

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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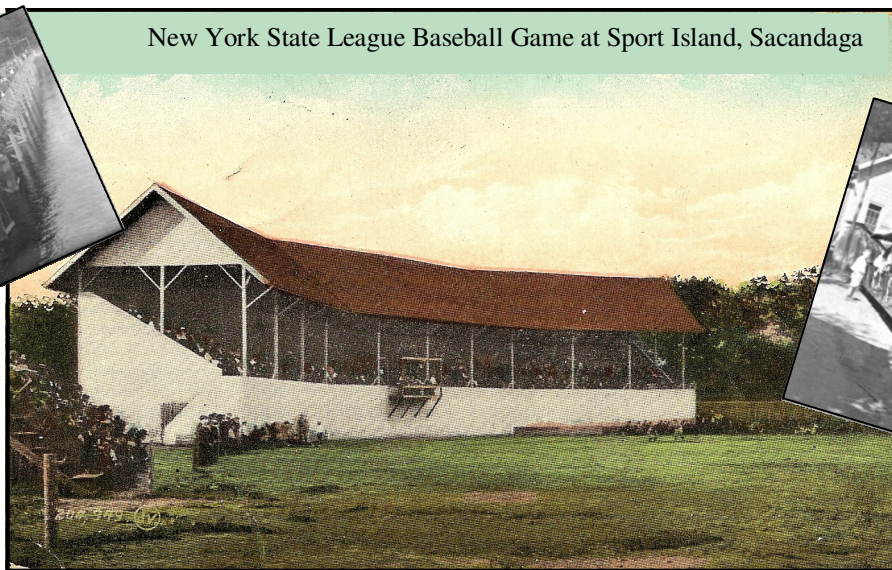
## GRANDSTAND

On Sport Island 1901 - 1918

New York State League Baseball Game at Sport Island, Sacandaga



Walking and  
Miniature  
Train bridge  
to Sport  
Island



Miniature  
Train

After the disastrous fire in 1898 a new vision for the park was conceived. The F. J. & G. R. R. owned all the property where the cottages had been located. This vision included many new attractions including, new arbors, rustic bridges, water and sewage, a rustic theater, golf course, a midway and a grandstand on an island in the middle of the Sacandaga river, which was just a hundred feet or so off the main land where the amusement park was being built. A small miniature train was built for transportation to and from the island, which was named Sport Island.

The grandstand became home to fans as many baseball games were played in the N.Y State Baseball League. Northville's team, "Adirondack" competed against numerous other teams including; Mayfield Tigers, Empires of Amsterdam, Danforth's of Gloversville, Creacenta of Cohoes, and Johnstown Hill Stars.

(Below) First Adirondack Baseball Team 1913



### FIRE AT SPORT ISLAND

Fort Plain Standard  
August 11, 1918

*Sunday morning about 2:30, a fire was discovered in the grandstand on Sport Island, Sacandaga which proved excellent fodder for the flames which consumed the entire structure. Owing to the lack of fire fighting facilities, nothing could be done to save the stand which was an extensive affair, seating between 1000 and 1200 people when filled.*

*The miniature locomotive and cars, which were stored during the summer season in a shed under the grandstand, were destroyed. The engine may be saved from the wreckage, as it may be possible to repair it.*

*The origin of the fire is unknown but it is thought that it was caused by a lighted cigarette being dropped through the floor of the grandstand to the rubbish beneath where the fire slumbered before bursting into flames.*

## JOHN FAY, Congressman in the NY Legislature and the US Congress

John Fay, in my opinion, was one of the most influential early settlers of Fish House, NY. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1773. He married Sarah Wescott in 1798 and moved to Fish House around 1803. He built the first brick store in 1803, it was in the center of the village until torn down in 1877. Fay built a home across from the brick store. He had 10 children and needed a large house. That house would eventually become the Fish House Hotel, a major attraction during its existence. The hotel burned down in 1920. Fay built a beautiful Victorian house on Old Fish House Road, that house was taken down in preparation for the Great Sacandaga Lake.

John Fay was a very active member in his community, a farmer, a land surveyor, a mill owner, a US Postmaster, and Northampton Town Supervisor from 1812 - 1822. He was also very involved in both state and federal governments. Fay was an assemblyman in the 32nd and 35th NYS Legislatures. He was elected to the US 16th Congress and served in that capacity from March 4th, 1819 to March 4th, 1821. He was also a Presidential Elector in the election of James Polk in 1844. John Fay was also directly and indirectly involved with the War of 1812.

