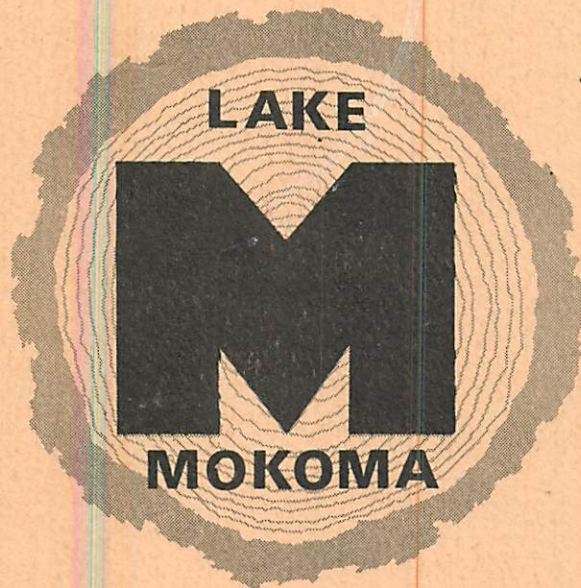


LAKE MOKOMA AND LA PORTE

**An Illustrated History of the Area
Sullivan County, Pennsylvania**

**From prehistory to the present—Geology, Indians,
Penn's Charter First Land Owners and Settlers,
Founders of the County, Lumbering Tanning and the
Railroad, the four Lake Companies and the present
Lake Association.**



Published by the Lake Mokoma Association, 1978

LAKE MOKOMA AND LA PORTE

**An Illustrated History of the Area
Sullivan County Pennsylvania**



By
David N. Bradshaw

Published by the Lake Mokoma Association, 1978

Lake Mokoma and LaPorte, An Illustrated History

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FOREWORD

It is interesting, useful, and may even be important to know what events preceded our life span. It informs our present judgments, gives us an opportunity to avoid past errors, and it gives us understanding and appreciation of those who worked for what we now enjoy. One purpose of this history then is to dovetail into the larger structure of State, Nation, and even World history the affairs that led to the formation of this small lake, to explain how these broader affairs drew the people here who created our inheritance, to tell briefly how and why they acted as they did.

A question raised has been, "Why so much general Pennsylvania history when this is available elsewhere?" While it is possible to find it elsewhere, it is available only in scattered sources not as a single narrative, and nowhere has this general history been tied into our locality.

Each person's perception of Lake Mokoma and LaPorte is likely to be different. So to embrace a variety of viewpoints I asked for impressions of people and events from many present residents particularly of their early memories. Also, that the result would reflect not only my focus, the original script was read by more than twenty people who were invited to write comments or corrections on it—many did, most were worked into the final script.

I was peculiarly fortunate in the undertaking to have as forbears some of those who were active in the formation of the County and the Lake; the latter was a topic throughout my early life in family discussions. For some years prior to taking on the project, because of these connections and an interest in the past of the area I had collected considerable data. However, under the stimulus of having actually to put it all down I found gaps in what I thought I knew. Searching down the missing bits became a mixed pleasure—finding new information being the plus of the mix; having to revise old ideas or leave out some nuggets that turned up the minus. The search led through attics, demolished buildings, and even a barn or two, public records, various former histories and of course interviews with those living who experienced some of the beginnings.

Questions of fact have been checked, sometimes with conflicting results, as with the spelling of LaPorte; here I have chosen the older original form as may befit a history and for consistency retained it throughout. Where facts were in conflict from different sources, one was chosen.

Thanks could go on for pages, for many people lent a hand—a few require special mention: Thomas and Mary Cosgrove for pictures, Robert and Christine Crist and Kenneth Heim and Wilson Ferguson for expert and incisive interlinear criticism (with examples). Marjorie Carpenter for research, old maps, deeds and pictures; W. R. Stepp for research, fact checking, drawings and written corrections; Pauline Holcombe for pictures and facts; Richard Lindabury for patient liaison with the Association—and Kit Bradshaw for acerbic comment and long suffering proof reading and restorative gins, and to the following for written memoirs presenting a picture of times and places of which they knew more than I, which I have used: Jean Beatty, Wilson Ferguson, Pat Heim, Marie Heim Lindabury, and Eunice Ingham Myers.

David N. Bradshaw
New York, 1978



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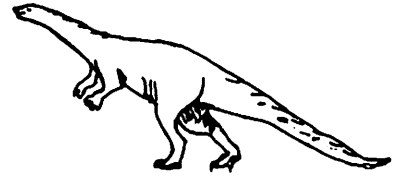
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CHAPTER I

Physical Beginnings



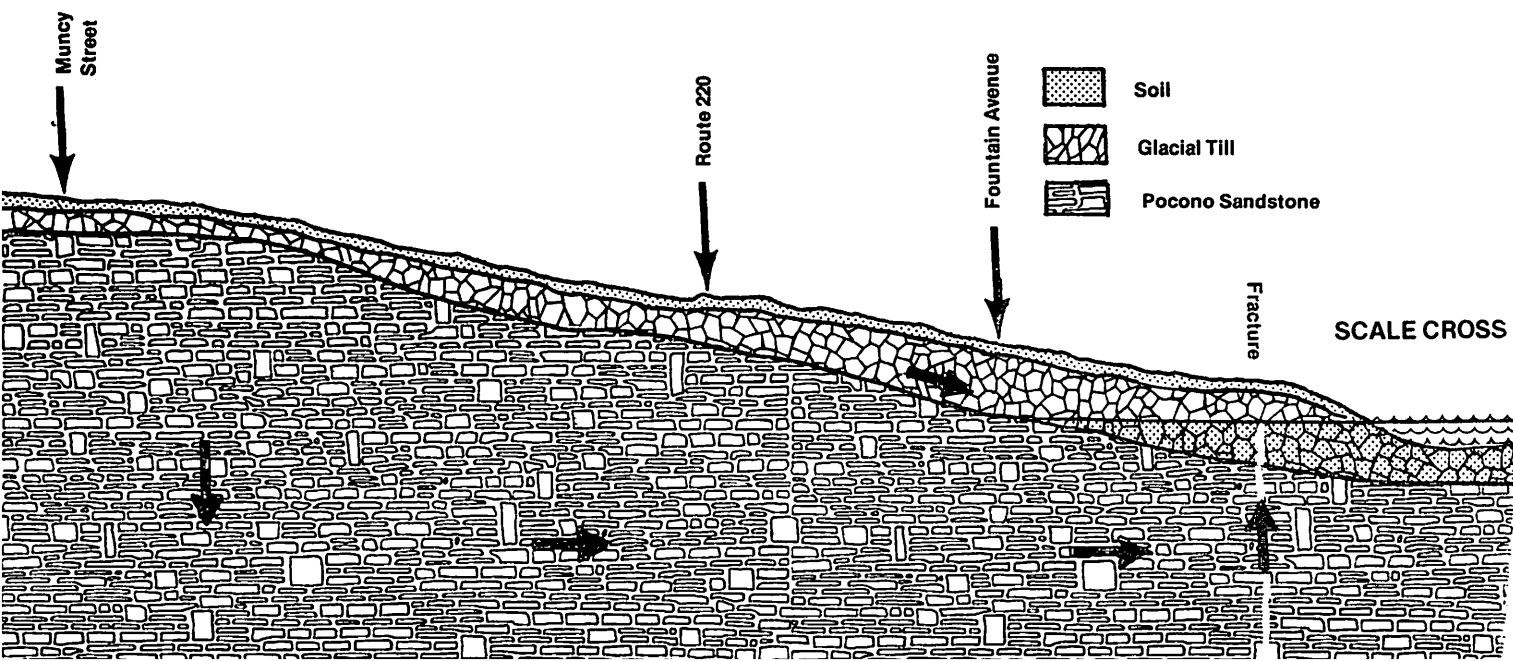
Lake Mokoma lies in a 2.1 square mile watershed of the underlying Pocono formation 1752 feet above sea level—as the sea level exists in our present age. The Pocono was originally some 1200 feet thick, but over the eons has been eroded and scoured by numerous glaciers so that from zero at the outcrops to anywhere between 30 to 70 feet of debris now lie on top of the remaining one to 400 feet of bedrock. This debris or glacial till, as it is called, is topped by various soils, of which nine or ten are recognized in this vicinity among the hundred or more that soil scientists identify. These soils are made up of weathered till, plus the thousands of years of deposited organic matter from plants and animals of the area.

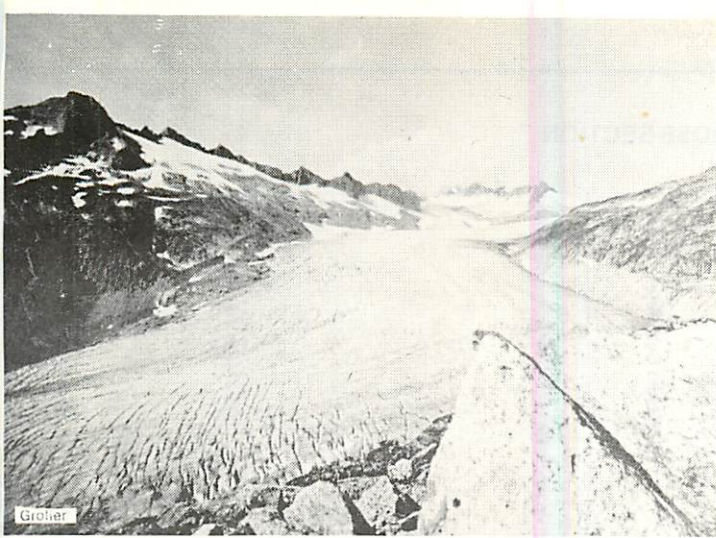
If we jump from Biblical creation and skip over the five hundred million years of the Pre-Cambrian era, we may say that our mountain and lake areas really began to take their present form in the Devonian period when this Pocono bedrock was laid down. It is composed of the deposits left after the receding of the shallow seas that had spread over most continents, and by rivers running down to those early seas. The first forests started then in the swamps of the huge deltas of these rivers (compared to which the Mississippi's present delta would be a mere pygmy). Through successive floodings and deposition of sediments have come the ingredients of our rock. This

Pocono rock lies on top of an earlier layer called Catskill, and under a later one, the Pottsville, but except for a bit near Bernice, the Pottsville has disappeared from the area.

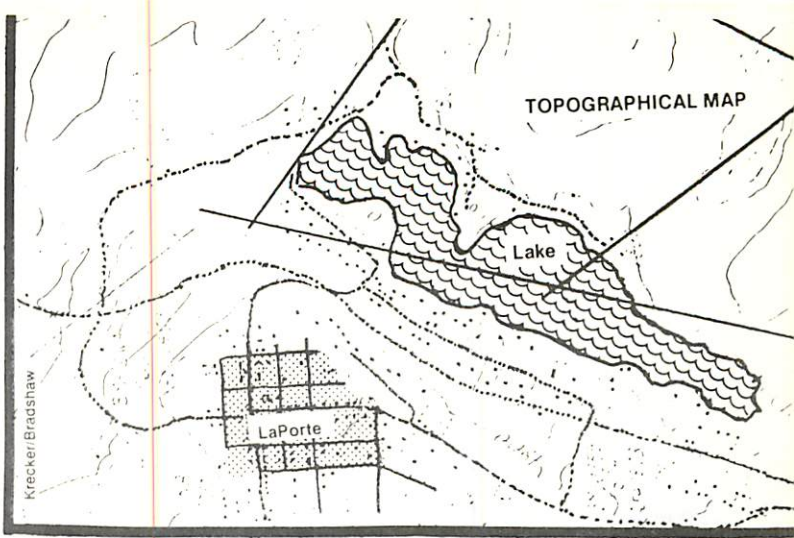
One hundred million years later, or about one third of the remaining time span between the Devonian and today, there occurred an enormous uplift from Maine to Alabama which pushed this whole, then low-lying area, up into a lofty plateau, ranging from 20,000 feet (the height of Mt. McKinley) to 30,000 feet (the height of Everest). This "Appalachian Revolution" gradually subsided over the remaining 200 million years, first weathering down, and later being folded by the tremendous pressures generated by vast earth movements into the recognizable patterns of our Allegheny chain which runs northeast to southwest through Pennsylvania. If these folds were flattened out, it has been estimated that our basic Pennsylvania rock strata would stretch through New Jersey and well out into the Atlantic Ocean.

About a million years ago or one three-hundredth of the time since the rocks were first being formed, the ice ages arrived with their successive glaciers, some of which were up to half a mile thick. These froze and melted many times until a mere fifteen thousand years ago when the last one retreated leaving in place





Glacier similar to those that swept over the Lake Mokoma area in geologic times. Eons of weathering and ice had the effect of planing off mountains similar to those shown above down to the rounded shapes of our present day scenery.



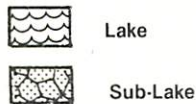
Black dots denote buildings as of 1966. Straight black lines indicate main fractures of the underlying Pocono Sandstone. Dotted lines denote roads. Elevation is 1752 feet at water level of lake.

particles from the size of a grain of sand to huge boulders, some of which are nine feet across.

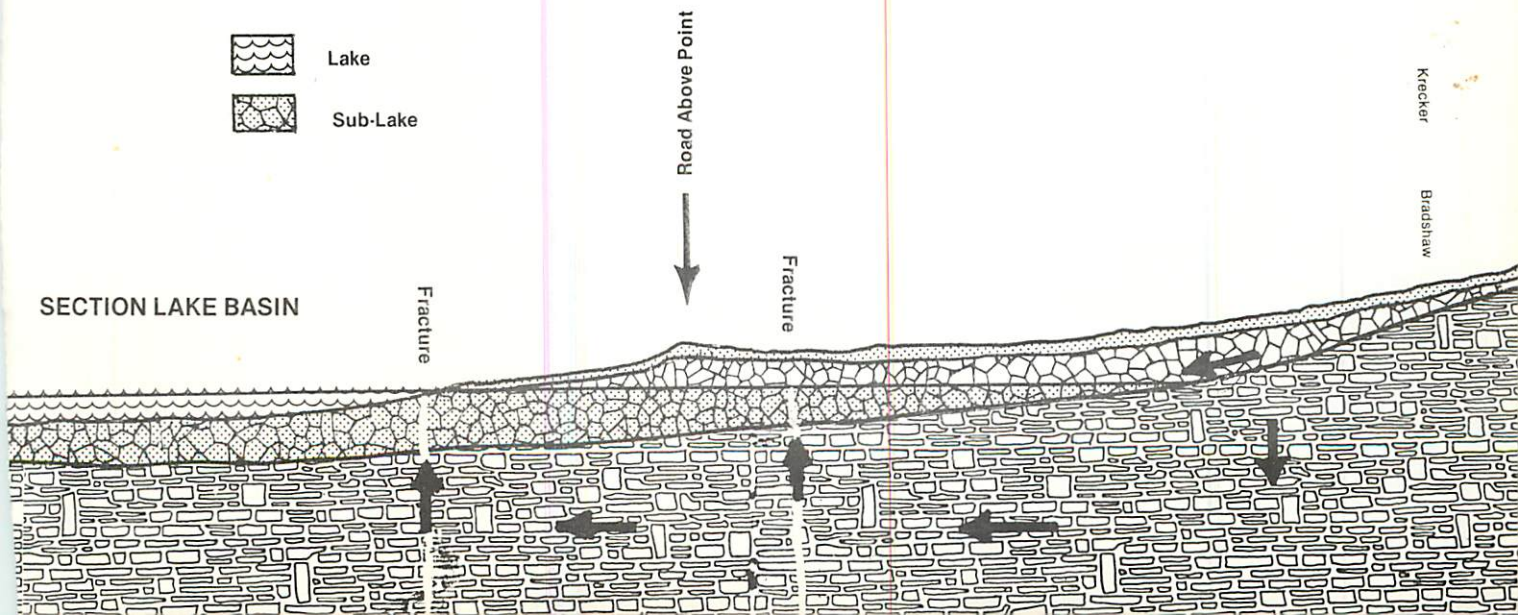
Like most strata, our Pocono has been scored by a network of major and minor fractures. These are caused by shrinkage, glaciers, and subterranean movements which divide rock layers into chunks of from a few feet to sometimes miles in extent. Three such fractures affect our Lake, the first runs north and south, bisecting the beach and the wide belly of the Lake up to the head (south) end. A second runs roughly east-west, almost directly under the dam; the third intersects the first somewhat south of Brady's Point, (see illustration). These fractures are not "faults", which is the term applied only to fractures that have slipped, but on the contrary are stable, and are likely to remain so. However they have an interesting effect on the lake's water supply, as we shall see.

When full to the lip of the present spillway, Lake Mokoma holds about 205 million gallons of water, lying in the familiar irregular shape, averaging seven

feet in depth and covering (by various estimates from 86 acres (Fish Commission) to 125 acres (a County Surveyor)). The deepest recent measurement is twelve feet, although depths of twenty feet were encountered forty years ago in the scour channel, a five to six foot deeper cut into the underlying till which runs from the head of the lake to the dam. The water actually comes from three major sources; first from the four main streams feeding the Lake: Mill Creek, Doe Run, Cold Spring and Conklin Runs—second from the seasonal springs that erupt after rainfall, sending rivulets to the Lake—and finally and probably chiefly, from springs in the Lake floor which roughly lie along the fracture lines mentioned above. These springs develop upward pressure from their rock infiltrating sources high in the banks of the watershed, and run sub-surface through the till to the low fracture points, where they well up into the lake floor, rising through the seven to ten feet of till plus the two or three feet of recent organic silt (in some spots directly from the Pocono outcrops where no such cover exists). At these



SECTION LAKE BASIN



GEOLOGIC CROSS SECTION

Allegheny Plateau Border Zone

Wilmot Anticline

Bernice Basin

Muncy Creek Anticline

Noxen Syncline

Allegheny Front

Lakawanna Syncline

Susquehanna River North Branch



Pottsville Formation
(Pennsylvania)

Pocono Formation
(Mississippi)

Catskill Formation
(Devonian)

Marine Devonian
(Devonian)

Helderberg Formation
(Devonian)

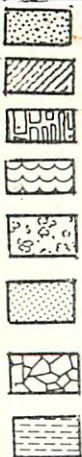
Bloomsburg Formation
(Silurian)

Krecker/Bradshaw

points, they create the cold spots noticed by many of us who have swum through these areas well away from the beach.

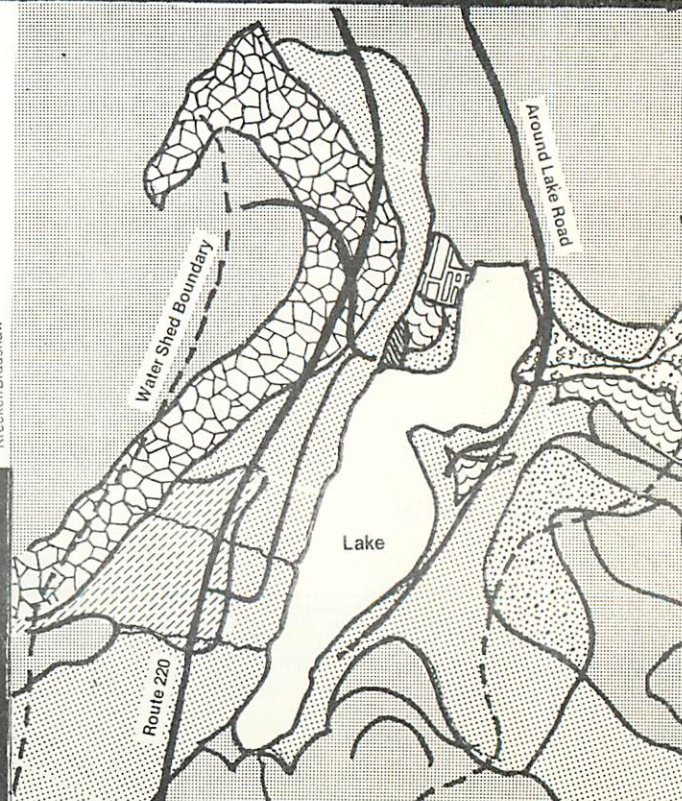
There is in the saturated soil and till under the lake a sub-lake (see diagram) whose water volume has been estimated as larger than that of the lake we swim in. All of the water of both these "lakes" is impounded

by the Pocono rock acting as a floor sloping toward the dam which thus forms a wall at the lower (north) end. The sloping floor tilts about fourteen degrees. We have assumed that the original crib dam and the major repair of 1928-9 are bedded on the Pocono, forming a tight seal, although some question of this has at times been raised.



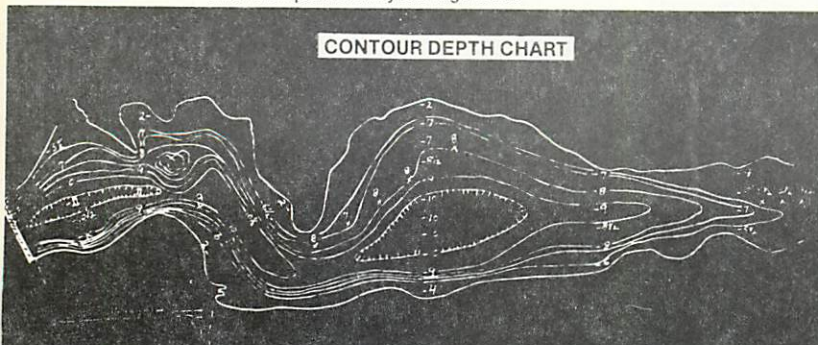
- Tunkhannock—Severe limitation, slope.
- Holly Series—Severe limitations, flooding.
- Braceville Series—Severe limitation, poor permeability and high water table.
- Tunkhannock Soils—Gravelly sandy loam, rapidly permeable, possible ground water contamination.
- Mixed Alluvial—Severe limitation, flooding.
- Mardin Series—Severe limitations, moderately well-drained soil on slowly permeable fragipan, high table.
- Lordstown Series—Severe limitations, well drained silt loam on bedrock at 20-36".
- Volusia Series—Severe limitations, poorly drained soil underlain by compact glacial till of slow permeability and high table.

SOIL MAP



Krecker/Bradshaw

CONTOUR DEPTH CHART





CHAPTER II

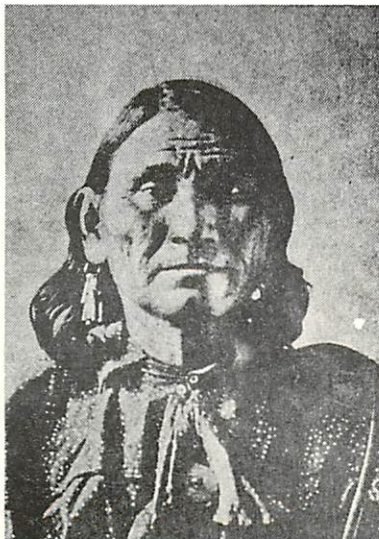
Pre-History and the Indians



There has been actual evidence of the age of dinosaurs in Pennsylvania, in fact, in 1884, fossil bones were discovered in Westmoreland County so that we know breathing animals existed here in the Carboniferous Age, and fossils of plants and animal tracks have been found in Sullivan County coal seams. Though none of this has actually been found at Lake Mokoma, traces of vegetation, grasses, ferns and lepodendrum branches can be found in nearby shales. Aside from early varieties of moose, elk, panthers, wolves, and the still abundant deer and bear, there is little to bridge the gap from the glaciers to the indistinct beginnings of man's history in our area. It was a time for the growth and death of trees, creation of soil and the evolution of the early animals. While the prehistoric beasts are not so different from our modern animal population, man's swifter evolution has made him a quite different creature from the man of those dim times.

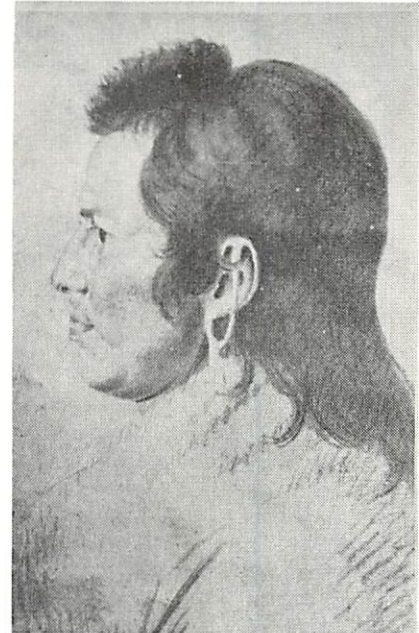
For our first *man-recorded* history, we must jump to the "Walam Olum" or "Red Score", a much debated Delaware Indian "text" made of pictographs and said to recount their tribal legends and migrations. As in many tribes, a Delaware chief had to train his memory of the verbal history handed down to him, and in this was helped by a wampum keeper who maintained and passed on belts of wampum which were picture memory guides. The most famous of these is the Walam Olum, and its information coincides with what we can learn of the Delawares from our own historic sources.

The Delawares were the only Indian nation to bear an English name (for Lord de la Warr), although



Waiawakawakumu or "Tramping everywhere" a Delaware Chief.

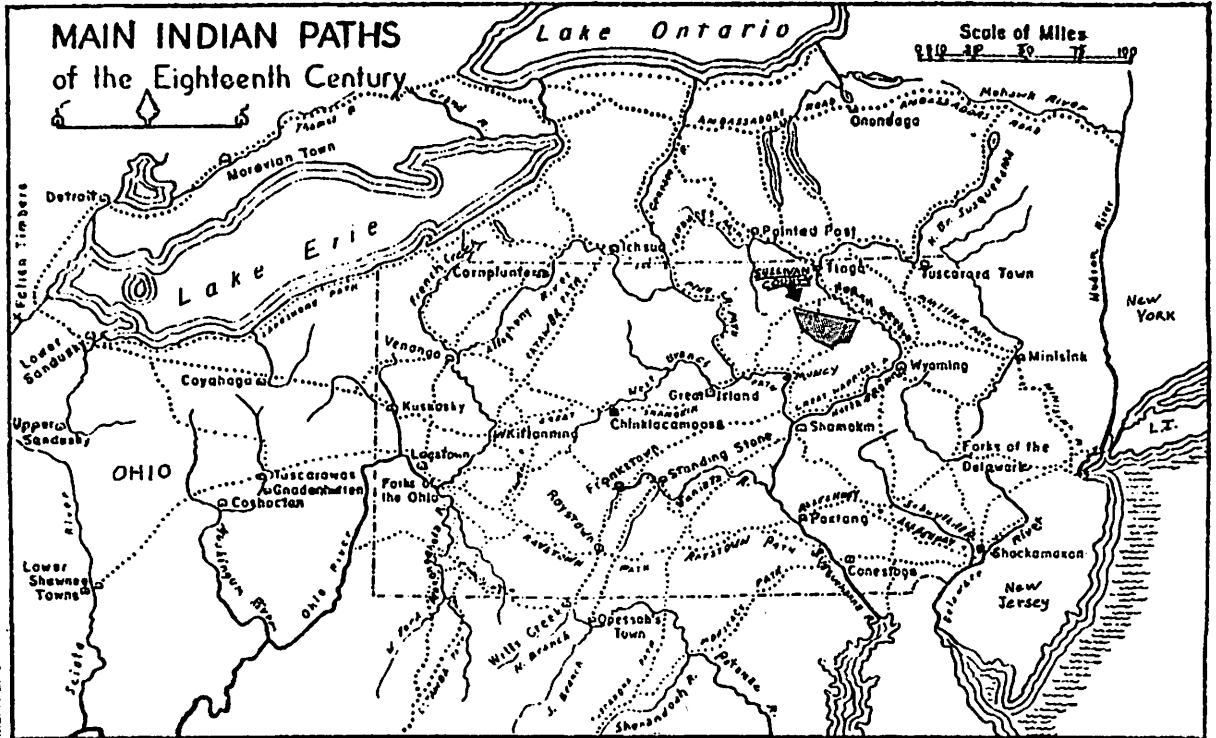
Crayon drawing of a Delaware Indian of about 1800. The ear is remarkable, the lobe has been cut loose, and the cut extended to the top of the ear, forming a loop from which hang metal ornaments. Delaware men were noted for their very long hair.



they had their own name, for themselves Lenni-Lenape, linguistically Algonquin, meaning the "true, standard and original" people. They ranged over the area from northern New Jersey east to the Hudson (including even the near end of Long Island), and west to the Appalachians in western Pennsylvania, south to Delaware Bay, but centering mainly around the Minisink area, the upper Delaware River, where now the state lines of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania intersect. (see map) The Iroquois' six nations, as their conquerors about the middle of the 18th century had a derisive name for them, calling them the "women tribes".

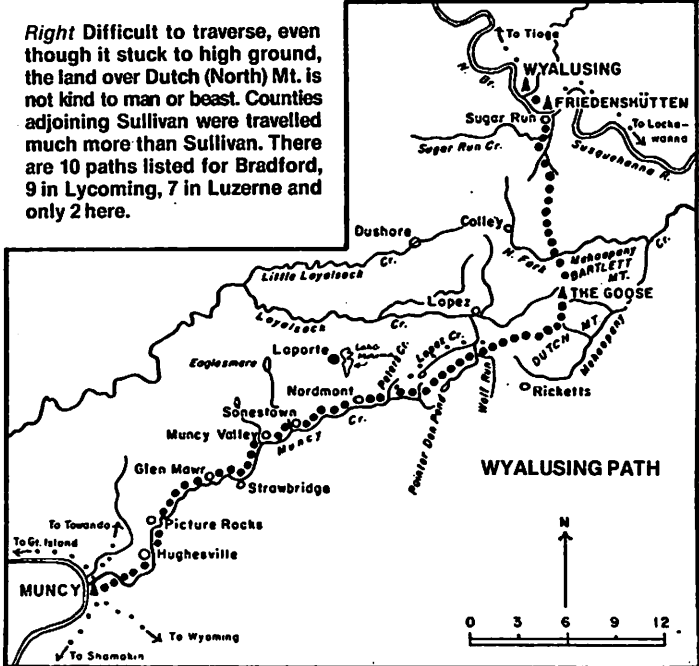
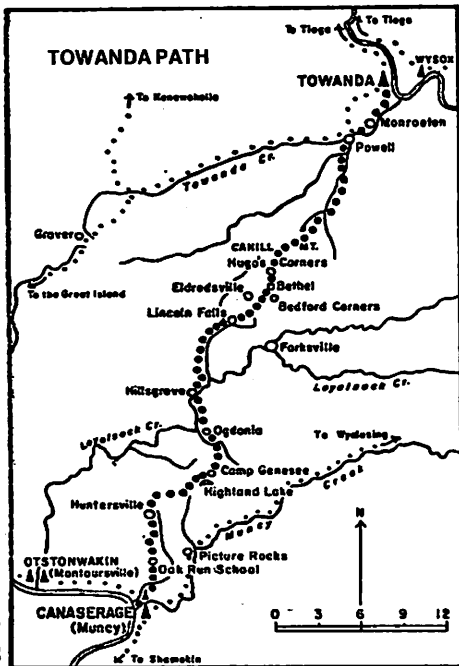
There were three major branches of the Lenni-Lenape, the Monsee (Minsi or Munci) meaning the Mountain People, who inhabited the upper Delaware basin, and who adopted an eponym translated as "Wolf" for they were deemed the fiercest. Their headquarters, at the time of Pennsylvania's first settlement, lay in the Minisink, but was later removed westerly to "Wyoming" (Wilkes-Barre), and still later north to Wyalusing. These then were the Indians who hunted and fished over Sullivan County and through the swamp that was to become Lake Mokoma.

The second branch of the Lenni-Lenape were the Unami's with the "Turtle" totem, the Down-river People, whose range covered the lower Delaware, the Lehigh and Schuylkill Rivers. Third were the "Turkey's" the Unalachtigos or Ocean People, occupying the lower New Jersey counties and the eastern part of Delaware. As it happened, a Lenni-Lenape chief, Tamenend, was the one whose name has per-



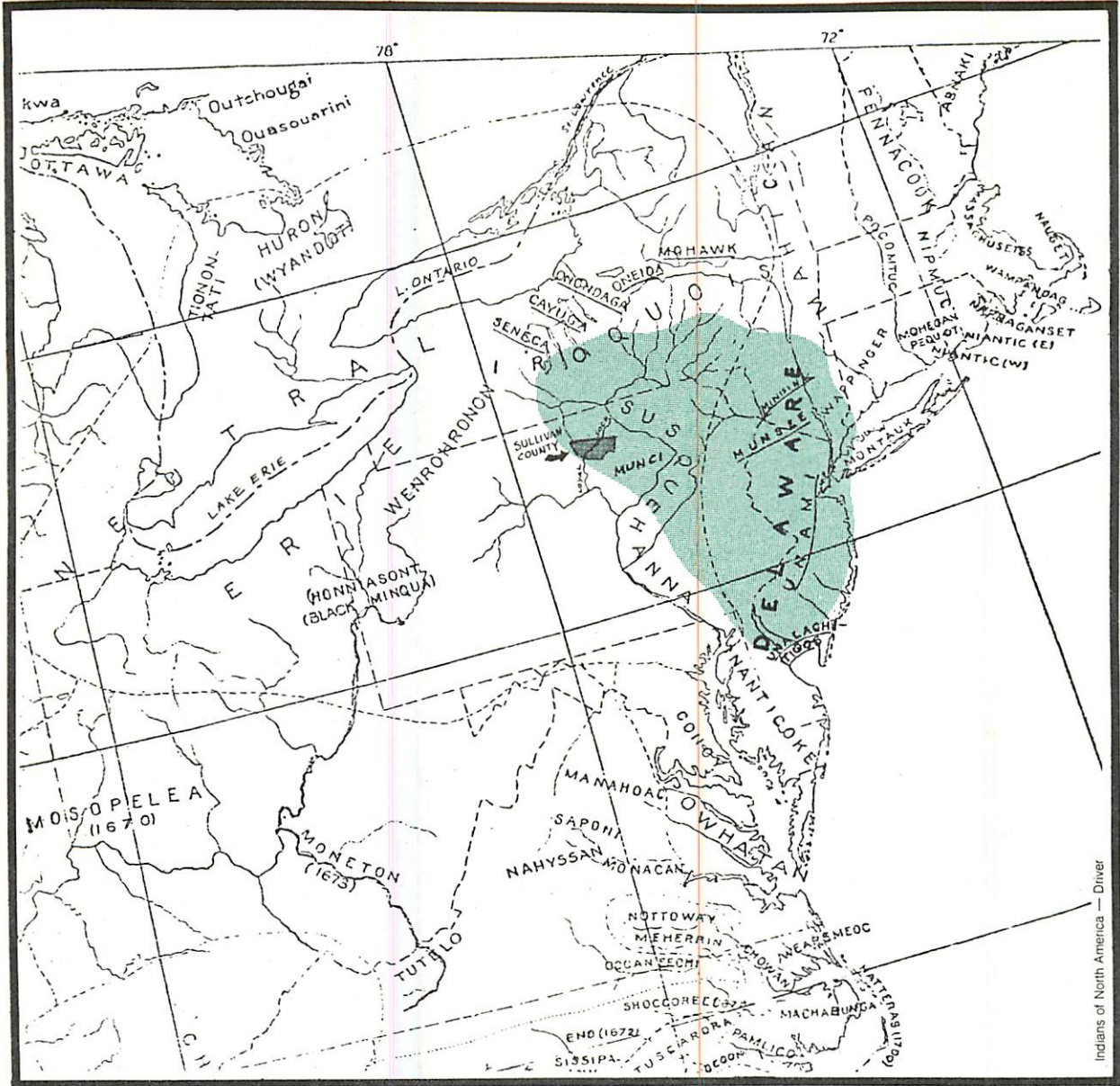
Sometimes incorrectly identified as the Genesee Trail or Road. It remained east of the Loyalsock up to Hillsgrove where it crossed and went up Elk Creek to Cahill Mt: where it picked up and descended Towanda Creek. Towanda means "burying ground." Below

Most trails "kept their level" well enough, twisting through water gaps and wind gaps to avoid climbing. Despite these windings, the paths were so well routed that they were shorter, taken as a whole, than the corresponding roads we use today. Many of our modern highways follow the general course of Indian paths, but differences in travel objectives and weight of traffic (today's trucks compared with yesterday's moccasined men) have made it impossible for our roads to follow exactly the old paths for any distance. North, east, south, and west, Pennsylvania's main paths connected with Indian highways of continental reach.



Sullivan Review

Sullivan Review



Indians of North America — Dwyer

Locations of the Indian tribes generally with the Delaware's area shown in tint.

sisted in the Tammany Hall of New York City politics; and it was a Delaware subtribe, the Mannhattans, who sold their island to Peter Minuit.

