

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 98  
October 2018  
Editor  
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## AIRPORTS AND PRIVATELY OWNED AIR FIELDS THAT WERE IN THE TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON

There have been at least 4 airports/air fields that have operated in the Town of Northampton. The Sacandaga Park Airport in 1941 by Walker La Rowe, The Red Barn Airport, Woodward Lake for Sea Planes, and Elwin Cramer's private landing field on 'The Flats' at the old Cramer farm in Maple Grove.

### SACANDAGA PARK AIRPORT

AKA Adirondack Aero Club

It was located on old route 30, now route 152 across from King Cemetery where Juergens Point housing development is located.

"Our travel in this section is expected to "boom" considerably following the announcement of the opening of the Sacandaga Park Airport on Saturday and Sunday May 10 & 11. Free passenger rides will be a feature of the opening weekend. (Larry remembers taking a ride with his father, Perry Cramer)

The airport borders the Sacandaga Reservoir and facilities are available for landing both land and seaplanes. The later will have docking privileges during the June, July, August and September. " The Morning Herald May 1941

"Although not a licensed pilot, Mr. LaRowe has 2 sons; Woodrow and Elrow, who are licensed and will work at the field.

There are 3 Piper Cub cruisers at the field now. LaRowe said the field has a runway of 1500 ft and is equipped with new individual hangers.

The airport was opened during May 10 - 11 weekend with an air meet. A similar meet, which will be July 4, according to Mr. LaRowe and the airport will be open to transient fliers

A certificate of incorporation for the Adirondack Aero Club Inc., capitalized at \$30,000 with principal office in the village of Northville.

Walker LaRowe is Chief Director and will serve as President of the Corporation."

The Morning Herald June 3, 1941

### Sacandaga Park Airport

Passenger Flights  
Flying Instructions  
Club Memberships

For further information, address:

ADIRONDACK AERO CLUB  
Ph. 22 and 168 Northville, N. Y.

Advertisement from the  
1941 NCS Yearbook

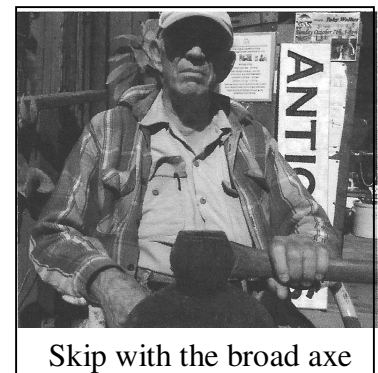
### WOODWARD LAKE

(Seaplane landing)

In 1927 Bob Woodward, one of America's wealthiest business men bought 126 acres of land in Gifford's Valley from John A Willard. He had big plans to develop the land into building lots and build a dam to land seaplanes.

### MUSEUM

A broad axe was recently donated to our museum by Willis "Skip" Barshied He bought it many years ago from Glen Duncan. Skip is 88 years old and has been a collector of antique tools for many years. He is very historically minded and is trying to put some of the tools he's collected back to the area from which he got them from.



Skip with the broad axe

The museum is officially closed for this season. Artifacts have been packed away and some moved to a warmer area.

Work needs to be done on the museum building this Spring and possibly an addition added to the rear of the building.

The dam was built, the waters filled the pond but the sea plane landing was soon abandoned because he forgot to investigate the down draft of the mountains in the Adirondacks. Landing was difficult and not practical. See Sept issue of NNHS newsletter for more information

## RED BARN AIRPORT Circa 1964 - 1972

Lincoln Fraiser conducted a large dairy farm on Route 30, just north of Cranberry Creek. A huge red barn still stands on the east side of the road. For years that land was an open field, gradually over the years, being unattended, it has become thick with trees.

In 1944 Mr. Fraiser was approached by several persons from New York and talked to him about purchasing 250 acres of his land to build an airport. Apparently that fell through as Mr. Fraiser sold his farm to the Poulin Family in 1947/48. The Poulin's farmed the land, raising cows and selling milk.

John Breazzano bought the farm for the purpose of building an airport. Mr. Breazzano had a commercial pilots license and rating of flight instructor.

The airport was incorporated in 1964 according to the *Morning Herald* newspaper. Mr. Breazzano had plans to apply a hard surface 3,300 foot runway and install landing lights. He planned on plowing the runway in the winter to afford year round flying conditions. There was also talk of extending the runway across the road, which would have involved rerouting route 30 (None of those plans materialize)

Owner, John Breazano purchased a light twin Cessna plane for use at the field to be used in instructional flying, for charter flights and for freight forwarding.

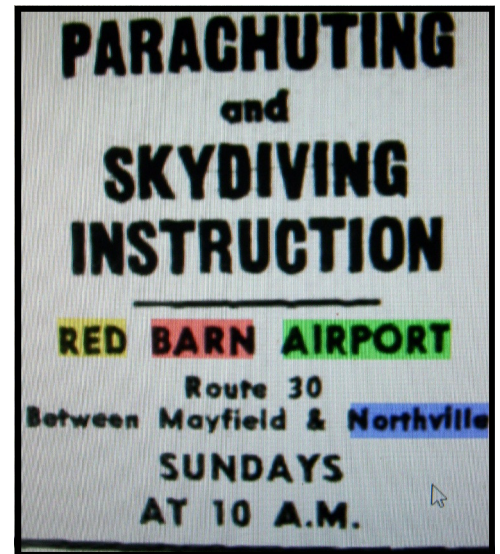
The airfield was also used for Parachuting, skydiving instructions, and parachute demonstrations. Dave Pincombe remembers his mother taking him to the airfield on a Sun

day afternoon to watch the parachuters perform.

