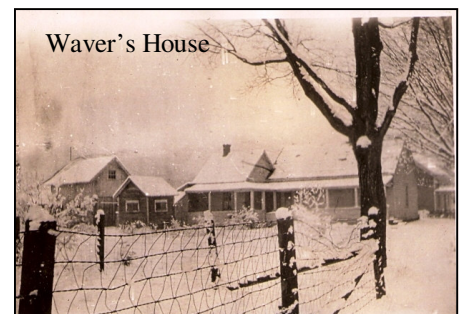


Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Nellie Acker and MaryEmma Waver



FISH ROCK HOTEL IN PARKVILLE (aka as Frasier's at one time)

The house spoken of in the above article is the house in the picture below. A good source told me that they had to literally drag the family from the house. They were determined not to lose their home. Can you blame them? The article is incorrect about the number of houses, I believe it should have said 150 - 200 people and I doubt there were that many people living there.

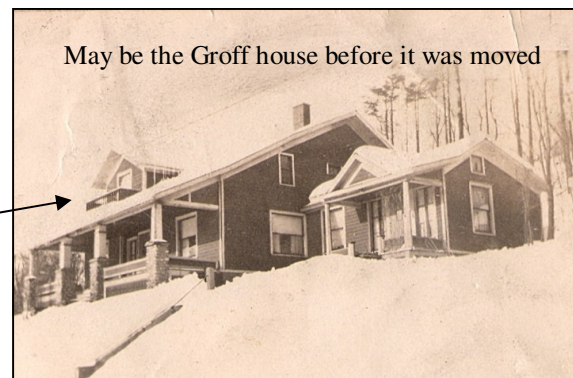
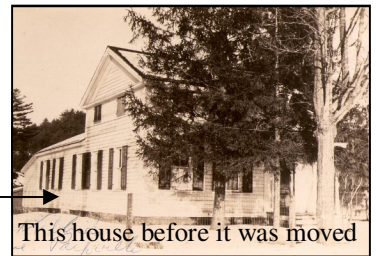


As Nellie Acker's article mentioned, houses were either destroyed or moved. You could buy back your house for a dollar and have it moved or someone else could buy the house and move it. There are a number of houses in and around the village that were moved from Parkville.

Some of the houses that were moved from Parkville into the village



Looking up the river toward Parkville

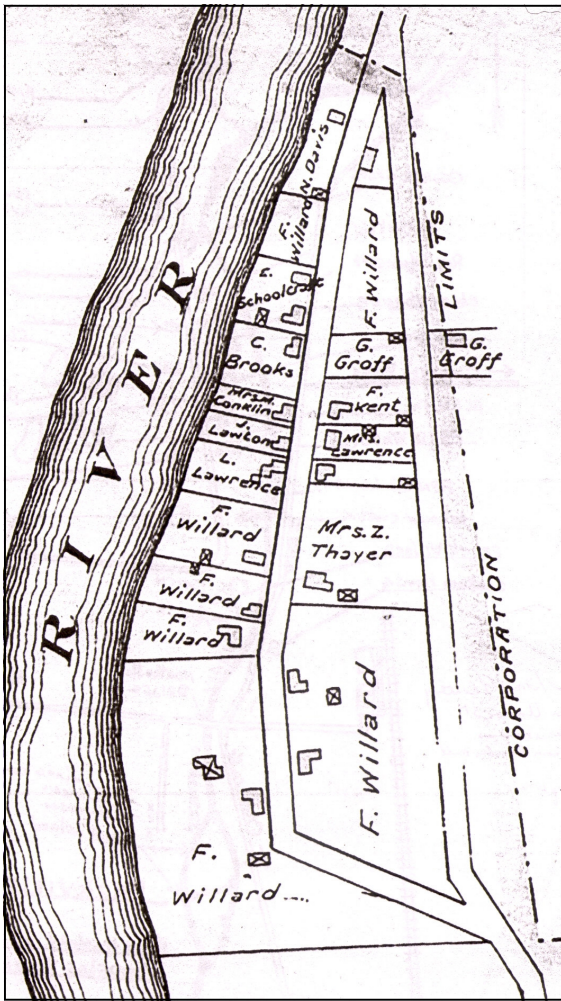


Three Willard Cottages on Union Street



Apartment house now on North Second Street. It was moved from Parkville. Someone thinks it may have been a store (needs more research)