The Delawares were thinly scattered over this empire of four states with a population estimated to be 8000 in 1600, dwindling to a little over 2000 during the succeeding century and a half, and dropping steadily thereafter. The U.S. Census reported only 985 Delawares in 1910 (of which 71 were Munci's). By 1947 only 140 Delawares still remained, and they were sequestered in the Wichita Reservation in Oklahoma.

These few Delawares, together with the even fewer

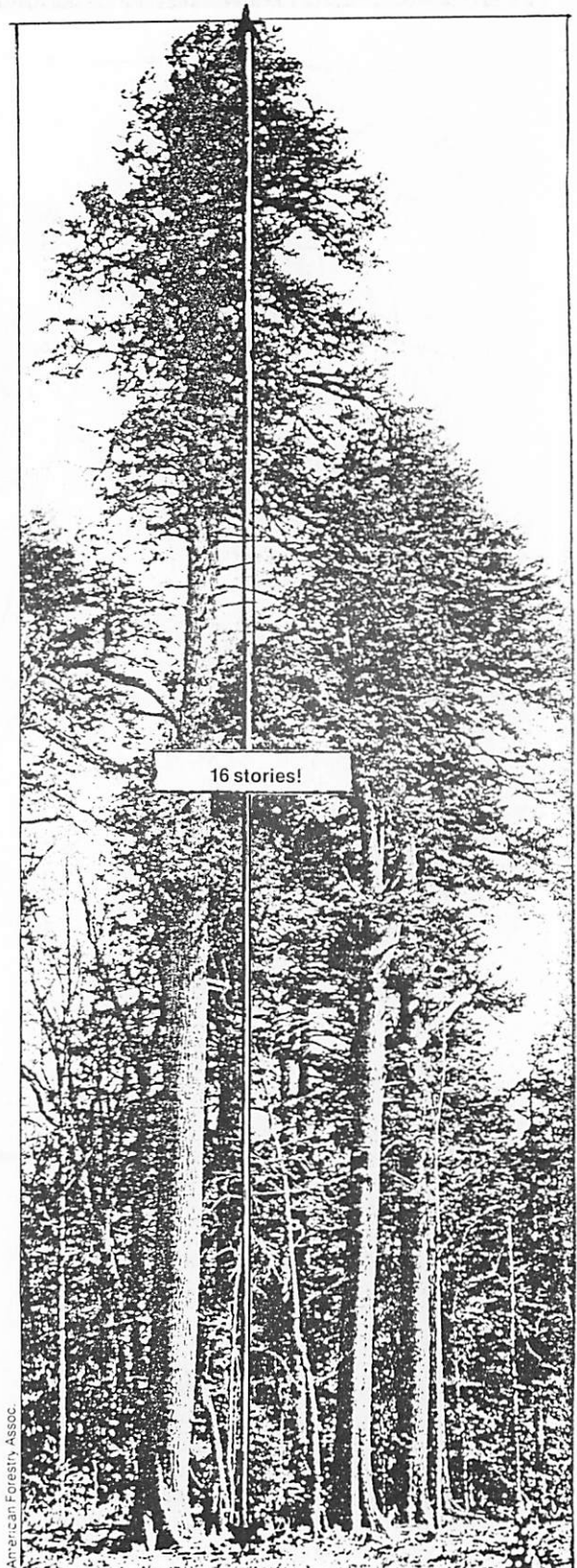
Shawnee and Susquehannocks then constituted the Indian resistance to the oncoming waves of Europeans. Settlers invaded Pennsylvania from 1681 on in such numbers that by 1720 only forty years after Penn's first settlement there were more Europeans in Philadelphia alone than Delawares in the whole of their widespread realm. By the time the American Revolution, so quickly did immigrants arrive, Philadelphia had become the second largest English speaking city in the world—after London. Understandably, with so meager a population, Indians did not adequately occupy their area, and thus it is not surprising that

Sullivan County and Lake Mokoma never actually attracted an Indian settlement. They did however, use the area, much as our city-dwellers now use it, as a hunting and fishing preserve.

Two Indian paths, (see map) the Sheshequin or Wyalusing, and the Towanda, twist through Sullivan County on the way from the West Branch of the Susquehanna, (where it approaches from the west and turns south at Muncy) to the North Branch, (near "Wyoming"). Indian paths were economical of effort, usually only eighteen inches wide and following a level and dry track, wherever possible avoiding steep grades and the unfordable stretches of streams, although the Wyalusing Path had to cross Muncy Creek more than thirty times between what was then called Canaserage (Muncy) and Friedenshutta, the Baptist missionary Indian village near Wysox. Their paths, some of which were worn a foot deep by generations of soft-footed travellers, tended to be more used near a terminus, but more overgrown as they crossed places like Kahill or Dutch Mountain areas, though even there they were quite distinct despite felled trees and intertwined branches. Such paths were perfectly adequate for small groups moving through the forest, and because eastern Indians used no beasts of burden and did not need to travel abreast nor accommodate wheeled vehicles. They served the purpose well, for for an Indian trail demonstrated a faculty for establishing routes that were economic in the best sense, routes that led the traveller to his destination in less time or with fewer obstacles to overcome than any other course that could be selected. Practically the whole present day system of travel in America east of the Mississippi is based on or following forest paths established by Indians.

While they left little physical imprint, the Lenni-Lenape's have left a heritage of place names, among them: Lyco = *Legau* = sandy + *ming* = *mink* = valley, Lycoming. Susqua = muddy + *hanna* = *hanni* = *hannock* = river, Susquehanna. *Wyo* = wide + *ming* = valley, Wyoming. Muncy = *monsee* = *minsi* = mountain, Muncy. Loyal = *lawi* = *lallal* = middle + sock = *saquik* = creek, Loyalsock. Thus Loyalsock is the middle creek (between Lycoming and Muncy) creeks as they enter the Susquehanna River. Mokoma seems to be a made-up name, probably invented by Ellery Ingham or Clinton Lloyd when they started the first lake company in 1888. Wahollock is truly Indian, but what is meant by it is a puzzle as it is susceptible of several interpretations, none of which seem to fit the physical Mount Wahollock, the odd sand hill at the east end of our beach (now often mis-called Blueberry Hill).

Virgin Eastern Hemlock which dominated much of Sullivan County in Indian times and was a major factor in its early tanning and lumber industries. It produced 1/16 inch seeds, 400,000 of which weigh a pound. From this tiny beginning can come a tree that often lives 600 years and attains a four foot diameter at the base and many soar to 160 feet in height—





Penn's Charter

Chapter III



William Penn
1644-1718, the
Founder of
Pennsylvania,
as a young man,
about the age at
which he was
"sent down"
from Oxford.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's 44,000 square miles, 28,000,000 acres, of which the Lake Mokoma Association's land is one fifty-thousand part, were acquired by William Penn the Younger (1644-1718) as a grant from Charles II, April 2nd, 1681. Penn acted on the grant by promptly sending his cousin, Captain John Markham to claim the territory. By June Markham had arrived in the Delaware and had let the earlier Swedish and Dutch settlers on the banks know that they had a new Governor.

The Dutch and Swedes had begun their explorations in the lower Delaware River and Bay area over half a century earlier. Henry Hudson was first in 1609. Jacobssen landed in May of 1614 followed by Hendricksen in 1616 who mounted the Delaware to the Schuylkill, the only remaining Holland-Dutch name in Pennsylvania. Peter Minuit, New York's first Dutch governor, took over the tiny Delaware settlement in 1623 and held it until Swedes under Printz arrived in force in 1642. Peter Stuyvesant, New York's last Dutch governor, with a small fleet and 600 men retaliated, defeated the Swedes and retook "Fort Christina", as at that time it was known—named for the Queen of Sweden. In the next year the Swedes returned, and so the see-saw went until the Duke of York's English fleet under Col. Richard Nicoll finally established English rule in 1664 on both the Hudson and on the Delaware. The above skirmishes all took place within a few miles of the banks of the Delaware.

The only early exploration reported further inland was that of Etienne Brué, the French explorer of the Great Lakes who is said to have descended the Susquehanna to Chesapeake Bay between 1615-17. However, his trip has left no lasting imprint.

The Penn connection with this area had begun with Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-1670), a "man for all seasons", able to serve the British navy with distinction under pious Charles I, comfortably under Puritan Cromwell and superbly under the restored merry monarch, Charles II. Cromwell thought highly enough of him, even though Penn never became a Puritan, to give him the ultimate title "General of the Sea". He was a great favorite of both Charles and his brother James then Duke of York (later James II). Charles indeed, knighted him, added the titles Admiral and Commissioner of the Admiralty and Navy, but more important from our viewpoint, borrowed some £ 12,000 from him. The money was used to outfit the very fleet which took New Amsterdam and the Delaware settlements from the Dutch in 1664.

Picture then the position of Admiral Penn a commander of the Royal Navy, a respected communicant of the established Church of England, and personal friend of the King, his son William a radical, disgraced and sent down from Oxford for his outspoken activities there connected with the new Quaker religion, recently founded by George Fox. The Admiral was outraged. Bitter quarrels ensued—"I would rather pray God that my son be destroyed than he become a Quaker"—to which young Penn's response

Admiral Sir William Penn, 1621-1670 by Peter Lely. Our William Penn's father as a young man—long before Charles II borrowed £ 12,000 from him.



Historical Society of Pennsylvania



Charles II 1630-1685, the Merry Monarch of the Restoration period who borrowed £ 12,000 from his Admiral, General of the Sea, Sir William Penn—some of it may have been spent on Nell Gwynne, but most went to outfit his brother's fleet.

James II 1633-1701, Charles II's younger brother who as Duke of York used the money Charles borrowed to take New Amsterdam from the Dutch and the Delaware settlements from the Swedes and Dutch in 1664.



Bettmann Archive

was: "Given that choice I would choose suicide". Hoping that he might be weaned from these outlandish beliefs, the Admiral sent him travelling on the continent with two young aristocrats as companions; Penn, however, expediently used the trip to proselytize for and meet with Quaker sympathizers.

Back in England during the next few years he was repeatedly jailed for his beliefs and as repeatedly released through his father's intercession with the King. In one trial, contrary to Quaker custom, and as a gesture of conciliation, young Penn appeared uncovered. The judge, however, knowing that Quakers did not believe in doffing hats to authority had the bailiff replace the hat on Penn's head—and thereupon declared him in contempt. When the jury found Penn innocent it too was held in contempt. Experiences like these led to Penn's lifelong belief in and prolific writings and preachings on freedom of religion. Despite such confrontations, in the end, they were reconciled and the Admiral made his son his executor and heir.

Now a wealthy young man of twenty-six, one of the aristocracy, and close to royal power despite being

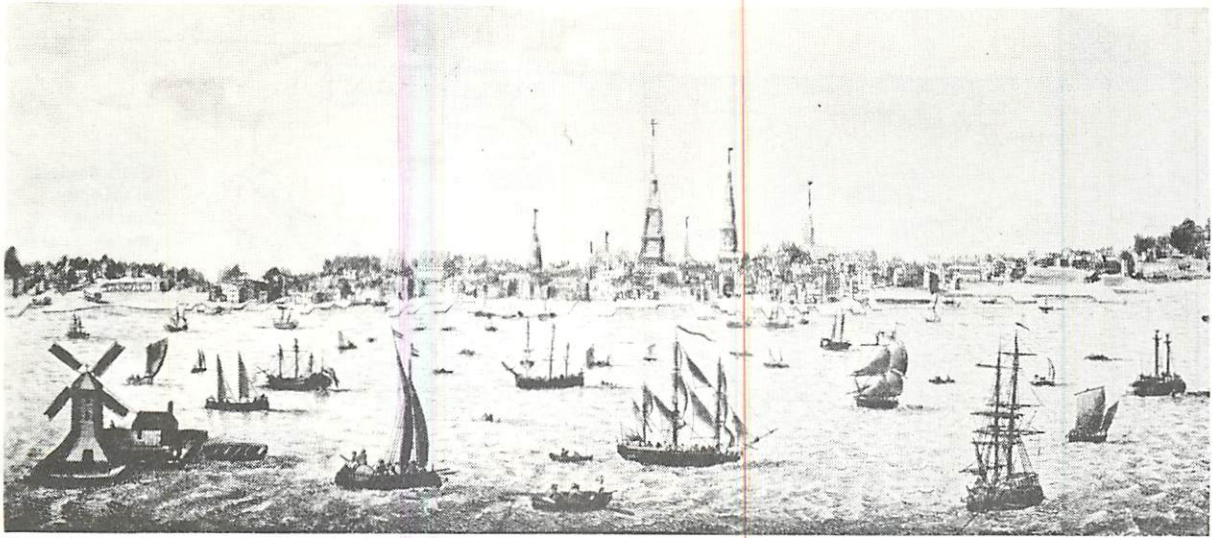
a notorious Quaker, Penn was not unnaturally the one the sect appealed to settle a disputed trust. The litigation had to do with the purchase of West Jersey, from Lord Berkley in 1675 by a Quaker, John Fenwick, with the purpose of there founding a Quaker refuge. Having settled the matter, it logically followed that Penn be one of those chosen, two years later, to draw up the first West Jersey constitution. And again, it was to Penn that that the imprisoned founder of Quakerism, Charles Fox, turned, asking him to intercede with the King for release. Fox having visited the New Jersey settlement, had told Penn of his hope that it would become THE Quaker colony.

As now seems inevitable, this involvement in his religion led to Penn's asking Charles II for a grant of land to be located between James's New York and Lord Baltimore's "Maryland" grant. So it fell out that the grant of Pennsylvania was fixed between the fortieth to forty-second parallels north latitude, stretching a 156 miles north and south, and extending 285 miles west from the Delaware, or from 74° to 80° west longitude.

Penn dealing with the Indians at Skakamaxon (Philadelphia) 1681/2, making his first purchase under the "Charter Oak".

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

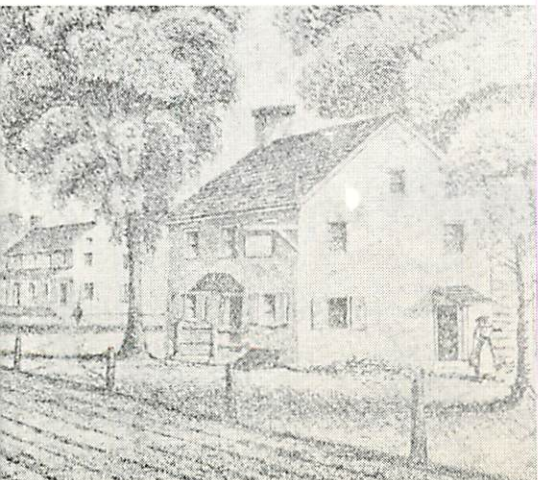




Philadelphia 1731, second largest English speaking city in the world; the Penn family still in charge; five more purchases still to be made from the Indians; Sullivan County still an undesignated part of Bucks County.

Only in part was founding father Penn's a religious venture. It was also the result of a shrewd assessment of his dwindling chance ever to collect payment of his father's loan to the King, now sixteen years in arrears. Nor was he unmindful of the potentialities of land sales in America. Indeed, he no sooner had secured the grant than he set above advertising it with more than a dozen pamphlets, not unlike a present day realtor's promotions. One entitled *Some Account of the Province of Pennsylvania* was widely distributed through England and on the Continent. It pointed out the type people fitted to succeed in the new world, the conditions they would encounter, the economic opportunities, the sort of government envisioned and the prices for land—forty shillings per hundred acres, (about 3.6¢ an acre at today's dollar value). In another pamphlet he set a limit of a thousand acres per family and stipulated that no other family member could hold an adjacent tract, and required further that the land be either seated or given up within three years. Still another requirement was that one acre of trees be retained for every five cleared—Pennsylvania's first conservation regulation! His statements about equal treatment of the Indians were more far-sighted than those of his European contemporaries; and the rest of the world, in this and in many ways, has taken three hundred years to catch up with him.

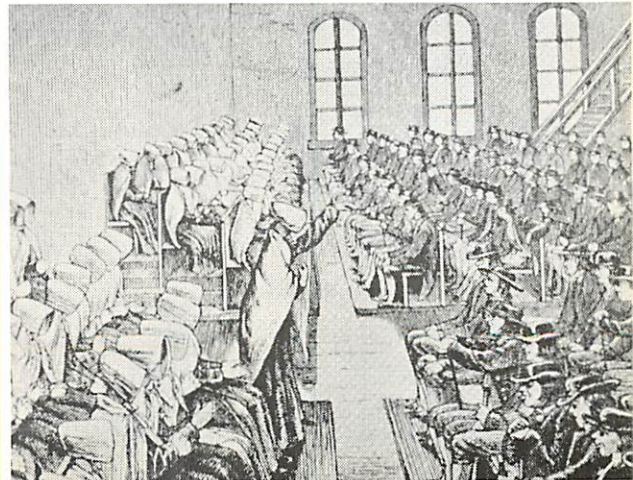
The pamphlets stirred wide interest and not only among the sixty-thousand English and Welsh Quakers, but also among sympathizers in Holland and Germany where Penn had travelled abroad after his dismissal from Oxford. The Founder himself arrived in America aboard the *Welcome* in October, 1682. By the next year thousands of settlers had arrived, and his sales had totalled 750,000 acres. Of his then 657 purchasers, all but a few had bought tracts of under a thousand acres, although some *groups* had been allowed five-thousand acre tracts. Within a month of his arrival he met with Tamanend at Shakamaxon (Philadelphia) under the Treaty Elm and made his first purchase of land from the Indians, initiating his policy of also buying from them what the King had already granted. He remained almost two years, beginning the construction of Pennsbury Manor on six thousand acres along the Delaware, setting up his Frame of Government and supervising various settlement and land transactions. However, he had to return to England to try to settle the southern boundary dispute with Lord Baltimore, although until some eighty years later, when a famous pair of surveyors ran the Mason-Dixon Line in 1763, the boundary remained in question. Virginia also had asserted a conflicting claim, and later still Connecticut tried to annex the northern third of the state, as we shall see.



A view showing the type of early houses in the towns and the usual conditions of their streets. The scene is Philadelphia, opposite Independence hall. (Left)

History of Travel in America

Everyday Things in Am. Life

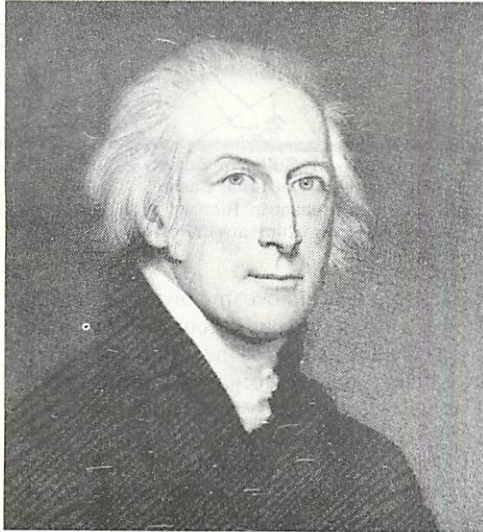


A Quaker meeting in Philadelphia in early times. (Right)



Chapter IV

Azilum & First Purchasers



George Clymer
1739-1813.
Signer from Pennsylvania of both the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution. Large landholder in Sullivan County whose mortgage covered the Meylert's lands.

a Warrant to survey the desired parcel and ask the local District Surveyor, who in theory worked under a Surveyor General (a post later held by John LaPorte) to make and "return" a survey so that a Patent or Deed could be made out with an accurate description of the land in question. The first Eastern District Surveyor, based at Pennsburg (Muncy) was John Adlum, and in 1792 he and his crews with boats and survey chains were ready. Today we might accuse him of crass conflict of interest, for Adlum, in addition to his official functions, had accepted a private commission to choose the best to be had for three entrepreneurs who had a large hand in early Sullivan County history, William Bingham, George Clymer and Samuel Meredith. While in theory a public servant, Adlum, like others in his position, regularly earmarked the most attractive parcels for himself and his clients.

Lands now belonging to the Lake Mokoma Association were first purchased for private use by a small group of wealthy Philadelphia speculators. After the Commonwealth expropriated Penn's Grant in 1779, there came a ten year period of political unrest, during which little settlement activity took place. The Revolutionary War had ended in 1781, but the peace treaty was not signed for two more years, and the Commonwealth did not make its final purchase from the Indians at Fort Stanwick until 1784. The national government's Articles of Confederation were proving ineffectual, and it was not until 1787 that our workable lasting Constitution was drawn up, and until the following year that the colonies began ratification. Only then did people with means summon enough faith in the future of the State and country to turn their attention to investment in the Pennsylvania hinterland. The unfamiliar Northwest Territories on the Ohio apparently were too far away to attract Philadelphia money, but they could see from the first census of 1790, by actual count, the growth of the nearby country and thus the opportunity for land jobbing in hitherto unsettled country up-State.

More cynically put, our Quaker business men were showing their vaunted acumen in a vast land speculation for gain. The Commonwealth was eager to sell, for its coffers were low, and many of its certificates of indebtedness, promissory notes and paper money were held by those same families in Philadelphia, now eager for land acquisition—and the price was right, 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ ¢ an acre.

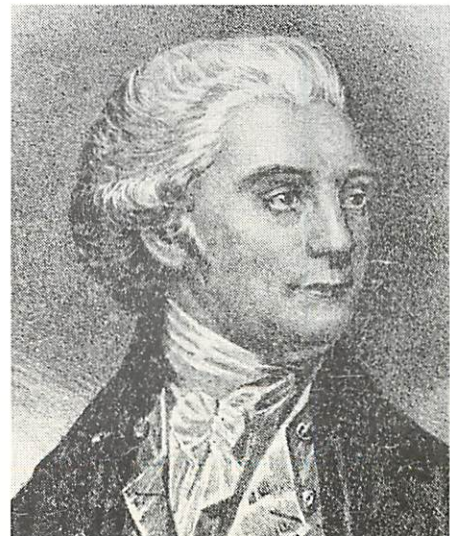
The method of buying land then was, as it had been with the Penns, for the purchaser to apply for

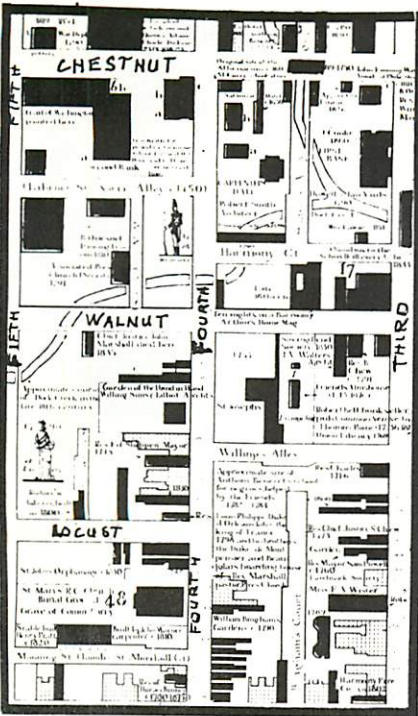
To understand what follows requires a short review of "who was who" in early Philadelphia Quaker Society. Three prominent men were important to Sullivan County. First, William Bingham (Binghamton) later a U.S. Senator, who was then Speaker of the House of Representatives. He had married Anne Willing, daughter of Thomas Willing who was business partner of the country's pre-eminent financier Robert Morris. She was the premier hostess in the society of Philadelphia, then the capital of the new republic.

Washington was a frequent guest at Mrs. Bingham's soirées so was Hamilton, Jefferson, Franklin and the whole pantheon of Revolutionary figures.

The second Philadelphian interested in northern land was George Clymer, Captain of cavalry in

William Bingham
1752-1804.
Major figure in Philadelphia at the time of the Revolution, and partner of Clymer and Meredith in land speculation throughout northeast Pennsylvania. Binghamton is named for him.

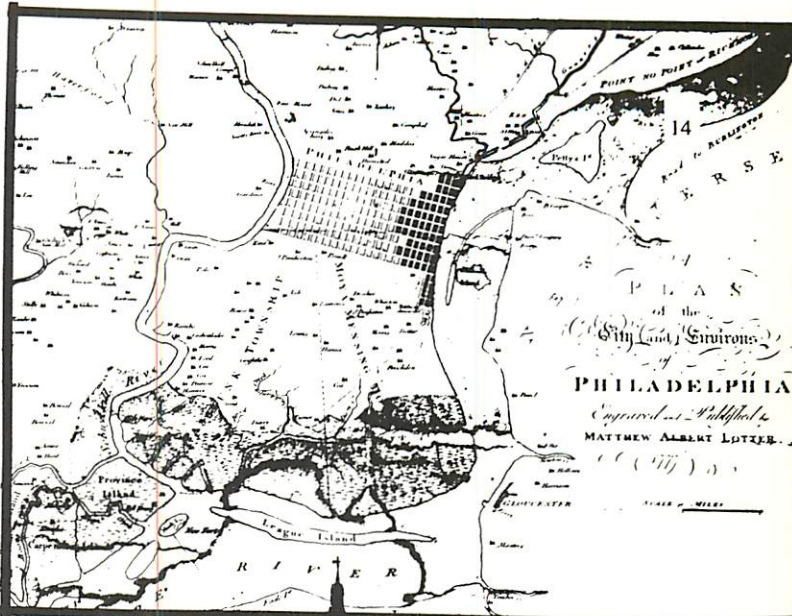




Map of Philadelphia (fragment) showing small area from Second to Fifth Streets between Spruce and Market (High) Street in which lived all the first purchasers of Sullivan County land.

Portion of the: "Plan of the City and Environs of Philadelphia—published by Matthew Albert Lotter 1777." The dark squares near the Delaware denote the occupied city of that time.

American Philosophical Society



Original—Marjorie Carpenter

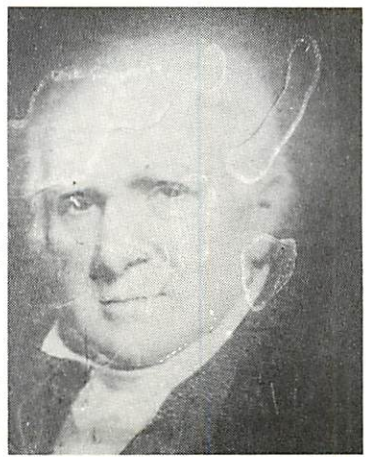
them somewhere in this country. In October 1793, Captain Aristide Dupetit Thouars, for whom Dushore is named, arrived in Philadelphia and met other of their compatriots at the home of William Bingham, where the leader of the group was staying, the Vicomte de Noailles, brother-in-law of Lafayette, and great friend of Franklin. This group of emigrés, Noailles, the Marquis of Blacons and Antoine Omar Talon, asked Dupetit Thouars to head a settlement expedition up the Susquehanna to the location for which they were then negotiating. Although, unknown to them the King already had been guillotined, the Queen and Dauphin still lived, and asylum for them was needed more than ever. Robert Morris had been approached by the group, and he, with John Nicholson, Pennsylvania's Controller General, had urged the merits of the northeast area. The Philadelphia leaders were doubly anxious to help the French emigrés in their asylum plan, not only in gratitude for French help during the Revolution, but because Philadelphia, the seat of the national government, found the presence of Royalists an embarrassment, for the official French revolutionary Republican minister "Citizen" Genêt was loud in complaints to Washington about the warmth of welcome given the Royalist "traitors".

Also, the summer of 1793 was the year of the great yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia which killed one sixth of the population, and blame for the outbreak had centered on the French refugee ships docking from Santo Domingo. There for two years, the slave, Toussaint l'Overture had been carrying on a revolution against his French masters and many wealthy Royalist French were now fleeing the island to Philadelphia. One of these Charles Boulogne (later drowned in the Loyalsock) had served with American forces under French Count Rochambeau during the Revolution and had been detached to serve with General Sullivan in his 1779 march up the Susquehanna.

Boulogne who was familiar with the area from this service twelve years earlier added his experienced voice to the recommendation of a site on the river near "Standing Stone" between Wyoming (Wilkes Barre) and Tioga (Athens).

So, initially six of the standard four-hundred-acre warrants located in the bend of the Susquehanna's north branch were applied for and the French reconnaissance party, headed by Dupetit Thouars set out in October 1793 to take possession of them. Later, in December, Antoine Talon came back from France bringing with him the Royalist conspirator who had smuggled him out of Marseille in a wine cask—Bartholomé LaPorte. It is for his son, John LaPorte that our town is named. The town the French founded on the river was named Azilum, and it remained an important expatriate French center for almost ten years, even after it became known that the King and Queen were dead. Latterly it was headed by Bartholomé LaPorte and was visited in these years by the great Tallyrand as well as by the son of the Duc d'Orleans, the man who later became Louis Philippe, King of France. Its decline, however, began with the news of the death of the King and Queen and was accelerated by the amnesty offered to Royalists by Napoleon

Richard H. Morris, son of Robert Morris, one of the four in whose names the local warrants were taken which cover LaPorte and Lake Makoma.



Dictionary of American Biography



Aristide duPetit-Thouars, 1763-98, for whom Dushore is named. French naval hero, leader in the Azilum colony near Towanda founded as a refuge for Marie-Antoinette, Louis XV and the Dauphin.



New York Public Library

Statue near Commodore DuPetit-Thouars's birthplace in Saumur, in memory of his death at Aboukir, Egypt, 1798.



Louis Marie Vicomtede Noailles, cousin of Lafayette, friend of Franklin, moving figure in the founding of Azilum.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

in 1803. First the more affluent and then gradually the others returned to France, leaving very few behind—but the French memory lingers on in “Nordmont”, “LaPorte”, and “Dushore”.

Despite the vigorous early settlement by the French, there was little similar activity in the nearby lands of what was to become Sullivan County that the Philadelphian entrepreneurs had taken up. The State tax list of 1787 for Northumberland named only thirty-seven residents in Loyalsock Township; thirteen years later Lycoming's Loyalsock Township list of 1800 still showed under one hundred people, only fourteen of whom had taken out official warrants, and twenty-two of the others were taxed as non-residents. The 1790 first U.S. Census listed only twenty-nine hundred people in all of Northumberland County which then covered twenty-six of our present day counties.

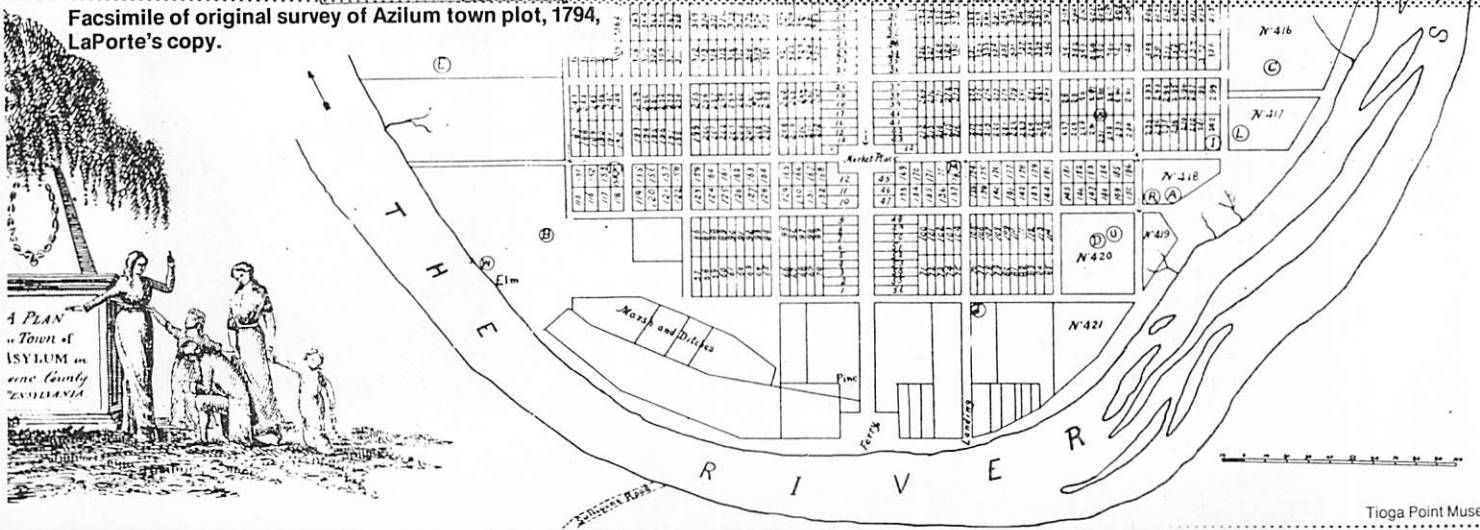
Those who are recorded as first settlers in the county were largely squatters who usually did not bother with warrants and who often moved on after a short stay. Those who remained, were later on permitted to acquire their land legally without the formality of a warrant and survey upon the simple payment of the purchase fee.

The first such temporary settler in what is present day Sullivan County was Daniel Ogden (Ogdonia). He cleared land on the Loyalsock as early as 1787, but typically stayed only a short time, selling out to John Hill (Hillsgrove) who came two years later. No formal patent was issued until five years later

when, in 1794, Joseph Priestley of Northumberland the English expatriate who discovered oxygen sent up the Loyalsock a party of three, Powell Bird, John Warren and William Molyneux, who later took the formal steps to obtain legal ownership. Improvements came slowly, Samuel Rogers came to the mountains in 1802 as the Genesee Road (see map) was beginning from Muncy toward Tioga (Athens) and it was his son Sadler who built the covered bridge at Forksville.

Still, it was 1816 before a schoolhouse appeared in the county, and 1848 before the first general store. Indeed, in 1802 George Bird reported killing seventeen wolves on his land, and wild turkey flocks were so large and aggressive that they frightened his daughters back into the cabin. George Lewis arrived at “Lewis Lake” (Eagles Mere) in 1803 and shortly started his glassworks which eventually failed and was sold by his creditors in 1831. The early roads, a courtesy title, were mere paths with branches interlocking overhead. Thomas Meredith, discussing a trip in 1818 stated that the bridges were single bark logs. All dwellings were of log and were widely scattered in the dense, dark woods. The Berwick Turnpike was begun in 1806 (see map) and reached Ringdale some years later, eventually continuing to Tioga (Athens). But until the agitation for separation of Sullivan from Lycoming, which began in the 1840's, there was only a small and gradual filling of the empty land. There was nothing at all on the mountain top that was to become LaPorte. The ground was only broken for the first courthouse in 1847 upon selection of “The Center” (LaPorte) as the county seat in that year.

Facsimile of original survey of Azilum town plot, 1794, LaPorte's copy.





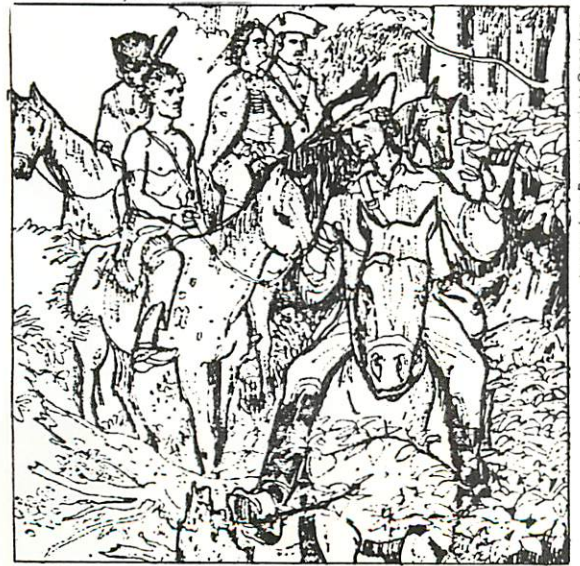
Chapter V First Settlers



The first real exploration of the country in our area of northeast Pennsylvania was the work of a party of three who left a daily record of their trip in 1743, Conrad Weiser, the famed Indian scout and two Englishmen, Lewis Evans and John Bartram. Generally they followed the Sheshequin path, just touching the west corner of what was to become Sullivan County. Evans was a professional surveyor, and we have his map of the area and his journal. In it he describes the huge virgin hemlocks, trees over a hundred feet tall, with trunks from six to eight feet in diameter. Like other early writers, he mentions the gloom of the woods, the cathedral like leaf cover, the wide alleys between the vast trunks and the needle carpet that hushed the footfalls in the silence of the forest.

There was a serious question at that time as to whether this area could be claimed by Pennsylvania. Governor Trumbull of Connecticut, and the Connecticut Court had authorized grants to their people to settle in five-mile square tracts on the Susquehanna, in what they were pleased to call Westmoreland Town of Litchfield County, Connecticut. These squares were located in the Wyoming Valley, and a few hardy Connecticut settlers had been taking up this ground resting their claims on Connecticut's charter of 1662, earlier than Penn's by twenty years. It gave to Connecticut all the land from the southern tip of Naragansett Bay to the Pacific Ocean, ignored Henry Hudson's discovery and Peter Minuit's thirty-eight year old

Party of Weiser, Evans, and Bartram and Indian Guides, from their Journal, a later sketch.

