

The Stack Family's "Camp Edward" on Oneida Lake

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Revised: November 29, 2013

I have been trying to determine the location of the camp built by Bernard Stack on the south shore of Oneida Lake. This paper will describe that search and its successful completion

When I first started searching the earliest pictures of the camp that I had seen were dated 1936, 1937 and 1938. However, there is a single picture from 1914 that shows Bernard, Mabel, Edward and two unidentified people sitting on stairs that probably go down to the beach. There is a camp like structure in the background but it is not the same as seen in the 1937-38 pictures. I also have two 1928 pictures taken at a camp site, but the only camp shown in one of the pictures is also not the one shown in the 1936-38 pictures. Since then I have found pictures from a 1942 reunion camp picture and a 1946 off season camp picture. Somewhere in the back of my mind there is a story from my mother about how they slept in a tent at first, while her father (Bernard) built the camp himself.

The pictures I have found are from 1929 and the 1936-1946 time period. In the 1929 pictures there is no mention of a camp and none are shown in the pictures. Only the 1936-1946 pictures seem to be true camp pictures and the surrounding background is different in the two sets of pictures.

In the 1920s there were three main roads that led to the south shore of Oneida Lake: South Bay Road, the old Bridgeport Plank Road (Route 298) and Fly Road. South Bay Road branched off Brewerton Road (Route 11) on the northern edge of Mattydale. It followed the old trolley track right of way to the lake. Route 298 started out at the city line as the Bridgeport Plank Road, later called Court Street, and went in a northeasterly direction to Bridgeport. The third road was found by following what began as Molloy Road in Mattydale and traveled east through Collamer and proceeding on several more miles where it "T'ed" into Fly Road. Going north on Fly Road brought one to Lakeport on the eastern end of the south shore of Oneida Lake.

Looking at maps and knowing the roads available at that time I initially tried to determine the quickest route to the south shore back in the 1920s. One could have gone east of Erie Blvd and head north on Thompson Road to Barton Corners (present day location of General Motors Circle). Head northeast on 298, to Collamer, and then head north (left turn) on Minoa Road, passing through Rattlesnake Gulch. Minoa Road "Ts" into Route 31 (Lake Road). At Route 31 head west (turn left) and go about 3 miles to what is now called Lake Shore Road and go north (turn right) on Lake Shore Road. This road goes north for a little while and then heads west along the lake and past many camp sites. These old camps can be seen in 1938 aerial photos of the area. This makes Maple Bay a possible location. However, upon reaching Route 31 they could have equally well turned east and there were many more sites in that direction.

Initially I put together what I could remember even though I never saw the actual camp. I only saw the place where it had been located. One of the senior cousins, Donna Carr, remembered the land being purchased – perhaps from the Herald newspaper. Later in the paper I will examine this Herald connection. There is also a list of other possible locations along the south shore that had offered cottage lots for sale during the 20s and 30s.



This picture is from 1938 and it appears to be a lawn mowing day. Another picture showed Edward Stack doing the mowing while Don Taylor was adjusting his hat. Here we have the patriarch of the family, Bernard, leaning on a rake behind a row of raked lawn clippings.