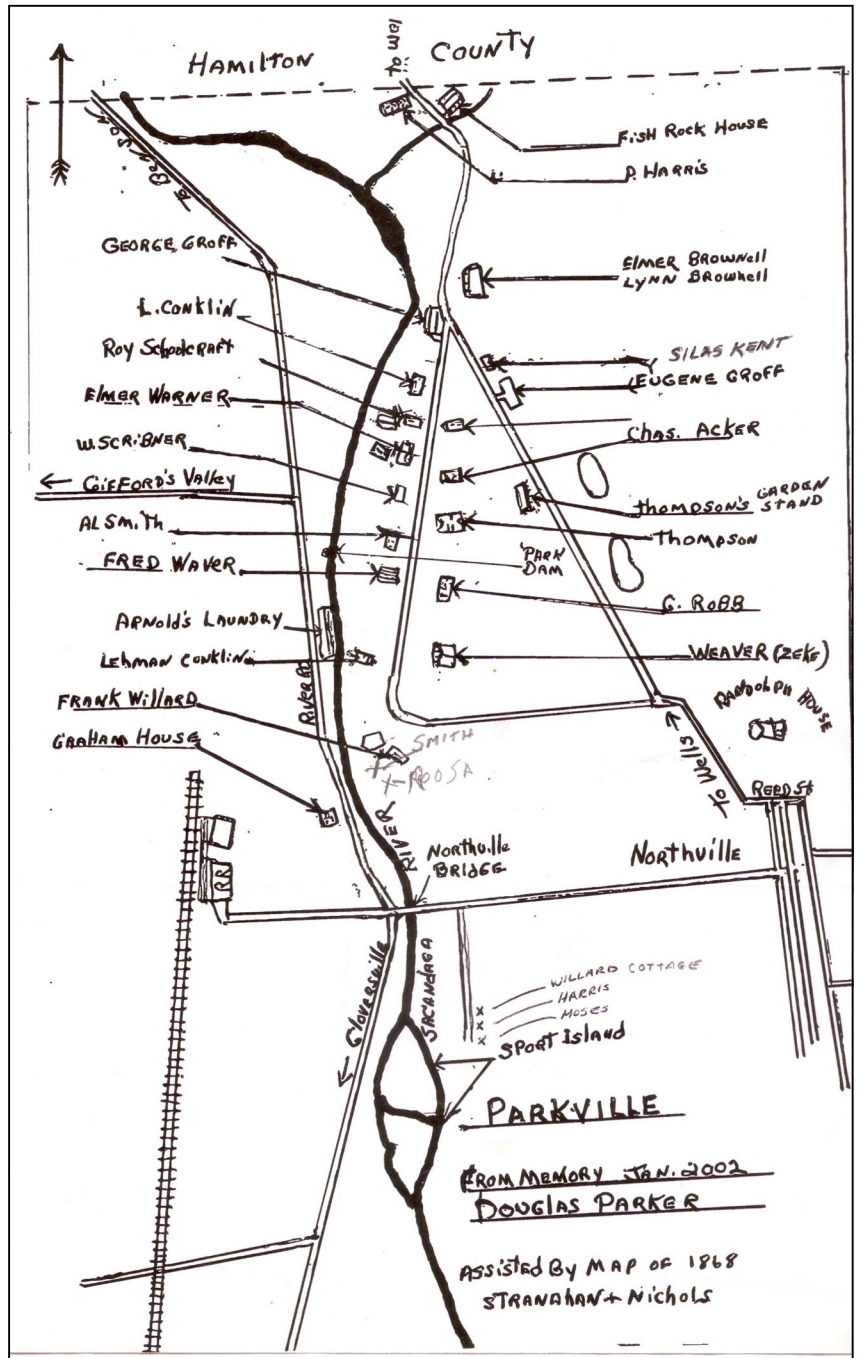
Parkville Map 1905



Building a road to Parkville



Garden by the dam



Doug Parker's map as he remembered it when he was growing up



Looking south down the river toward Northville,
Parkville on the left



In 2009 a NYS Historical sign was erected by the Historical Society along the roadside where Parkville once was. Actually Parkville was down over the bank from where this sign is, obviously, because Parkville is under the lake. It was a beautiful day and quite a few people came out to witness the dedication of the sign. Several that were in attendance had spent many hours in Parkville and others had families that had lived there.

Pictured: Rusty Mosher, Dan Mead, Chan Rockwell Charles and Margaret Downing, Terry Warner, Gloria Fulmer, Linda Mosher, Charlotte Walter, Peter Betz, Gail Cramer, Jim Groff, Loren Rossa, Doug Parker and Loretta Darling.



Doug Parker sharing his memories of Parkville



Doug Parker , Loren Roosa and Mayor Jim Groff had the privilege of uncovering the sign

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR

June 7 and 8th
Trail Days Festival
At Waterfront Park

A ceremony will take place to dedicate the changing of the Northville Lake Placid trail starting point, which will begin in our Waterfront park. There will be a kiosk built in the park describing the beginning of the Northville Lake Placid trail. Many events will be taking place such as; ADK Arts and Crafts show, kayak and canoe demonstrations, ADK storytelling, car show, historical museum and wild life museums will be open. A Petting zoo, music by Annie and the Hedonists, bounce house for kids, 18th century toys and games on Sunday, barbeque, horse drawn wagon rides, paddleboard demonstrations, Adk and vegetarian fare, ADK Fiddlers and much more.

NORTHVILLE FOLKS WE WILL NOT FORGET



Ida Burdett, Elmira (Myra) & Nellie Gifford

Three ladies who lived in Gifford's Valley area who are ancestors of many of our local people. (Most everyone in town is related to the Gifford's) They kept the fires burning, food on the table, clothed and disciplined the children and were good wives. Let's not forget those in our past that make us who we are today.

"The women of our community"

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**NORTHVILLE/LAKE PLACID
TRAIL DAYS
FESTIVAL**

SATURDAY, JUNE 7/SUNDAY, JUNE 8
NORTHVILLE WATERFRONT PARK
NORTHVILLE, NEW YORK

410211V411.010V111

**NORTHVILLE-
LAKE PLACID TRAIL**
HIGH PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA
WANIKA FALLS 6.7 mi
DUCK HOLE 12.2 mi
LONG LAKE 38 mi
NORTHVILLE 132 mi
State of New York

*A dedication
to
the new start
of this
historic
trail*