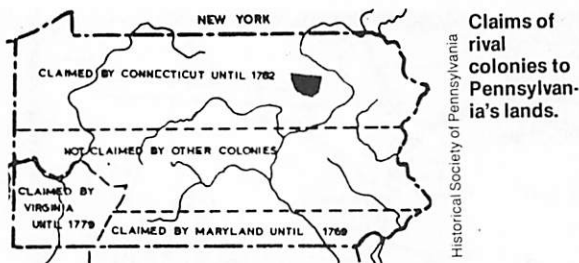


Journey from Pennsylvania to Onondaga.



The Imprint Society

Map of "Journey from Pennsylvania to Onondaga" by Bartram, Weiser, and Lewis Evans, the mapmaker, 1743; it first denoted our area the Endless Mountains, shows Muncy as "Canaserage" and indicates the inhabitants as Delawares.



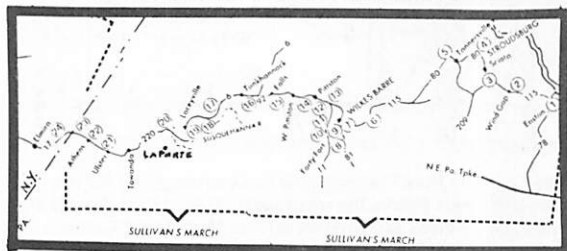
Dutch settlement of 1624 in New Amsterdam, and had the claim prevailed would have encompassed the whole northern third of Pennsylvania.

By 1769 enough Connecticut families had arrived and sufficient friction with Pennsylvanians had developed so that one of the squares of forty settlers built a fort at Wyoming and called it Forty-Fort, the origin of the present town near Wilkes Barre. By December 1775, some months after the more famous clash at Lexington, Governor John Penn had become so concerned about the Connecticut encroachment that he dispatched a force of five hundred Pennsylvanians from the lower counties to oust the invaders in what became known as the Pennamite War. But the more serious fight against the British soon eclipsed this local dispute which was not settled in favor of Pennsylvania until well after the American-English war's Treaty of Paris in 1783.

The Wyoming settlement had attracted enemy attention as well as Penn's, and Sir William Johnson's Iroquois were induced to accompany the British force sent to attack these outlying settlements. A reign of terror ensued for the scattered people throughout Northumberland the culmination of which became known as the Wyoming Massacre in 1778; British and Indian forces wiped out the Wyoming settlement, all of whom either fled or were killed.

The Pennsylvania Executive Council appealed for aid to Washington, then encamped at Valley Forge. He detached Col. Thomas Hartley with three hundred men of the 8th Continental Regiment to revenge the massacre. Hartley left for Harrisburg, led his force up the Susquehanna to Sunbury and Muncy, followed Lycoming Creek, to the Sheshequin path through western Sullivan County, and on to the north branch of the Susquehanna near Towanda. There he wiped out the French and Indian half-breed, Queen Esther Montour's town, the leading Indian settlement. Hethen retraced his path to Valley Forge.

Sketch map of Sullivan's March from Easton to Elmira.



Exploring Pennsylvania Harcourt Brace & World

This brief attempt by Washington to protect his rear did not prove to be deterrent enough. The British continued to harrass and threaten so the next winter, Washington, who had, in the interval, collected maps, guides and much enemy intelligence in preparation, appointed a New Hampshire man, General John Sullivan, to lead a much larger force of three thousand men in a "search and destroy" mission. Sullivan, (no relation to the Pennsylvania senator, Charles Sullivan, who seventy years later gave his name to the county) left Easton on the Delaware in May 1779, marched overland to the north branch at Wyoming and up the Susquehanna to the stronghold of Newtown, now Elmira, where he decisively defeated the British and Indians. His daily order book exists, and the entry for August 4th, 1779 shows him camped near Wyalusing and remarks that he sent a patrol west which ranged through what is now the eastern end of Sullivan County around Colley.

Also extant is the daily diary of the French explorer de Crevecoeur, who made a trip in 1790 from Harrisburg to Sunbury and on north, following the north branch of the Susquehanna through New York State. He skirted the southern edge of North Mountain, turned east approximately on our present Route 118, to where it crosses the river at Wyoming and then went on upriver.

The first people who actually settled down in Sullivan County, as opposed to the explorers, were three members of the group sent here in 1794 by Joseph Priestley, who had received a money grant from the King for his services and had bought additional land through the Muncy District Surveyor, Samuel Wallis. The three first settlers, Molyneux, Bird and Warren liked the country. They returned after their first exploratory trip and report to Priestley, to build cabins and settle down near what is now Forksville. Following this tiny beginning, others came, and a slow infiltration of the country began with here and there a cabin built near a stream and a gradually expanding plot of cleared land surrounding it. Work was cooperative as in all pioneer societies. A man, by himself, could clear

General John Sullivan 1740-1795 Revolutionary War officer detailed by Washington to put down Indian and British harassment of his rear areas in northeast Pennsylvania.



1. Army Muster
2. Heller's Tavern Site—Camp #1
3. Brinker's Mill Site
4. Ft. Penn Site—unmarked
5. Leonard's Tavern Site—Camp #2
6. Camp #4
7. Camp #5
8. Ft. Wyoming Site
9. Forty Fort
10. Wyoming Valley Mem.
11. Massacre Rock
12. Jerkin's Fort Site
13. Ft. Finston Site
14. 1st Night Camp
15. 2nd Night Camp
16. 3rd Night Camp
17. 4th Night Camp
18. In East Pt.
19. 5th Night Camp
20. 6th Night Camp—Sullivan III
21. 7th Night Camp—Sullivan Resumes Command
22. Queen Esther's Town Site
23. Ft. Sullivan Site—Tioga Ft.
24. Newtown Battlefield
25. Ambush Site
26. Buyal Pucker Nook—Little Beard's Town Site



Joseph Priestley, discover of oxygen, expatriate Englishman who sent Sullivan County the first settlers from Northumberland.

The Bettmann Archive

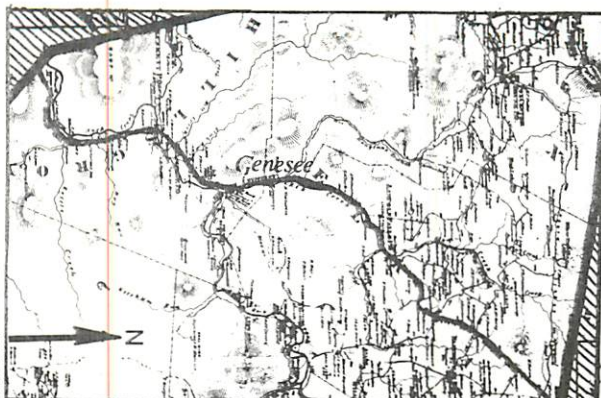
and plant two acres a year, but it was usually with the help of a neighbor who was in turn helped in the same way. There were a few draft animals or cattle, food was obtained by fishing and hunting and from small kitchen gardens kept by the wife close to the cabin.

A series of six trips were made through northeast Pennsylvania in the period 1810-12 by Methodist Bishop, Francis Asbury, and recorded by him and his assistant, Rev. Henry Boehm in their journals. They speak of the wretched travel conditions: "We forded the swollen and rapid streams three times, the Loyalsock was the worst . . . the stream was very full and our toil through it great. Two active, bold men with the aid of a canoe got us and the horses safe over . . . Thunder and rain and an awful mountain (North Mountain) were now before us . . . We had been accustomed to muddy roads, rocks, hills, mountains, gulfs, rapids, dangerous streams, but this route excelled them all for difficulty and danger . . . Wretched lodging . . . a Mr. Brown found us and took us to his cabin. But the reader must not suppose his cabin was at hand and that all we had to do was enter it. We had to cross the creek twice and then struggle and tug our way up an exceedingly high mountain

Typical Pennsylvania first settler's cabin, usually built against an earth bank to form one wall, chimney of clay and sticks.



Illustration by [unclear]



Holcombe Breadshaw

Route of the Genessee Road through western Sullivan County

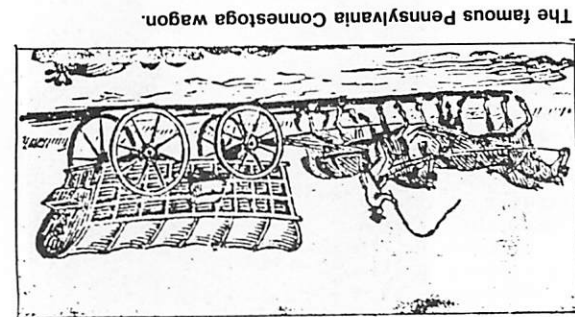
in the heart of the wilderness. When we arrived we found he had no wife or children nor housekeeper. He did his own cooking and washing, but his cabin was pleasant and he most cheerfully divided his coarse fare with us. He did everything possible to help us and went with us five miles in which distance we crossed the waters of the Elk seven times. That evening we dined at Hill's Inn," (now Hillsgrove).

Seven years before the Bishop's trip, George Lewis, a "wealthy" Englishman who had met Priestley in New York, was attracted to the area by the promise of cheap lands. He had been commissioned to and did buy land for English "capitalists". On viewing, for the first time during the summer of 1803, the area in which he had invested, he was deeply and permanently impressed. Returning to New York, to find that a yellow fever epidemic had taken off many of his friends, he gratefully believed he owed his life to the fact that he had been in the mountains during the critical time, and he resolved to settle there by the crystal lake he had found. Bringing a band of men with him, he commenced clearing a farm and erecting a building for the manufacture of glass. The discovery of a fine white sand on the banks and bottom of the lake made this a practicable manufacture. Shortly a grist mill, several stone houses and a rudimentary store were constructed and thus was founded the first real town in Sullivan County.

Typical horseman with donkey packs travelling through Pennsylvania in 1790-1810 period.



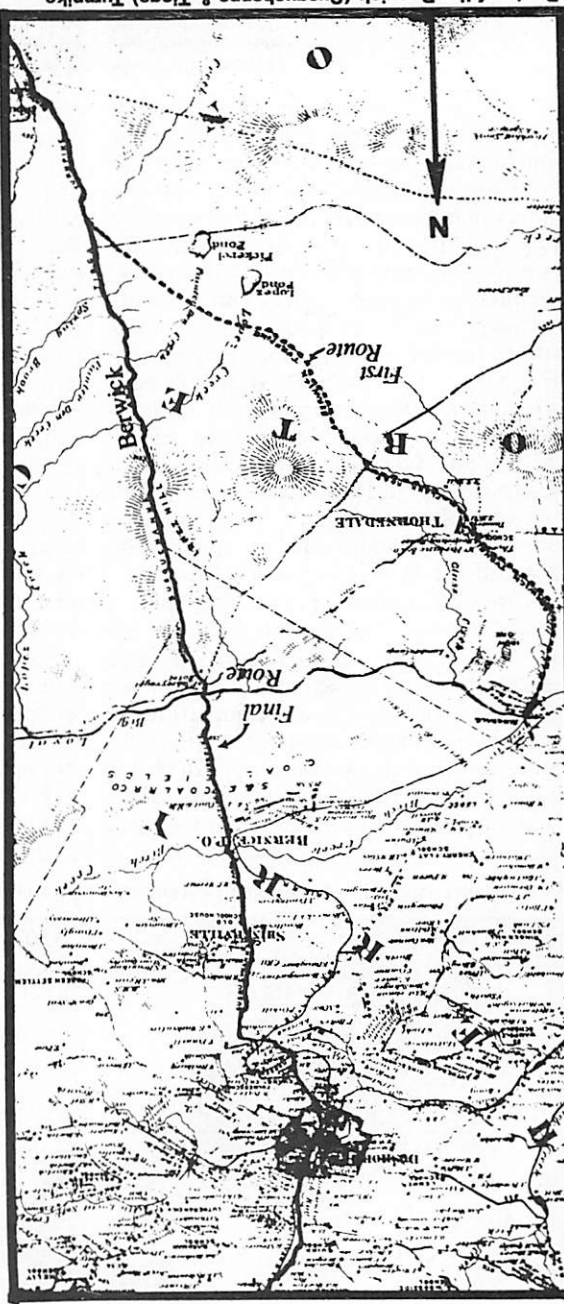
Illustration by [unclear]



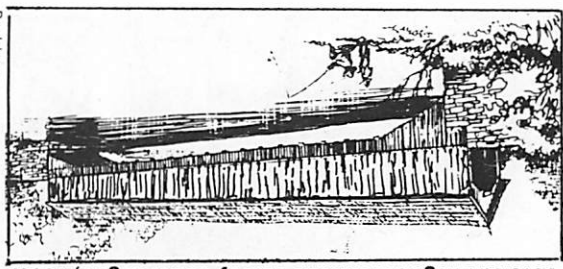
The famous Pennsylvania Conestoga wagon.

During the War of 1812, when glass could no longer be imported from England, the works did well despite the distance to market and the breakage experienced on the "roads". The glass was packed in straw and shipped to Muncy in Conestoga wagons, each weighing three thousand pounds and drawn by eight horses. From there it went by boat down the Susquehanna and again by wagon overland to Philadelphia. As better and certainly handier works became more numerous, his factory produced less and less and in 1830 he gave up, returned to England and there died. It was to be forty years later before a revival of interest in Lewis Lake began, when, in the 1870's Eagles Mere became a fashionable summer resort. This revival was, however, enough ahead of the beginnings of similar activities at LaPorte to enable Eagles Mere to take and maintain its position as Pennsylvania's most important summer resort. In the 1880's Meylert started his own short lived and unsuccessful glass factory at a sand deposit on "Glass Creek" near his lumber mill and tannery at Thornedale.

Concurrent with George Lewis's venture, the first serious attempts at roadbuilding were authorized. In 1806 subscriptions were opened for hundred dollar shares in the Berwick, Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike Company (see map). Offices were opened in Sunbury, Northumberland, Berwick and Philadelphia to take subscriptions and enough money was collected to start the toll road. The route was to be from Berwick about a mile below Ringdale. By 1810 the survey had extended to the north line of the present county and from thence "over Huckleberry Mountain" to Montroeton. The contract price was \$150. per mile, with extra pay for bridges. Half of the pay was given in land at two dollars an acre and many subcontractors took on short sections of the road to acquire home-stead sites. By 1820 the Pike had reached Dushore and a year later Montroeton, and a spur was built to Lewis Lake. It was, of course, not until Meylert began maneuvering to locate the county seat at "The Center" that a road was started toward LaPorte, and not until 1888 that any road connected Lake Mokoma with the town itself.



Route of the Berwick (Susquehanna & Tioga) Turnpike.



Covered Bridge at Forksville built by Sadler Rogers, 1850.

Bradshaw

Hocott
Bradshaw



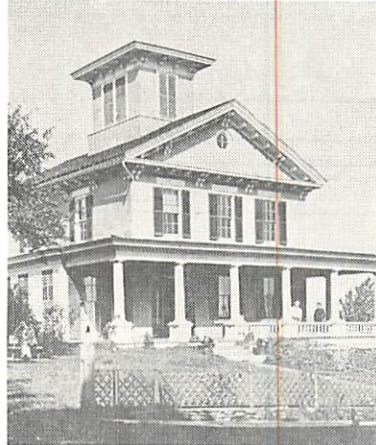
Chapter VI

Founders of the County



Left: Michael Meylert in mid-career. Center: His home built in the 1850's E.P. Ingham then owner on the lawn about 1908. Right: Ann Finch Meylert, his wife.

Bradshaw



Bradshaw



Bradshaw

There was an abortive attempt to break away from Lycoming on October 1820 on the part of some residents in what was then a division of the old Loyalsock Township of Northumberland County—then newly called Shrewsbury and Elkland Townships in Lycoming County, led by George Lewis (Eagles Mere) and Edward Eldred (Eldredsville), abetted by Priestley from Northumberland, who, of course, had a deep interest in the area. A petition was drawn up for "Lewis County", signatures needed were gathered, but apparently there wasn't enough influence in the legislature to put the matter through. It was to be another twenty years before efforts to separate began again, and success did not come for seven years after that.

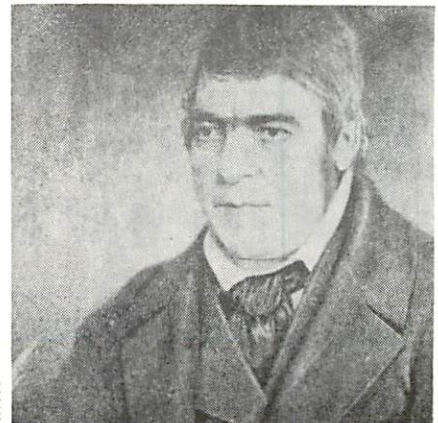
Secku Meylert and his son Michael were the moving figures in the effort, first planning to encompass some of what is now Bradford County to the north, and taking in an even larger portion of the parent Lycoming County than now is included in Sullivan. That "grab" having failed, a more modest plan was advanced and a new petition, outlining a smaller area and wholly from Lycoming was set in motion. This time the leader of the Senate of Pennsylvania, Charles C. Sullivan of Butler County, and Senator George Jackson guided the bill through the legislature. Secku's great friend, John LaPorte, the Surveyor General also lent his influence with the consequence that these are the names now attached to the County and the County Seat. Other than their political help, however, they had little to do with settling the land itself.

Pennsylvania was growing, along with the rest of the country, and finally even mountain areas were

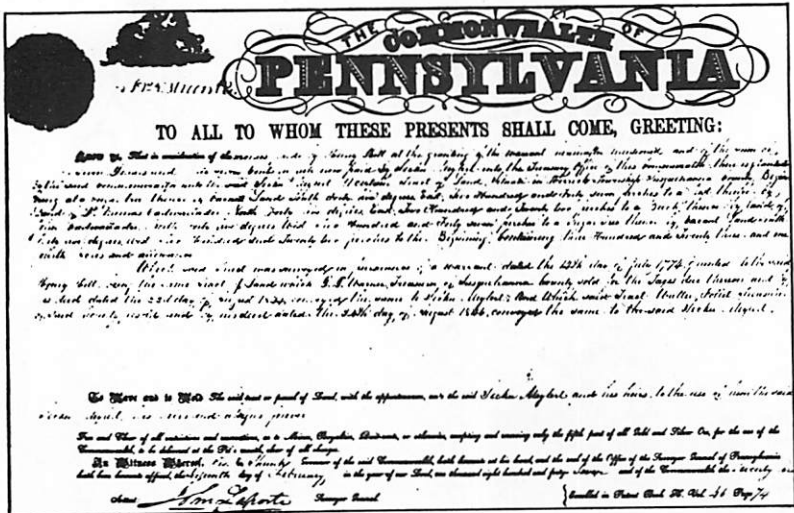
becoming attractive, as the Philadelphia Quakers had forseen. The population pressure then, however, was nothing compared to that of today. The United States in 1790 contained four persons per square mile, seven per mile in 1840 when the stirring to form Sullivan began, compared to 57 per mile in 1970. The 1970 figure would be even larger except for the newly added Alaska whose enormous area (equal to that of twenty-seven of the lower states) dilutes the per mile total. Sullivan County, with 650 square miles, now with considerably less than 6000 people works out to contain less than ten persons per square mile.

A look at the founding dates of the major towns and counties in Pennsylvania shows clearly that the tide of settlement first flowed from Philadelphia directly west, homesteaders next probed north up the Delaware and Susquehanna river valleys. This

Secku Meylert 1784-1849. Staff officer to Napoleon, manager of the Bingham, Clymer and Meredith estates, large land-owner and one of the founders of Sullivan County.



Wrede



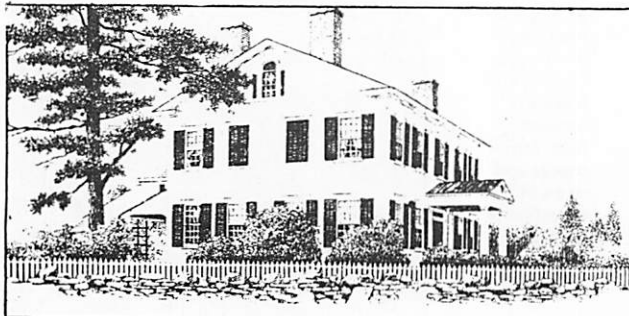
Deed of a typical 1847 purchase of 323 acres by Secku Meylert for \$7.47. Note the signature of LaPorte as Surveyor General.

was followed by a westward movement across the top of the State and only after these areas were peopled was there any attempt to invade the mountains. The table below gives a picture of the flow, showing how late our area was developed after others had already been explored and civilized:

Philadelphia	1682	Northumberland	1775
Lancaster	1721	Greensburg	1784
Harrisburg	1730	Muncy	1797
Carlisle	1750	Towanda	1812
Pittsburgh	1764	Tunkhannock	1818
WilkesBarre	1769	Lock Haven	1840
Sunbury	1772	LaPorte	1847

Philadelphia itself showed explosive growth long before the hinterland had even been explored. Its population of eighty families in the year of its founding, 1682-3, grew to over four-thousand in 1699, ten-thousand by 1720, and almost twenty-five-thousand at the time of the Revolution, when it was the second largest English speaking city in the world. The whole state, following Philadelphia's rapid increases, rose from six-hundred and eighty in its first year to three-hundred-twenty-thousand at the time of the Revolution, and reached four-hundred-thirty thousand at the first census in 1790, at which time a third of the people were of German stock.

The John LaPorte house, at Azilum near Towanda present headquarters of French Azilum now part of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.



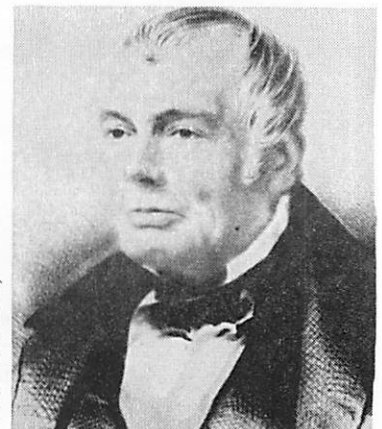
French Azilum Society

Sullivan County's population was first counted in 1850 at just over thirty-seven hundred, and grew at ten year intervals by two or three thousand, reaching its maximum between 1900-10 at about thirteen thousand. It has been declining ever since. When the agitation for separation began, Secku and Michael Meylert could count few more than fifteen-hundred possible petitioners, but with this nucleus, their connections and ambitious for the area, they assembled the political and economic force to push through the division. The Meylerts became agents for the widespread Clymer-Meredith interests as well as of the William Bingham Estate. They had personally acquired, although largely encumbered by a Clymer mortgage, thirty-three thousand acres of Sullivan's eventual three-hundred thousand odd acres.

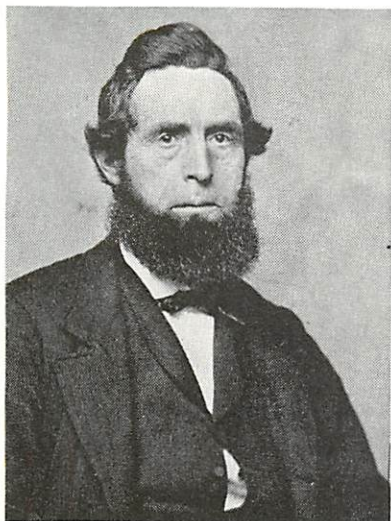
These astute absentee owners could see that promotion by Meylert in the upland wilderness could not but aid all their holdings in northeast Pennsylvania—and in the event of any foreclosure, they would be in a position to reacquire a more settled and thus more valuable property.

The story of Secku and Michael Meylert is told in so many places that a brief outline here will suffice. Secku, the father, was born in Kassel, Germany, Christmas Day 1784. His father, also Michael, had

John LaPorte 1798-1862. Son of Bartolome LaPorte, a leader of Azilum, he became a member of the Assembly, Judge and Surveyor General of the State.



French Azilum Society



Marjorie Carpenter

W. A. Mason
1818-1892.
Surveyor,
Associate
Judge built
first frame
house in
LaPorte.
Supervised
construction
of Law &
N.B.R.R.,
first arrived
in LaPorte
with an
Indian guide

married Mindwell Rothschild (Mina). Her family, the fabled wealthy Hesse bankers soon became state bankers for the governments of England, Italy, Austria and France. They tolerated, but could not bring themselves to welcome the husband of a daughter, who despite her name, had not minded well in having married a Christian. The Meylert's son Secku, a well educated and personable young man at twenty-one, had been singled out by General LaGrange of Napoleon's conquering French Army, for his linguistic as well as his accounting abilities—and just possibly for the Rothschild connection—to serve as his Commisary officer. During this service he was sent to deliver a dispatch to Napoleon's headquarters and arrived bleeding from a saber cut. Napoleon was impressed by his courage and immediately co-opted him as an aide. He remained with the General-in-Chief for the rest of the campaigns in Spain, Portugal and Russia; was seriously wounded at the Battle of Friedland, and through those years at headquarters came to know many French officers, including those who had served with Rochambeau and Lafayette during the American Revolution. It was Captain Meylert's first intimation of his future, for the Franco-American connection was peculiarly Philadelphian ever since

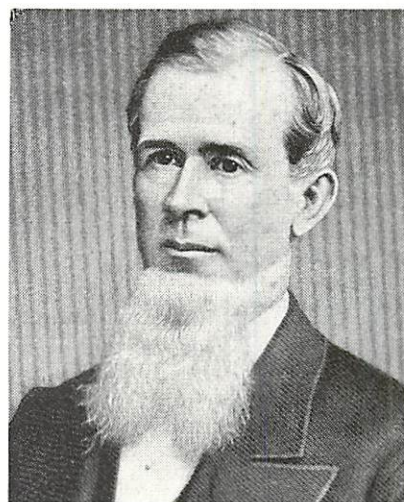


Moritz C. Lauer 1824-1886 and the youthful **Michael Meylert**, 1823-1883 about 1860 when they were in their late thirties.

Bradshaw

Franklin had been sent as our first ambassador to France. Undoubtedly Meylert met and knew le Comte de Noailles, Lafayette's brother-in-law, who had had so much to do with the colony at Azilum. After Waterloo when Germany returned to Royalty Secku, a political liberal was arrested by the reactionary government, but before trial escaped to London. There he worked for a year and a half in the Rothschild bank. It was quite clear that he would not achieve preferment with the Rothschilds, and certainly money would not be left to one whose mother married out of the faith. In 1817 therefore, influenced by a pamphlet that he had seen in London, by a Dr. Rose about northeast Pennsylvania he left for America. At age thirty-three, speaking English with an accent, he arrived in Philadelphia where through his international connections he was introduced to the Merediths and Clymers. Samuel Meredith and his son Thomas persuaded him to work for them in their newly established estate office in New Milford in the handling of land claim problems. He became steeped in the lore of patents, warrants and surveys, and as the chosen administrator was called on for the settlement of

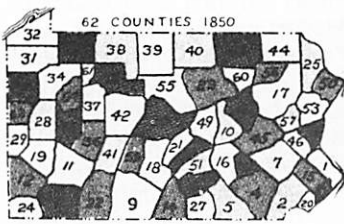
T. J. Ingham
1828-1911.
Lawyer,
Meylert's
advisor,
Judge
Assembly-
man, Bank
president
and Director
and perennial
Treasurer of
the Lake
Mokoma
companies.



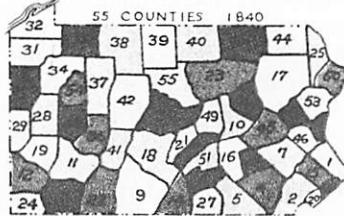
Bradshaw

many disputes involving the Clymer, Bingham and Meredith holdings. In the course of these twenty years 1817-37 he married Abigail Nichols (1821) and reared a family of six. The second oldest, Michael became his partner, joining with him in the acquisition and management of their fiefdom in Sullivan County. They brought to the endeavor, and to LaPorte, large ideas and a European approach, gathering the best of various talents to serve as a staff.

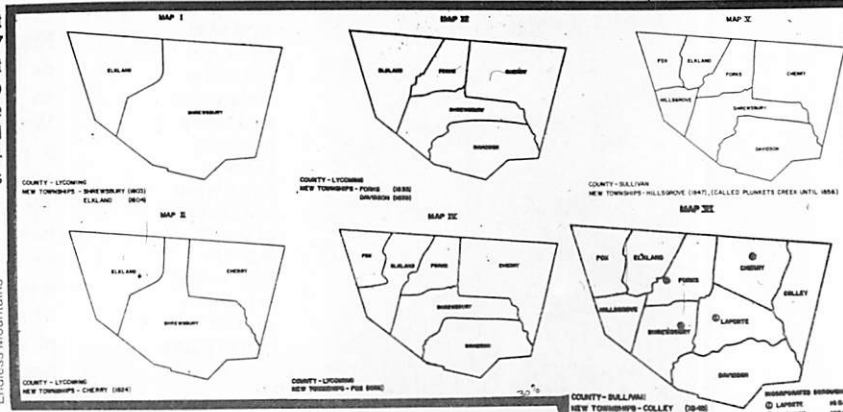
The tumult over the location of the new county's seat was at its height when the Meylerts made their choice of location certain by a guarantee to spend thirteen thousand dollars at "The Center", building a courthouse, a hotel, roads and schools. In the midst of the activity Secku died, but Michael, aged twenty-three, carried on and attracted a group under his aegis who brought a town into being and served it well. Thomas J. Ingham, lawyer and one of its first judges; William A. Mason, surveyor who laid out the county, (not to be confused with William C. "Clatey")



Sullivan carved out of Lycoming in 1847 — one of the last eight counties to be created before the State assumed its present configuration 100 years ago.



Bureau of Land Records



Amoeba-like breaking up of Sullivan County from the two townships of Lycoming County which constituted Sullivan.

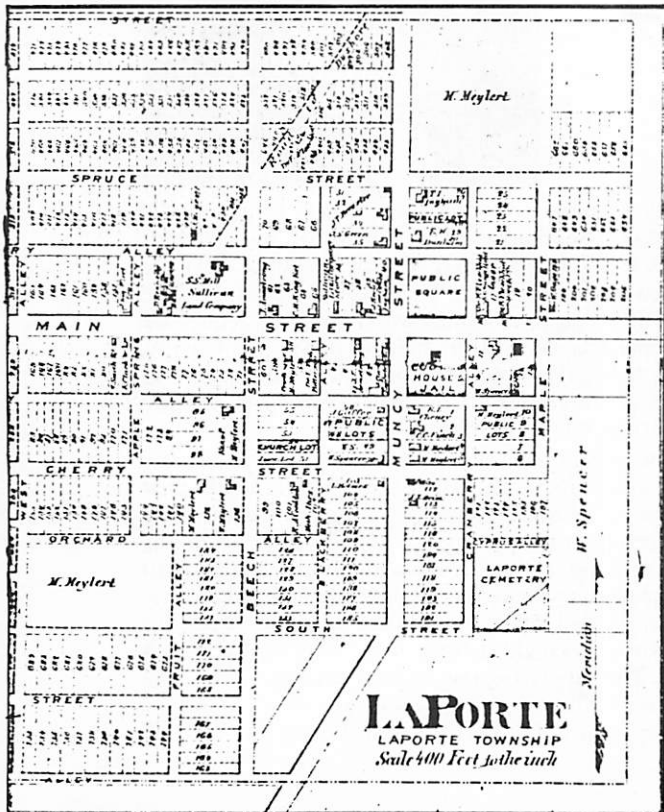
Mason, who appears forty years later in our story in connection with Lake Mokoma.); Moritz Christian Lauer, educator; Karl Wrede, chemist, for the tannery leather work; John Smyth, a merchant, from Canada; and later William Thorne and partner, James McFarlane, leather experts from Gold Street, New York City, who with Robert Stormont, another Canadian, organized the production work of the tanneries. Michael Meylert founded the first county newspaper, *Sullivan Democrat*, forerunner of the *Sullivan Review* and began negotiations for what was to be the Towanda & Catawissa Railroad; later actually it was reorganized and incorporated as the Williamsport & North Branch. He began lumbering the virgin hemlock for his saw-

mills and for the twin operations, using the bark in his tanneries in both LaPorte and Thornedale where he also laid out a town.

In LaPorte, he fulfilled his guarantees, built the required structures, donated land for the town park, built the connecting roads and had young T. J. Keeler plant along the streets the magnificent maples under which we walk today. LaPorte Boro was incorporated in 1850, Dushore in 1859, Forksville in 1880 and Eagles Mere not until 1899. For all his energy and acumen, the town never achieved the stature of another contemporary town started by his nephew George Scranton who had married his niece Ada Meylert. At the outset, he brought in a well-known Chicago architect, Stephen Vaughan Shipman to design his mansion, still standing in LaPorte. He had several other houses built, one which he occupied awaiting the completion of his own home and one for his brother William, later occupied by William's son Francis (Frank). He had planned his permanent home to have the ultimate in the modern conveniences of the day, an indoor bathroom, running water, central heating, and—wonder of wonders—gaslight!

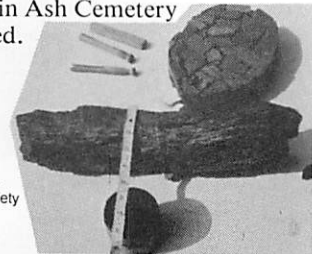
In all ways a large man, he was heard to remark, "A turkey is a most inconvenient bird, really too much for one, but not enough for two." His dining room table had a half-circle cutout to accommodate his generous girth; and when the gas plant under the dining room blew up one evening, it was joked that had he not left the room a few minutes before it happened, the explosion would have been well tamped and the damage much reduced. In the fullness of his career, in 1883, he died, missing by some years the opportunity to consolidate and enjoy the fruits of his efforts. Left behind a childless widow, Ann Finch Meylert had to relinquish property bit by bit to satisfy debts and make mortgage payments. In fact, it was said Meylert never got out from under the Clymer mortgage, for it covered the Mountain Ash Cemetery he had founded and where he is buried.

Map of LaPorte as laid out by W. A. Mason. Note the names, Meylert, Mason, Ingham, Dunham, Lauer, Cheney, Finch, Armstrong, most of whom appear in our Lake's history.



Wrede

Photograph of a piece of original hemlock bark, 3" thick; a circle of kindling with inflammable tie and tag; three clothespins from rough to finish as made locally.



Sullivan County Historical Society

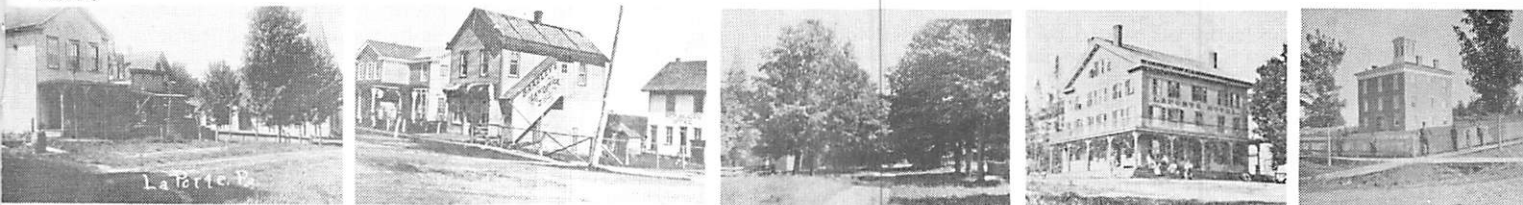


Chapter VII

The County 1850-90



Cosarove



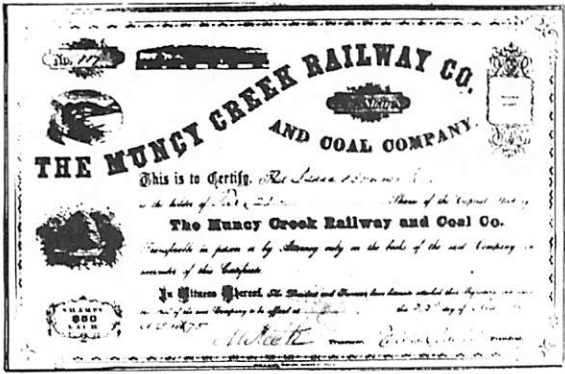
Left to Right: Main Street looking west, note the "water barrel" drinking fountain; Main at Muncy before the bank; Cherry looking east toward Muncy; Main at Muncy, the Hotel LaPorte; the old courthouse with the fence; all before the turn of the century.