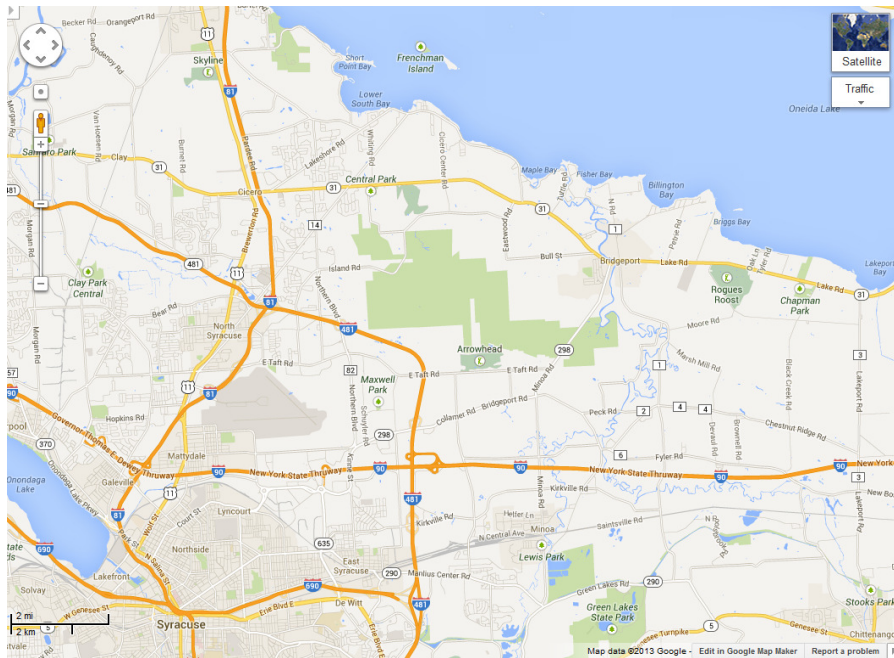


This picture was obviously taken in the summer and after 1938. The shrubs along the front of the porch seem to have filled quite a bit from the previous picture which seemed to be more of a Spring Clean Up day. The person reclining in front appears to be Helen Gilmore.

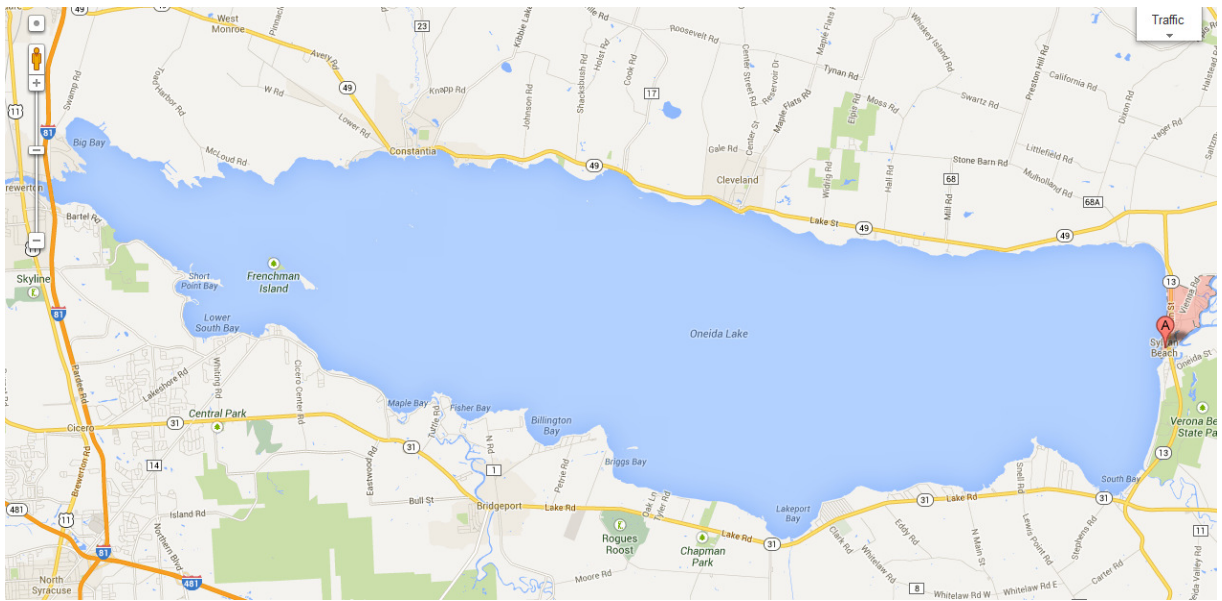


Above is a picture of Donna Carr in front of Camp Edward in 1946. The vine growing across the top of the front porch would indicate that the old place didn't see much use during the war years. The tall grass was probably an annual chore that needed to be dealt with on a regular basis. There is a second sign, just below the Camp Edward sign and something is written on it. In the 1942 reunion picnic picture below it can be seen that the small sign says "STACKS." As an interesting aside, the pictures of the camp can be sequenced in time by noticing the vine that is growing across the front porch of the camp. In the earliest pictures in 1936 there is no vine. As the years go by it grows up the left side of the porch and grows across the length of the roof over the front porch. In the 1946 picture it has made it all the way to the right side.