A Short Summary: The War of 1812 has also been referred to as "The Second War of Independence". Britain and France had been at war since 1793 and trade routes were disrupted. The United States was having difficulty with international trade. Britain was seizing their ships and forcefully recruiting the US sailors into their Royal Navy. The United States tried embargo and trade acts, but that only put our country into an economic depression. So on June 18th, 1812, President Madison declared war against Britain. It was the first time the United States had declared war on a foreign nation. The United States invaded Canada that summer of 1812, with the intention of using Canada as a bargaining chip with the British. The following spring, on April 27, 1813, the Americans sailed across Lake Erie and attacked York (Toronto, now). York was the capital of the territory of Upper Canada. The Canadians and British retreated and the Americans burned down their capitol. In retaliation, on August 24th, 1813, the British attacked our US capital in Washington DC with the purpose of looting it and burning it down. They set fire to many government buildings. The US Capital was one of their primary targets as was the White House. The capital suffered severe damage, but luckily a rain storm (a possible hurricane) blew in and put out the fires and drove the British out. The War of 1812 would end on December 24th, 1814 with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, in Belgium.

Researched and written by Joanne Blaauboer



John Fay's house at Fish House, which was torn down.. Located next to Alexander St John's house which is now occupied by Mr. and Mr. Lewis Giles.



# EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

## BIRDS' EYE VIEW

Of the New Congress Hall, showing the plan of the Room and the position on the floor of the different members of the House of Representatives.

### REFERENCES.

a Speaker's chair,  
b Clerks,  
c Sergeant at Arms,  
d d Columns,  
E E & c e Fire places and Stoves,  
ff Flues to admit heated air.

### REFERENCIS.

g g Seats for privileged members,  
h h Reporters' boxes,  
i i Gallery seats,  
k k k Gallery doors,  
l Hall doors,  
m m Windows.

### MEMBERS.

Left or West side.

40 Hemphill, Pa.  
50 Edwards, Pa.  
51 Forrest, Pa.  
52 Sergeant, Pa.  
53 M'Lane, Del.  
54 Allen, Ten.  
55 Metcalfe, Ken.  
56 Brevard, S. C.  
57 Trimble, Ken.  
58 Brown, Ken.  
59 M'Lean, Ken.  
60 Strother, Va.  
61 Nelson, Mass.  
62 Overstreet, S. C.  
63  
64 Culpeper, N. C.  
65 Mercer, Va.  
66 Randolph, Va.  
67 Monell, N. Y.  
68 Van Rensselaer, N.Y.  
69 Lowndes, S. C.  
70 Simkins, Va.  
71 Strong, N. Y.  
72 Dickinson, N. Y.  
73 Lyman, N. Y.  
74 Tomlinson, Conn.  
75 Robertson, Ken.  
76 Strong, Va.  
77 Richmond, N. Y.  
78 Lincoln, Mass.  
79 Foot, Conn.  
80 Carr, Pa.  
81 Jones, Va.  
82 Mason, Mass.  
83 Crawford, Ga.  
84 Reid, Ga.  
85 Strarts, N. Y.  
86 Street, N. Y.  
87 Kendall, Mass.  
88 Mosely, Conn.  
89 Adams, Mass.  
90 Tucker, S. C.  
91 McCreary, S. G.  
92 Whiteman, Mass.  
93 Wood, N. Y.  
94 Dewar, Mass.  
95 Smith, N. C.  
96 Tracy, N. Y.

1 Rogers, Pa.  
2 Boden, Pa.  
3 Guyan, N. Y.  
4 Dennison, Pa.  
5 Patterson, Pa.  
6 Fullerton, Pa.  
7 Hostetter, Pa.  
8  
9 Philson, Pa.  
10 Baldwin, Pa.  
11 Bloomfield, N. J.  
12 Earle, S. C.  
13  
14 Ervin, S. C.  
15 Heister, Pa.  
16 Grass, Pa.  
17 Hall, Del.  
18 Davidson, N. C.  
19 Hall, N. C.  
20 Walker, R. I.  
21 Ball, Va.  
22 B. Smith, Va.  
23 Parker, Va.  
24 Tyler, Va.  
25 Nelson, Va.  
26 Rankin, Missis.  
27 Fisher, N. C.  
28 Burton, N. C.  
29 Cook, Ind.  
30 Pinkney, S. C.  
31 Warfield, Md.  
32 Nal, Md.  
33 Cooke, Ken.  
34 Bryan, Ten.  
35 Hooks, N. C.  
36 Slocum, N. C.  
37 Quarles, Ken.  
38 Barbour, Va.  
39 Woodruffe, Mich.  
40 Beacher, Ohio.  
41 Jones, Ten.  
42 Claggett, N. H.  
43 Mallary, Va.  
44 Herrick, Ohio.  
45 Hendricks, Ind.  
46 Mays, N. Y.  
47 Edwards, Ken.  
48 Allen, N. Y.