Sullivan County, as became a mountain fastness was, in many ways, a latecomer to nineteenth century's "progress", and its industry was no exception. To the rest of the nation, railroads were a phenomenon in the 1820's, common but still new in the 1840's, because of their Civil War use, a practical, integral part of the daily life from then on. They made possible, in fact, the world's first modern war with continental battle lines and troop movements and from then on nation-wide freight and passenger routes. The rest of the nation was beginning to embrace electricity and the telephone, just as Sullivan County was emerging from the log cabin and coonskin cap. Not unnaturally then, when railroads were passing their peak, Sullivan was beginning feverishly to build them. The rail era in Sullivan has much to do with Lake Mokoma; indeed it determined the Lake's very location and origin.

The railroads were also linked to the long rise and fall of the Pennsylvania lumber business. Timbering started with early and local hand-work, at the outset only two men pit-sawing, and hand-carrying, it progressed to transport by team, and later to "splashing" logs down to steam sawmills whose product the railroads brought to mass markets. In the seventies Williamsport became the acknowledged capital of United States lumbering, and the world's center for hardwood. Huge fortunes were made and lumbermen held genuine land baronies and built their corresponding baronial manors still to be seen in Williamsport. But after lower tracts were cutover, the industry had to come to the mountains for virgin timber. Teaming the product out could not meet the capacity of the mills, nor could dirt roads support heavy wagon traffic. Water transport did not work well in the mountain streams, not broad, full, nor deep enough in their upper reaches. This set the stage for the lumber railroads and the towns that sprang up with them.

The rails could penetrate the mountains, could for short spurts, overcome the steep slopes with zig-zag six-degree grades and the sharp dips with wooden trestles. They could get the huge logs to a local mill and its products out to market. The original impetus was freight, the bonus passengers; although as it eventually worked out passenger revenue often later became dominant in the profits.

The business depended on trees which once cut did not come back for generations. The height of the lumber and rail business came and went in Sullivan County between 1890 and 1920. Lopez grew from wilderness to a town of a thousand people in the three years from 1887 to 1890. Sonesville, (that is right), just as large, a few miles west of Eagles Mere, came and went in fifteen years and in the process cut sixteen square miles of timber with a two-band local mill. At Laquin, on the western end of the county, like Sonesville, now a ghost town, four hundred million board feet were cut in ten years, yielding the owners a half a million dollar profit—when a dollar bought a pair of dress shoes. Besides bulk lumber, the milltowns turned out kindling, half a million bundles a month, each tied with a tar rope and an inflammable tag. They were made up and sold at thirty-four cents a hundred bundles to New York and other city tenement dwellers who used them to start coal fires in the cold water flats. Some towns included wheel-hub, clothes-pin and spoke mills all made from the hardwoods. Some, for example Nordmont had chemical plants making methanol and acetate-of-lime for smokeless powder, with charcoal as a by-product. Some featured lath mills making the standard four-foot lathing on which hair filled lime plaster was trowelled. Some had stave mills for the common package of the day—the barrel, standard long before modern cardboard cartons became prev-



Early stock certificate signed by Michael Meylert for the Muncy Creek R. R. (and Coal Company) 1875.

alent. Hemlock bark was the chief tanning medium before the German, turn-of-the-century invention of chemical tanning agents. Poorer lumber was sent for dunnage to the Philadelphia and New York docks. Heavy branches and small-bole trees became mine props in the burgeoning coal pits of Wilkes Barre, Scranton—and Bernice. Ice was hauled in winter and hides were shipped in and out all year long. Sullivan approached being an industrial county in the years 1890-1920, and its star, rising slowly from 1850-90 reached its zenith in 1905. We are now the beneficiaries, in our seclusion, of its wane.

LaPorte filled up slowly at first, but by 1890 there were four-hundred-thirty people uptown, and an almost equal number below the hill in "Tannerytown". The original town hemlocks had been cut long since for lumber and bark, for Meylert's tannery regularly used up ten thousand cords of the native hemlock bark each year. Some hemlock logs were cut, formed, and bored with inch-and-a-half holes making water pipe which sold at ten cents a sixteen-foot rod. Coffins cost two dollars fifty, bulk lumber four dollars a thousand board feet. Skilled workmen like the Azilum descendent Lamereaux and T.J. Keeler who did the massive cherry woodwork in Meylert's house, were

paid top wages of twenty cents an hour. The ordinary millworker got a dollar seventy-six for an eleven-hour day, less fifty-cents deducted for board, for a six day week. However, his overalls only cost fifty-cents; his two story seven room house cost but eleven hundred dollars, or one like it could be rented for eight dollars a month. His coffee cost eighteen cents a pound, and there were no coffee breaks!

LaPorte began as a town, when the country was at peace, Millard Fillmore was in the White House, the Mexican War was just over with and Zachary Taylor, its hero dead. The Civil War and the tumult over slavery were slowly coming to a boil, but in Sullivan these foreshadowings seemed far away. Improving the road to Forksville was of more concern.

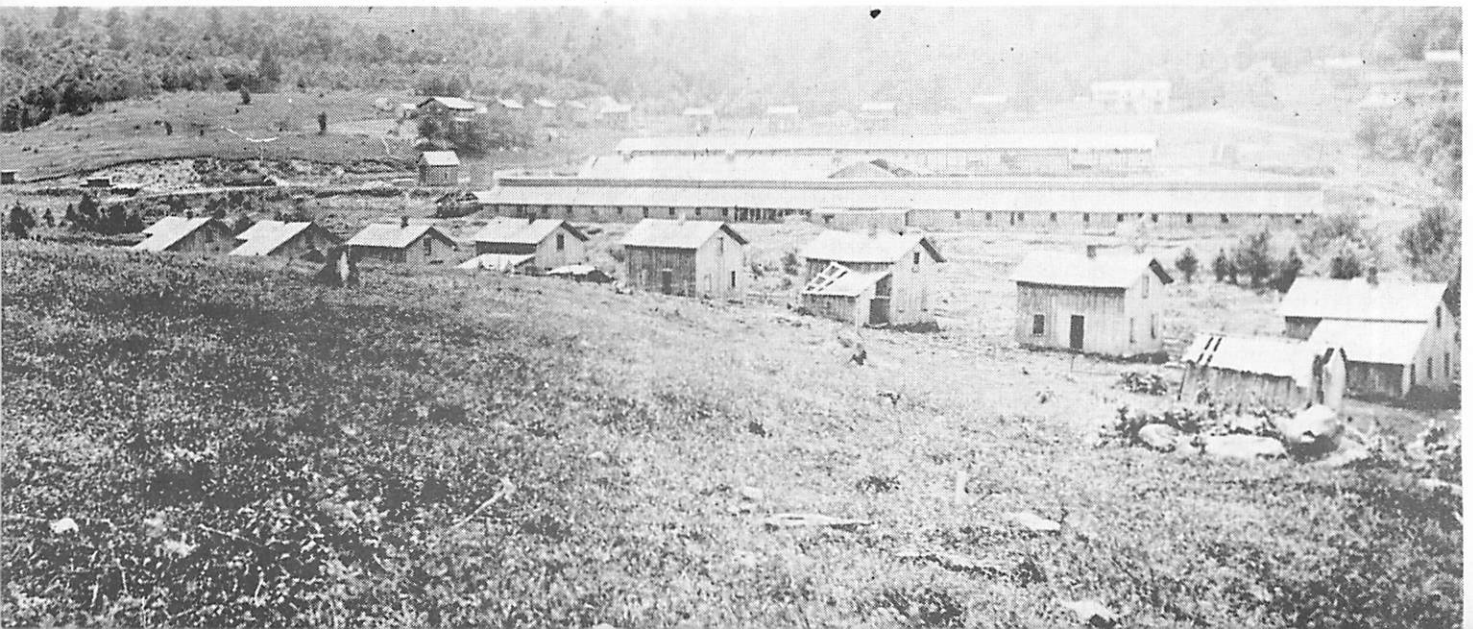
Meylert himself began the LaPorte Tanning Company in 1851, but shortly brought in Thorne and McFarlane from New York as the leather business

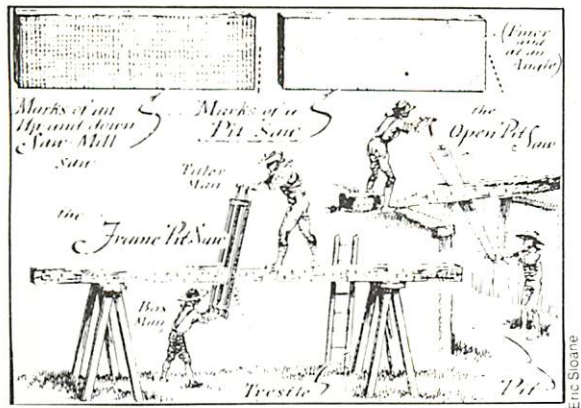


The peddler who kept towns supplied with all the necessities in the mid-nineteenth century.

grew. The mill furnished employment for fifty men in the woods and fifty more at each of the two plants, LaPorte's tannerytown and Thornedale's four miles to the east. He realized that his operations demanded a railroad, and after several abortive attempts finally incorporated the Muncy Creek Railroad in 1864 with a visionary two million dollar capital stock issue. The immediate purpose was to exploit the coal discovery at Bernice, as well, of course, as serving the

Thornedale Tannery, like LaPorte's now totally gone, 4 miles east of LaPorte where Meylert Thorne & McFarlane started the second mill.



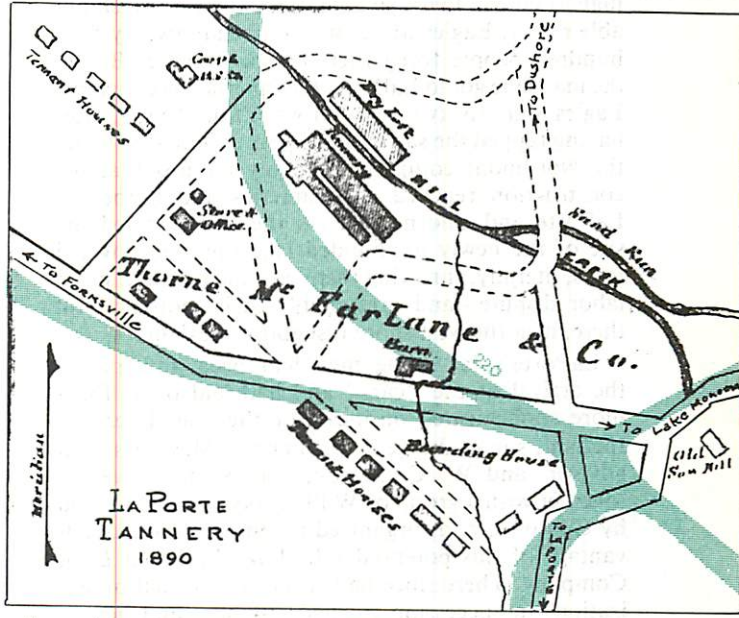


Pit sawing, before the sawmills this was how beams and boards were made. The box man wore a big hat to ward off the shower of sawdust.



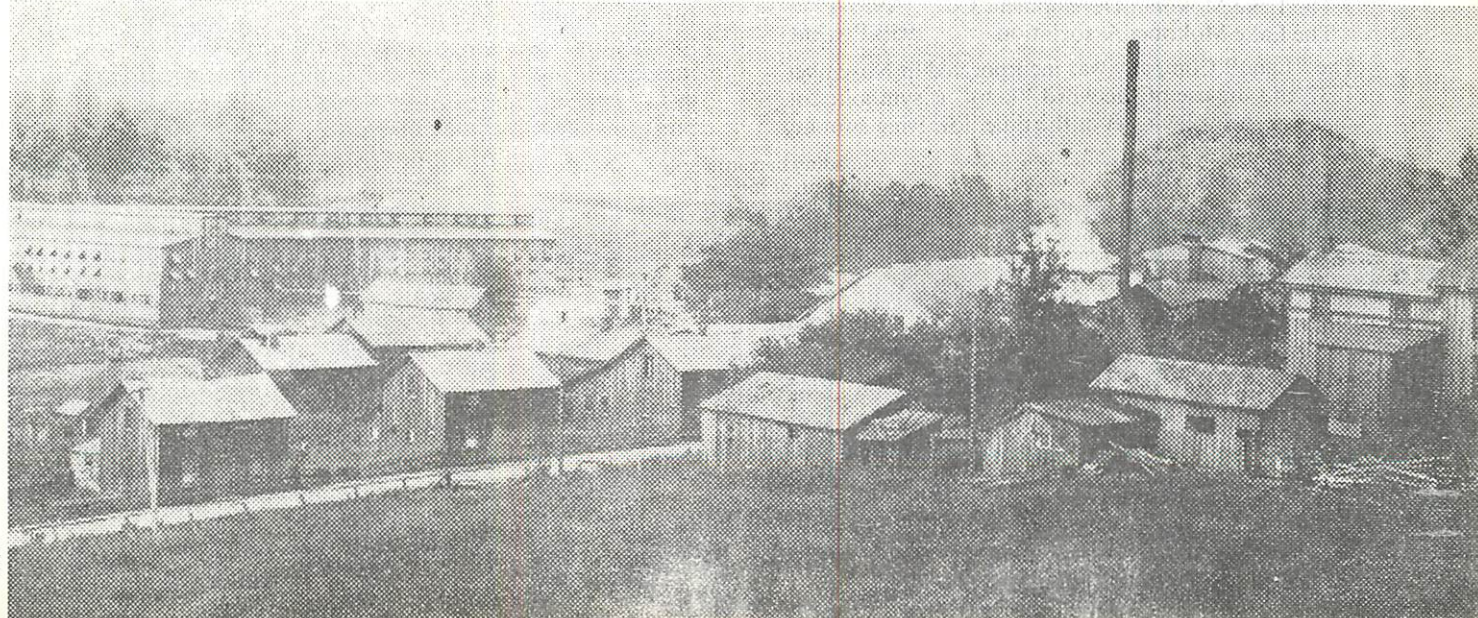
Splashing logs downstream, a risky business.

growing lumber, bark and hide business. After several reorganizations it and the Towanda & Catawissa together became the Williamsport & North Branch R.R. a connecting link between the north and west branches of the Susquehanna. The northern terminus was at Dohm's Summit, later named Satterfield when a New York investor of that name entered the picture. This spot was strategically chosen to join the Lehigh Valley's State Line and Sullivan whose southern branch also terminated there. Construction began, however, with a southern terminus at Halls, located outside of Muncy, because the people of that town refused a charter for the rails to run through the streets. By slow steps the line mounted Muncy Creek and first touched Sullivan County in 1885 at Muncy Valley where the Union Tanning Company had a hundred and twenty men processing a quarter of a million hides per year. By 1886 it had reached Sonestown and later that year the Nordmont chemical plant. The real climb began there, but the organizers insistence on only a one-percent grade on this main line forced the rails to wind seventeen miles before they joined the Lehigh over a thousand feet higher and eight years later. The imminent approach of the W & NB presaged great business for LaPorte but there were rival plans afoot for an earlier spur



Map of LaPorte Tannery— present roads indicated in tint.

LaPorte Tannery, from the hillside, looking north and east. Including "Tannery Town".



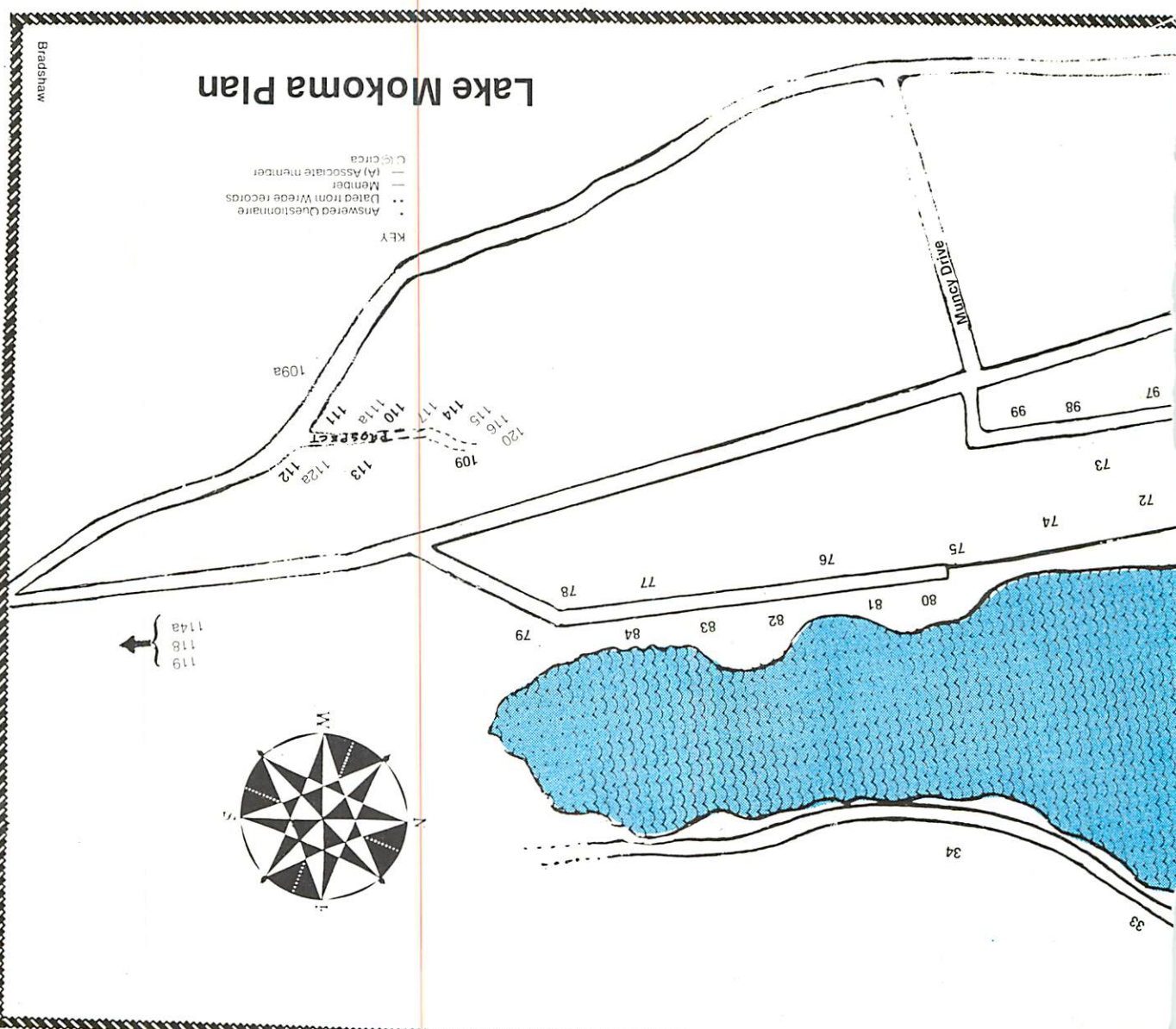
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Lake Map names are in Roman letters, LaPorte Map names in italics.

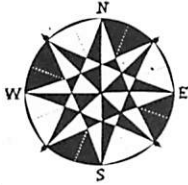
<p>A</p> <p>90 <i>Abernethy</i></p> <p>34 <i>Abrams</i></p> <p>56a <i>Amer</i></p> <p>85 <i>Anderson</i></p> <p>3 <i>Auden</i></p> <p>B</p> <p>121 <i>Balabkins</i></p> <p>47 <i>Baldwin</i></p> <p>17 <i>Banghart/Gray</i></p> <p>91 <i>Bank</i></p> <p>42 <i>Batley</i></p> <p>11 <i>Beatty</i></p> <p>9a <i>Becker</i></p> <p>85 <i>Belles</i></p> <p>2 <i>Berger</i></p> <p>80 <i>Berke</i></p> <p>17 <i>Bigelow</i></p> <p>70 <i>Black</i></p> <p>94 <i>Blasi</i></p> <p>4 <i>Blasi/Rental</i></p> <p>27 <i>Bohner</i></p> <p>72 <i>Borough Bldg.</i></p> <p>34 <i>Bowes</i></p> <p>23 <i>Boyer</i></p> <p>49 <i>Bradshaw, R.</i></p> <p>56 <i>Bradshaw, D.N., J.B.</i></p> <p>33 <i>Bradshaw/Rental/Stone House</i></p> <p>57 <i>Bradshaw/Rental/Barn</i></p> <p>37 <i>Brandt</i></p> <p>84 <i>Brandt/Rental</i></p> <p>11 <i>Brandt/Rental</i></p> <p>59 <i>Brenchley</i></p> <p>22 <i>Brindisi</i></p> <p>90 <i>Bruner</i></p> <p>33 <i>Burges</i></p> <p>80 <i>Bush</i></p> <p>C</p> <p>19 <i>Cable</i></p> <p>112 <i>Campbell-C.</i></p> <p>114 <i>Campbell-C.</i></p> <p>3 <i>Cannon</i></p> <p>99 <i>Carpenter, O.</i></p> <p>66 <i>Carpenter, M.</i></p> <p>19 <i>Carpenter, R.</i></p> <p>71 <i>Carson</i></p> <p>118 <i>Catholic Church</i></p> <p>112 <i>Chambers</i></p> <p>112a <i>Chambers</i></p> <p>44 <i>Champlin</i></p> <p>86 <i>Clark</i></p> <p>82 <i>Clinger</i></p> <p>83 <i>Collins/Meck</i></p> <p>49 <i>Community Hall</i></p> <p>91 <i>Coombs</i></p> <p>36 <i>Cooper</i></p> <p>73 <i>Cosgrove</i></p> <p>43 <i>Cottage (The)</i></p> <p>67 <i>Courthouse</i></p> <p>22 <i>Cox</i></p> <p>38 <i>Crist</i></p> <p>75 <i>Cummings</i></p> <p>D</p> <p>15 <i>Dages</i></p> <p>4 <i>Davis</i></p> <p>58 <i>Deckard</i></p> <p>6 <i>Delaney</i></p> <p>61 <i>Dental Clinic</i></p> <p>6 <i>De Rivas</i></p> <p>88 <i>Dieter</i></p> <p>117a <i>Doris-"Howard/Doris"</i></p> <p>117 <i>"Dottie/Marie"</i></p>	<p>E</p> <p>28 <i>Edwards</i></p> <p>20 <i>Ehrhardt</i></p> <p>124 <i>Elementary School</i></p> <p>78 <i>English</i></p> <p>52 <i>Episcopal Church</i></p> <p>F</p> <p>10 <i>Faltermayer</i></p> <p>114 <i>Farber</i></p> <p>110 <i>Fensterer</i></p> <p>55 <i>Ferguson</i></p> <p>100 <i>Fiester</i></p> <p>22 <i>Fink</i></p> <p>89 <i>Firehouse</i></p> <p>53 <i>Follmer, R</i></p> <p>96 <i>Follmer, W</i></p> <p>14 <i>Fries</i></p> <p>G</p> <p>54 <i>Gerber</i></p> <p>2 <i>Gettig</i></p> <p>58 <i>Graham</i></p> <p>17 <i>Gray/Banghart</i></p> <p>89 <i>Greene, F.</i></p> <p>100 <i>Greene, F.</i></p> <p>H</p> <p>1 <i>Haase</i></p> <p>21 <i>Halabuck</i></p> <p>7 <i>Hall</i></p> <p>109 <i>Hambley</i></p> <p>31 <i>Hamer</i></p> <p>96 <i>Harriman</i></p> <p>39 <i>Harris</i></p> <p>12 <i>Hart</i></p> <p>29 <i>Hastings MacMuller</i></p> <p>68 <i>Heim J.</i></p> <p>112 <i>Heim I.</i></p> <p>28 <i>Hesse</i></p> <p>123 <i>High School</i></p> <p>5 <i>Hodgson</i></p> <p>74 <i>Hoff</i></p> <p>86 <i>Holcombe</i></p> <p>40 <i>Houseknecht</i></p> <p>115 <i>Houseknecht</i></p> <p>111a <i>Howard/Doris</i></p> <p>I</p> <p>87 <i>Igoe</i></p> <p>110 <i>Ingham</i></p> <p>J</p> <p>K</p> <p>105 <i>Kann</i></p> <p><i>Kearney</i></p> <p>114 <i>Kelly</i></p> <p>113 <i>Kersavage</i></p> <p>112 <i>Kettelberger</i></p> <p>26 <i>Kinley</i></p> <p>120 <i>Kinsey</i></p> <p>51 <i>Kirkland</i></p> <p>69 <i>Kisner</i></p> <p>16 <i>Kitchen</i></p> <p>85 <i>Kleitob</i></p> <p>37 <i>Knight, W.</i></p> <p>92 <i>Knight, C.</i></p> <p>32 <i>Krecker</i></p> <p>L</p> <p>53 <i>Lawrence</i></p> <p>104 <i>Lewis</i></p> <p>72 <i>Lindabury</i></p> <p>60 <i>Long</i></p> <p>30 <i>Loyer</i></p>	<p>M</p> <p>52 <i>Machamer</i></p> <p>29 <i>MacMullen-Hastings</i></p> <p>36 <i>Madsen</i></p> <p>114 <i>Mahoney</i></p> <p>41 <i>Mann, R.</i></p> <p>51 <i>Mann, W.</i></p> <p>5 <i>Menzelli</i></p> <p>117 <i>Marie-"Dottie/Marie"</i></p> <p>60 <i>Mason, Rental</i></p> <p>64 <i>Mason, R.</i></p> <p>44 <i>Massey</i></p> <p>46 <i>Mathe</i></p> <p>108 <i>Mathe Rental</i></p> <p>111 <i>Mauck</i></p> <p>83 <i>Meck/Collins</i></p> <p>68 <i>Medical Bldg</i></p> <p>95 <i>Messerole</i></p> <p>74 <i>Methodist Church</i></p> <p>29 <i>Middleton</i></p> <p>39 <i>Migrath</i></p> <p>106 <i>Milby</i></p> <p>99 <i>Miller</i></p> <p>109a <i>Miller Hunting</i></p> <p>30 <i>Minick</i></p> <p>25 <i>Minier</i></p> <p>13 <i>Missigman</i></p> <p>65 <i>Mitchell</i></p> <p>77 <i>Montgomery</i></p> <p>102 <i>Moore/Witth</i></p> <p>9 <i>Moran</i></p> <p>73 <i>Moser</i></p> <p>76 <i>Moyer, J.</i></p> <p>78 <i>Moyer, D.</i></p> <p>98 <i>Mulrooney</i></p> <p>119 <i>Musselman</i></p> <p>32 <i>Myers, John</i></p> <p>46a <i>Myers, Justin</i></p> <p>115 <i>Myers, Justin</i></p> <p>116 <i>Myers, Justin</i></p> <p>Mc</p> <p>93 <i>McCarty</i></p> <p>76 <i>McDaniel</i></p> <p>114 <i>McDonald</i></p> <p>110 <i>McGregor</i></p> <p>88 <i>McKernan</i></p> <p>15 <i>McMahon</i></p> <p>92 <i>McMahon/Store</i></p> <p>91 <i>McPherson</i></p> <p>N</p> <p>57 <i>Newhart</i></p> <p>95 <i>Norton/Shop</i></p> <p>59 <i>Norton</i></p> <p>P</p> <p>101 <i>Pastusic</i></p> <p>13 <i>Pepperman</i></p> <p>27 <i>Peterman</i></p> <p>48 <i>Petersen</i></p> <p>113 <i>Plumbing/Shop</i></p> <p>65 <i>Post Office</i></p> <p>56 <i>Poust</i></p> <p>105 <i>Powers</i></p> <p>31 <i>Preston</i></p> <p>Q</p> <p>62 <i>Quava</i></p> <p>103 <i>Quinn/Tilden</i></p> <p>R</p> <p>25 <i>Rader</i></p> <p>101 <i>Raff</i></p>	<p>50 <i>Reeder</i></p> <p>64 <i>Reese</i></p> <p>10 <i>Reifsnnyder</i></p> <p>18 <i>Reighert</i></p> <p>107 <i>Reuteihuber</i></p> <p>113 <i>Ryan</i></p> <p>S</p> <p>26 <i>Sandell</i></p> <p>43 <i>School Bldg (old)</i></p> <p>45 <i>Shaeffer</i></p> <p>21 <i>Sherer</i></p> <p>48 <i>Shoemaker</i></p> <p>55 <i>Shultz, M.</i></p> <p>122 <i>Shultz, D.</i></p> <p>23 <i>Sigler, R.</i></p> <p>35 <i>Sigler, J.</i></p> <p>6 <i>Sigler, A.</i></p> <p>12 <i>Simpson</i></p> <p>85 <i>Sorber</i></p> <p>97 <i>Smith, M.</i></p> <p>20 <i>Snyder</i></p> <p>98 <i>Synder, P.</i></p> <p>14 <i>Spake</i></p> <p>66 <i>Spittler</i></p> <p>54 <i>Sprague</i></p> <p>108 <i>State Garage</i></p> <p>102 <i>Steinruck</i></p> <p>103 <i>Steinruck L. Jr.</i></p> <p>8 <i>Steppi/Cosgrove/Rental</i></p> <p>24 <i>Stepp, W.</i></p> <p>16 <i>Stepp, B.</i></p> <p>94 <i>Stere</i></p> <p>70 <i>Stern</i></p> <p>41 <i>Stevens</i></p> <p>92 <i>Store/McMahon</i></p> <p>38 <i>Sutcavage</i></p> <p>7 <i>Swisher</i></p> <p>113 <i>Synnestvedt</i></p> <p>T</p> <p>1 <i>Talcott</i></p> <p>82 <i>Taylor, M</i></p> <p>106 <i>Taylor, M</i></p> <p>67 <i>Taylor, H</i></p> <p>97 <i>Tel. Bldg</i></p> <p>63 <i>Thomas</i></p> <p>103 <i>Tilden/Quinn</i></p> <p>8 <i>Tipping</i></p> <p>120 <i>Tobias</i></p> <p>93 <i>Tubach</i></p> <p>U</p> <p>79 <i>Urbine</i></p> <p>V</p> <p>35 <i>Van Allen</i></p> <p>75 <i>Van Horn</i></p> <p>22 <i>Veronisi</i></p> <p>W</p> <p>77 <i>Walchak</i></p> <p>46 <i>Weaver, D.</i></p> <p>79 <i>Weaver, J.</i></p> <p>40 <i>White</i></p> <p>24 <i>Williams</i></p> <p>84 <i>Wirzberger</i></p> <p>102 <i>Wittich Moore</i></p> <p>47 <i>Wolf</i></p> <p>87 <i>Worthington</i></p> <p>88 <i>Worthington/Rental</i></p> <p>Y</p> <p>107 <i>Yarchak</i></p> <p>62 <i>Yoder</i></p>
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76.	McDaniel, Adele-Thomas	C1969	1974	114	Dotte-Mare/Hunting	1970
75.	Vanhorn, Barbara-William	C1931	1953	119	Kettieberger, Lorella-John	1973
74.	Hoff, Mattie-Samuel	1926		110	Symes/Vedl, Kenneth	1957
73.	Moser, Rena	1962		111a	Tobias-(raien)	1973
72.	Langbury, Marie-Richard	1984		111	Smith, Howard-Doris	1970
71.	Carson, Marge-Harry	C1932		109a	Miller/Hunting	1970
70.	Stern, Charlotte-George	1932		109	Castlebury, Joan-Galen	1972
69.	Kisner, Marie-Charles	1956		108	Marne/Rental	1942
68.	Helm, Pat-Joseph	1956-1978		107	Heutehunder, Marion	1932
67.	Taylor, Harold	1936		106	Milby, Lucille-William	1949
66.	Spiller, Charlotte-Joseph	C1929		105	Powers, Margaret-Philip	1947
65.	Eissler, Ann-Howard	C1925		104	De Rivas/Moischn	C1909
64.	Reese, Laura-Lawrence	C1931		103	Quinn Nancy-William	C1909
63.	Thomas, Kay-Dr. James	1940		102	Linden-Rosse-Scott	
62.	Yoder, Ruth-Charles	C1935		101	Quinn, Chp. Peter	
61.	Ricker, Virginia-Ralph	1935		100	Wittich, Jane Scott	
60.	Long, Eloise-Ray	C1938		99	Bailey, Anne Moore	
59.	Brenchiey, Virginia-Frank	1954		98	Moore, Charles, Thomas	1912
58.	Deckard, Alice-Fredrick	1921		97	Raff, Edna-Raymond	1911
57.	Newhart, Linda-Fredrick	1921		96	Greene, Frances	1909
77.	Walchak, Mrs. Louis	1932		100.	Miller, Marion-Howard	C1949
78.	English, Janice-Malcolm	C1931		99	Murphy, Helen-William	1930
79.	Urbine, June-Robert	C1950		98	Smith, Jeanne-Robert	1936
80.	Berke, Anne-Charles	1966		97	Harrman, Doris	C1960
81.	McPherson, MaryAnne-Frank	1967		96		
82.	Clinger, Mary	1946		95		
83.	Meck, Maude-Herbert	C1953		94		
84.	Witzberger, Emil	C1937		93		
85.	Bell, George	1957		92		
86.	Hobcombe, Pauline	1911		91		
87.	Igoe, Ruth-John	1976		90		
88.	McKernan, Pat-Robert	1945		89		
89.	Greene, Frances	1956		88		
90.	Burner, Mary	1949		87		
91.	Coombs, Arthur, Estate of	1945		86.		
92.	Knigh, Kathy-Charles	1984		85.		
93.	Tubach, Irene-Wayne	1974		84		
94.	Siere, Frances-Kenneth	C1933		83.		
95.	Messeroie, Helen	C1934		82.		

