

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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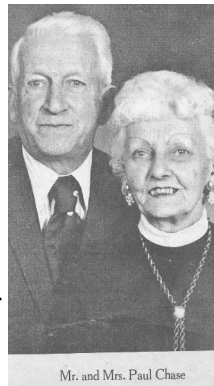


## LOCAL CEMETERIES IN LATE 1920'S

Can you imagine the undertaking (pardon the pun) it was to move 3,872 bodies to new locations and the emotions of the people whose loved ones had to be exhumed from their resting places. Family members had to be contacted to give permission to have them moved and if they approved of the cemetery that was designated, and if not, then where they wanted them reburied. HRRB has records of where each body was moved from, the condition of the remains, and the name of the relative giving permission to move it. Most often there wasn't a coffin in good enough shape to move, so the remains were placed in a relatively small box for reburial. The boxes were not as fancy as the ones made today for cremations.

Roger Chase, my second cousin, was interviewed a few years ago by Gordon Cornell, who at that time, was the Broadalbin Historian.

Roger told Gordon that his father, Paul Chase owned a lumber mill in 1921 in the Town of Providence, which was on the Providence/Fish House Road. Paul was awarded the contract to construct burial boxes for the bodies being removed for the new reservoir that was being built. He hired 8 to 10 employees to saw the lumber to size. How many they made and if there were different sizes is unknown at this time.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chase

The boxes were delivered to the various sites where the disinternments were taking place.

Roger told Gordon that he believed that his grandfather, Leon Crannell (my grandfather's brother) was hired to deliver these boxes to the cemeteries where the bodies were being removed. According to the records at the HRRB building, someone had to identify the condition of the remains before they were placed in the new wooden box. If there was a head stone for the person, that was also removed to the new cemetery.

I'm sure that probably Mr. Crannell was not the only one to transport the boxes, coffins and head stones to their new locations. I've heard

others say that someone in their family had helped remove and move the bodies. What a horrendous task. Mr. August Berhaupt was the engineer in charge of this project

Currently, Linda Finch is painting another of her famous local folk art paintings. This one is a pictorial of the event(s) that took place in removing the bodies. It is a fascinating piece of folk art work that makes you stop and think about what actually took place.



A sneak Preview of a small part of Linda's Cemetery Painting



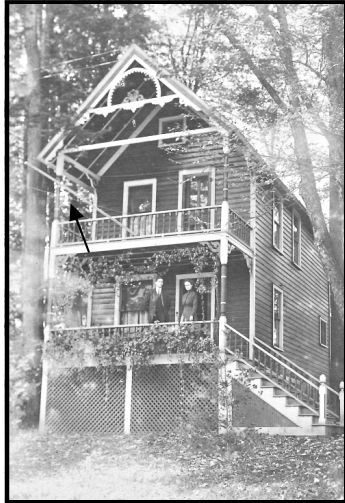
One of the cemeteries where many bodies were re-interred. Route 152 in the town of Northampton

# A SHORT QUESTION Leads to a long partial answer

By John Ferguson

In a conversation with our esteemed Historian, she asked if I know of a man named F.W. Wilson who she believed to have been a Sacandaga Park manager based on a picture that she had come across of a cottage. "No", says I, the only Wilson's that I know of in the Park were Ziny and the photographer hermit Stewart"

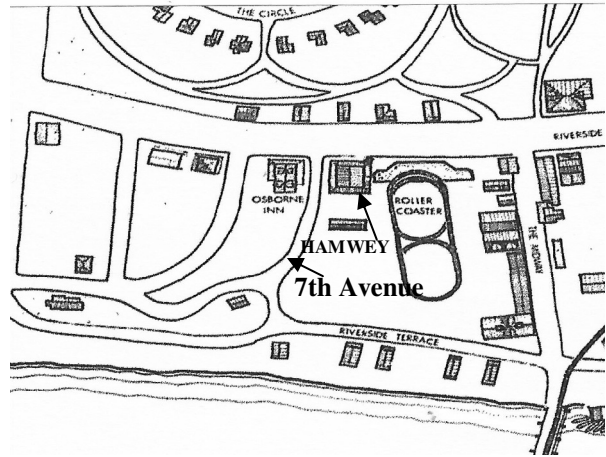
Well, she said, "I have a real photo post card taken by Dunlop on the back, of which is written in pencil a description of the cottage as a railroad cottage being occupied by the writer's father and family across the road from the roller coaster."