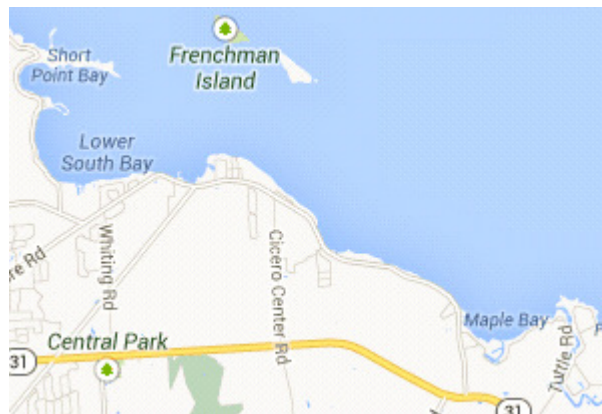




My parents had driven us to the old camp location at least once or twice in the early 1960s on our way back from Sylvan or Verona Beach, on the east end of the lake. The road to the camp went north, off the State Road (Route 31). The Stack's camp had been on the south side of this camp road as I remember it. The camp location hadn't been right on the water. In the 1960's there was just open ground with no evidence that there had ever been any camps there. I don't remember the name of the road we turned onto or any name being applied to the area other than the camp had been on Oneida Lake. There was never anything more specific than that which I can recall.



This view shows all the possible locations along the south shore of Oneida Lake. The far west and far eastern ends of the lake can be eliminated as possible camp locations. Those locations are too close to areas that were already developed prior to the 1920s, or so I thought early on in this search. Those areas would have been expensive. There are about nine areas along the south shore that have names, such as Maple Bay. These would have also been popular prior to the 1920s. My best guess would be that they picked some straight section of beach between the various bays. The area just west of Maple Bay would have been such an area that would have been empty or sparsely populated with camps back then.

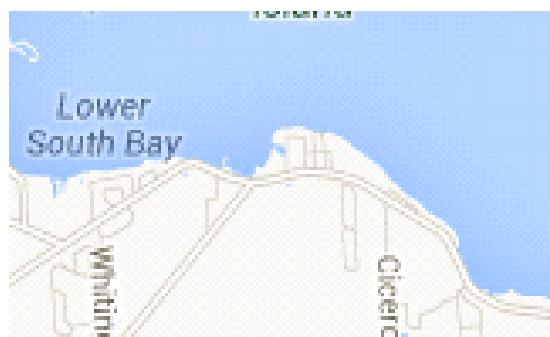


This is the same area as shown in the 1938 aerial photos on the next two pages. The aerial photos aren't available for Madison County which would cover the area east of Bridgeport and of course the camp could have been located along that stretch of the lake. (And in fact it was.)



ARX-27-19; July 5, 1938

The South Bay Country Club can be seen in the lower left hand corner of the picture. That is South Bay Road entering diagonally in the middle of the left hand side of the picture. The aerial picture covers the little peaked area shown in the center of the map below.



Arthur Jenkins was the owner of the Sagamore Inn on the Lower South Bay in 1903. He died on November 8, 1903. The property was sold to the Angler's Club. Today it is the South Bay Yacht and Country Club. There were no cottage lots carved out of this property.



ARX-29-8; September 6, 1938

The aerial photo covers the area shown in the map, in an easterly direction, as far as the letter “p” in Maple Bay.



The common characteristic of these camp sites, between Lower South Bay and Maple Bay, is that they all hug the shoreline. In the aerial photos it can be seen that the land further back from the shoreline are farmers’ fields that were still under cultivation. These were the types of lots that were initially thought to be where the Stack camp would be found. The list of these potential sites is listed below.