Lake Mokoma Plan

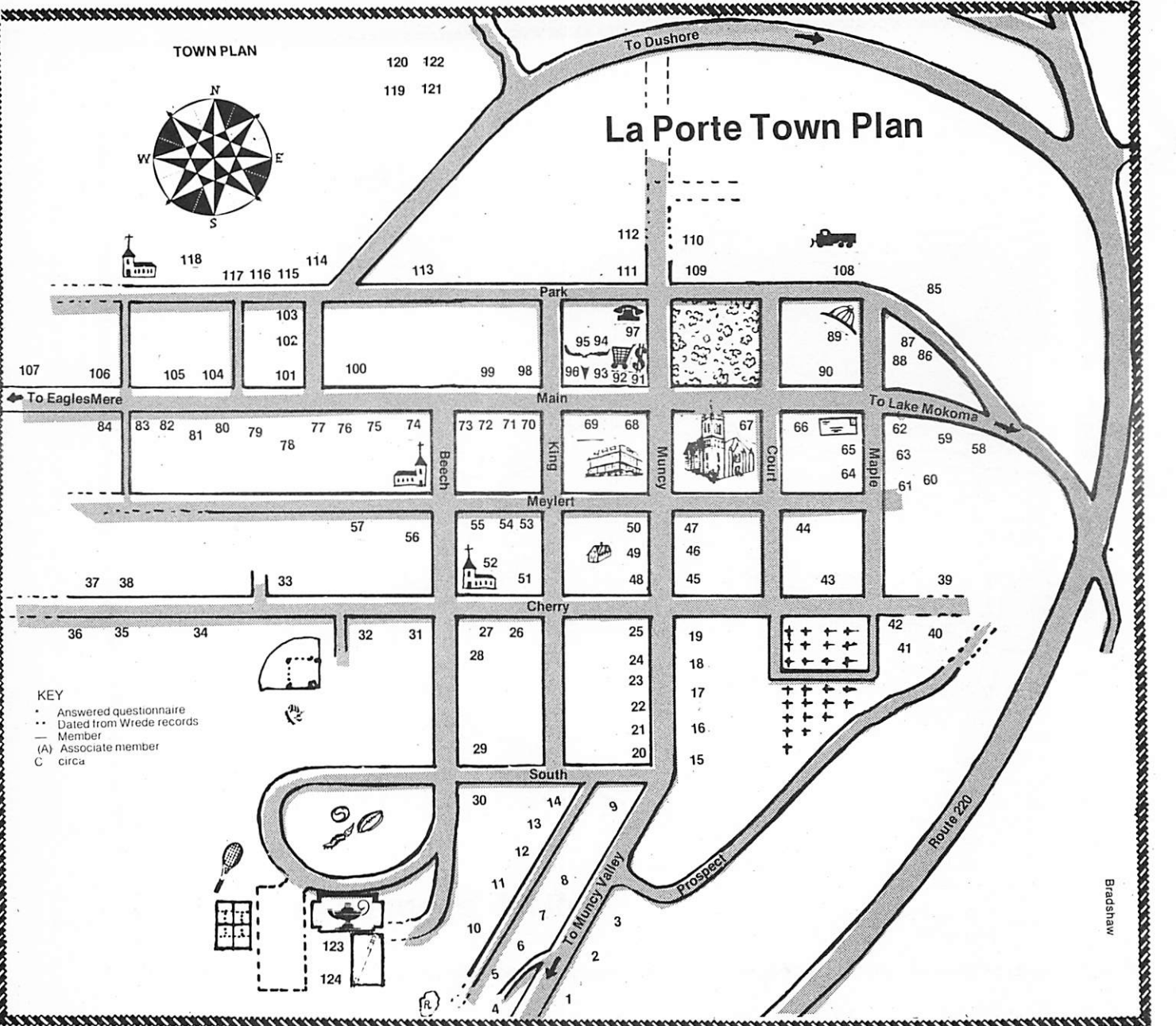


TOWN PLAN



120 122
119 121

La Porte Town Plan



- KEY**
- Answered questionnaire
 - Dated from Wrede records
 - Member
 - (A) Associate member
 - C circa

1. Talcott, Raymond 1950	35. Van Allen, Anne-Robert (A) 1978	66. Carpenter, Marjorie 1884	96. Folmer, Ruth-Wayne (Former Post Office Building) C1855
2. Berger, Mildred-Leon 1956	36. Cooper, Diana-Blaine 1974	67. Courthouse, (rebuilt) 1898	97. Telephone Building 1965
3. Cannon, Madolin 1955	37. Brandt, June-Robert 1958	68. Medical Clinic 1899	98. Snyder, Jean-Philip C1880
4. Davis, Savilla-Rev. Francis 1930	38. Brandt, June-Robert (Antique Shop and Barn) 1955	69. Medical Building 1978	99. Carpenter, Ethlin (Onie) 1890
5. Manzelli, Thomas 1920	39. Crist, Christine-Robert 1979	70. Berdanier, Marguerite before 1861	100. Fiester, Frances 1925
6. Sigler, Diane-Alan C1920	40. Harris, Margaret-Hoy 1897	71. Boro Building C1870	101. (Beauty Parlor, Antique Shop) 1925
7. Hall, Ann-Dale 1973	41. White, Alice 1915	72. Methodist Church 1886	102. Pastusic, Rose-Joseph C1930
8. Stepp/Cosgrove-Rental C1935	42. Stevens, Betty-John C1965	73. Black, Louise-William 1860	103. Steinrock, Helen-Leo, Sr. C1948
9. Moran, Gertrude 1959	43. Halley, Ann-John C1976	74. Methodist Church 1897	104. Steinrock, Christine-Leo, Jr. 1935
10. Halburck, Joseph C1910	44. Old Schoolhouse 1906	75. Cummings, Elizabeth-Wallace 1865	105. (Former Post Office Building moved to site) 1876
11. Waltermayer, Liesel-William 1975	45. Massey, Dorothy-James 1890	76. Moyer, Anita-John 1905	106. Lewis, Mary 1876
12. Brandt/Rental 1972	46. Schult, Helen-Duane 1885	77. Montgomery, Merri-Gary 1905	107. Kann, Beverly-Frank C1880
13. Hart, Marge-Matthew 1952	47. Mathe, Mildred-Mac 1852	78. Moyer, Doris-Dale 1897	108. (Waters Way Patrolman) 1876
14. Pepperman, Carol-Carl 1913	48. Baldwin, Margaret C1853	79. Weaver, Pat-James (A) 1940	109. Taylor, Maude Russell C1890
15. Spako, Doris 1954	49. Shoemaker, Etta C1854	80. Bush, Dorothy C1890	110. Yarchak, Agnes-Joseph 1949
16. McMahon, Marion-Leo 1963	50. Community Hall (Originally Methodist Church) 1872	81. Deiter Hunting Cabin C1890	111. State Garages 1928 and 1933
17. Kitchen, June-Harold 1920	51. Stepp/Rental 1854	82. Taylor, Maude 1933	112. Hampley, Carol-Barry (A) 1858
18. Bigelow, Carolyn C1895	52. Snyder, Nancy-Robert 1856	83. Ryan, Marion-John 1974	113. (Game Protector, Former Post Office) 1870
19. Shultz, Constance-Leonard C1870	53. Snyder, Michael C1925	84. Brandt/Rental 1977	114. Ingham/McGregor, Pat-Matt C1870
20. Carpenter, Nancy-Robert C1925	54. Halburck, Joseph C1910	85. Anderson, Marsha-Tom 1945	115. Fensterer, Mary Carolyn old part 1855 (and barn)
21. Snyder, Gretchen-Michael C1910	55. Cox, Frank 1910	86. Clark, Hayes 1944	116. Mauck, Pauline-Harry 1871
22. Boyer, James C1885	56. Boyer, James C1885	87. Worthington, Mickey-Donald 1940	117. Heim, Ina 1850
23. Stepp, Viola-W.R. 1958	57. Stepp, Viola-W.R. 1958	88. Worthington/Hental (Schultz, Kathy-David) 1936	118. Plumbing Warehouse/Stepp-Cosgrove 1935
24. Minner, Theresa-Henry 1899	58. Minner, Theresa-Henry 1899	89. Fire House 1949	119. (Former Sawmill) 1977
25. Kinley, Alta 1946	59. Bradshaw, Ruth-Barry, Kit-David 1906	90. LaPorte Hotel-Motel 1922	120. Houseknecht, Tilly-Carl 1894
26. Peterman, Josephine-Howard 1870	60. Bradshaw Barn/Rental 1920	91. Citizens and Northern Bank (Law Office, Ashinka) 1913	121. Rose, Ben C1880
27. Edwards, Carol-Willard 1948	61. Graham, Althea-William 1920	92. Store (Leo McMahon, prop.) 1870	122. Van Allen/Rental 1897
28. Hastings-MacMullan (addition) 1975	62. Norton, Carolyn-Robert 1930	93. McCarty, Jean-Raymond (re-modeled-1933) 1975	123. Catholic Church 1894
29. Loyer, Dorothy 1973	63. Mason, Robert-Jane, Rental 1930	94. Blasi's Bar-Restaurant (Blasi, Maria-Vincent) 1875	124. Musseelman, Joy-Kenneth (A) 1969
30. Hamer, Elizabeth 1853	64. Dental Clinic (Built as Motel) 1953	95. Norton, Robert (Shop) C1865	125. Kinsey, Shirley-David (A) 1971
31. Myers, Eunice-John 1853	65. Quava, Jean-Raymond 1912	96. Post Office (and Surveyor's Office, W.R. Stepp) 1958	126. Rhone, Dr. Richard (A) 1973
32. Bradshaw, Barry-David/Rental "Stone House" 1932	66. Rhone, Dr. Richard (A) 1920		127. Schult, Jane-David (A) 1973
33. Abrams, Bobby-Samuel 1932	67. Mason, Robert-Beatrice (and barn) 1890		128. Sullivan County Elementary School 1970
	68. Post Office 1958		129. Sullivan County High School 1962

CHAPTER VIII

Lake Mokoma Land Company



On November 19th, 1887, the Lake Mokoma Land Company was incorporated as a Pennsylvania Corporation with capitalization of \$50,000, one thousand shares of \$50 par value. In the first year the Company had issued five hundred eighty-two shares, but had not received anything like the indicated full face amount, some \$29,100. Instead they had accepted \$15,000 in cash and \$14,100 worth of land. As has been said, the moving force behind the enterprise was Ellery P. Ingham. He and his father, Judge Ingham, had become interested together with a prominent Williamsport attorney, Clinton Lloyd, a retired contemporary of the Judge. That year, LaPorte's resident population reached 800, Dushore's 600, Lopez's at 100, while Eagles Mere had only 50 permanent residents.

Lloyd had been for twelve years Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives in Washington from 1863 to 1875, and District Attorney of Lycoming County for two terms. He, brought with him prominent Williamsport connections. John T. Frederics one of these was elected the first President, holding ten shares. Lloyd became Secretary with thirty-two shares; Judge



Ellery P. Ingham, who had the idea.

PROSPECTUS

For a Land and Improvement Company to Purchase and Operate Certain Lands Adjoining the Borough of Laporte, Sullivan County, Penn'a.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.

The property intended to be purchased embraces a total of about 730 acres, which includes a basin and all the land surrounding it on every side, 220 feet above the sea level. The Williamsport & North Branch Railroad is located through this land with the Laporte station on it. The distance from Williamsport, by rail, is 45 miles. The land is, with the exception of the basin, covered with an original forest of hickory and maple trees; the land surrounding the basin is a succession of benches, affording eligible sites for cottages. There are four streams of pure water flowing down the hillside into the basin, affording the best facilities for overhead water to the buildings and for the hatching and breeding of trout, while the pond will afford the best of trout fishing.

By erecting a dam 300 feet in length and 12 feet high, the basin can be flooded back for a mile and a half with water from six to ten feet deep and of an average width of 200 yards, with beautifully curving shores, with a natural island in the centre of the pond large enough for a band stand and dancing floor.

The whole property is offered at \$15,000, of which \$4,000 is to be paid in cash and the balance in stock of the Company at par.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION.

It is proposed to form a joint stock company under the general corporation acts, with a capital stock of \$50,000, to be divided into 500 shares, of the par value of \$100 each, which are to be disposed of as follows, to wit:

120 shares, \$12,000 for cash, to be used or appropriated as follows, to wit:	
Cash payment for the property,	\$4,000
Building the dam, (1887)	3,000
Building three miles of roadway	1,000
Sundries, to wit: Bombs on Chart, &c., cleaning basin, making survey and plat, &c.,	4,000
	\$12,000
The remaining 380 shares to be disposed of as follows, to wit:	
110 shares, balance of purchase,	\$11,000
270 shares to remain in treasury,	27,000
	\$38,000

The reserve stock to be disposed of, if necessary, from time to time for working capital, to extend improvements, &c., with preference in taking the same to the original cash subscribers.

It will be observed that this plan gives the cash subscribers the controlling power in the Corporation.

It is confidently claimed that after the expenditure of the above \$12,000, lots can be sold for cottage sites within a month sufficient to reimburse the whole amount of the original expenditure, as there is certainly no more eligible or beautiful location in Pennsylvania, or elsewhere, than this will be as soon as the improvements contemplated shall have been completed.

It is proposed to stock the lake year by year with brook trout, which can be hatched on the premises without cost by the 100,000, and subscribers to the stock will certainly have fishing and boating unsurpassed anywhere.

The location and plan of the property is shown by a draft or plat thereof, made by Judge Mason, County Surveyor, at Laporte.

NOTE:—Please carefully examine the above and be prepared to subscribe for five shares of stock when called on.

CLINTON LLOYD,
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

July 1st, 1887.

Prospectus of the Lake Mokoma Land Co.

To His Excellency JAMES A. BEAVER, Governor of Pennsylvania:

I do hereby certify that the incorporation of an act of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act to incorporate the Lake Mokoma Land Company," passed on the 19th day of November, 1887, is in full force and effect.

Proceeding to sell the lands adjacent thereto and in the Borough of LaPorte in Sullivan County

The Lake Mokoma Land Company

and having the same incorporated and that the same is now in full force and effect.

The name of the person or persons who have subscribed for the shares of the said company is as follows:

NAME	NUMBER OF SHARES
Ellery P. Ingham	32
John T. Frederics	10
Clinton Lloyd	10
Wm. H. Ingham	10
Wm. H. Ingham, Jr.	10
Wm. H. Ingham, III	10
Wm. H. Ingham, IV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, V	10
Wm. H. Ingham, VI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, VII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, VIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, IX	10
Wm. H. Ingham, X	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XIV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XVI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XVII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XVIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XIX	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XX	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXIV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXVI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXVII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXVIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXIX	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXX	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXIV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXVI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXVII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXVIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXIX	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XL	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLIV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLV	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLVI	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLVII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLVIII	10
Wm. H. Ingham, XLIX	10
Wm. H. Ingham, L	10

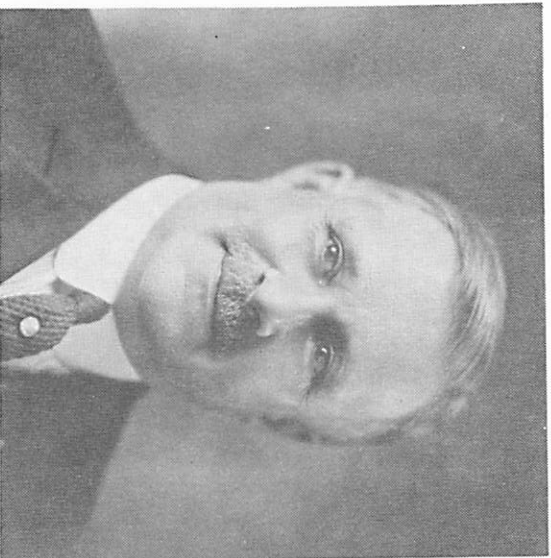
The names and residences of the subscribers to the shares of the said company are as follows:

NAME	RESIDENCE
Ellery P. Ingham	Laporte
John T. Frederics	Laporte
Clinton Lloyd	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, Jr.	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, III	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, IV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, V	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, VI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, VII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, VIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, IX	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, X	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XIV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XVI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XVII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XVIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XIX	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XX	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXIV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXVI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXVII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXVIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXIX	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXX	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXIV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXVI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXVII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXVIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XXXIX	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XL	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLIV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLV	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLVI	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLVII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLVIII	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, XLIX	Laporte
Wm. H. Ingham, L	Laporte

The names and residences of the directors of the said company are as follows:

NAME	RESIDENCE
Ellery P. Ingham	Laporte
John T. Frederics	Laporte
Clinton Lloyd	Laporte

Lake Mokoma Land Co's. Incorporation Papers.



Sullivan Co. Historical Society

Frank W. Meylert, Michael's nephew, a firm believer in Lake Mokoma for over half a century.

Ingham, Treasurer, had ten shares; and E. P. Ingham (not an officer) held sixty-eight shares. All the rest of the stockholders, except one, held between five and ten shares each. That exception was the largest shareholder of all, James McFarlane of the Elk Tanning Company (successor to Meylert's Tanning Company). The allocations followed in proportion to the land contributions.

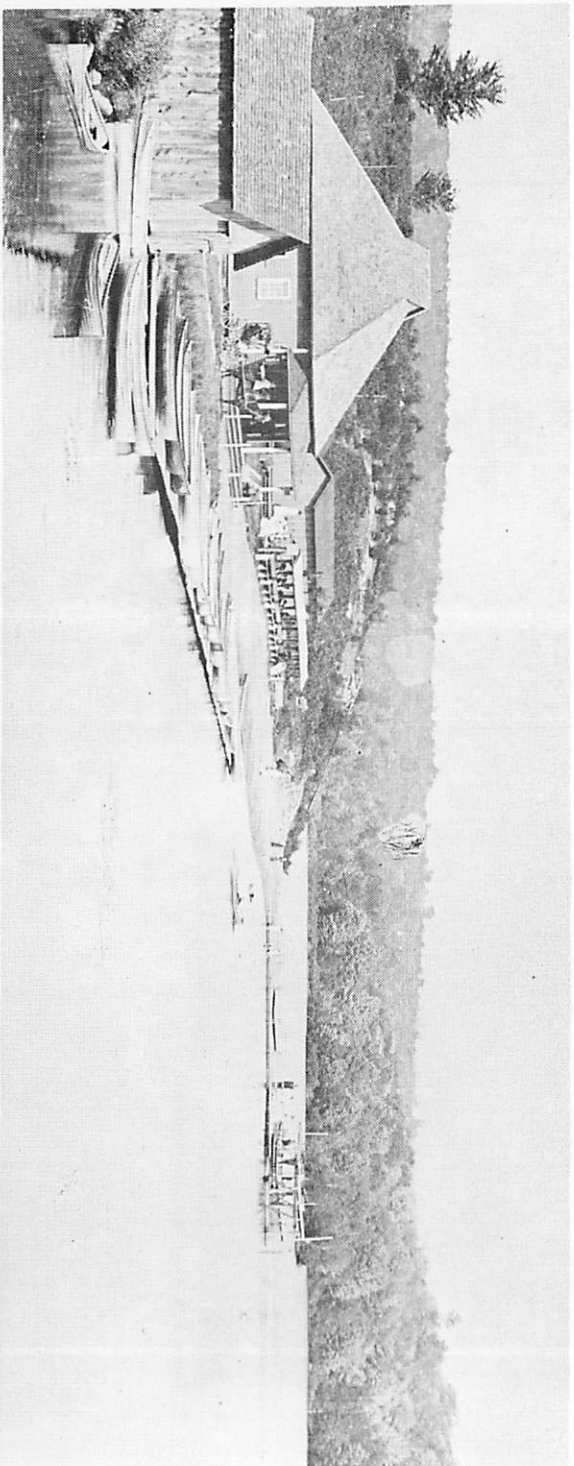
E. P. Ingham had negotiated for the key tracts of land for the project during the preceding summer and fall. The principal factor was the inclusion of some of the Tannery property which was "sold" for a dollar. At par the shares given for it would make it worth over \$7,300. Ingham had collected seventy-seven acres from Judge Dunham his neighbor, paying \$780; five acres from a local farmer Kohensparger, no prairie disclosed; seventy acres from Jarvis Mason, a local attorney for \$4,000 and a hundred-six acres from Ann F. Meylert, Michael's widow. The total acreage came to seven-hundred and twenty-five, valued at \$13,765.

All of the above transactions fell in the period from December 1887 to January 1888. Later in January the Company picked up an additional hundred and fifty-three acres from Robert Stormont, W. C. Mason's father-in-law, for \$1,185; fourteen more from Ann Meylert for \$50 which adds up to a grand total of eight-hundred ninety-two acres. Contrasting this with the five hundred twenty-five land acres of the Lake Mokoma Association's purchase plus the one hundred twenty-five acres of lake surface, which of course existed as land when Ingham began, indicates that two-hundred and forty acres more or less have been sold to former and present cottage owners. W. C. Mason made the plat for the Lake, giving it some curving drives and employing large lots, measuring up to two-thirds of an acre or more. Not all the land was broken into lots; the Company reserved for itself Brady's Point and Mt. Wallowlock at the east end of the beach and lands along the lake shore (see overlay map Chap. X). The company offered to each of the thirty-nine original stockholders a one acre lot with the proviso that they build on it a structure to the value of \$500 before October 1, 1893. Later the deadline was extended a year. Few complied.

The plan for such a Company had been generating for some time. In fact a year before in 1886, E. P. Ingham petitioned to have the Borough of LaPorte enlarged to include the new lake's projected area and most of the "company" land. The location was obviously chosen because of an existing cattle pond of some fifty acres in the swampy lowland. In July 1887, a single sheet *Prospectus* had been issued giving a description of the property and a plan of operation. It called for a minimum subscription of five shares per person, \$4,000 cash for the property, \$3,000 for the building of the "embankment" and \$1,000 for three miles of roadway, \$4,000 for the cleaning of the basin, making the plat, etc. Before the issue, the price was reduced from \$100 to \$50 a share, thus doubling the number of shares. Apparently it was difficult to find five-share buyers who had \$500 in cash, while there were takers to be found at half that price.

You walked—or possibly came in the buggy.

Cosgrove





E.M. Dunham's Stock Certificate, 1887.

The promise of Lake Mokoma did not go unnoticed in the rest of the county. The following is from LaPorte's paper of December 8, 1887:

"We had hopes, when the Dushore Review changed hands, that the foolish spleen of the proprietor would be no longer visible . . . Whatever may be the cause of the continual slurs in that paper directed at the county seat, one thing is certain—neither Dushore, nor its residents nor the Review are benefited by them."

"The fling about the 'Lake being christened before it was born' is in keeping with the usual style of information given by the Review to its patrons of anything contemplated as an improvement or addition to LaPorte. The editor is probably not aware that there was for a number of years a large sheet of water in that self same place, where a number of acres of land were flooded with as pure spring water as can be found in Sullivan county. This dam was put in in 1865 and was still in place several years ago when it was torn out to afford increased pasturage for cattle. Lake Mokoma is not only a natural

gathering of spring water but is a natural receptacle for it. The purity of this water can easily be tested, but we feel safe in saying that although Sullivan County excels in its springs there is no water superior in quality and purity to that which boils from the sand and forms the head waters of Mill Creek." "Dushore for many years past, has been well patronized by the people of LaPorte. The merchants of Dushore have been successful and have offered such inducements as to draw a large custom from this place to their stores. This is all right. We could not afford however to let the Court House go to Dushore . . . All we ask of Dushore is a fair courtesy. We do not expect any assistance of any kind from them to build up our town, unless we pay for it. We do however expect outside capital and influence to assist us in making Mokoma a picturesque resort. Nature has certainly done her part and capital seems willing to lend a hand . . . The future 'Inland Sea' at LaPorte will come out all right and it may not be many years before the dwellings surrounding it will be as numerous as they are now on the mountain side of Dushore . . ."

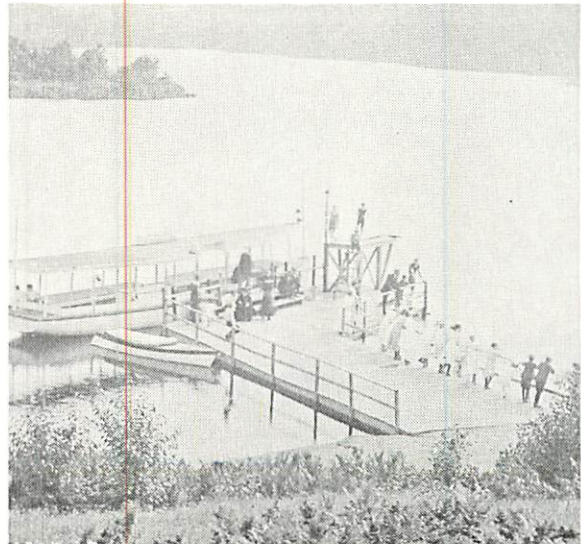
The work began in the winter of 1888. A newspaper article of January 6 notes: "a few of the workmen took firewater and spent their vacation in the land of dreams." John Paulhamus, the contractor, employed 75 to 100 men at the beginning. He is recorded as receiving ten shares. McFarlane's tannery workmen built a bunkhouse for the workers at the site. Labor costs for land clearing totalled \$1,429 for the three months' work. The embankment as described in the *Prospectus* was to be five hundred feet long and twelve feet high, enough to project the depth of water at twenty feet between the contemplated island and Mt. Wahollock. Most of the rest of the lake was expected to be from six to ten feet deep, and to stretch

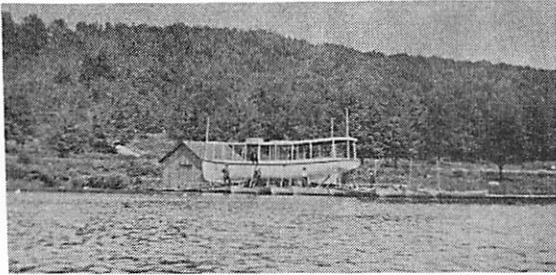


We always wore our hats to go diving.

Two bathers and no one in swimming.

Wrede





Mason

This is labelled "the steamboat" and may be the *Queen of Mokoma*.

a mile and a half to the south. The dam was finished by June 8, 1888 and the "gate" was closed. A large body of water collected immediately. By July first the lake was three feet deep at the gate. By the end of the month it was eight feet deep.

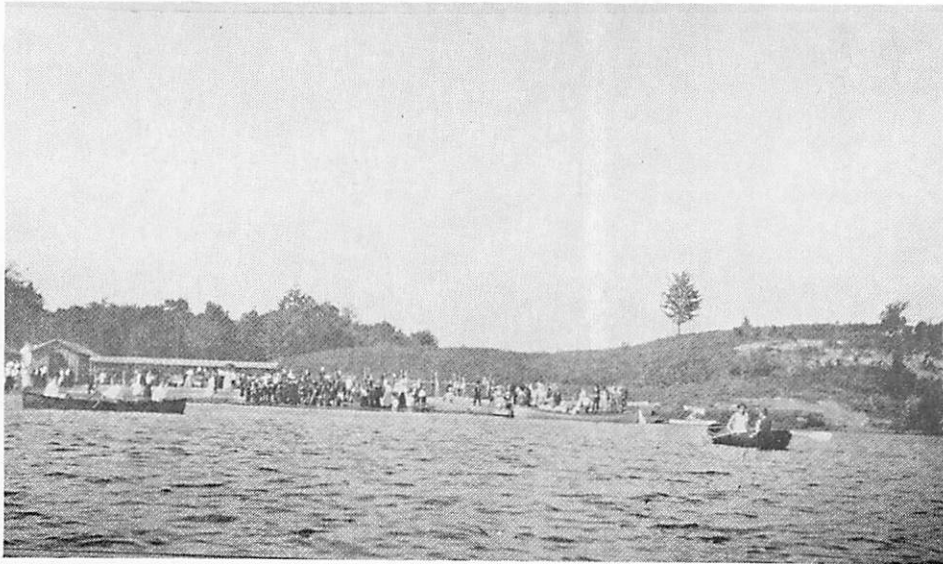
It was advertised that the coming W&NB railroad would run through the property and the entire right of way was given to the line as an inducement for them to bring passengers directly to the beach on the west side of the lake. Plans for a station were made to be built by the railroad, "in conformity with the beauty and dignity of the lake structures".

Refreshingly simple two-page By-laws were drawn up providing for an annual meeting, election of officers, a President, Clerk and Treasurer. No salaries were to be paid to the Board, of which the Treasurer was not a member. Clinton Lloyd became the first Clerk and Judge Ingham the Treasurer. The plan called for a hotel to be built by an independent concessionaire, the company to supply half of the projected \$4-6,000 cost, to donate the land and furnish water and drainage. McFarlane took the contract for the hotel sewage trench, "an iron pipe in a wooden box leading from the hotel to the lake outlet". Liquor was baned, "no intoxication or possibility of intoxication to be allowed where ladies are to go unaccompanied by gentlemen".

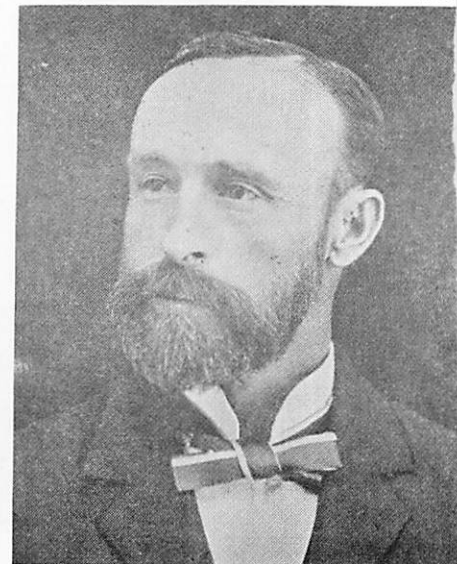
The dam was built and the lake became a reality in the fall of 1888. A small leak was discovered but quickly repaired. On November 30, "A large number of our young people enjoyed a first skate. The entire one and one quarter mile was smooth as glass." A twenty-five year contract was offered to anyone willing

to build and operate a steamboat and row boats on Lake Mokoma. The manager of such an enterprise was required to build a cottage on company donated land and he, too, was enjoined from selling or serving liquor. He was to construct a craft, called a steamboat, "meaning a boat working by power, either of steam or naphtha or electricity . . . to be put in the lake in the year 1891." The cost was estimated at \$1,200. His further duties were to include general care of the lake shores, to keep watch, to protect the fish, but not to be responsible for "unforeseen Providence, like cloudbursts." Though they were not immediately successful in finding such a person, finally in 1894, one A.M. Springstead undertook the job and received \$300 on account. There is no record of the final cost, but he did draw an additional \$200 in June of that year and completed the steam vessel known as the *Queen of Mokoma*, launched June 12. In preparation the company built a wharf near the dam at a cost of \$4.25, which cost included the removal of some obstructing logs. A superintendent's building was constructed, the bill for its lumber set forth in great detail an item by item cost, totalling \$35.23. It stands today as the core of the Beach House. A quote from entries made in his diary by T. J. Keeler, (1840-1919) "social historian" businessman, and carpenter-builder, will give a flavor of those days in LaPorte, apart from the concerns of the lake and its companies: "Feb. 15, 1887: Tannery votes with LaPorte Borough for the first time. Apr. 1880: I go down to see the new dam for Lake Mokoma, they are at work building it. Dec. 18th, 1888: Lake Mokoma full. Feb. 3, 1890: Hauled brick from Celestia, A. J. Armstrong's kiln. Apr. 13, 1890:

Beach scene in the '90's—how bare Mt. Wahollock is!



W. Clayton Mason, who planned it.

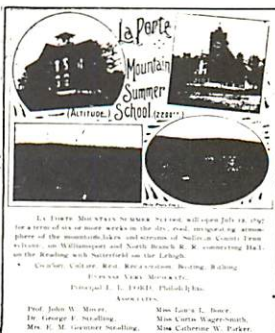


Mason

Laporte, Pa. August 29, 1895
 I hereby demand from you taxes to the amount of Eighty seven Dollars and seven cents (\$87.07) assessed against your property in the Borough of Laporte for the year 1895.
 U. V. Busch receiver
 Collector

LAKE MOKOMA LAND COMPANY.
 PROXY
 To Mr. *Wm. J. Ingham*
 You are hereby authorized to vote my 5 Shares of stock of the Lake Mokoma Land Company, at the Annual Meeting to be held in October, 1895.
 A. S. 8 1895
A. H. Ingham

Ford's School brochure, the school house, top right, burned down, 1900, right.
 Lauer's bill, June 1890, far right.
 F. H. Ingham's proxy to his father—these were formal times, 1898, left.
 The tax collector's demand 1898, far left.



LaPorte, Pa. June 3rd 1878
 Mokoma Land Co. Dr.
 To Chas. R. Lauer, for work.
 Sept. 5th one load Lumber. 50
 " 12. " hauled fish boxes. 50
 " 21. " Lumber 4 boxes. 75
 \$175
 Chas. R. Lauer.
 (Signature)

Nominated full Prohibition Ticket, first time in Sullivan County. April 1893: Charlie Lauer shot an eagle on Lake Mokoma on Thursday afternoon. He was in a boat when the bird flew over at close range and at the report of the gun, down came the monster. The bird was not killed outright and when Charlie attempted to land it, he received a warm reception. The eagle clinched his fingers in its claws as firm as a vise. The wings measured nearly six feet from tip to tip. July 7, 1893: Caught 77 trout at Celestia. Oct. 25, 1893: Squared foundation for new Court House. Mar. 12, 1894: Rented new house (HyTop, now owned by Frank Kann) for a year at \$6.00 a month. May 20, 1895: Froze ice 3/4 inch temp. 29°, everything frozen. Aug. 22, 1895: Painted 8 hrs. on Assoc. houses, received \$1.60 (in 1905 the twin houses on Main Street west of Beech St. were built by Mason, Ingham and Meylert—The LaPorte Association). March 20, 1895: Fixing up presbyterian Church to use by the Baptists as the Methodists did not wish them to use the ME Church. Sept. 23, 1898: Miss Martha Ambruster presented bell to Baptist Church, weight 421 lbs; cost \$112. Apr. 11, 1899: Bought two pigs \$4.00; George Draper got two for \$3.00."

At the end of '88, the Presidency of the Land Company had reverted to Clinton Lloyd, who over the next few years alternated with Fredericks. Judge Ingham remained Treasurer, but there was precious little money to handle. By 1891 it was proposed that they seek a loan of up to \$10,000. The appropriate motion was voted unanimously, four hundred and forty shares present and voting. Obviously, equity money had dried up. In '93 the President exulted that the railroad had reached the lake at last, "bringing us to a period in the history of our Company we have long desired." Two hundred people had gathered August 4th to welcome the first train. In September of that year the first "excursion" arrived. T. J. Keeler's diary notes "8 cars." The annual report stated "the Company is in fairly good condition, the treasurer having received \$2,991 from all sources during the year and having paid out only \$1,397, if my figures are correct. Lot sales, however, had not been rapid. They were having the same marketing troubles that

had afflicted Meylert forty years before in getting takers for land, and which were to sink the New Lake Mokoma Company in the '30's. In '91 fourteen lots were sold, sixteen in '92, but only eight in '93. The price had been raised from \$100 to \$125 per lot that year which may have accounted for the drop. The President reported that to help lure customers eighty thousand trout were placed in the lake and further noted that they were having trouble lowering the lake level so they could clean up the shoreline. The drain pipe just installed at a cost of several hundred dollars would not work. He ended his report with the hope that there would be a "large move in lot sales in the next and succeeding years."

Two items from contemporary newspaper accounts give a picture of those summers that a recital of the Company's troubles does not:

"September 1893. G.A.R. Excursion at Laporte: Saturday was excursion day at LaPorte and our town was filled with old soldier boys and sightseeing people. There were about six hundred excursionists in the gathering. Two drum corps, one from Williamsport and one from Hughesville, furnished music for the occasion. The train arrived at Lake Mokoma at 11:30. There were seven coaches attached to the locomotive and they were filled to overflowing. However, conductor Harry Frontz and Engineer Flick used all precaution and there was no mishap to mar the pleasure of the day. There were several hundred people at Lake Mokoma to witness the arrival of the train. The members of Simmons' G.A.R. Post of Laporte, during the early morning, had hoisted several flags over the picnic ground which was very appropriate and added to the appearance of the grove. It was estimated that there were two hundred old comrades among the gathering and judging from appearance they enjoyed the outing very much. Under each single tree sat a half dozen or more of the old gray haired veterans talking over the doings of thirty years ago.

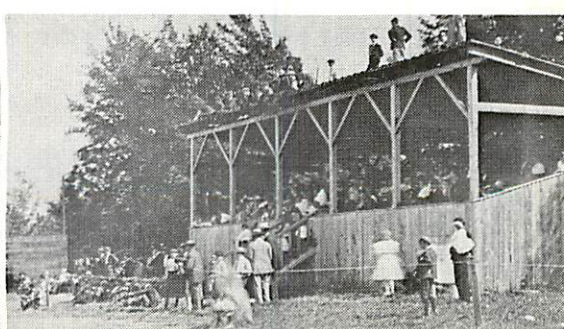
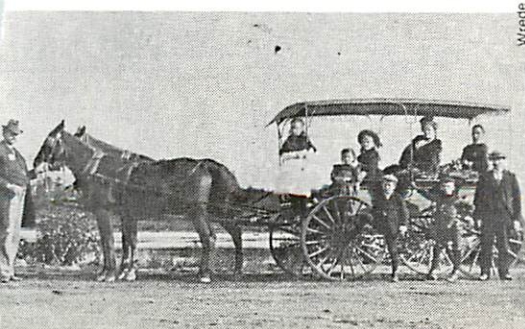
After the basket speak, a procession was formed at the lake, headed by the colored drum corps of Williamsport and marched to LaPorte, where the party enjoyed an hour or two looking over our town.

Bradshaw
 Bradshaw
 Cosgrove
 Cosgrove

ie "Stage", LaPorte's public transportation system.

Band-stand in the park, look at the trees, 1880's.

Grandstand in straw-hat days. Wrede



A dance was given in the East Main St. City Hall and was liberally attended. At 6:15 p.m. the train left for Williamsport and all seemed well pleased with the days visit and expressed a desire to return in the near future on a similar outing."

"August, 1894: The colored people of Williamsport and Towanda have leased the Mason grove at Lake Mokoma, where they will hold their campmeeting commencing on the 11th of August. They will charge 10 cents admission to the ground. Here is the way they put it on their hand bill: 'On Sundays and Temperance Days and other days admission will be ten cents'".

By 1895, however, the annual report stated that "there is not enough money in the treasury to pay current bills and expenses can only be met with money from lot sales". If further admitted that the President was at a loss to make any worthwhile recommendation. Two years later the report had not improved. The President announced a sale of reserve stock at \$10 per share and that eleven shares so priced had been sold to existing stockholders, and that only three lots had been sold with the price back to \$100. This desperate move enabled them to pay all charges except the current 1896 taxes which were predicted to be about \$150.