### MEMBERS.

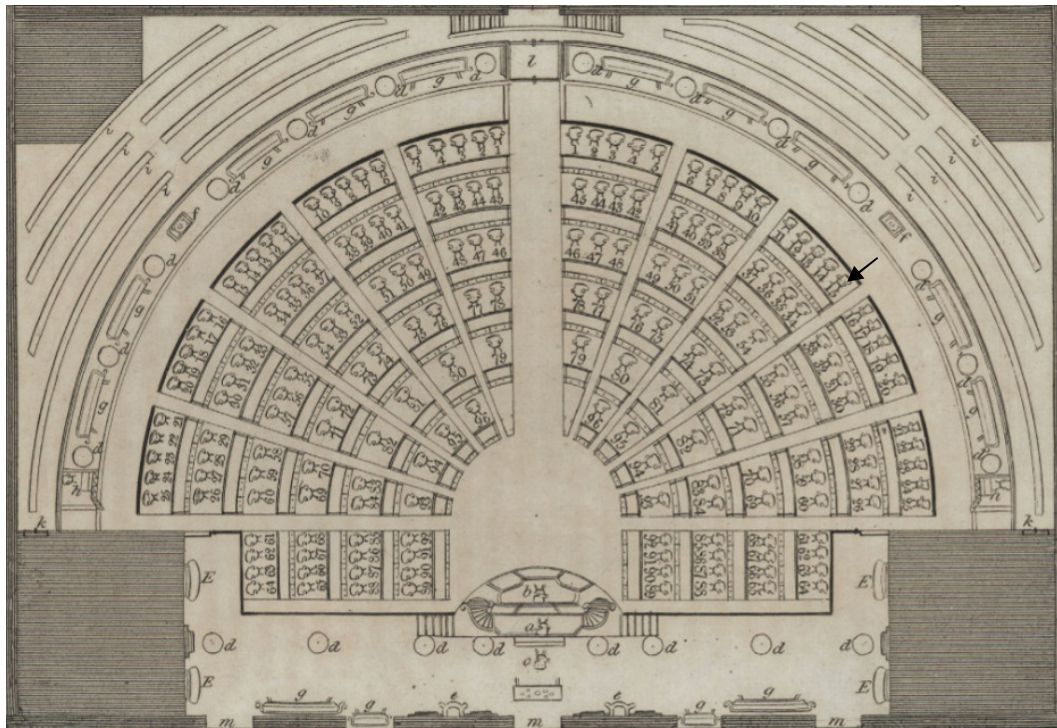
Right or East side.

1 Archer, Md.  
2 Ringgold, Md.  
3 Edwards, K. C.  
4 Garnett, Va.  
5 Newton, Va.  
6 Kent, Md.  
7 Smith, N. J.  
8  
9 Phelps, Conn.  
10 Upham, N. H.  
11 Taylor, N. Y.  
12 Rich, Va.  
13 Meesh, Va.  
14 Craft, Va.  
15 Fay, N. Y.  
16 Cannon, Ten.  
17 Johnson, Va.  
18  
19 Williams, N. C.  
20 Floyd, Va.  
21 Hardin, Ken.  
22 Cuthbert, Ga.  
23  
24 Bayly, Md.  
25 Archer, Va.  
26 Anderson, Ken.  
27 Abbott, Ga.  
28 Alexander, Va.  
29 Case, N. Y.  
30 Wendover, N. Y.  
31 Richards, Va.  
32 Murray, Pa.  
33 Macay, Pa.  
34 McCoy, Va.  
35 Little, Md.  
36 Butler, Louis.  
37 Ross, Ohio.  
38 Brush, Ohio.  
39 Fuller, Mass.  
40 Smith, Md.  
41 Stevens, Conn.  
42 Plumer, N. H.  
43 Peck, N. Y.  
44 Shaw, Mass.  
45 Holmes, Mass.  
46 Culbreth, Md.  
47 Butler, N. Y.  
48 A. Smith, Va.