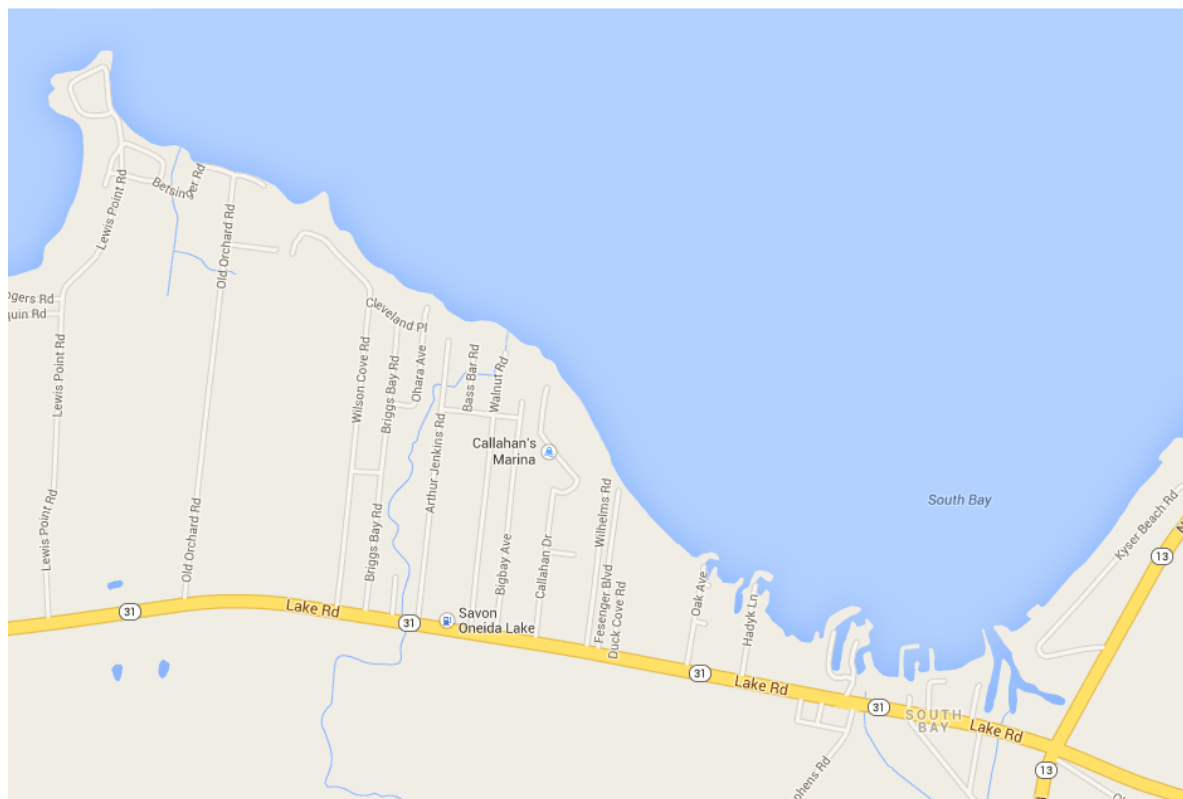
Potential Camp Sites Along the South Shore of Oneida Lake

These developments along the south shore were offering cottage lots for sale in the 1920s and 1930s. They are listed in the order in which they occur along the lake, moving from west to east.

PROPERTY NAME	PAGE	COUNTY	DESCRIPTION
Fleigel Point	8	Onondaga	"Richard Fleigel purchased a sixty acre farm on the point on June 20, 1901." In 1929 the farm became the property of Richard's son, Richard W. Fleigel. "Fleigel ran a men's clothing store in Syracuse and, during the Great Depression, was able to keep his business afloat by selling lots in the lakeshore property. The Fleigel family is still in possession of much of the original tract."
Polar Beach	31	Onondaga	Surveyed and mapped in December 1910. Beach Road built in 1917. Known as Park Row in 1917 and also as Sandy Bay Beach. In the 1930s the name Polar Beach emerged. OWNERS: Frank Hoyt, Hiram Carter and H. J. Horner.
Hitchcock Point	61	Madison	Charles Hitchcock bought the Snyder and Shelter farms in 1897. He later sold the land and it was surveyed and divided into cottage lots.
Damon Point	63	Madison	Around 1905 Loren Damon moved to Bridgeport and started a boat company. He managed this company until his death in 1938. "During his nautical years, he supplemented his income by gradually parceling off land at Damon's Point for cottage lots."
Billington Bay	64-5	Madison	Pharon Billington. "in the 1920s Billington divided much of his land into camp lots."
Nichols Point	65	Madison	Pharon Billington's wife was Maude Nichols. This part of the Billington property was named after Maude's brother Fred after he purchased the first lot.
Bridenbecker Shoals	73	Madison	George Bridenbecker operated a large on shore opposite these shoals. Bridenbecker began selling cottage lots around 1923.

Larkin Point	79	Madison	"In 1921 Henry P. Larkin, David's son, authorized a surveying of Larkin Point land into cottage lots." This area became <u>Lake Oneida Beach West</u> .
Wilson Point	81	Madison	Dr. Lyman H. Wilson came from CT in 1841 and settled on the south shore of Oneida Lake. "In 1921 their land was surveyed into cottage lots, a common fate of lakeshore farms."
Davis Point	88	Madison	The land "was surveyed and a cottage lot map was filed in the Madison County clerk's office on November 10, 1924. The tract included eighteen parcels by Davis Point and fifty- four sections along the Lewis Point Road." OWNERS: Elmer and Elva Davis; Fred and Georgena Dalrymple.

Source: Oneida Lake – "The only happiness," Place Names and History, By Jack Henke, North Country Books, Inc., 311 Turner Street, Utica, NY 13501 (1989).