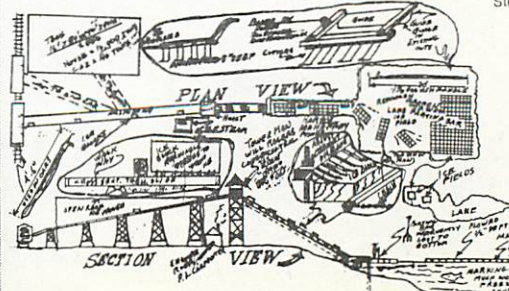
A report of income being generated by sales of ice at a Pocono lake offered a possible ray of hope and at a price of 45 cents a ton! It was thought that sales of ice might pull them out of their hole, for their present manoeuvres were described by the President as "eating ourselves up like a bear in a winter cave—it must come to an end." The Treasurer reported a year-end balance of 55 cents. Another ray of hope was the interest expressed by L.L. Ford who had been negotiating for some time to found a summer school at the lake to take in a hundred and twenty five camping students from Philadelphia. He had sent out a circular to five thousand parents of private school pupils and he was eager to get started. After much correspondence they succeeded in selling him three lots and on them he had built, above his summer camp area, a cottage for himself which is still standing, three stories high at the east end of Cherry Street overlooking the lake (now owned by Mr. Harris). The school prospered, bringing in many people and for years served both boys and girls until the outbreak of World War I. However, still desperate for tax money, despite the Ford sale, President Lloyd made out a note for \$232. The Treasurer guaranteed it and together they had it discounted at the Dushore Bank. The proceeds were used to avert imminent tax sale. Later, Judge Ingham personally had to redeem the note, the Company could not pay.

The depth was reached in 1898. There were no sales of land and no regular expenditures, but taxes continued, \$150 for the Boro, \$87 for the Township and \$24 for the State. The President noted that some lake lands lying in the Township had already been sold for taxes and that E.P. Ingham had bought them in as Trustee until a way could be found for the beleaguered Company to but them back. The steamboat, "Queen of Mokoma" had also been sold for taxes and the cost of redeeming it and the land was estimated at \$450. President Lloyd announced that the only solution seemed to be to divide the property among the stockholders in "some equitable way." Despite this dismal report the Company eked out a hand-to-mouth existence for another three years with day-trippers, Sunday excursions and ice sales. Recorded lot sales between 1894 and 1907 had totalled only fifteen deeds (some covering several lots) so that the income from land, could not play a large part in financing those years. Research shows that altogether 44 lots were sold by this first company for a total of \$5000, a little over \$100 each, during its twenty years of operation.

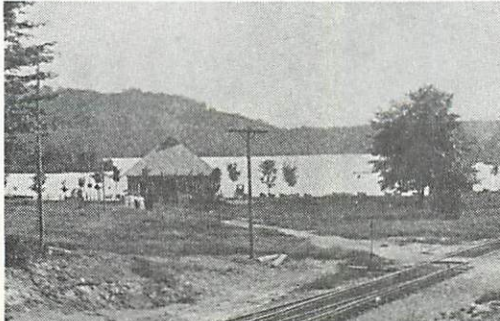
Ice for a time did become fairly big business. Hundreds of 30-ton carloads were shipped all over Pennsylvania from a tall ice-house built adjacent to the waterpoint of the railroad just behind the beach. The blocks were hoisted into it and run down a slide to the waiting "diverter" who stood in the boxcar flipping the hundred pound chunks alternately right and left to the waiting "stackers". Equipment for scoring and cutting the ice consisted of a spaced toothed rake drawn behind a team of horses, first in one direction and then at right angles, after which the rectangles so formed were spiked out by hand. Prices asked started at \$2.00 a ton at destination but in a few years had softened to 40-60¢ a ton. But ice and rail passengers could not save the Company. It had to be put up for tax auction in 1901.

A man, called Riley W. Allen, bought it in as "agent" for \$3,593 in May, seven hundred acres constituting the whole of the property. Allen was an attorney, a colleague of Clinton Lloyd whose office adjoined his in Williamsport. Obviously he had acted for the group in LaPorte who remained in control and all of whom survived as directors of the successor company. These were the five local LaPorte men who maintained their faith in the eventual success of the enterprise and had backed it with their cash. Judge Ingham and his son Ellery; their next-door neighbor, Edwin Dunham; W.C. Mason and Frank W. Meylert. They managed and maintained the lake for seven years through tax sales and later redemptions until Meylert, in 1908, acting as Trustee for the group deeded it to the Lake Mokoma Company.

How ice was made—a sketch by an eyewitness.



W. & N.B.'s crossing at the beach, 1890.



Sullivan Co.
Historical Soc.
WILLIAMSPORT & NORTH BRANCH R. R.
SERIAL FREIGHT DEPARTMENT
LOCAL TARIFF ON
ICE
IN CAR LOAD LOTS
ALL POINTS ON THE W. & N. B. R. R.
HALLS AND SATTERFIELD, PA.
.40C PER NET TON

Cosgrove

Stapp

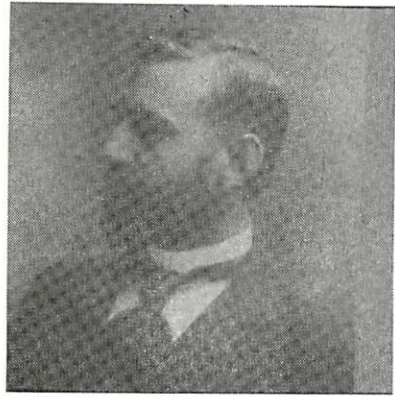
PUBLIC SALE
OF
REAL ESTATE
LAKE MOKOMA LAND COMPANY
The Lake Mokoma Land Company is in liquidation and
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1910
AT 1 O'CLOCK P. M.
all its Real Estate, consisting of a present body of
water located within the limits of the Township of
Mokoma, in Sullivan County, Pa., and also other
undivided water to be received with the land, and a
number of hundred shares of stock owned by the
company, with all, practically, bank stock and other
property, and also its machinery, equipment, and
other parts belonging to the company, and carrying
with them all liabilities to the bank and sundry
persons, shall be sold.
CLINTON LLOYD
Mayor, Pa. April 18, 1908.



CHAPTER IX The Lake Mokoma Company

Of families in the present Association, ten are descendents of the shareholders in the first Lake Mokoma Land Company, but only one or two have lingered from the second company that took over in 1908, headed by Charles J. Pennock, a Quaker from Kennett Square near Philadelphia. Of the thirty-three original stockholders, all but five were Pennock's friends or neighbors. These five, all from LaPorte, were, it is interesting to note, connected by marriages with LaPorte's Cheney family. One daughter, Malvina Cheney as Edwin Dunham's mother; Caroline became Judge Ingham's wife and Ellery P. Ingham's mother; Rosa was mother-in-law of Frank W. Meylert and Angelina was W. C. Mason's mother . . . all these men were named directors in the new company, a family (by marriage) enterprise!

of '07 when outstanding notes were being called in all over the nation and a need for cash forced men to give up other assets in exchange for it. At any rate the group Pennock brought in from Kennett Square put together a company which ran the property successfully for almost twenty years until in 1926 the dam gave way. Their new company was able to sell 203 shares at \$50, raising \$10,150, of which the LaPorte group loyally bought ten shares each, their contribution making up a quarter of the new investment. They also gave up any former interest in the property. Seven of the Kennett leaders took ten shares each and the others bought in for lesser amounts. Thus adequately capitalized with cash for the first time, the land was redeemed from tax liens, a new motor launch, the *Clinton Lloyd* was built, repair work was done on the dam and buildings owned by the Company and in general the Lake operation was put back on its feet.



Charles Pennock, prime mover of the 2nd Company.

Margaret Powers

They still did not compete with their rivals at Eagles Mere, either in years, fashion, money or publicity. Eagles Mere promotion of the time spoke of "mountains rising 2500 feet" (thus adding a clear 500 feet to the town) . . . "thousands of springs bubbling up" . . . to form a lake "104 feet deep" . . . of "clear water containing borax softener." They too had a "steamboat filled with vacationers whose songs filled the forests and valleys" . . . surrounded by land "formerly roamed by the crafty redmen". Legends abounded of the Indian "Cochopoco", the "spirits of Lewis Lake" and the fearful "pool of Whirl's End".

The Kennett Square people first became acquainted with LaPorte through local cousins of Celestia's Peter Armstrong, Miss Frances Boice of LaPorte and her much younger sister, Laura. They had left town to go to school in West Chester, near Kennett Square and later themselves started a school for young ladies in Kennett where a pupil from LaPorte in 1876 was Henrietta O. Lauer later Mrs. Frank Ingham. The Boices moved the school to Philadelphia in the 1890's where two of W.C. Mason's daughters attended it. Charles Pennock of course knew of LaPorte through his business which had to do with luggage, leather and tanning, and his lifelong interest in ornithology. These led him to visit the Sullivan County tanneries and to bird watch in the wild country nearby, and inevitably led him to a deep interest in its land and in the development of the foundering Lake Mokoma Land Company.

The promoters of Lake Mokoma trying to match this effusion, published a small booklet with an em-



Bradshaw

LAKE MOKOMA

LaPorte, Pennsylvania

THE NEW SUMMER RESORT

Attractive Mountain Views
Beautiful Lake, Boating
Bathing, Pure Air
and Water

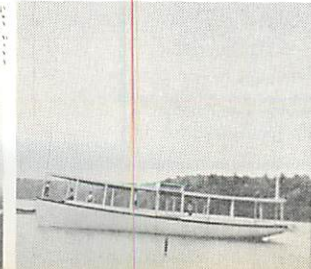
LMCO's Lakeview Cottage, on west side of Muncy St. opposite Prospect Ave., above.

L.M. Co's. 8 page modest promotion, right.

The Clinton Lloyd, below.

The final blow to the first promoters of the lake may have occurred as a ripple effect from the panic

The lake about 1912



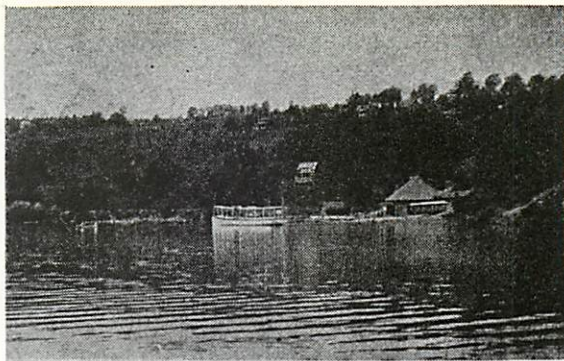
The Bitches



Bradshaw

Note the almost treeless hillside, right.

At the Pavilion, T. J. and E. P. Ingham and family in the Chandler—about 1908, left.



Bradshaw

bossed cover subtitled “The New Summer Resort” in which its glories were listed, oddly first paying homage to “far famed Eagles Mere, only five miles away”. They listed as attractions, Fiester’s View, Elk Falls, Celestia, the Loyalsock, boating, tennis parties, drives, excursions, dancing, entertainments, card parties and various social functions. “Frequent games of ball are scheduled at the beautiful new grounds of the LaPorte Athletic Association, donated to the town by E.P. Ingham” . . . and the booklet continued “Within the cool, shady enclosure along the lake shore is abundant room for thousands . . . in the large new Pavilion are found refreshments, souvenirs and novelties . . . large excursions for the season have already been booked . . . LaPorte is but seven hours from Philadelphia and accommodations are available at the Mountain House together with Mokoma Cottage and Lakeview Cottage, both under competent management and but five minutes walk from the Mountain House.”

“Sunrise Cottage”, a speculation, was also built by the Company in 1911 at a cost of \$1,136. The bills for it exist in detail, down to the hours of labor and wages: William McClintock, mason, earned 35¢ an hour. The most expensive items were the eighteen windows for \$153.31, the bathtub at \$23 and the water-closet at \$20, \$11 worth of screws and nails put it all together. Unfortunately “Sunrise” burned in 1920; it stood approximately where #108 is located on the Lake Map.

But the fledgling company was having its promotional land sales problems too. Within two years the Secretary was writing to Judge Ingham, the perennial treasurer, that the Board thought that some inducement should be offered to prospective cottage builders. A resolution was passed in 1910 to offer a lot at a dollar to any group or “syndicate” that would build a cottage to cost no less than \$600. The offer would be good for up to ten cottages if taken up between the summer of 1910 and July 1, 1911. The selection of the lots and the design of the cottages, however, was to be subject to the approval of the Board. There

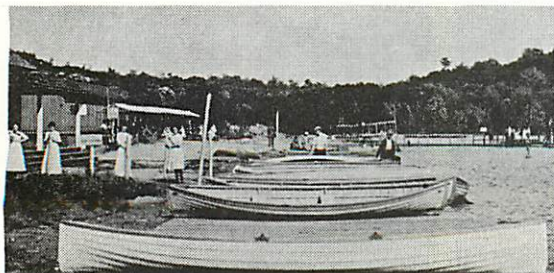
were several so built in that year and they can be seen today on the “Ridge,” Prospect Drive, and above and west of Muncy Street as it leaves town. Pennock and his brother-in-law, Dr. Horace Scott, together built a cottage next door to their fellow townsman, Edward Ladley who became cashier of the new LaPorte National Bank, founded in 1909. Jones Phillips and J. W. Pyle, also Kennett neighbors built alongside the others. Altogether, between 1909 and 1925, 12 lots were sold bringing in \$25,818 to the company at an average price of \$203 per lot.

Photographs taken at this pre-World War I era show the hillside west of the lake bare of trees and in the foreground groups of ladies in long dresses with gentlemen in dark suits, and high collars on the beach. There were dozens of canoes and rowboats lining the beach shore, but no sailboats. The Pavilion was flanked by a row of roofed benches and backed by numbered bathhouses which could be leased by the season or rented by the day. There was a large picnic ground with fixed tables and benches behind Mt. Wahollock and for the children a merry-go-round. A small dance and recreation hall was placed well back from the beach on Lake Avenue (now a privately owned cottage).

While the motor car had arrived, it had not yet displaced the train and horse as the principal means of getting to LaPorte. The trains ere met at the wagon driven by Frank Crosley. Trunks, were sent on ahead, for in those days people came with belongings usually for all summer stays, and brought suitable wardrobes. Passengers were taken from the LaPorte Station at the Tannery to their cottages or to the hotels in town.

The social life of the Lake community was greatly enhanced after the formation of the new company and the infusion of new people. In 1908 the first of yearly carnivals was held with floats depicting events of history or scenes familiar to watchers. A description of the Carnival of 1911 survives from the Republican News Item on August 19, 1911:

“The fourth annual illuminated Boat Carnival on Lake Mokoma was a grand success in every particular.



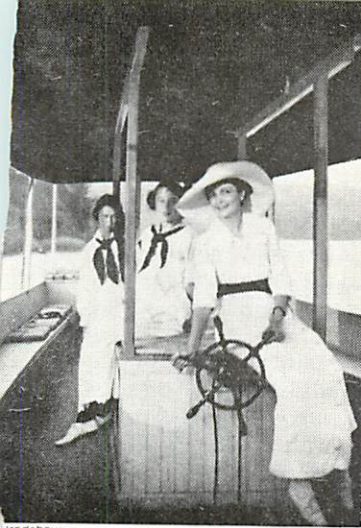
Bradshaw

Dory-like rowboats, canoes were dangerous.



Cosgrove

A summer’s day—less than 20 in the water—note the gazebo on top of Mt. Wahollock.



Beach scene, 1915; everyone dressed for the beach except actual swimmers, above.

Piloting the *Clinton Lloyd*, 1911, left.



Bath house group—the girls are in bathing suits, right.

In numbers and beauty of decorated and competing floats, boats and canoes, it far exceeded all former carnivals . . . from 12-1500 people witnessed the display."

"The first prize for floats, a beautiful silver loving cup was won by the Farrell Sisters whose float represented a cottage homestead, with open fireplace; an elderly couple were enjoying its genial warmth. A beautiful effect was produced by the rendering of *Silver Threads Among the Gold* by an unseen violinist. Second prize was awarded to a float representing *The Hanging of the Crane*, arranged by R.M. Pennock and Miss Olive Barrows. The first prize for single boats went to Miss Leone Ladley whose boat represented Betsy Ross making the first American flag. Second prize for single boats was awarded to Miss Eunice Ingham, her boat representing a college girl's "Den". The prizes awarded by the Lake Mokoma Company consisted of a beautiful silver loving cup, two silver canoes and a silver soap box, all suitably engraved. The line formed below the island and moved once around the lake. Thousands of Japanese lanterns and other lights transformed the lake into a veritable fairyland and the beauty of the same will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. The even was a most fitting culmination of a highly successful season at this rapidly developing summer resort."

The new company's replacement for the old steamboat the *Clinton Lloyd* was described as "fifty feet in length and permitted to carry one hundred passengers. On the trial trip she proved all that could be desired. Although the machinery was new there was no delay, and when the power was turned on the boat moved away from the pier easily and gracefully . . . it is a most proper thing to honor the memory of Mr. Lloyd in the naming of this beautiful boat . . . Mr. W. T. Simpson, State Boat Inspector, made the

inspection and pronounced her a perfect boat in every respect and issued the proper certificate to the company. He also examined the master, Mr. George Ladley and engineer, Maben, both of whom passed satisfactory examinations and received certificates."

There was little of a resident community right at the lake itself during these years, cottages were build along Prospect Avenue and above and west of Muncy Street, both locations having a view of the lake in preference to being near the water. Activities centered less on swimming than on picnicking, playing charades, croquet and tennis, all of which took place with LaPorte as a center rather than the lake. In fact, until the advent of the New Lake Mokoma Company only a single road led from town to the beach leaving from Park Street; Main Street, now the Lake road, then ended at Maple, and there was no Lake Avenue, no Fountain Avenue nor Muncy Drive.

The Ford School had added a camp, and the campers joined year round residents, hotel guests, and cottagers in summer activities many of them centered in evenings at the home of E.P. Ingham. After the take-over by the Kennett Square people the crowds brought by the railroad tended to diminish and the lake community was used more by those who lived in the vicinity than by daily visitors. However, the baseball games still drew crowds, for each town in the county had an organized team and this "league" survived into the '20's. With the collapse of the LaPorte grandstand, adult baseball lapsed in the thirties and not until the fifties when Little League again brought fans did the ball field see regular use.

After World War I, there was an "artist's colony" at LaPorte with men released from service with disabilities from the war who had an artistic bent. Among them was Frank Godwin, mentor to the group, who

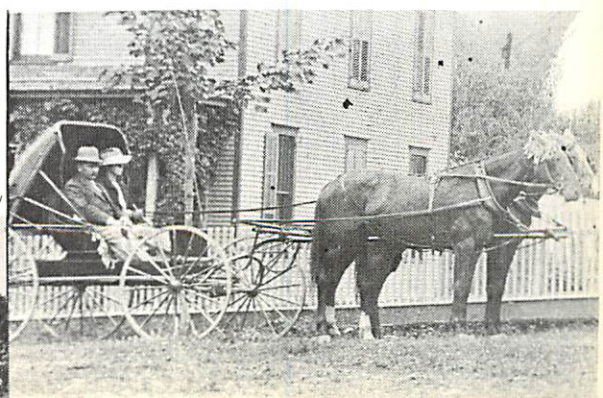
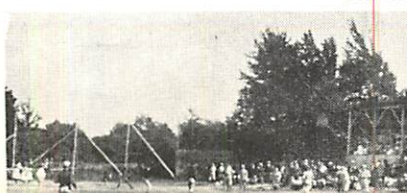


Start of a picnic to the Haystacks, 1912, left.

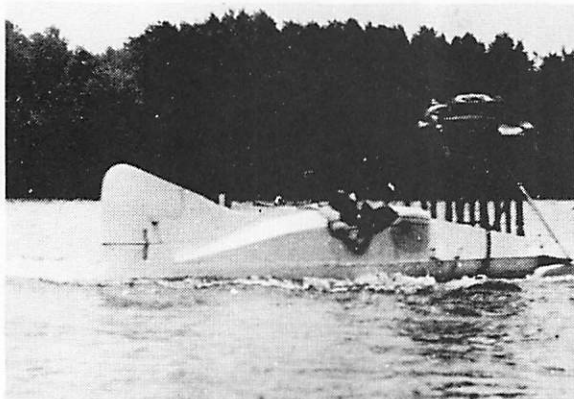
Off to Nordmont shopping, right.

LaPorte Athletic Association, 1910.

Bradshaw

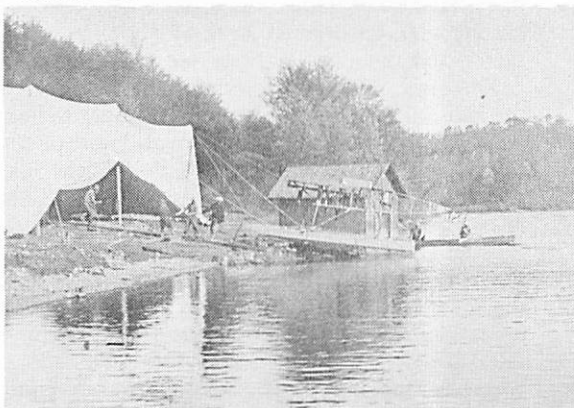


Bradshaw



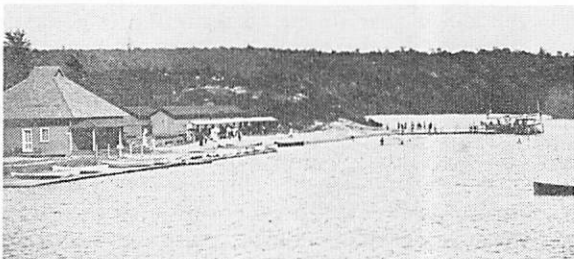
What would you call it? An "airmotor planeboat."

Cosgrove



Godwin's airplane being converted to a flying boat 1920's.

Cosgrove



Pavilion it was then called—the Clinton Lloyd taking on passengers.

Myers



The Stage to LaPorte.

LaPorte depot.

Lauer

had created the widely syndicated cartoon character, "Connie" the personification of the "flapper era"; Bill Loyer, who lived alone in the house now occupied by Leonard Simpson beyond the east side of the lake; and Charlie Phillips, a veteran who became post-master and fascinated children as parts of his head and legs were reputed to be pure silver and it was indisputable that his throat was silver, for he breathed through a metal tube that emerged just below his Adam's apple and he spoke with a sibilant whistle. They created a "Gatsby Era" in LaPorte during the twenties and early thirties. Godwin brought to the quiet mountain town a free, flamboyant style of life. Women arrived who smoked! His red Stutz Bear Cat and single-engine airplane made of wood covered with "doped" silk were always a center of attention. The airfield was cleared at the location of the present school. He lived in the last Prospect Avenue (Cottage Lane) house and studio high above the lake. His house-boat also attracted great interest, for here it was secretly rumored "wild" parties took place—at least, then as now, the noise of gaiety rose to the ears of the proper summer residents on cottage row. Sometimes these soldiers, unused to the forest, would attempt to explore the surrounding woods and get lost. The Court House bell would be rung both as a signal of help to the wanderer and to summon rescue squads to scour the mountain top, sometimes searches took all night.

Of this period, again some excerpts from T. J. Keeler: "Apr., 1904: Agnes Upmann worked for me one day, \$1.50. Jun, 3, 1905: Put roof on porch of the upper Assoc. House, 1 day \$2.00. July 15, 1905: Excursion to the lake, Baptist stand took in \$15.00. Aug. 10, 1905: Somebody cut my cow with an axe in the hip, had to kill her. Aug. 25, 1906: Mr. Ford wanted to rent the Karns house (#46-Lake Map) at the lake for 3 years. Karns said he would sell it for \$750. Aug. 31, 1906: Ford paid Karns \$600 for the house. Apr. 15, 1907: Went to Wilkes Barre to see Eddy about carpenter work. He pays 32 ½¢ an hr. July 2, 1907: Independent telephone line finished between LaPorte and Dushore, exchange in my house. Aug. 1, 1908: Large excursion from Muncy to Lake Mokoma, 1200 people. Sept., 1908: The road around lake cut out. Dec. 30, 1908: F. W. Gallegher died suddenly, had been drinking. Mason came to me for a board to lay him out at 3:30am, buried in 8 in. snow. Mar. 1, 1916: Bought half a pig, 70 lbs, @ 10¢ lb. Aug. 20, 1917: I go to Camp Dix in New Jersey, \$1.20 an hr. \$1.00 board per day. (Keeler was 78 years old at this last entry.)

Other reminiscences of a life-long summer resident: Children's faces were black from the soft coal soot that came through the open windows as the W & NB ran to the LaPorte Station along the west bank of the lake. To the delight of people swimming, a wave to the engineer would evoke a lively whistle from the

train. Along its way, the train would cross the trestle below the dam—the same high trestle that for years was considered a feat of daring by the youngsters with courage to walk it. The station was a quarter mile north of Tannerytown on the Dushore road. Here twice, daily, the train stopped with freight and passengers bound for the County Seat. They made a heavy load for the stage and the final laborious ascent to LaPorte was made via Ingham Hill (Muncy Street extended straight through town to the Tannery road below). It was usual to stop half way up the hill where horses and passengers drank from the wooden watering trough, the season's first taste of clear mountain water.

Summer people had cottages or stayed with relatives up town. Main Street had beautiful trees and a memorable moss covered well with a wooden bucket. Most houses had a barn behind them and many kept cows, some a team or a single horse, in one was a Maxwell, in another a Chandler Touring car. Pig pens and chicken coops were common. For those who came year after year there were the "characters" who supplied the town with the endearing quality of wit and wisdom. For summer families, the lake was the lure. Children walked barefoot to and from the lake along the dirt road. These summers the lake was without life guards, a sort of natural "buddy system" existed with an unwritten rule that when swimming a distance one must be accompanied by a boat. Food was not sold at the lake, nor was there entertainment of pinballs or juke boxes. Climbing around on the, by then, derelict launch, or racing to the sand "plant" (behind the present picnic ground, from which the Lake Company sold sand and gravel) or riding in one of the great heavy wooden rowboats sufficed. The row of bath houses elevated a few steps above ground with its narrow boardwalk was the focal point of much activity. Here one sat, dangling legs over the edge of the boards to visit with friends. The bath houses were dark little cubicles, rented for the season. Bats were known to nestle in the warmth of wool bathing suits. The discovery, too late, of such a confrontation by an unsuspecting nude was horrendous, trauma, dilemma. Open the door and run?

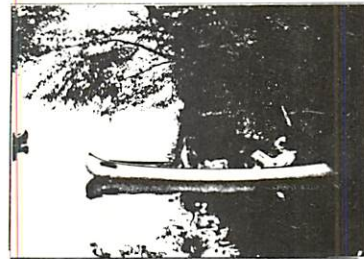
The beginnings of an actual lakeside summer community did not occur until a road net at the lake permitted construction of cottages. This started in 1928 with the rebuilding of the dam. At first these tended to be simpler than those of 1908-10, but were gradually enlarged and improved. The dates on the Lake Mokoma map indicate that they lay along Fountain Avenue and Lake Avenue on the west shore with one or two between the dam and Brady's Point on the east. In the end they became fairly substantial dwellings occupied by members of the business and professional communities of nearby places such as Bloomsburg, Lewisburg, Muncy and Williamsport, although a few belonged to people from towns in Sullivan County.



Croquet below the camp headquarters.

Mason

A GIRLS' CAMP ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP



THE NINTH SEASON

JUNE 30 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1916

1916 Girls camp — nine weeks for \$130.

Cosgrove



Cosgrove

Ford's camp boy's dressed as girls—played the girls at baseball—and won.



Cosgrove

Muncy Street looking north, note the age of the trees the dirt road early '20's.

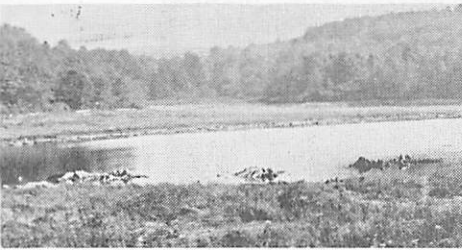


CHAPTER X

The New Lake Mokoma Co.

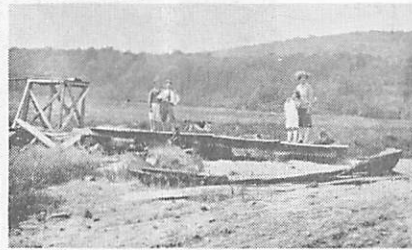


Upper (south) end of the lake—a wide stream, 1927.



Cosgrove

Desolate, the first summer after the dam broke.



Cosgrove

Stumps left from the clearing of 1888 uncovered in 1927.



Shoemaker

Gap torn by the cascading water November 1926 the big kid swimming hole, 1927/8.



Cosgrove

About noon, November 16th, 1926 during the beginning of a heavy rain, water in Lake Mokoma rose to the top of third and uppermost board in the wooden spillway. As the rain continued driving down, melting a heavy snowfall, the water swept over the board, and shortly over the whole breast of the dam. Still it rose. There was some criticism of the current watchman, who, it was later said should have had enough sense to take out the top and other boards and relieve the erosion around them. It is doubtful whether with the volume of water then pouring into the Lake that any such action would have helped. Within an hour or two, over the whole five hundred foot breadth of the dam, water was swelling, and sweeping over the banks as well. One possibly exaggerated report was that it was coursing knee deep over the dam. Eddys formed around the spillway and wore away the clay and earth from its abutments and finally took the whole crude wooden structure with it. The gap widened to an eventual thirty-five foot wide gash in the embankment with water driving through the still standing log cribbing.

Joseph Ingham, the Judge's grandson, and Ellery's nephew was summoned and after a hasty look, drove

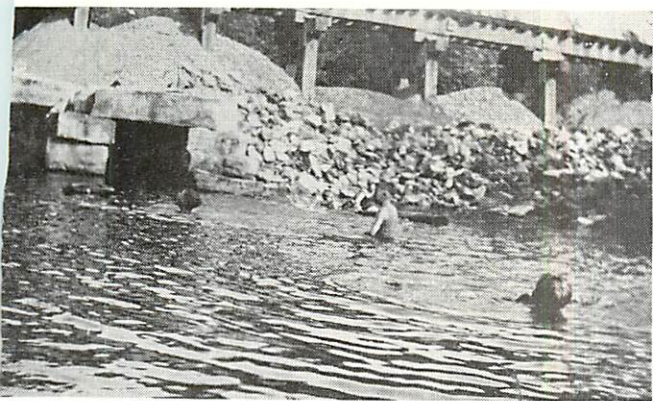
From Mt. Wahollock looking south, 1927.

uptown to a phone to warn Forksville that a flood was coming. W. R. Stepp, W. C. Mason's grandson, remembers going to the bridge at the Tannery and watching the mounting waters undermine its abutments and finally the bridge itself. The Lake emptied in seven hours. People downstream removed belongings from the path of the swirling current. Frank Godwin's houseboat was swept through the gap and was wrecked against the W & N. B. trestle some yards downstream from the dam. A hole fifteen feet deep was dug immediately below the spillway which served as the swimming facility, for the summer of 1927—for those allowed in deep water; smaller children were relegated to a shallower pool created below the railroad trestle. During the two years, 1927 and 1928 when the lake was out, in its place was a marshy meadow with a meandering stream in the center. Revealed were the great stumps of trees long buried in the water, for years the bane of fishermen. Groups organized to remove these hazards, drag them from the lake and burn them. Evenings were spent at "Stump Parties" where people gathered around the bonfire to sing and roast marshmallows.

Four years later, January 2nd, 1931, a Delaware



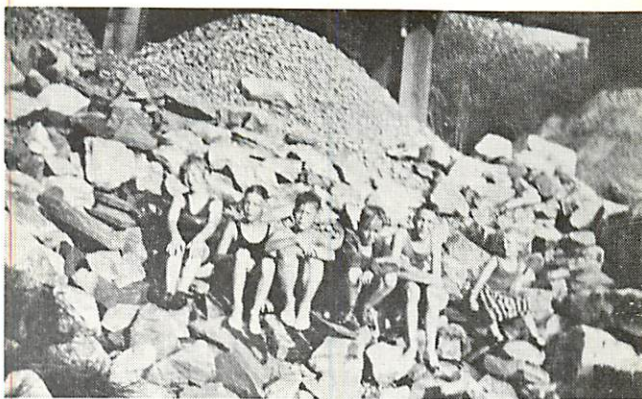
Cosgrove



Bradshaw

Too small for the big kids

The swimming hole at the trestle 1927/8. left.



Bradshaw

Corporation The New Lake Mokoma Co. was formed with complicated technical incorporation papers by four professional Delaware nominees. It was authorized to deal in land, construct buildings, buy and sell merchandise, issue bonds, sell and manufacture merchandise, hypothecate commercial paper, mortgage property, etc. Its headquarters ostensibly was in Wilmington. How came this sophisticated set-up to Sullivan County, and what happened in the few years before the Corporation was formed? The genesis occurred shortly after the Lake ran out. Joseph Ingham, then a lawyer with the Pennsylvania Highway Department in Harrisburg had met Mulford Morris, a lawyer who had clients in the coal mining business near Wilkes Barre. One of his more distant clients, who came to him through his coal people, was Jack Punderson, an engineer with a retail coal business in Washington D.C., but who was essentially a promoter and contractor. His coal company was not doing well—it eventually failed. However, he had just completed a contract to build a tire plant for Kelly Springfield and had some small cash resources from that job. In late 1926 on a visit to Mulford Morris in Pennsylvania he was taken by Morris and Joe Ingham to look at the dry lake bottom. Together they conceived a plan for restoring the dam and basing a development company on the renewed lake. They organized themselves as a company and proceeded with reconstruction and lot sales but did not get around to the formal incorporation until 1931 as the New Lake Mokoma Company.

Optimistic contemporary calculations in the papers of the company show that 720 lots were planned “town-side” at an average price of \$500 each, or a

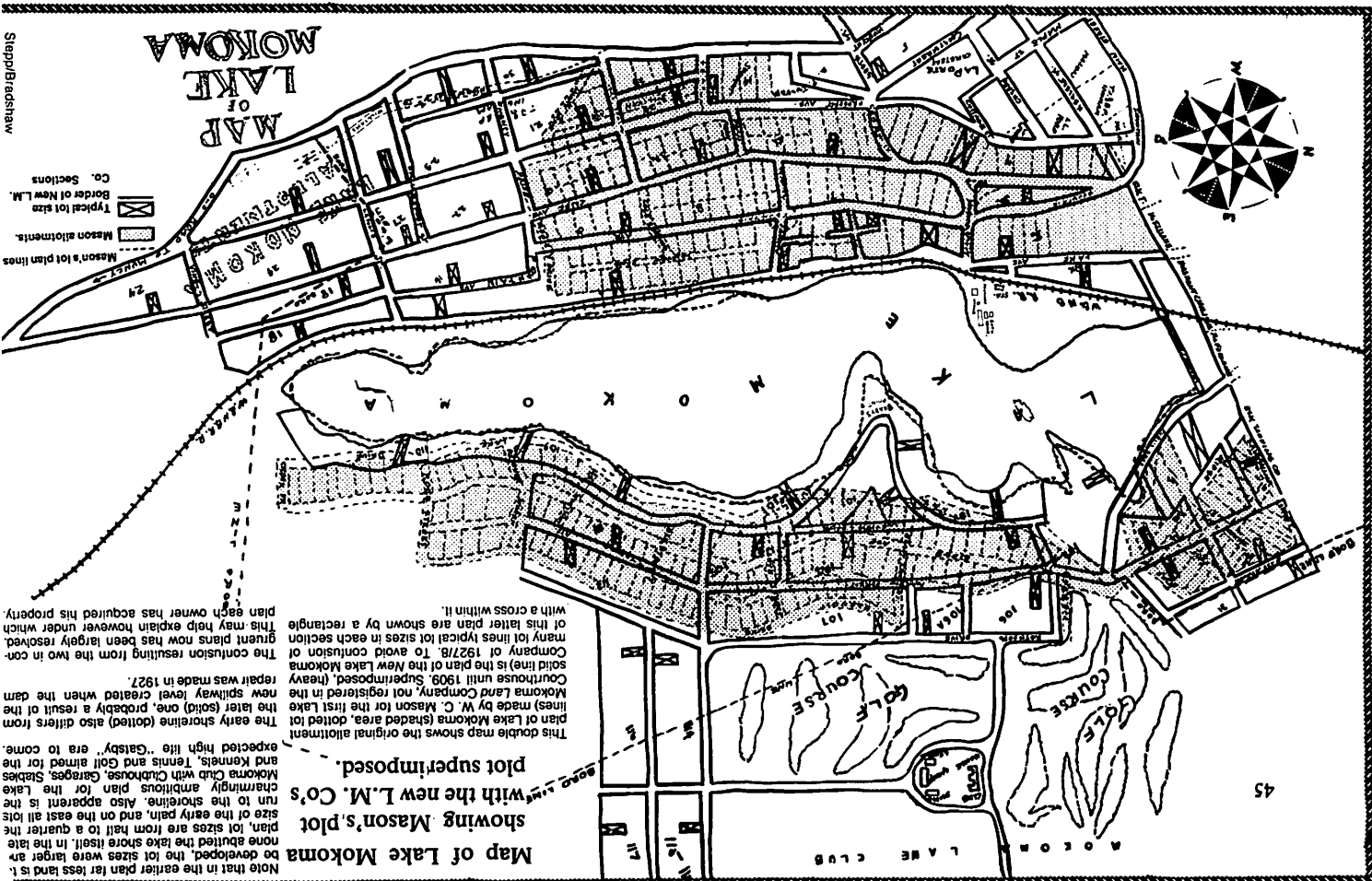
hoped for total of \$421,000. The far side of the lake was to produce 1166 lots at more than \$900 each for well over a million dollars in addition (see overlay map). At first, however, they raised money by appeals to the old owners in the lake and in adjacent property, getting a little cash from several of them, chiefly Dr. Saxon and Dr. Tuttle both cottagers and also \$6000 from Mrs. Katherine B. Ingham, the recent widow of Ellery P. Ingham. In addition to cash they appealed to these same people to contribute land to the enterprise, in return for which they would be given mortgages which provided that as each lot was sold by the company it would be released from the mortgages, and a part of the sale price of the lots would be applied to reducing the mortgages. No interest or principal was ever paid on these mortgages. One was held by W. C. Mason, and another by Mrs. K. B. Ingham and Between them they covered over a hundred of the new company’s lots. Michael Flynn who had purchased the old Tannery property had himself declined to contribute land in exchange for a mortgage, but had agreed to trade his land lying within the proposed allotments of the lake for some Ingham land lying adjacent to his Tannery property so that his could be included in the lake allotments.