49 Southard, N. J.  
50 Hall, N. Y.  
51 Cross, N. Y.  
52 Pichey, N. Y.  
53 Russ, Conn.  
54 Hazard, R. I.  
55 Tomkins, N. Y.  
56 Baker, N. Y.  
57 Rhea, Tenn.  
58 Linn, N. J.  
59 Bateman, N. J.  
60 Hall, N. C.  
61 Cobb, Ga.  
62 Tucker, Va.  
63 Burwell, Va.  
64  
65 Scott, Missouri.  
66 Crowell, Ala.  
67 Van Swearingen, Va.  
68 Pindall, Va.  
69 Cashman, Mass.  
70 Kinley, Mass.  
71 Eddy, R. I.  
72 Morton, Mass.  
73 Wallace, Pa.  
74 Hibsham, Pa.  
75 Clark, N. Y.  
76 Ford, N. Y.  
77 Lisbee, Mass.  
78 Sampson, Mass.  
79 Hill, Mass.  
80 Buckley, N. Y.  
81 De Witt, N. Y.  
82 Parker, Mass.  
83 Marchand, Pa.  
84 R. Moore, Pa.  
85 Walker, N. C.  
86 Terrell, Ga.  
87 S. Moore, Pa.  
88 Buffum, N. H.  
89 Falger, Mass.  
90 Livermore, N. H.  
91 Lathrop, Mass.  
92 Allen, Mass.  
93 Williams, Pa.  
94 Darlington, Pa.  
95 Sloan, Ohio.  
96 Campbell, Ohio.

So how does John Fay fit into this historical scenario?

- Fay was a member of the 35th NYS legislature on June 18th, 1812, the day that President Madison declared war on the British.
- On March 31, 1813, the NYS Legislature passed an act that sent several muskets and cartridges to New York towns that bordered on the wilderness. The British were allies with many Indian tribes and the towns were fearful of Indian attacks. Fish House (Northampton) was one of those towns. Twelve Northampton residents, including John Fay, were put in charge of 40 muskets and one box of cartridges to defend their town.
- It took 5 years to rebuild the US Capitol building after the War of 1812. The 16th Congress convened in March of 1819. It was the first congress to meet in the rebuilt capital building. John Fay was an assemblyman in the 16th US Congress. In the 1820 publication of the Analectic Magazine, there is a list of the House members of the 16th congress as well as a seating chart. John Fay sat in Seat 15. His party was the Democratic-Republican party which made up a majority of the house.(150). The other party was the Federalists, they held 31 seats.





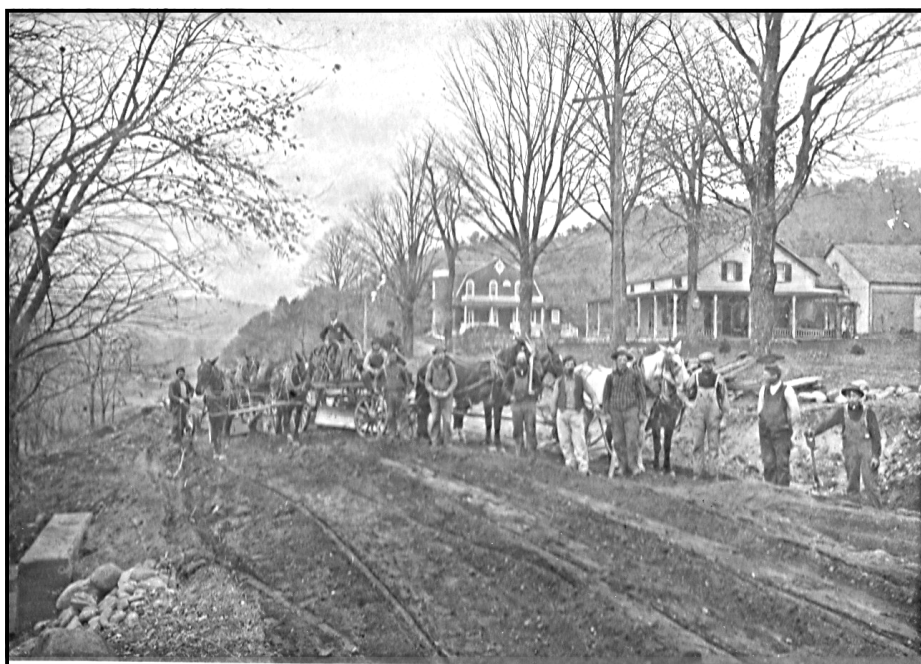


From the Burdette Brownell Collection

## LAMB'S HILL

End of Reed Street, down the hill toward Parkville

Notice steps going up to Mr. and Mrs. Lamb's house before the large Randolph House was built.



Mr. and Mrs. Lamb's house with the Randolph House in the Background

The barn was refurbished into a private home. Charles and Margaret Downing lived there. It is currently occupied by another family.