“Two Glove Cities girls became parachute jumpers on recent weekends at the Red Barn airport on the Mayfield-Northville Road after completing a parachute jumping training course.”

*The Morning Herald 1966*

Four were injured and hospitalized when an airplane went into a “power stall” about 15 feet above the ground. The left wing touched the ground and the plane cart-wheeled, causing the nose to strike the ground.



**FOUR PERSONS WERE INJURED** Saturday morning when this light airplane crashed shortly after takeoff from the Red Barn Airport on the Mayfield Northville Road. (Photo by Frank Ambrose Jr.)



This red building is the hanger at the airport. It can still be seen from route 30, on the west side, behind some trees.

Here is the “Red Barn”, today, looking north on route 30. The airport was on the left side of the road. The sign “Red Barn” can still be seen on the barn (if you look closely)





**ELWIN CRAMER  
AIR FIELD**

Elwin's private landing field was on his family's farm on the Maple Grove road, about 1 1/2 miles west of the village of Northville. He was a well trained pilot and known for his ability to fly his plane in difficult situations. He always had his pet dog, Pal with him.

Sometimes he would give friends or relatives rides. Once he flew his nephew, Larry, from Edinburg airport to his field in Maple Grove.

Elwin also enjoyed his motorcycle and had a pet crow that would ride on his shoulder.



**Elwin, his plane, and dog, Pal**

The rubber tires he half buried to hold down his plane, can still be found on the grown-up field where he kept his plane.

**FUN FOR EVERYONE AT THE  
BAZAAR  
— AND —  
LAWN FESTIVAL  
ON THE VILLAGE GREEN  
COL. BRIDGE AND MAIN STREETS  
NORTHVILLE, N. Y.  
SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1950  
7:10 A. M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT  
FOOD SALE STARTS AT 7:10 A. M.  
Booths—Concessions—Novelties—Fish Pond—Ice Cream  
Block Dance—Pony Rides for the Kiddies  
Sponsored by THIRD ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ST. FRANCIS CHURCH  
In Case of Rain Summer Will Be Held Saturday, July 29th**

Back in the 1950's the village green was a popular place for many events. It was a safe place for kids to be without their parents. The drug store was always open until late, to buy an ice cream sundae or ice cream float, as was Newberry's Five and Dime store. Tuccio's would also be open for the young folks.

How much do you want to bet that Sam the Popcorn man was parked along side the curb.

## FORMER STUDENTS of NORTHVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

*While looking for an article for this newsletter, I came across an interesting writing by Gordon Mosher. He was impressed with some of the students that had graduated from NCS and had become very successful. Although Gordon probably wrote about these former students in the late 1940's, the students he was writing about graduated many years before. NCS's education has always had an excellent reputation. The teachers have been superb, caring, and well educated themselves. This reputation continues on today. Mr. Mosher mentions many names of years ago, but there are hundreds more that have gone on to succeed, from NCS that won't be mentioned here.*

Gordon writes, "The boys and girls of Northville are like the boys and girls all over the U. S. A., few are studious, some are dreamers, and some are so full of mischief that they are the despair of their teachers. But they grow up and then they are ready to seize the opportunity to make good. Time doesn't permit me to tell of all our boys and girls, but I'd like to tell about a few of them."

Stephen, in second grade, much preferred to put a little water in his paint box and then dabble bright spots of paint all over everything. When he grew up, he became interested in wireless and so Stephen A Harvey was sent to Kodiak Is. Alaska to man radio station W. X. F. He has recently been given a position in Washington D. C.

Maurice Osborn from the same class, has been high school principal, held various positions in the State Department and is now Chief of the Bureau of Field Services in the State Education Dept.

Lawrence was so full of mischief that it was hard for him to keep his mind on his work. His teacher managed to get this thought across to him "Take a picture with your mind of the things you see." M/Sgt. Lawrence A. Patrick was a member of the Merchant Marines. In 1929, he enlisted in the U. S. army. In WW 2, as a member of the Army Air Force, he was in charge of technical supply of Williams Field. Recently he has returned from an important government mission to South America.

Wade and Clayton Foote could stir up plenty of mischief in a few minutes but as men they have made good. Clayton is a master carpenter on Long Island and Wade is a hoisting engineer in New York.

Walter Russell served in the Navy, in World War 1 and was in the Reserves. He was Communications Office in WW 2. He is now holding a responsible position with the Niagara Power and Light Corp.

William Foote was interested in guns. He was in the Marines in WWI. In WW2 he was Warrant Officer, giving gunnery instruction at the Navy Pre-Flight School at the University of Iowa.