An engineer from the Harrisburg firm of Gannett Seeley & Fleming, now Gannett Fleming Corrdray & Carpenter, was hired to oversee the dam work which was begun by the J. S. Shawfield Construction Company of Harrisburg. Steel sheet piling was driven into the gap in front of the cribbing, a wide new concrete spillway was built. A new deep water well was drilled by the Yarrison Company of Williamsport, for the new lake management had taken over and reorganized

Joseph F. Ingham, grandson of T. J.

Kathrine B. Ingham, wife of Ellery P. Ingham.





Map of Lake Mokoma showing Mason's plot with the new L.M. Co.'s plot superimposed.

Note that in the earlier plan far less land is developed, the lot sizes were larger and none abutted the lake shore itself. In the late plan, lot sizes are from half to a quarter the size of the early plan, and on the east all lot sizes are run to the shoreline, also apparent is the charmingly ambitious plan for the Lake Mokoma Club with Clubhouse, Garages, Stables and Kennels, Tennis and Golf aimed for the expected high life "Gatsby" era to come. The early shoreline (dotted) also differs from the later (solid) one, probably a result of the new spillway level created when the dam repair was made in 1927.

The confusion resulting from the two in current plans now has been largely resolved. This map help explain however under which plan each owner has acquired his property.

This double map shows the original allotment plan of Lake Mokoma (shaded area, dotted line) made by W. C. Mason for the first Lake Mokoma Land Company, not registered in the Courthouse until 1909. Superimposed, (heavy solid line) is the plan of the New Lake Mokoma Company of 1927. To avoid confusion of many lot sizes in each section of this later plan are shown by a rectangle with a cross within it.

Mason plan approximately into fourths, creating over eighteen-hundred lots out of Mason's three hundred and fifty, and in many cases so changing the layout that the section and lot lines were not congruent with the Mason's numbering (see overlay map). Partly by donation and partly by purchase a total of twelve hundred acres was ultimately acquired or so claimed their brochure. The brochure showed these new smaller lots for from two to nine hundred dollars each depending on the exact location and size, most were about a sixth of an acre.

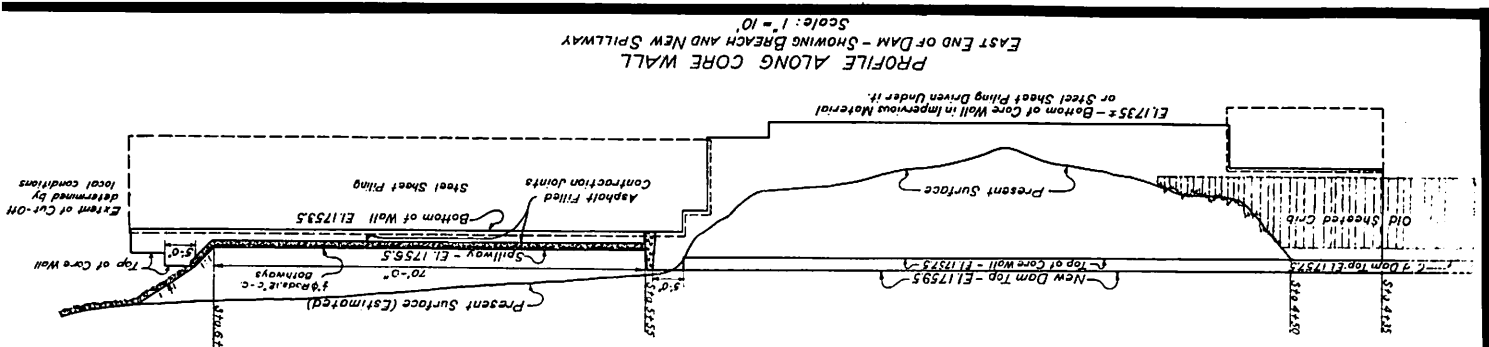
The company although still not incorporated was formal enough so that a balance sheet existed dated May 1929 showing \$396,431 in assets half of which were 1976 Unsold lots @ \$100 each. The hopes of three years earlier for lot prices had modified. Another large part of the assets, over a quarter of them, consisted of Accounts and Notes Receivable and these later proved in great measure uncollectible.

Although courthouse records show 271 of the new small lots were sold by the "New Lake Mokoma Company" between 1929-45, no clear idea of the total Gannett & Carpenter

the outmoded Cold Spring Water Company into the Lake Mokoma Water Company as they realized that a domestic water supply at the lake would be needed for the expected cottages. The dam job was finished by the end of summer 1931 at a cost of \$31,000, and attention was turned to refurbishing the old pavilion; and extending it with porches, building a new dance hall with an outside band-shell on the top of Mt. Wallowick, and an office for the employees—now the Association's Cottage, Employed in the company then were Etite Shoemaker from LaPorte and Velma Griffith who had worked for Punderson in Washington. Later Evelyn Punderson, Jack's daughter joined the staff.

Much of this work was done on credit and the creditors began to press. Lot sales were not brisk, nevertheless the promoters plans were moving ahead. Concrete block retaining walls and circular flower beds with landscape plantings were created at the beach. Two brochures were printed and a new plat of lots drawn by Jack Boden, a young Penn State architecture graduate. He cut the generous lots of the

Engineer's drawing for repair of dam, 1927.



PROFILE ALONG CORE WALL Scale: 1" = 10'

E11735 ± - Bottom of Core Wall in Impervious Material or Steel Sheet Filling Driven Under It.

7 Dam Top - E117573

E117595 ± - Bottom of Core Wall

Steel Sheet Piling

Asphalt Filled Contraction Joints

Asphalt Filled or Steel Sheet Filling Driven Under It.

Present Surface

Spillway - E117565

Bottom of Core Wall - E117535

Steel Sheet Piling

Asphalt Filled Contraction Joints

Asphalt Filled or Steel Sheet Filling Driven Under It.

7 Dam Top - E117573

E117595 ± - Bottom of Core Wall

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Asphalt Filled or Steel Sheet Filling Driven Under It.

Present Surface

Spillway - E117565

Bottom of Core Wall - E117535

Steel Sheet Piling

Asphalt Filled Contraction Joints

Asphalt Filled or Steel Sheet Filling Driven Under It.



Prospectus for the New L.M. Co.—
2000 lots worth \$250,000 limited
offering at \$10 a share, left.

Purple prose New L.M. Co.
Booklet 1929, right.

Seal of the Mokoma Club
and lot owner's card,

THIS CARD ENTITLES
MRS. C. B. Bradshaw
OF
Laporte, Pa.
TO THE POSSESSION OF A LOT OWNER AT
LAKE MOKOMA
NEW LAKE MOKOMA COMPANY
7/13/1929

A REMARKABLE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!

LIMITED OFFERING - \$100,000
Fully Participating, Preferred
CLASS "A" Stock

The New Lake
Mokoma Company
Laporte, Pennsylvania

THE IDEAL
SUMMER AND WINTER RESORT
IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF PENNSYLVANIA

The fulfillment of your dream

LAKE MOKOMA
LAPORTE, PENN.

THE IDEAL
SUMMER AND WINTER RESORT
IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF PENNSYLVANIA

The fulfillment of your dream

income, nor the average price can be deducted, for many payments were in default, private sales were made to stockholders, and prices are only sporadically noted.

All of this, however, was not to be just a real estate scheme, it was to be known as the Mokoma "Club" and though two of the company's brochures each present a slightly different sales scheme, both are euphoric in their descriptions of the Club. In one (a ten page large format glossy pamphlet) "Full Membership" was to cost five hundred dollars, and an "Annual Membership" one hundred. The New Lake Mokoma Company's headquarters were listed in it as the Lycoming Hotel, Williamsport. In the other (a smaller thirty-two page booklet) the headquarters is listed both in Washington D.C. and at LaPorte. It constituted any lot purchaser a member of the Lake Mokoma Club. Both describe a beautiful clubhouse, golf course, tennis courts etc . . . but let them speak for themselves: "Nature reigns supreme . . . away from the smoke noise, heat and squalor of the overcrowded city into the cool refreshing breezes of the mountain lake where the air is free from contamination, where only the restful purr of Nature's rhythm greets the ear, where the fragrance of Mother Earth refreshes tired lungs . . . swift thrilling flight of skis, mirror like surface of ice, flash of runners, whack of hockey stick . . . matchless hills for breathtaking glides with sled or toboggan, aquaplaning, ski jumping, winter tobogganning, trap shooting, golf, tennis . . . the airport (!) at Lake Mokoma now fifteen hundred feet long with five hundred feet to be added in the near future . . . picnic grounds in a beautiful grove of trees where open hearths are provided for your meal, parking place for your car . . . streams and ponds abounding in fresh water fish . . . a hundred

MacGregor

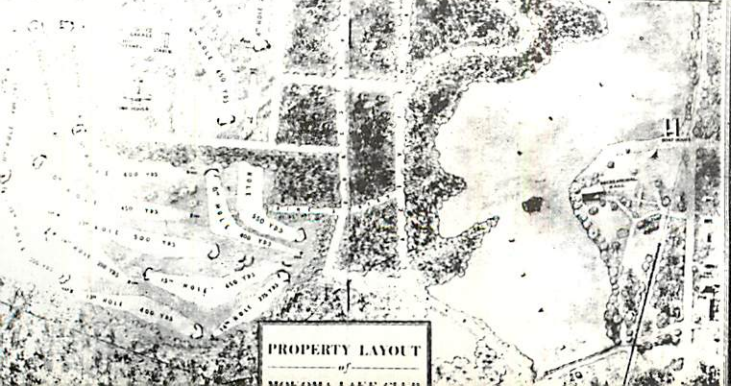
Myers

to a hundred and fifty black bear and large numbers of deer bagged each year, catamount, fox, squirrel, quail, ruffed grouse and pheasant where the hunter's load is heavy and the fisherman's basket is full . . ." All this for Members who also can drink "the finest water to be had in the known world, clear and soft and so pleasing to the taste that all other seems flat by comparison, gushing forth from a spring so deep in the heart of a mountain directly into an enclosed reservoir, never seeing the light of day until you release it from your faucet." The writer becomes lyrical about the traveller's arrival on the W & NB through "pathways banked with running vines along singing mountain streams and laughing waterfalls while you breathe the pure ozone perfumed with the aromatic odor of wild grape and green spruce" . . . arriving at Lake Mokoma where arrowheads are frequently found in the mile on mile of brooding forests, silent since the romance of the Red Man's passing, but yesterday to have felt the tread of moccasined feet echoing the fierce war cry of the savage."

This idyll never really came to pass. The promoters had run out of appeals to friends and relatives; they needed more money. To borrow it from banks, like the two they approached, in Dushore and Jersey Shore in the end they formed a Delaware Corporation in January of 1931 and called it The New Lake Mokoma Company. With a total of \$35,000 authorized capital, \$25,000 in Class A stock which was to receive a 60¢ dividend quarterly, the remaining \$10,000 Class B to receive a \$1.80 dividend after the A had been paid; any further dividends to be paid at the ratio of three to one in favor of the B stock. The loans were secured with the land as collateral.

Hard sell then began, both stock and lots offered on the installment plan and limited to those of the

Architects drawing of the Lake for cover of the Mokoma Lake Club.



The Mokoma Clubhouse— not quite a reality.

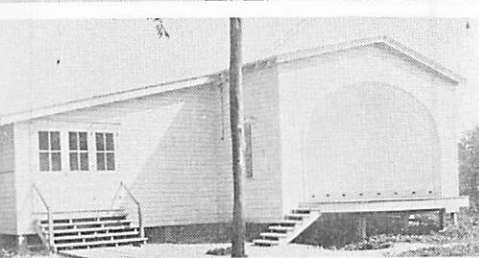
Members of the Mokoma Lake Club
Can Enjoy

- Fishing
- Trapping
- Hunting
- Boating
- Swimming
- Ice Skating
- Skiing
- Winter Sports
- Summer Sports
- Mountain Climbing
- Trapping
- Hunting
- Winter Entertainment
- Summer Entertainment

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- Hunting
- Winter Entertainment
- Summer Entertainment

PROPERTY LAYOUT



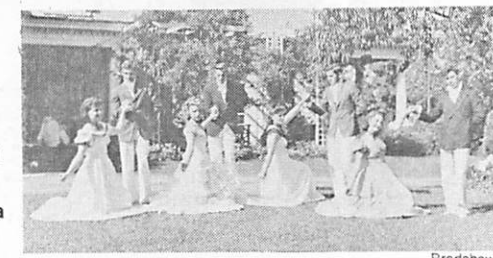
Camp 95 Civilian Conservation Corps, which brought Mac Mathe to LaPorte, mid thirties. Lauer

Refreshment Stand before the porches were added '30's. top left.

The Mt. Wahollock Dance Hall—mid '30's. left.

LMA Office—The Cottage—note the railroad tracks '30's, top right.

Rehearsal for "LaPorte Follies"—the Flora Dora octet, right.



Caucasian race were hawked by the company at auctions held along stump-filled "streets" adjacent to the Sections from the back of a hay wain, the auctioneer alternating between selling a lot and whipping up the team to move on to the next. These were the first roads to open access to cottage sites "at the lake". The crowds were gathered by a free ox-roast, and while some lots were sold on the installment plan during two successive summers, by 1934 no dividends had been declared, and no payments made on the bank loans nor on the mortgages. The Club House, golf and tennis courts remained a dream and the partially paid for lots were abandoned, the fire went out.

There are sad lists of "Questionable" and "Bad Notes", and heartbreaking notations of sales contracts with down payments of \$15-50 on \$800 lots and installments due monthly of four, five, and six dollars marked unpaid—and then lists of cancellations!

The bank loans and notes payable at this point totalled \$27,091 and it became clear that the creditors could not be paid: Shawfield, the dam contractor and the largest of them was owed over \$5000.

Nevertheless during the '30's there was a dance hall on Mt. Wahollock and it was part of the romance of the lake. Here one went to swoon away the evening as a live band played such tunes as *Honey* and *If You Were the Only Girl in the World*, *Button Up Your Overcoat*, *My Silent Love* and *Who*. Dates were not necessary, girls went in groups or were taken by a brother. A girl sitting along the side on a wooden bench lived for the moment when some male would buy a ten cent ticket to dance with her. On a music cue the ten cents time was consumed and another ticket had to be bought. Did he then leave and ask another to dance? It was fraught with chance for the female. But on occasion there was the alternate attraction of the square dance at Billy Shaeffers on the Nordmont road with no such hazards, old time fiddlers, and almost ununderstandable callers, hob-

nailed boots mixing with high heels and even some bootleg mountain whiskey being passed around outside.

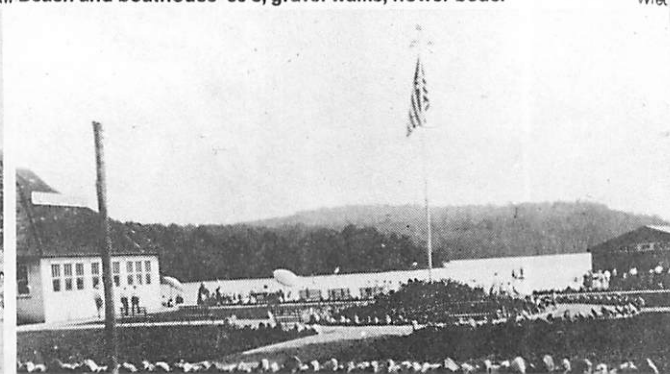
During this era Gertrude Ederlie had thrilled the world by swimming the Channel, and this inspired, a group of Mokoma teen-agers to emulate her by swimming the length of the lake. There were enormous preparations, bodies were greased à la Ederlie to withstand the rigors of Mokoma waves and a large stock of chocolate was stored aboard each accompanying boat. Few stalwarts reached the dam, but for the others, some of whom foundered on the island, it was made memorable and delightful because of the frequent stops en route for some restorative chocolate.

Young people of these days lingered around the barns during haying and, though warned off, jumped from the rafters into the fresh hay, scraped the sawdust off the blocks of ice in ice houses, chipped off refreshing slivers, "drove" the willing cows from pasture at five o'clock, had apple fights, whipping them from the end of willow branches, rode bicycles all over town, and went swimming at the lake and in the various holes in the Sock. As time passed they organized a Mokoma Lake Carnival with enough floats to attract a sizeable crowd and put on "The LaPorte Follies" a song and dance and variety show in the Community Hall.

But it was a small hardened colony that came regularly to Lake Mokoma as the depression wore on. Then World War II put a stop to any improvement. No one from a distance could travel easily, the younger men and women were in the services, the older ones in war work. The town of LaPorte sent its share of people to the war effort so that needed repairs could not be made, roofs began to leak, putty to crumble, paint to peel, only the lake itself survived unchanged. By 1946 much of what had promised so well in 1930-31 looked desolate; the "public" buildings and areas cried for restoration of what four to five years of enforced neglect had piled up.

Beach in the early '30's—no lifeguards.

Bradshaw Beach and boathouse '30's, gravel walks, flower beds.





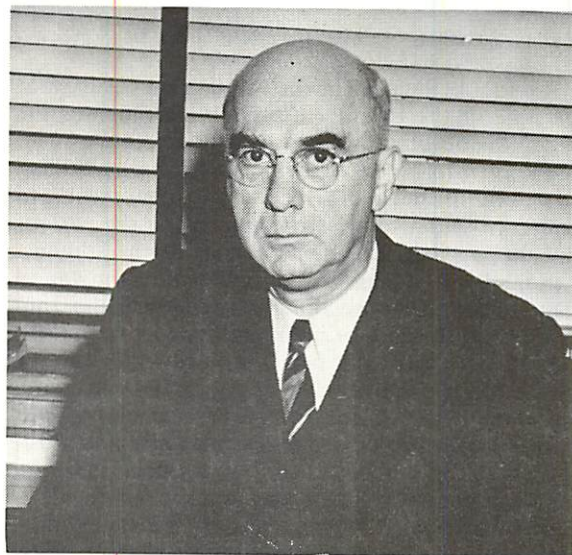
CHAPTER XI

Lake Mokoma Development Corp.



In the late thirties the floundering New Lake Mokoma Company, at the insistence of the banks who held the company's notes, appointed two Trustees to take over their property, Ben Crossley of the Dushore Bank and Thomas Wood who represented the owners of the Jersey Shore Bank. Some others who had built substantial places on the lake were also concerned, particularly Joseph Simpson of Bloomsberg who had a large cottage and boat house (still standing) on the smaller point of land on the east shore just north of Brady's Point. Another was Dan Kline, a Williamsport attorney who had built a substantial stone house on the west shore overlooking the lake. They in turn had interested some other Williamsport people in the property. Resulting from meetings among these people, on the 8th of November, 1939, the Lake Mokoma Development Corporation, a Pennsylvania corporation, was formed with Simpson as President, Dr. E. Lloyd Rothfuss of Williamsport Secretary-Treasurer, each holding 20 of the 250 shares authorized. The other seven stockholders were Dr. Lloyd's brother B. C. Rothfuss, Daniel Kline, J. F. Yarrison, who had drilled the water well, L. M. Goodman and John W. Levegood, both from Jersey Shore and J. F. Ingham and Frank W. Meylert from LaPorte. Each of these held five shares, except Goodman who had six. Ingham became attorney for the new company and received his shares in exchange for services. Thus in all 76 shares were outstanding at a par value of \$100 each. Capitalization was \$25,000 but of course only \$7,600 was paid in cash, barely the sum required to take over the assets from the Trustees and satisfy the bank and other creditors. The unsettled matter of the two existing mortgages was left in limbo.

The new company, coming into being as it did, on the eve of the war and with no fresh *working* capital had little impact on the community. It was clearly only a holding action by essentially absentee owners. The Rothfuss brothers dominated the organization; Lloyd soon became president. They had never had a resident's interest in the property. Indeed, B. C. Rothfuss has said that they held it as a loss for the purpose of offsetting gains in other investments. Both he and his brothers had a prosperous clinic in Williamsport, and owned several hotels in Florida. Lloyd an enthusiastic game hunter in Africa and in Wyoming, seldom came to LaPorte. At the beginning, Ingham and Meylert tried to get further investment together to improve the property, but the onset of the war scotched the effort. In the post-war period up until 1958 nothing

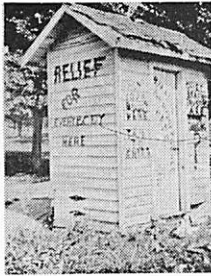


Harold Taylor

Dr. Lloyd Rothfuss—about 1940.

of any note in the way of improvement was accomplished. It must be remembered that as the depression deepened in the late thirties few people had money either for a second home or for speculative investment.

There was activity, however, at Lake Mokoma and LaPorte during these years, in fact a moment of high excitement not reached since occurred one summer day in 1930 when there was an armed hold-up of the First National Bank. At first the robbery occasioned little notice since the bank alarm went off from time to time without provocation, and this time seemed no different—until the shots rang out, fired in the air by the robbers to discourage anyone's following. Alfred Helsman, the cashier, in black wrist cuffs, also rushed out shooting and yelled "We've been robbed—there they go!" Grant Carpenter, playing ball in the park with some others, heard the shots and cry, ran for his car and gun and gave chase. Noting the skid tracks turning into the Nordmont road (then dirt) he followed closely. He learned in Nordmont the robbers had elected to go over North Mountain; rapidly commandeered a "deputy" Bert Synder with gun, and leaving orders to call ahead to Benton, he raced on. In Benton a posse had already collected, but their report was frustrating . . . "Yes, a car just went through—going like sixty." The trail was lost! A year later, however, one of the robbers was caught and brought to LaPorte for trial.



"Farley's Temple" opposite the courthouse.

Bradshaw

Alfred Helsman, who fired the shots.

Lamer

Another high crime of the thirties that occurred at the time of the Roosevelt-Landon election was the apprehension of a group of LaPorte's young men, one known to be an applicant to the bar, who had conceived the idea of erecting a "monument" to Roosevelt's first term as a comment on the various alphabet agencies and relief efforts of the administration. They had spotted what they thought was an abandoned backhouse along the road near the Tannery and in the dark of midnight tipped it onto three saplings and dragged it behind a Ford sedan into the middle of town and set it up opposite the courthouse. They had decorated it with: "Farley's temple" (James A. Farley, Roosevelt's political manager and Postmaster), "Relief for all here" and topped it with a chamber pot into which was stuck a sunflower—Landon's campaign symbol. Next day the State Police, summoned, it was assumed by outraged Democrats, found one of the culprits with—yes, red paint on his hands. The charges levied were: Obstructing the highway; Defacing School Property (the structure was not abandoned, it was a winter shelter for school children awaiting the bus); Larceny; Creating a Public Nuisance; Disturbing the Peace; and Operating a trailer on the Highway without Lights. Republican intervention effected a nolle prosequere on condition the offending object would be restored to its rightful location and repainted. This was done—again at midnight but the repainting done with whitewash.

Although the new and rough roads at the Lake had begun to spawn a resident lake community, there were no evening activities at the beach and the main night attraction for LaPorte's young people was the "wicked" Barn at EaglesMere. Run by Cris Little, the Barn dispensed beer, soft drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs. It had a sawdust floor and two dozen or so rickety tables, a twenty square foot dance floor of polished maple and a juke box that ate up nickels playing *Stardust*, *Easy to Remember*, *Stormy Weather*, *In the Mood*, *Blue Moon* and other hits of the Big Band era. There groups of up to a dozen from LaPorte would foregather on weekends, sometimes after a more formal group party at the Casino of the Forest Inn, or the Crestmont where formal dress dances were regularly held. The end of the evening was likely to find them at the Stone House in LaPorte some-

times until dawn. Weeknights smaller groups would repair to the Barn ending up an early night at one or another's home, playing the new game Monopoly.

In this period and on through World War II and until the formation of the Association, a feature that stands out was the complete freedom enjoyed, the lack of responsibility. There were no fees for the use of "our" beach and lake, no rules about where and when to swim or fish, no agitation about pollution, overcrowding or policies. Along with this went an absence of organized activities. If a family or group wanted to have a picnic, or one wanted to race against friends, or swim the lake, or to the island there was no one to let or hinder. There were no dates for dances unless someone got up a group spontaneously. In spite of this lack of organization boredom wasn't a problem. The only authority at hand was MacMathe who had come to the area with the arrival of the CCC camps earlier in the thirties and he and Elizabeth Morris Mathe ran the Beach and the Mokoma Inn. It was there that a significant number of present day residents were first introduced to the area. Mac and Elizabeth managed a warm and comfortable country inn, and each summer guests returning renewed acquaintances in the gracious dining room and wide shady porches. Often a guest family would learn of a cottage and rent it after such a stay at the Inn, and continue coming year after year. This continuity created a strong sense of familiarity and for the first time began a "lake" community separate and distinct from the community uptown. Only half dozen of these families who rented or owned the lake cottages at this time have remained. It was a time of little building so that new people with strong commitments didn't appear. However, one "new" family enterprise came along during the War—the "Young's Camp" catering to a small group of girls chiefly from the Baltimore area. While nothing like the size of the earlier Camp Mokoma (\$130 for 9 weeks—all costs) the girls camp of Miss Mary Marlatt and Miss Gertrude Russum and Lycurgus Ford in the 1908-1917 era, Helen and Alan Young's camp brought new converts to LaPorte and some of them are among our membership today. Another fond memory of these years were the square dances held in the Com-

munity Hall, vigorous evenings with live and lively music and callers—many a city husband arriving late on Friday evening had to hunt for his summering wife at the square dance.

After the war all thoughts for most families centered first on getting a job, a primary house, a car and a beginning peacetime career or returning to the one interrupted by the war. In the war interval, Joe Ingham had moved to Selinsgrove, Frank Meylert and W. C. Mason had died. The management was thus totally absentee and largely uninterested. A record of lot sales reflects the company's motives and the times. Eighteen lots were sold in 1942, the first year the Development Company made any sales, two the following year, five in 1944 and ten more in the immediate post war period. No further sales were made for ten years until eight lots changed hands immediately prior to the Association take-over in 1958/9. Again sales were made to insiders and prices were not recorded so total income or average lot price cannot be calculated. Clearly, however, unlike their predecessor this company did not want to make money.

With the return gradually to easier travel, tires and gas no longer rationed and cars coming off reawakened assembly lines Lake Mokoma became a target for the day-tripper, the family picnic and sometimes for the rowdy gang. Mac Mathe was given charge of the beach by the Rothfusses, who had owned the Inn as well for some years in the thirties, and he and Elizabeth Mathe gallantly tried to keep control of the situation, but the owners did not back them up with adequate direction, means or interest. Car counts taken in the early fifties reached 600 and more during a sunny summer weekend, parked from the dam all along Lake Avenue, well up Fountain avenue and Mokoma Street (the road to town), as well as in the former "Sand Plant" area behind the beach, and even encroaching into the picnic table area. The beach, with hundreds of people looked sometimes like a small portion of Coney Island. World's End State Park nearby had been expanded to accommodate the need for greater recreation areas, and none too soon; the park served 243,000 per year people by the end of the decade of the fifties and in 1978 will top 300,000. Mokoma with its absentee owners and open public admission simply absorbed all comers. The Beach Symth's store and the bank—no gas pumps.

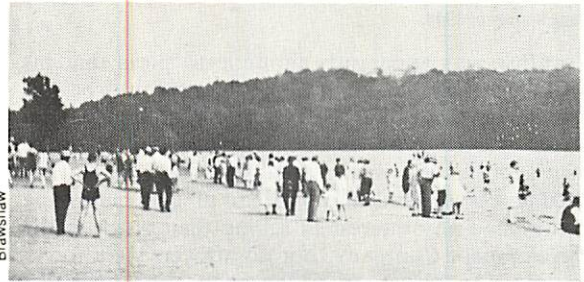


Bradshaw



Bradshaw

Weekday beach scene World War II days — compare with the dressed crowd of the '20's. below



Bradshaw

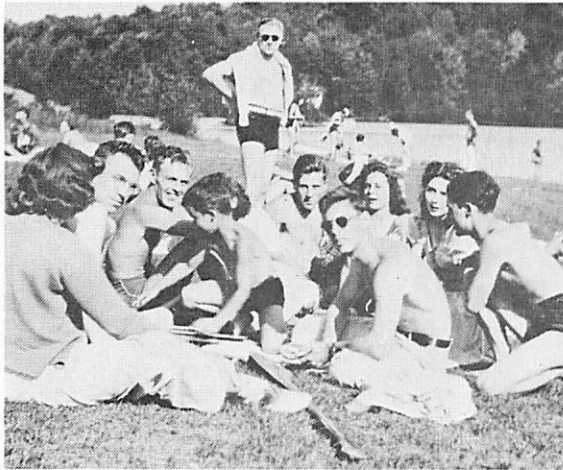
House became unbearably crowded and was down-at-the-heel from long neglect. Many of the prewar residents who had seen it in better days were deeply concerned but most were too busy with their personal lives to do much about it. The swimming holes along the Sock became the refuge of many, until they too drew attention and crowds. But as so often happens, when a basically attractive place falls on evil times, rescue was in the offing.

During this period two people tried various approaches to the Rothfuss brothers in an attempt to ameliorate the situation, one was Philip Powers who had recently built a new cottage and whose interest in the area arose through his marriage to Margaret Scott, daughter of one of the 1908 organizers. The other was David Bradshaw. At first working separately, later in conjunction, they wrote and talked with the principals about various new management methods or a possible purchase of the property, but to no avail.

The lake in fall.



Chambers



Bradshaw

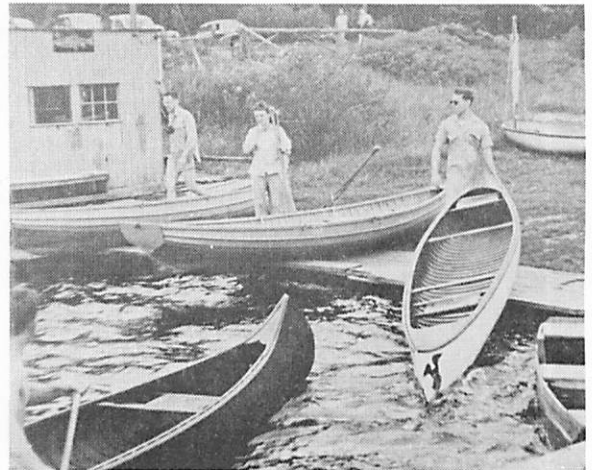
Beach scene, 1941.

Rothfuss was apparently immune to pleas that his Mokoma financial picture should or could be improved or the value of the property increased by better management. Both Simpson and Kline were seen less and less in the area and Yarrison had retired to Texas. Bradshaw wrote to all of them asking if they had any interest in selling their stock in the Development Company, but no answers were forthcoming. He tried another approach, a proposal for the cottagers to undertake the management of the beach on a contract with the Company. Rothfuss expressed a mild interest but did nothing. Miss Jessie Wrede, a life-long LaPorte resident, had inherited the Frank Meylert shares, but was not interested in selling them, nor could she make any attempt with her small interest to change the situation. None of the owners in title were users of the lake.

The increasing deterioration was part of a drift that seemed to be afflicting the county as a whole.

Race around the island, 1941.

Bradshaw



Bradshaw

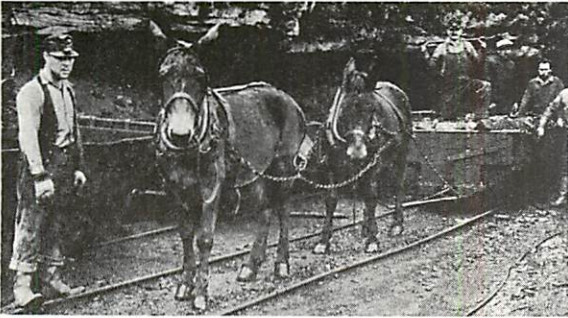
Old main marina area late '40's.

Of Sullivan's 306,000 acres 260,000 either were or had reverted to forest owned by private interests, 4,500 acres had become State owned non-commercial forest, while only 14,000 acres remained under active cultivation, the small residue is employed in road right-of-ways and townsites. By comparison for example with Lancaster County's 326,000 cultivated farm acres, farms in Sullivan were, like the lake, suffering more and more from neglect. From a peak of over 1500 farms at the turn of the century, after World War II only 270 were left, and each year reduced the total. This is reflected in the average farm income of 1968 in Sullivan at \$2800 per year versus \$11,052 in Adams County. The county population followed farms in decline, dropping below 6000 for the first time since 1860 at 14 persons per mile, the lowest ratio in the State, and significant too is the drawing in of the population to towns. A quarter of the county's population now lives in its four boroughs, and probably half of the remainder in its villages.

Water sports early '40's.

Bradshaw



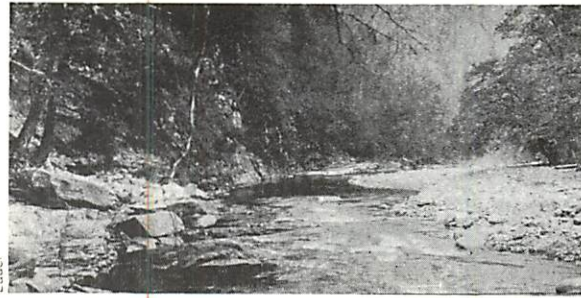


Sullivan County mining on the wane '30's.

So the stage was set for a takeover of the Mokoma property by someone who might see the opportunity for promotion and catch Dr. Rothfuss at a propitious moment. It was the fear of those whose roots were deep in the community that an outsider with solely exploitive ideas would present an alluring offer and the Rothfusses be attracted by it. Also during this interval in 1949 the Mason heirs were able to foreclose their 1929 mortgage and retake the lots they had contributed to the New Lake Mokoma Company. In 1951, at the death of Katherine B. Ingham, Ellery's widow, that mortgage came to her great-nephews, David and Barry Bradshaw, and they began to trace, as had the Masons, the 24-year old provisions of the instrument through the various changes in Section and Lot lines and numbering, on the differing plans, the releases already given from the mortgage, some unrecorded. They were in the final process of foreclosure by early 1958.

A "timber slide" (without water it isn't a flume).

Lauer

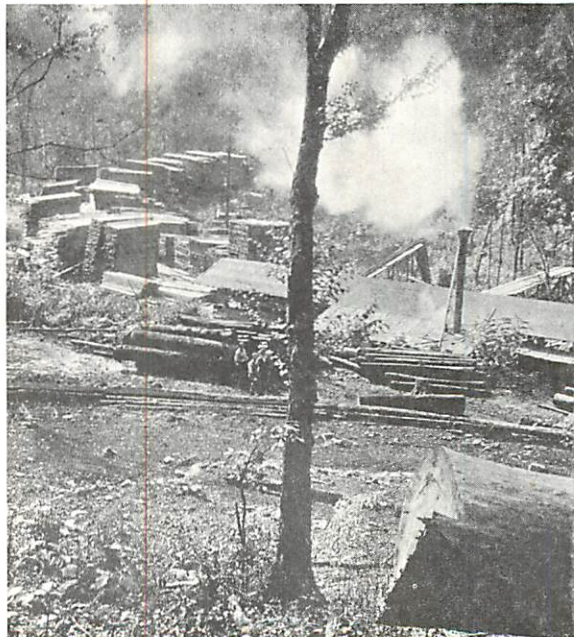


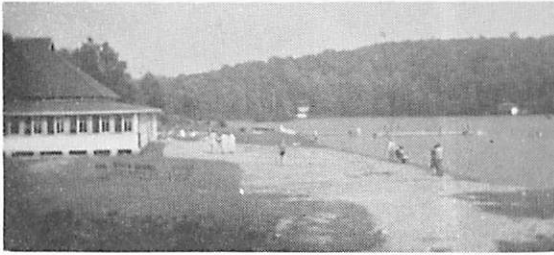
World's End (then called Whirl's End) before the State built a dam and made a park of it.