Just west of the Upper South Bay is a road named Arthur Jenkins Road. Jenkins was the founder of the Syracuse Herald paper on January 15, 1877. This road is east of the Davis Point lots described in the table above. This is an intriguing hint of a possible link to the Herald newspaper mentioned earlier.

STATUS PRIOR TO FINDING THE ACTUAL HERALD CONNECTION

1. Based on the pictorial evidence, Camp Edward was standing from 1936 until at least 1946.
2. Donna Carr remembered the land being purchased. If the land was purchased, then a record check at the Madison County clerk's office should settle the issue.
3. At this time it was thought that the Stacks still owned the camp in 1946.
4. Donna also remembered a "road" called Herald Place. While there isn't such a road along the south shore of Oneida Lake today, there might have been a street by that name in the 1930s or 1940s.
5. Since Donna thought that the land was purchased from the paper itself there might be a more convoluted Herald connection here. The following were convoluted attempts to come up with a mechanism to explain a connection of the Herald paper with land along the south shore of Oneida Lake.
 - a. Herald Place was the name of the street associated with the Syracuse Herald newspaper when it was located 324 & 326 S. Warren Street. The 300 block of S. Warren St appears to have been renamed Herald Place when the Herald newspaper moved to a new building at that location on January 15, 1908. The new name shows up in several newspaper articles from that time but no official change notice has been found.
 - b. They took the street name with them when the paper moved to a new building on the NE corner of N. Franklin and Noxon St. in 1928. Noxon was renamed Herald Place and that name is still used today. The old Herald Place went back to the 300 block of S. Warren St.
 - c. The Herald was founded by Arthur Jenkins on January 15, 1877. In 1903 Jenkins and a partner purchased the Sagamore Inn at Lower South Bay. Some improvements were made but Jenkins died on November 8, 1903. In May 1908 The Anglers' Club purchased the Sagamore Inn. That area is now occupied by the South Bay Yacht and Country Club. There were no cottage lots carved out of this property. This event does however tie Jenkins, and perhaps the Herald, to at least one property on the south shore of Oneida Lake. Jenkins' wife and daughter took over his share of the company.
 - d. Further east, just west of Upper South Bay, is a road named Arthur Jenkins Road. Near Lakeport there is also a road named Syracuse Herald Avenue. With two roads having a possible Herald connection.
 - e. The history of these roads was not known initially, but it was an interesting possibility to pursue in search of a "Herald" connection. The structure of these roads was different from those found between Lower South Bay and Maple Bay. These roads didn't hug the lake shore, they look like a more modern development created from a whole farm, not just a strip along the shore line.

The Real Herald Connection

Thanks to Donna's insistence that the camp was connected with the Herald I went back and dug a little deeper and believe I have found the location. In 1923 the Herald offered lots for sale in what it called Lake Oneida Beach – that is the legal name of the tract. It all took place very quickly. The survey and plans were filed in the Madison Co Clerks Office on June 30, 1923 and by September most all of the lots were sold.

Below is a map of the area just east of Lakeport, in an area called Bushnell Bay. I originally passed over this area during my search because the street pattern looked like a modern development. I was concentrating on the lots hugging the shore that farmers had carved out of their holdings to make money during the Great Depression. It turns out that it actually was a massive development and it was driven by the Herald. And why did they do this? They wanted to improve readership in the north country. You had to be a subscriber to buy one of the lots. The lots were 2000 sq ft each (20' x 100') and the limit was 5 lots per individual.



This map was published in the Herald on June 3, 1923. The original tract, just east of Lakeport, was called Lake Oneida Beach and there were two sections planned for development at this location: one was north of the State Road and the other was south of the State Road. For some reason the section of the tract south of the State Road was never developed.

There isn't a street named "Herald Place" in Lake Oneida Beach West today, but street names can change over the years. However, there is a street called Syracuse Herald Ave.

The next step is to find Bernard Stack's deed at the Madison Co Clerk's office and determine the lot number and find it on the lot map at the clerk's office. Then we will know exactly where the camp was located.

GREATEST SUBSCRIPTION OFFER EVER MADE!!