Post cards, real photo, Dunlop, Sacandaga Park, roller coaster all got my attention. In my rather extensive collection of post cards of the Park, I knew no such card existed.

On the westerly side of Riverside Boulevard or Beach Club Road at Sacandaga Park, there are 3 existing cottages remaining from the early twentieth century glory years of the Park. After a field inspection, Gail had tentatively concluded the cottage in the photo was the most southerly of the three. "Are you sure?" I asked. That cottage is across from the Hamwey Hotel, not the roller coaster. "Are you sure?" was the rejoinder. "Quite" I replied. So began a brief sojourn back to the early 1900s with the following admittedly sketchy results.

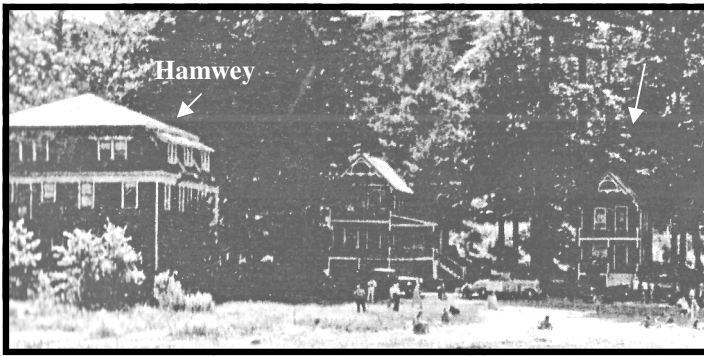
Picture hereon are The Hamwey, a boarding house, restaurant, grocery store and souvenir shop, the near exact location of which can be ascertained from Regulating District files and from a map of Sacandaga park Lots prepared by C. Fiske, C. E. and filed in the Fulton County Clerk's Office on May 17, 1897, as northerly of and adjoining the retaining wall supporting the current outdoor dining area of the Sport Island Pub. Said dining area is located on Seventh Avenue as shown on the Fiske map.



Additionally, shown hereon are: a 1926 advertisement in a Gloversville paper, in which Hamwey is misspelled, a reduced portion of a map that I prepared in 1976 from Regulating District maps dated 1929 and the real photo post card that set the narrative in motion. All of this is fine, but which of the three cottages is the same as the picture is still unproven and who F. W. Wilson was and when and if he managed the park hasn't been addressed. To wit: a pamphlet of 1912 labeled List of Cottages to rent and for sale, Sacandaga park instructs the reader "Apply to F. W Wilson, manager, Sacandaga park" So these two questions are partially addressed. Also other post cards and a 1938 photo of the beach taken from the lake that were examined ascertain that the real photo post card is the same as the most northerly cottage. It really doesn't make any difference one way or the other, but it's been a fun exercise.







1938 photo of the beach taken from the lake

Thanks Gail for engaging this soft, weary, pent up COVID-19 brain.

### *SACANDAGA PARK MISCELLANY*

Frank A. Hamwey operated the Hamwey for several years. As evidenced by the many pieces of souvenir glass and other souvenir items bearing his name that can still be found.

Stanton Bogaskie, assisted by his wife Barbara, at various times in the early twentieth century ran the Pines Hotel and Annex, the former S. H. Shotwell cottage near the river, and the Log Cabin Inn, which featured a separate "Ladies Entrance" on the easterly side of Riverside Boulevard.

Mr. Stanton died in 1925, the wife, as the sole devisee, transferred ownership of the Hamwey property, Lot 116, on the northerly side of Seventh Avenue and the easterly side of Riverside Boulevard to the People of the State of New York (Hudson river Regulating District) in July of 1929.

Joseph K. Dunlop, the photographer, ran a shop on a lot he owned, one lot northerly of the Midway on the easterly side of Riverside Boulevard at the northerly end of what today is commonly known as the Sport Island Pub beach area.