By 1958 when the committee was formed to buy the lake and adjacent acres, the property owners were a diverse lot. The year-round residents of LaPorte were interested in the lake as part of their total environment. The summer residents fell into two categories, loosely, the "lake people" and the "uptowners". The former were mostly newcomers drawn to the area by its natural beauty, the latter with a proprietary feeling about the place had been there for years. In the summer of that year, on July 28th, a surprise notice was sent by the Lake Mokoma Development Company to all property owners interested in making a change in the status of the Lake asking them to come to a meeting on Saturday night, August 2nd at the LaPorte Community Hall. A crowd of cottage owners and townspeople attended and were met by Joseph Ingham who spoke on behalf of the Company saying that it had already received two offers for the property, but would make the land and lake available to the nearby

Sullivan County's struggling logging industry, crews without chain saws or other power equipment.

Lauer





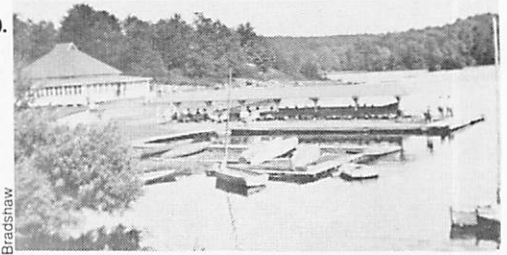
Beach scene, 1940.

Ferguson

owners if they would form a group to deal with the Company, within the next two weeks. Otherwise, he stated, one of the outsider's offers would be accepted. Rumors were rife about the commercial concessions that would inevitably be brought in and the change in character that would follow for the area. At that meeting a committee was named, Judge Charles Williams as Chairman, the members were, David Bradshaw, A.B. Caldwell, J. A. Gerber, W. A. Martin, P. H. Powers.

Philip Powers was not present when the Committee was formed that evening, but when the Committee was later enlarged as an agency for getting subscriptions and pledges, he became chairman. This committee of LaPorte Property Owners met with Mr. Ingham several times to negotiate terms and price for the property which was first offered to them for \$120,000 but without clearly defined boundaries or evidence of clear title. Discussions and negotiations went on through the rest of the summer and toward the end a general meeting was again held at the Courthouse at which the consensus was that those present would like to take possession of the lake. The committee had negotiated the price down to \$65,000 but it was wisely felt that an additional \$10,000 would be needed for closing costs and initial operation of the property. Immediately upon arriving at this total of \$75,000, the committee met and a plan for selling shares in an association was formed. The money goal and a realistic estimate of the number of potential buyers dictated the figures—150 shares at \$500 each.

Where LaPorte used to go for formal Saturday nights.



Bradshaw

Committee members almost to a man pledged themselves to take two shares each as it was at once apparent that there would be difficulty otherwise in reaching the total needed. Members of the committee, now enlarged to 21 then assigned themselves lists of potential members, a crash sales campaign was launched and a letter of intent was sent to the company to purchase the property. An option valid to October first was given and by early September 104 memberships had been accumulated. A contract to purchase was signed and a \$2000 deposit made, the closing to await title clarification. During the fall additional memberships came in and finally with thirty owners taking two shares each, and ninety others single shares, the total of 150 was reached. On January 6th, 1959, the Lake Mokoma Association was incorporated in Pennsylvania and on the 10th, its first meeting was held in Williamsport, where a Board of Trustees slate was offered and elected. The Rothfusses requested additional time to complete their title. The Ingham-Bradshaw mortgage which had been used as a lever to reduce the price, since it impeded their giving clear title, went to foreclosure and the Development Company admitted no defense to non-payment. The Bradshaws settled with them for \$4000 for the 60 lots covered by the mortgage so that they could be included within the land turned over to the Association, which with these included could furnish clear title to approximately 525 acres of which about 125 are covered by the lake. The Lake Mokoma Association was launched.





CHAPTER XII

Lake Mokoma Association

NUMBER		SHARES -1-
Lake Mokoma Association		
INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA Authorized Capital Stock 150 Shares Par Value \$500 Per Share		
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION		
This Certifies that _____ is the owner of _____ Share of the Capital Stock of LAKE MOKOMA ASSOCIATION full paid and non-assessable, transferable only on the books of the Corporation in person or by Attorney, subject to the conditions set forth on the reverse side hereof, and upon surrender of this Certificate properly endorsed.		
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be signed by its duly authorized officers, and its Corporate Seal to be hereunto affixed this _____ day of _____ A. D. 19 _____.		
Secretary	President	

The stock certificate.

LMA

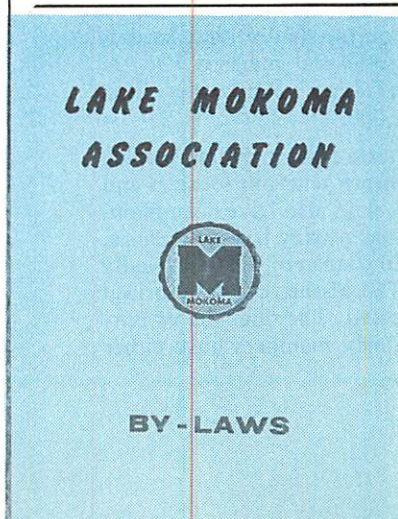
Started in 1958, the Lake Mokoma Association at the time of this writing has lasted longer than any of the four previous organizations. The reasons are not hard to adduce; it was formed during a period of prosperity when the owners attention and time could be focussed on a summer place. It was not faced by a financial depression which the second and fourth met. But more important, it was blessed with a much larger group of really interested people, all of whom had already made a substantial commitment to the area. Their determination is indicated by the initial subscription of one out of four of them (thirty in all) for two shares each, and further by the fact that they contracted to purchase the property before they had even been sure of selling all of the 150 shares issued. The 150th in fact was not sold until 1961.

Contrast the fifty and hundred dollar shares, and small often absentee memberships of the previous companies with the five hundred and thousand dollar contributions of the 120 charter members of the present Association. Also the preponderant majority of these first members held either land, buildings or both in the areaworth considerably more than their stock in the new Association. Their motivation clearly was preservation and personal use while that of prior owners obviously was profit or tax loss. In fact the association's purposes set forth on incorporation are: "To own, manage and operate Lake Mokoma, the woodlands, lots, facilities and property improvements . . . to preserve and develop the natural resources and beauty of the area . . . to assure the use and enjoyment of Lake Mokoma and the Association's other properties and facilities to the maximum benefit of its members and their guests."

<u>LAKE MOKOMA ASSOCIATION</u>			
Operating Statement			
October 1, 1973 to September 30, 1974			
	Expense	Receipts	Net Gain or (Loss)
PROPERTY PRESERVATION			
Annual Fees - Members and Assoc. Members		\$9,130.00	
Expense			
Taxes - Borough and Township	\$2,697.45		
Lake and Dam Expense	1,145.65		
Insurance	920.00		
Supplies, Printing, Postage, Misc.	567.33		
Cottage - Repairs and Depreciation	641.44		
Manager's Salary & Soc.Sec. Taxes	2,592.62	8,564.47	\$ 565.53
BEACH and LAKE OPERATION			
Income			
Beach Admissions - General		\$ 890.50	
Tenants		740.00	
Members		1,987.50	
Laporte Children		47.50	
Boat Registration, Marinas, Winter Storage		1,160.00	
Locker Rentals		200.00	
Interest and Miscellaneous		1,217.37	
		\$6,242.87	
Expense			
Beach Labor and Soc. Sec. Taxes	\$3,389.90		
Maintenance-Bldgs., Beach & Grounds	1,065.37		
Depreciation-Bldgs., Marinas, Fence, etc.	1,998.12		
Special Activities -	853.59		
Less Income	101.55	451.94	\$ (643.06)
NET from OPERATION			\$ (77.55)
REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY			
None			

The rule book, and the By-Laws.

The rules now take up thirteen pages. LMA



GUIDE
TO
FEES-RULES-PROCEDURES
LAKE MOKOMA
ASSOCIATION



And let us not discount the ties of many of these new owners running back twenty-five, fifty and even one hundred years, during which they and their families had either lived in LaPorte or had come to it summer after summer lending them a proprietary feeling about the place. Beyond all this, the Association had a structure worked out by astute people, some of whom had witnessed the trials of the previous administrations, and it had the talents of Philip Powers, a seasoned executive and others who unstintingly devoted their considerable abilities to it.

By-laws were drawn up for the first general meeting, January 10th, 1959, presented and passed. The new approach showed immediately in the matter of annual payments which had been ignored by the first second and fourth companies, and provided for by an abortive eight-dollar per year charge, to run only ten years, imposed by the third, the New Lake Mokoma Company which paradoxically also held out the simultaneous promise of dividends. The new Association met this problem by setting a regular yearly basic fee owed by each member to defray the fixed costs, taxes, insurance and the like, the varying amount to be fixed by the Board of Trustees from year to year. This protected the investment of the members whether or not any further income was received. Where costs were to be generated by the use of the property, rather than mere retention of it, such as lifeguards, boat storage, maintenance of structure, fences, marinas, lockers, activities, and so forth, were to be funded by income from matching fees. Nonmembers also were to be charged admission and use fees, a feature entirely neglected by the former companies.

This system has resulted in a comfortable reserve of cash backed up by much still saleable land, and since the land does *not* have to be traded for support of the organization, any proceeds from such sales or harvesting of timber and the depreciation charges can be used for capital improvements. More specifically, the Association's land, at cost, has increased from \$62,815 to \$65,771 at the end of 1977. This increase of about \$3000 reflects sales of \$27,391 and acquisitions of \$30,347. The capital improvements made possible have included a major renovation of the dam, purchase of the Cottage, a rifle range, volleyball and shuffle-board courts, shade trees, seeding lawns, a locker building, several marinas and the relocation of the Beach House. Altogether these improvements exceed \$55,000.

The preferable earlier Mason plan, including keeping the shoreline unbuilt, the more generous lot sizes and a reserve of unseated back land also have been maintained. The yearly budget has usually been in balance, showing small surpluses in sixteen of the first twenty years. A revaluation to \$750 of the originally priced \$500 shares had been effected. The dual shares purchased at the outset by thirty members have either

The original "Ranger"


Vol. 1, No. 1.
June 25, 1943.

Lake Mokoma Ranger
(Name subject to change without notice)


<p>Editors: Faith & Christine Myers</p> <p>Office: 201 Market St., Lenox, Pa.</p> <p>Associate Editors: (we hope) Eugenia Joan Dobby Kit</p>	<p>Subscribers: Harry Swadlow David Bradshaw Ernest Salis Tom Myers George Myers Bob Sigler Russell Smith John Stevens</p>
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EDITORIAL

The Editors propose to issue monthly, after the 15th, a report of news of our Subscribers and their associates. We shall confine ourselves to news, the nature and amount of which will necessarily depend upon our correspondents. The subscription price is the same as for the *Editorial* at least once a month of a *Letter* of the



THIS ISSUE OF THE RANGER IS DEDICATED TO —
PHILIP POWERS — JULIUS (MAC) MATHE — HAROLD TAYLOR



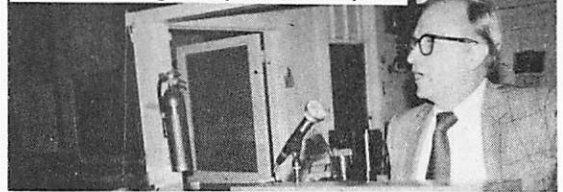
A typical Ranger.

Anon

Annual Meeting—the treasurer's report.



Annual Meeting—the president's report.



Annual Meeting—the lady has the floor.



Powers



P.H. Powers,
First president

Margaret Powers

been repurchased by the Association, or reassigned by their owners, generally to other family members.

The first Board of Trustees, elected by written ballot sent out on October 11, 1958 met again in Williamsport, November 21st, and adjourned to reconvene at the first general meeting to elect officers, draft by-laws, appoint committees etc. (See Appendix for names of officers and trustees). Among the many other items of business done that day was the adoption of the following resolution:

“RESOLVED that it is the wish of the shareholders that the enjoyment of the lake and facilities owned by the shareholders be made available to those members of the LaPorte community who do not own shares in the Association and to achieve this objective, a system of fees be established for this purpose which will be equitable and fair to both the shareholders and the non-shareholders.”

This outreach to non-shareholders in the community established a non-shareholder category of membership—Associate Members and a special arrangement for the admission of LaPorte children.

Committees formed have had great effect; their members have taken the responsibilities of these voluntary tasks seriously with the not unexpected result that the same care and sound thinking as would characterize their own affairs has been applied to the many questions that have come up. These include, specifications for building, control of sewage, road policies, lot sales, limitation of membership, title questions arising from the chequered history of the prior ownerships and the like. Now there are two divisions, Operations and Development, each headed by a vice-president to whom the chairmen report.

The committees are:

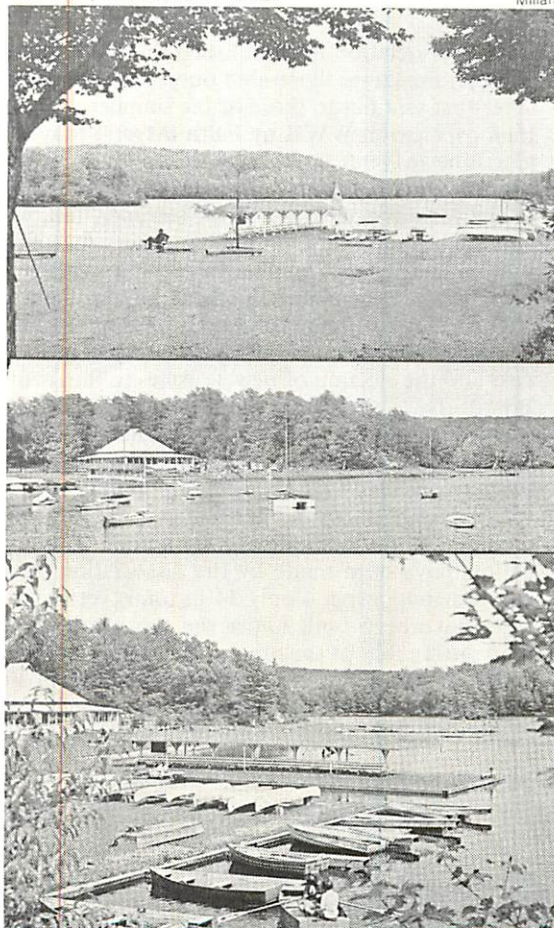
Operations Division		Development Division	
Beach	Lake Use	Finance	Membership
Beach-Hiring	Recreational Activities	History	Public-Relations
Construction	Safety and Health	Long Range-Policy	Ranger Real Estate
Dam	Social-Activities		
Lake			

The Board of Trustees creates additionally ad hoc committees from time to time, as for example, the Nominations Committee.

There have been six presidents (see Appendix) and a total of over sixty men and women members who have served on the Board of Trustees or almost half the membership. The membership has remained fairly stable soon after filling up to between a hundred and forty and a hundred and fifty. Ownership of ninety shares have changed hands, but apart from the Association’s repurchase of the second shares of those who originally subscribed for two, and the large

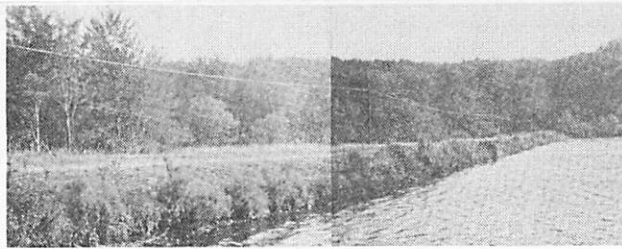
The lake, three recent views.

Millara

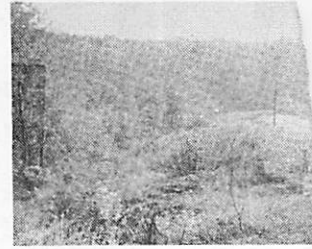




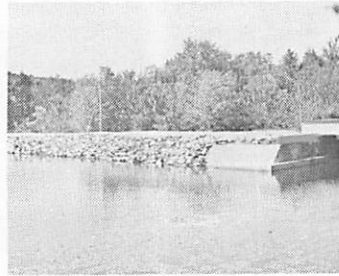
As it looked before the Association took over, lowered lake and clean-up.



Dam deterioration 1975.



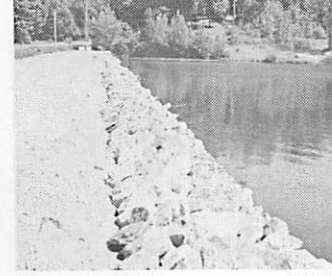
Marina repair—fall work weekend. Powers



Dam repair, stone face upstream side 1976. Powers



Dam repair—spring work weekend. Powers



number of transfers within families, the membership of the Association continues substantially among the families of the charter shareholders. It is noteworthy that except for some from the originating company, few of the other prior owners have maintained such continuity of interest. Members who have left have done so because of job changes, death, or other causes unrelated to the Association. Both Active and Associates include a number of year-round residents and this group has grown since the beginning.

The Association has published the Lake Mokoma Ranger, the larger illustrated outgrowth of a circular letter first sent out to those of the summer community then overseas in WWII by Faith (Myers) Flower and Christine (Myers) Crist. It has had over 30 issues, running usually four to six pages and giving a report of the various activities and the summer, fall, winter and spring meetings. Annual business meeting are well attended, the number present averaging well over half the membership when they are held each August evening. They last about an hour and a half and have been devoted largely to a review of the past year and the election of new Trustees to the revolving Board. The year's financial report has been mailed each fall, giving a summary of income and expense and the resulting balance sheet. Following the meeting, the newly elected trustees meet briefly in joint session with the old Board, the new officers are elected and the new committee chairmen are named. Fewer sales of lots have been made by the Association than by any previous owner—only 34 in total, yet more cottages have been built under the Association's aegis than during that of the other owners. (See appendix).

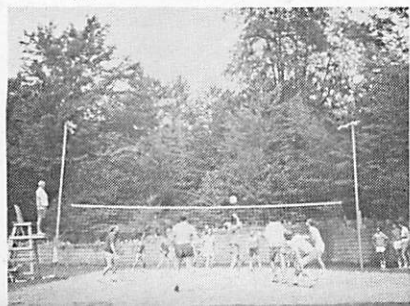
The Association is a quasi-government in many ways similar to the LaPorte Borough Council, and of roughly similar size and budget. The Borough has a

population of about two hundred and because of Eillery Ingham's prescience includes all of the lake itself and almost all of the Association's and its members properties. Liaison between the two has been frequent and is fostered on both sides; by their very existence they secure advantages for one another.

Over the years when the Association has vastly improved the property acquired, painting, repairing, renewing and building, much has been done during "Work Weekends" in which all members are invited to join, fall and spring, in a day's communal effort in general upkeep and fellowship. A side membership benefit has been this fellowship in a unique community, mellowed by years of committee meetings, verbal battles, compromises, physical labor, shared dinners, picnics, dances, swim meets, pride in accomplishment and a special enthusiasm for what Lake Mokoma has become.

Some of the activities that have evoked this comradeship have been the opening Fourth of July covered-dish supper at the beach, sometimes with a dance following. Later on there are teen-age dances, joint picnics to nearby spots on the Loyalsock, square dances, swimming meets, with medals and ribbons for the winners, odd events, such as the team struggle for the greased watermelon. Then there are sailing regattas, canoeing races, rowboat races around the island, and sometimes a long swim to the Point or even the length of the lake, and recently cross-country runs. One night a week serious bridge players fill the cottage, which also houses the library and arts and crafts. The members have entered the EaglesMere Lake Carnival and regularly have won trophies with their floats. The final event is the "Singles vs Marrieds" volley-ball game with star singles players inevitably moving to the married side year by year. This occurs on Labor Day which scatters the members

Pick-up game—every day—all summer.



Part of Mokoma's 100 boat fleet.



Bridge at the Cottage—Monday

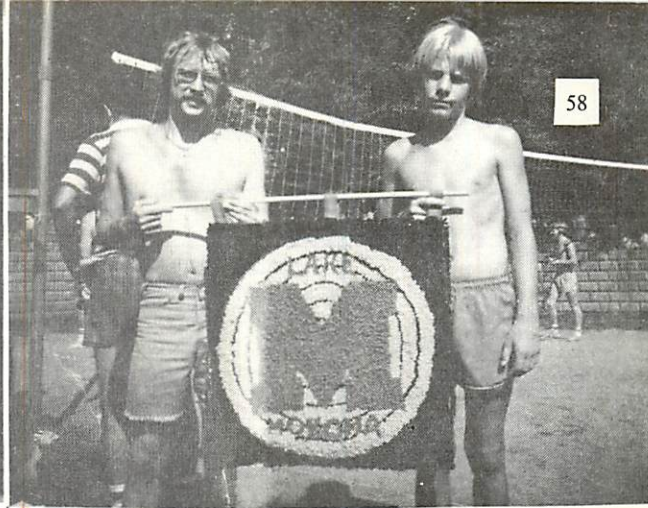


Community supper at the Beach House

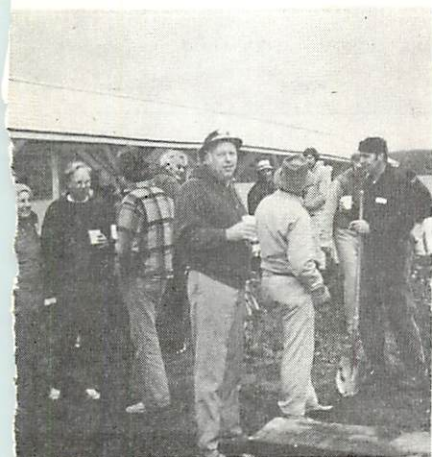




A first prize float, the gun was shot and the Bow-woman sent off flaming arrows Beatty



Our symbol in fabric.



Coffee break, work weekend. Powers



Weekday beach scene '70's. Powers



Four on a swing. Powers

until a Winter Weekend in February of the new year starts the cycle over again.

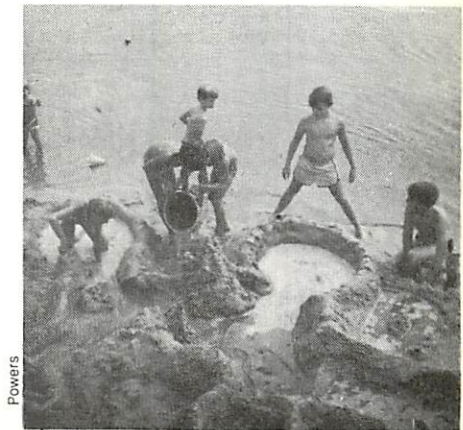
The real investment of the members has been of hopes and dreams, ideas, and hard work. One of the very special joys to be experienced on the beach each summer when families have gathered, is to see as many as four generations together. The history of the Association has hardly begun, those who will write it are still in the wings waiting to come on. When such a fuller story is written it will undoubtedly confirm that the reasons for its success derive from a purpose to preserve the common interests of the owners with a tested efficient organization valued by those whose roots go deep.



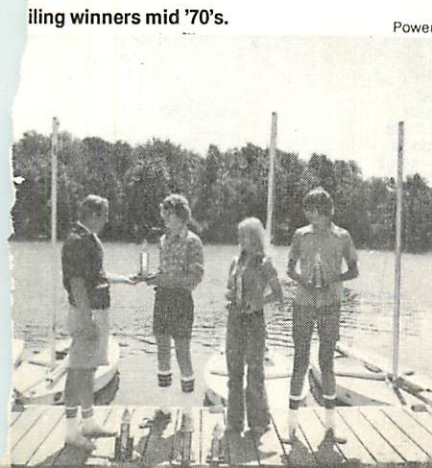
Relaxing on a summer's day, the '70's. Powers



Lifeguard Instructor's giving a morning class. Powers



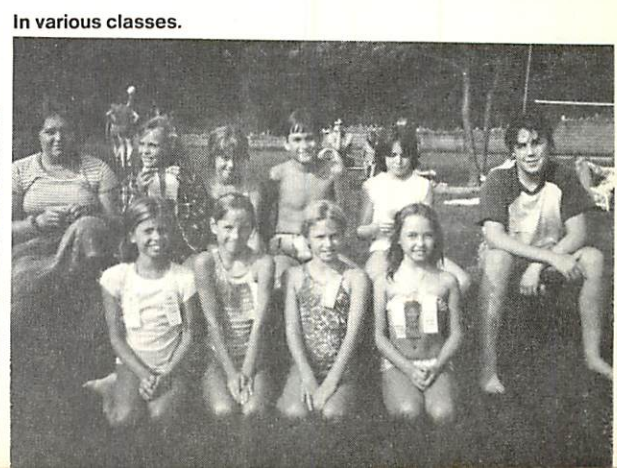
Small fry, the age old castles in the sand. Powers



Swimming winners mid '70's. Powers



Swim meet winners . . .



In various classes.

¶ CHARTER SHAREHOLDERS OF THE
LAKE MOKOMA ASSOCIATION

Name	Amount	Certif
Raymond Allen	500	118
Guy M. Baldwin	500	126
J. Richard Benner	500	28
Leon W. & Mildred S. Berger	500	62
John L. Boots	500	142
Neil J. & Maxwell F. Bower	500	74
	500	141
Jean C. or David N. Bradshaw	1000	63
Tenants by the Entirety		64
John Barry Bradshaw	1000	65
		66
Robert C. Brandt & E'lise B. Brandt	500	29
Frank D. Brenchley & Virginia M. Brenchley	500	30
John H. Bruner	500	143
A. Brown Caldwell & Francis S. Caldwell, Wife	500	92
Robert P. Carpenter & Nancy Carpenter	500	116
Miss Bertha M. Chandler	500	93
Mary Katherine Clinger	500	61
Arthur J. Coombs & Roy W. Coombs	500	147
Donald C. Cooper	500	31
Roscoe S. Corson	500	32
Thomas H. Cosgrove	500	94
Robert G. Crist	500	112
Wallace J. Cummings & Elizabeth Cummings	500	123
Henry S. and Mary L. Czarnecki	500	139
Joseph J. & Greta A. Dailey	1000	119
		120
Francis P. Davis	500	75
Bruce R. & Alice B. Deckard	500	76
Pearson W. Delaney	500	33
Ralph E. Dougherty, Jr.	500	95
Ralph E. Dougherty & Mary S. Dougherty, Husband & Wife, as tenants by entirety	500	34
Howard Eck, Irene E. Eck, & Josephine Holcombe	500	73
Walter A. Eck & Rita Harding Eck	1000	5
		6
V.A.L. Ertel Jr. & Elizabeth S. Ertel	500	77
Charles R. & Mildred S. Ehrhardt	500	35
A. J. Farber	1000	36
		37
Ralph C. & Helen V. Feigles (Miss) Agnes A. Flynn	500	96
John A. Gerber	1000	3
		4
Marie Heim Lindabury, Ernest E. Heim, Kenneth E. Heim	1000	39
Joseph E. Heim, Jr.	500	78
Charles W. & Ann S. Hellie	500	41
Henry O. Hess	500	97
Pauline Holcombe	500	114
Helen G. Hosford	500	60
Earl D. Houseknecht	500	72
Raymond A. & Helen M. Houseknecht	500	115
Harold & Jean I. Jones	500	115
Harold & Jean I. Jones	500	59
Joseph F. Ingham	1000	129
		130
Mrs. Frank M. Kaufman	500	7
Charles F. Kisner	500	8
Woodrow A. Knight	1000	80
		81
Charles M. Kschinka	1000	127
		128
Lillian L. Lawrence	500	42
Ray A. Long	500	43
Bernice M. Lord	1000	44
		45
Mrs. Earl MacCallum	500	98

Andrew W. Machamer	1000	99
		100
Robert J. & Christine N. Mann	500	145
Robert Marquardt	500	131
Warfield A. B. Martin and/or Dorothy L. Martin	500	46
		113
Robert D. Mason and/or Jane C. Mason and/or Beatrice E. Mason	500	137
Elizabeth Morris Mathe	500	9
		121
Leo J. & Marian G. McMahon	500	149
Herbert S. Meck & W. Leon Collins	500	82
Arthur B. Metzgar & Carlene A. Metzgar	1000	101
		102
Robert L. McCumber	500	111
(Mrs.) Irene S. Migrath	500	47
William Milby	1000	10
Charles H. Moore	500	48
Paul J. Muller	500	103
Henry Muller	1000	104.
		105
Mildred Mulrooney	500	12
Mrs. Francis Murray	500	144
John E. Myers	1000	15
		16
T. Justin & Kathryn B. Myers	500	83
Robert L. Myers Jr. & Evelyn M. Myers, Husband & Wife	500	17
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Najda	500	18
Florence L. Paul	500	49
Kenneth D. Poust	1000	19
		20
H. Scott Powers	500	21
Philip H. Powers	1000	1
		2
Albert E. Preston, Trustee for himself, George L. Belles, David Kleintob and Gian Sorber	500	140
William G. Quinn & Nan Shirley Quinn	500	67
Robert D. Radar	500	138
Raymond Raff	1000	84
		85
Robert Reeder	500	86
Robert A. Reighart	500	124
Oscar M. Reuthelhuber	500	50
Ralph R. Ricker & J. Henry Ricker (Dr.) E. Lloyd Rothfuss	500	148
		132
Nicholas Shilling & Ruth Adams Shilling	500	125
H. S. Scott	500	51
Robert Myers Sigler, Jean Boots Sigler, John H. Sigler, Esther Manson Sigler	500	106
Charles J. & Ursula Simon	500	52
Raymond G. Simpson	500	107
		108
Robert E. Smith & Jeanne L. Smith	500	122
Walter F. Smith	1000	70
		71
John Russell Smyth & Suzzan S. Chantler	500	117
John G. Snowden	500	22
Frank A. Sprague	500	23
Willis R. Stepp	500	134
George Sterner	1000	87
		88
John P. Stevens Jr. & Elizabeth G. Stevens	500	150
E. Marion Strachan and/or David J. Strachan	500	53
Guy H. Swasey & Mrs. Lois S. Swasey, as J/T W/R of survivorship and not as tenants in common	500	24
Michael A. & Sally W. Swoboda	1000	68
		69
Kenneth Synnestvedt	500	54
Raymond L. Talcott	500	27
Alton P. Taylor	1000	25
		26

D. F. Taylor	500	55
Harold B. Taylor	1000	13
		14
Wesley S. Thomas	500	89
Andrew M. Venema	500	56
Elizabeth G. & Alice O. White	500	57
Robert A. White	500	135
Charles Scott Williams & Helen E. Williams, his wife	1000	90
		91
Eugene D. Winner	500	110
(Miss) E. Jessie Wrede	500	58
Raymond Zerner	500	136
E. C. Zwicker Jr.	500	146

¶ TRUSTEES OF THE
LAKE MOKOMA ASSOCIATION

1958-1978
With their terms of service.

Guy M. Baldwin	1963-68
Jane R. Bohn er	1975-
David N. Bradshaw	1969-75
Robert C. Bradshaw	1967-70; 72-75
Robert C. Brandt	1962-66; 70-76
John H. Bruner	1964-70
H. Edward Cable	1965-71
Nancy M. Carpenter	1960-66; 71-77
Dean S. Champlin	1972-75
D. Blaine Cooper	1977-
Mary M. Cosgrove	1970-76
Thomas H. Cosgrove	1962-68
Robert G. Crist	1958-62
Francis P. Davis	1977-
Alice B. Deckard	1971-77
Walter A. Eck	1961-67; 68-74
V.A.L. Ertel	1958-61
J. Wilson Ferguson	1975-
Gene T. Fries	1975-
John A. Gerber	1958-61
Ernest E. Heim	1962-68
Ina V. Heim	1973-76
Joseph E. Heim, Jr.	1965-71; 74-77
J. Mattie Hoff	1977-
Joseph F. Ingham	1960-67
Woodrow A. Knight	1958-63; 64-67
Bruce D. Kreckler	1967-73
Richard N. Lindabury	1976-
Andrew W. Machamer	1967-70
Ray A. Long	1958-62
Robert J. Mann	1970-76
Wesley L. Mann	1976-
W. A. B. Martin	1958-67
Elizabeth M. Mathe	1958-60
Julius Mathe	1966-72
Mildred Mathe	1972-75
Leo J. McMahon	1968-71
Lucille Milby	1960
John K. Minnick	1972-75
C. Edward S. Mitchell	1977-
Philip H. Powers	1958-65
William G. Quinn	1958-60
Raymond R. Raff	1966-72
J. Robert Reeder	1961-68
Elsie Reighart	1976-
Robert A. Reighart	1969-72
J. Henry Ricker	1968-69
Chalres E. Sherer	1975-
Robert E. Smith	1960-66; 71-77
Walter F. Smith	1958-65
Robert F. Starr	1974-77
Willis R. Stepp	1958-60
Harold B. Taylor	1958-65; 66-72
Wesley S. Thomas	1962-68
Wayne P. Tubach	1973-76
Andrew M. Venema	1958-63
Robert A. White	1958-62
Scott A. Williams	1968-74
Charles S. Williams	1958-62
Charles L. Yoder	1967-73
Joseph Yarchak	1976-

¶ PRESIDENTS OF THE LAKE MOKOMA ASSOCIATION
With their terms of service.

Philip H. Powers	1958-1965
Edward Cable	1965-1971
Raymond Raff	1971
Robert Brandt	1972-1976
Joseph Heim	1977
Charles Sherer	1978-

¶ PROPERTY OWNERS COMMITTEE

JULY 28, 1958

Charles S. Williams,
Chairman

David N. Bradshaw
A. Brown Caldwell
John A. Gerber
William R. Martin
Philip H. Powers

¶ EXPANDED PROPERTY OWNERS COMMITTEE

AUG. 16, 1958

David N. Bradshaw
A. Brown Caldwell
Ralph E. Dougherty
Walter Eck
John A. Gerber
Woodrow A. Knight
Ray A. Long
Dr. W. A. Martin
Mrs. Julius Mathe
A. B. Metzger
John E. Myers
Kenneth D. Poust
Philip H. Powers
A. C. Smith
Walter S. Smith
W. R. Stepp
Harold D. Taylor
Andrew M. Venema
Robert A. White
Charles S. Williams
Mrs. Donald Worthington

¶ TOTAL OF LOTS AS PLATTED BY THREE OWNERS OF
LAKE MOKOMA

Lake Mokoma Land Company	1888-1908
Lake Mokoma Company	1908-1929
New Lake Mokoma Company	by W. C. Mason 355 lots, 1929-1939
Lake Mokoma Association	by Jack Boden 1880 lots, 1958- by Real Est. Com. 755 lots.

¶ NUMBER OF EXISTING STRUCTURES BUILT DURING
VARIOUS OWNERSHIP YEARS OF LAKE MOKOMA

	At Lake	In Town
Prior to Lake's Existence	0	35
L. M. Land Co.	1888-1908	6
L.M. Co.	1909-1928	9
New L.M. Co.	1929-1938	29
L.M. Devel. Co.	1939-1957	35
L.M. Assoc.	1958-1978	49

¶ TOTAL OF LOTS SOLD BY VARIOUS OWNERSHIPS OF
LAKE MOKOMA

	Lots	Total Received	Average Price
L.M. Land Co.	44	\$ 4,600	\$104
L.M. Co.	127	25,800	203
New L.M. Co.	271	35,000?*	150
L.M. Dev. Co.	42	6,400?	150
L.M. Assoc.	34	27,390	800

*Since many were defaulted installment purchases, this figure is an estimate.

N.B. Despite fewer lots sold under the aegis of LMA, table above shows more construction of houses at the lake than at any previous era; a comment on the stability of the membership.

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Department of State State of Delaware
Department of State Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

¶ ILLUSTRATIONS INCLUDED

160 Photographs 37 Drawings 25 Maps 16 Diagrams;
Total: 238

Eric Ackerman-Design Consultant