Bob Van Arnam was a high ranking Scout. As such he was privileged to attend the World Jamboree of the Boy Scouts held in England in 1929. As Major Harry R. Van Arnam (Bob), he did valiant service in the European

Theater in WW2

Harold Chartier is a valued executive with the NY Power and Light Corp. working from the Albany office.

John Blann went to Liberia, Africa as an Industrial Arts Teacher. This Fall, he expects to sail for Northern Rhodesia, South Africa where he will teach industrial arts and do missionary work

William Blann is a Chemist. He was one of a very small group, who have been working on a method to extract more sugar from sugar cane. As chief of the group, he went to California for research work, then to Porto Rico.

Two of our boys became ministers. Albert Strobel is connected with the Methodist Church in Glens Falls. Olaf Johnson is a minister at Castleton, Vt.

Elrow La Rowe is Secretary Treasure of the India Mission at Ekyeria, Ohio

Capt. Woodrow La Rowe is flying out of New York for the Pennsylvania Central Air Line.

William Mosher is an Electrical Engineer working in the field of oil burner installation and air conditioning at Hartford Conn. He is assistant manager.

Robert Mosher is a C.P.A. accountant in Newark, NJ.

Dr. Fayette Mosher is practicing at Coeyman's NY. He served in the medical corps in the European theater.

Warren Meter is a Chemical Engineer. At present is doing research work to produce better transformers for General Electric Co.

Donald Parker is Chief Body Guard for Attorney Biddle at the trials in Germany.

Capt Margaret Lawton was the first nurse to enlist from Northville. Capt Lawton saw service in England, North Africa and Italy. She was chief nurse of surgery of her outfit while in Italy. She is now at Mason Gen. Hospital Brentwood, Long Island. She has been in service for 5 1/2 years. Prior to her entering Nurses Corps she was nurse assistant to Dr. William Kennedy.

Esther Johnson, daughter of the late Olaf Johnson, was a member of the faculty of the American College at Beirut, Syria.

Lucia Meter Anderson majored in Science. In 1941, she began special research work in the laboratories of the General Electric Co., in Schenectady, Bridgeport, Conn. And Lynn, Mass. She was the only woman chosen to present a paper at a meeting of all the research workers of the G.E. Co. At present she is assistant to Dr. Hullett, the originator of the photo-electric cell.

Ruth Abrams is in the Govt. Strategic Service. She also served in India, France, and at present has charge of an office in Germany.

Elizabeth Ten Broeck is private secretary to Dr. Arvie Eldred of the State Education Dept.

Charlotte Duncan Russell taught Home Economics and later became the Town of Northampton and Village of Northville Historian.

Eleanor Lawton Belmont She grew up in Northville, NY located on the Great Sacandaga Lake. While completing her high school education there, she worked in her father's store and also at the Adirondack Inn, eventually earning enough money so she could attend the Albany State Teacher's college, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in teaching. She then received her Master's from the State University College at Oneonta. Eleanor arrived in Walton, NY circa 1945 taking her very first teaching assignment

Hazel Straight Corey graduated from N.H.S. in 1911. She taught in country schools for two years directly from high school before attending Oneonta Normal School. During WW2, Hazel was assistant chief of the Air Craft Warning Service for Northville.

Amy Mosher Michler graduated from Northville High School in 1926. She furthered her education and became a much loved school teacher

Esther Jensen Whitney had several careers. She served in the US Navy during WWII. She worked for Dun and Bradstreet, the NYS Department of Tax & Finance. She traveled nationally and internationally, after beginning a new career at age 60, for Gare, a ceramics products Company. *These are just few of the beginnings of what Northville's education has produced and will continue on, to make a difference in our world.*

## Readers Comments

Thanks for the Sept. issue of the newsletter. Great job as usual. This issue brings back lots of memories for me. Dr. Grant delivered me at home on So. Main St. on Jan. 27, 1932. Then 12 years later, when I got hurt at Boy Scout Camp in Hope Falls, I was taken to his office for treatment. The Main St. pictures show the Esso Station where I worked before joining the Marine Corps. The Hotpoint sign hangs over the basement entrance to my Uncle Arthur's radio/TV/appliance shop. Tuccio's Sugar Bowl was a favorite hang out and the place where I met my wife Shirley, when she worked there. And the Brass Rail reminds me that when it was owned by Percy, he had the town's first TV set. And later it was owned by my brother-in-law Frank Bendl and his brother. It's also interesting to see the old cars, which had real steel bumpers! Best regards, Jack Sands

I enjoyed reading your latest article. Northville doesn't look a whole lot different than it did in the 1950's.

I hope everyone appreciates the news letters as much as I do. Some time I feel like I'm there.

SDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1937

### Adirondack Indian Name For Region

**Barkeaters Is Original Name  
Given to Territory by  
First to Roam It; Other  
Important Facts.**

When the British in 1664 took over New Netherlands from the Dutch, the entire white population of the colony was 12,000, and by 1700 it had reached a total of only 20,000, according to Publicity-Utility Information.

The name Catskills comes from the Dutch Kaatskill, meaning "Place of Many Wildcats," and the name Adirondack comes from the Mohawk Indian word, Hatirontaks, meaning "Barkeaters."