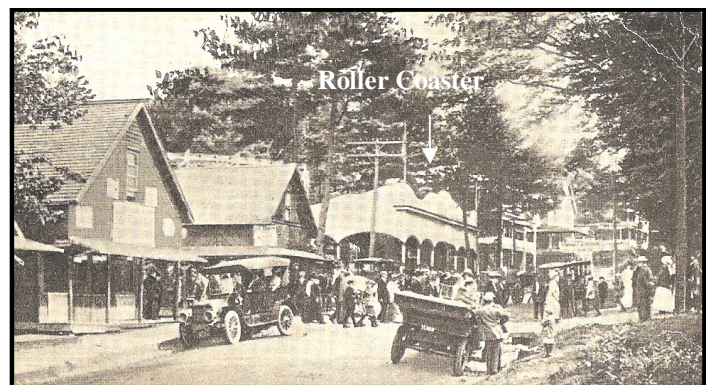
After most every building on Sacandaga Reservoir land had either been burned, destroyed or moved to higher ground with the flooding in 1930, the Hamwey, Murphy's Ice Cream Stand, the Rustic Theater and a few smaller camps remained on State land in the Park area.

The Hamwey and Murphy's stand were destroyed in the late 1930's. The rustic Theater remained on State land until it burned in the summer of 1955.

When the State of New York finally was able to take possession of lands appropriated for reservoir purposes at Sacandaga Park from the Fonda, Johnstown & Gloversville Railroad after years of litigation, condemnation proceedings, and negotiations, the deed the State received contained reservations and exceptions that are still often the source of contention over 90 years later.

John K Rauer, 51, was well known and regarded as of a pleasant personality and jolly nature pitched head first out of a car on the roller coaster and landed on his head from a height of some 30 feet and he died some 20 minutes on a late Sunday afternoon while enjoying an outing with the Catholic societies of Johnstown. Rauer's pocket watch stopped at 6:18, but the clipped article fails to mention the date.

In early May of 1913, a fire destroyed among other buildings, all but one building on the south side of the Midway. The buildings reputedly contained ten concessions or businesses, as you please. The nearby roller coaster was spared. JWF



Riverside Boulevard looking south

## BITS AND PIECES OF HISTORY

*This 1883 article was emailed to me by Jamie Groff Dickenson. She was doing some research on Hope when this article popped up several times. It was in several different newspapers from around the state. This is so weird ! I contacted a friend who is a Naturalist in ADK to see if the "bug" sounded like anything he's heard of. His reaction was "someone has a huge imagination." Interesting that it was in so many newspapers. Jamie called it bizarre. Ed.*

About the first of last October **Minnie Wiley**, aged about ten years, died at the residence of her grandfather, Leonard Lyon, with whom she lived, and the circumstances of her death may be of interest to some of the readers of the SARATOGIAN, even at this late date. She had been very ill nearly two weeks, but was thought to be better and hopes were entertained of her recovery. A day or two previous to her death she was taken suddenly worse, and the attending physician, Dr. F. N. Wright, thought necessary to give an emetic. She vomited considerable corrupt matter, and with it an animal or **insect**. It is described as having wings, six legs with claws, two horns and a beak half an inch in length. When it was laid out flat it measured three inches. Dr. Wright thinks it was alive in her stomach until the medicine killed it. It is supposed that she swallowed it while drinking water from her hand dipped from a brook, a year before, when she was out in the field with two other little girls. A lady visiting at Mr. Lyons at the time remembers hearing her say, when she came in, that she guessed she had swallowed a lizard or something when drinking. When asked what made her think so, if she saw it; she said, "no, she did not see any, but she felt something go down her throat." Her health during last summer was good, except sometimes she would clasp her hands on her stomach and say she was sick, and she would for a few moments be extremely pale, but as it lasted less than five minutes no alarm was felt. Dr. Wright says he has failed to find anything in natural **history** to answer the description of the insect or animal, which is now to be seen in his office at Northville.

The first main road to be laid out in the Town of Northampton, was on the hillside east of the village, running parallel to the present Main Street. It is now called the Ridge Road. It was laid out in 1794 and was the only road from Fish House, through Hardscrabble to Hope and Wells and on into Canada. In 1931, the Federal WPA program allowed the Ridge Road to be widened and graveled, but it wasn't until the late 1950's that it was paved. C.D.R.

Did you know that underwear was made in Northville? The Northville Knitting Mill was established in 1891 by Eli Van Brocklin. The factory was on the corner of Second and Division Streets. It employed 225 local workers. It was the first commercial building in Northville to have electricity. Mr. Van Brocklin ran a wire from the mill to his home so he could have a street light in front of his house.