BY SUBSCRIBING
FOR SIX MONTHS TO

THE SYRACUSE HERALD

You Can Secure a summer Resort Lot at

LAKE ONEIDA BEACH

FOR \$58.50-\$8.50 DOWN AND \$2.50 MONTHLY

All Lots One Price—All Owners Have Equal Rights to the Beach and Park and Life Membersp in the Club House

Lake Oneida Beach is a new and beautiful summer resort on the south shore of Lake Oneida, created by The Syracuse Herald for the benefit of its readers. It is located 10 miles from Syracuse on the Lake Road, the popular automobile highway, which runs from Syracuse to Utica.

We have selected a beautiful piece of land located in a sheltered cove with a large frontage on Lake Oneida.

Lake Oneida Beach is an ideal place to send your family for the summer, and must be one of the leading summer resorts for people of Syracuse, Utica and other nearby towns. We limit the number of lots that any one reader can obtain to five. Our idea is to distribute the property among as many as possible in order to increase the number of readers, and thereby widen the scope of our activity as a newspaper.

The Syracuse Herald wanted to give to its readers something new and unusual and something to create the biggest possible interest in Syracuse and the surrounding territory.

We finally decided upon creating a summer resort where our readers can purchase building sites at the lowest possible cost and where the advantages would be so many as to increase the value in the shortest possible time. To find such a place The Syracuse Herald sent experts in all directions from Syracuse and the search was continued for months and hundreds of locations were discarded on account of one disadvantage or another. We finally chose the one location that met with every advantage we had planned, and offered no objections.

Lake Oneida Beach is the result of our best efforts to give to our subscribers the opportunity to obtain a building lot in a most attractive location for a summer home, at a minimum cost, thus commencing the friendship of the readers for The Syracuse Herald more closely.

In submitting Lake Oneida Beach, The Herald does it with full realization that its readers expect to get the utmost at the very lowest possible price—in fact, that our proposition to be appealing to the greatest number, must be offered without regard to normal valuation in the same locality. This is your opportunity to have a summer home at a small expense—a cottage to which you can send your family, where they may enjoy the benefits of a summer resort such as boating, bathing and fishing. This is your opportunity to build one or more bungalows to rent for the summer so that you can receive a good income on your investment. This is your opportunity to secure an investment from which you should realize a handsome profit.

Act at Once—While You Can Have Your Choice of Lots

First come, first served. Absolutely no favoritism.

Lots at Lake Oneida Beach ordinarily would cost several times the premium price at which you can get them.

To take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, you must subscribe to The Syracuse Herald for six months. Then you can secure a free and clear deed for a lot at Lake Oneida Beach for \$58.50—payable \$8.50 down, and \$2.50 monthly. Each six months' subscription entitles you to secure one lot.

Not more than five lots to any one individual. No lots reserved. We suggest that friends come together and re-locate in the lots. This is the big offer of The Syracuse Herald to its friends and readers. Everybody has the opportunity of securing one or more lots by simply coming to the office of The Syracuse Herald and subscribing to the paper.

Come tomorrow, or if you can't call at the office, fill out and mail to us attached coupon. But, above all things, act, and act promptly for, as we said before, the best locations go to those who come first.

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR \$58.50

A building lot at Lake Oneida Beach. Life membership in the spacious clubhouse. Exclusive use to lot owners of the Beach for fishing, bathing and boating. The beautiful lake front park where you will have equal rights with the other lot owners in its free use. All you have to do to avail yourself of this offer is to subscribe to The Syracuse Herald for six months.

AUTO BUS SERVICE TO LAKE ONEIDA BEACH
COMMENCING SUNDAY, JUNE 3 and every Saturday and Sunday thereafter as follows

FROM SYRACUSE
Leave Bus Terminal, 123 Water St., Syracuse 1 P. M. and 7.30 P. M.
FROM ONEIDA
Leave Bus Terminal 11 A. M. and 5.30 P. M.

Some extra service from Syracuse to Lake Oneida Beach and back to Lake Oneida Beach. Some extra service from Lake Oneida Beach to Lake Oneida Beach. Some extra service from Lake Oneida Beach to Lake Oneida Beach. Some extra service from Lake Oneida Beach to Lake Oneida Beach.

The Lake
Lake Oneida Beach is located on the south shore of Lake Oneida, famous for its fishing, boating and bathing.

The Park
Running the whole length of the beach, The Syracuse Herald has reserved the water front for an attractive park for the free and exclusive use of property owners.

The Clubhouse
Located in the midst of this beautiful lake front park, The Syracuse Herald is erecting and furnishing a spacious clubhouse for the exclusive use of property owners at Lake Oneida Beach. As a means of promoting social intercourse between the property holders and their friends, the clubhouse will prove invaluable.

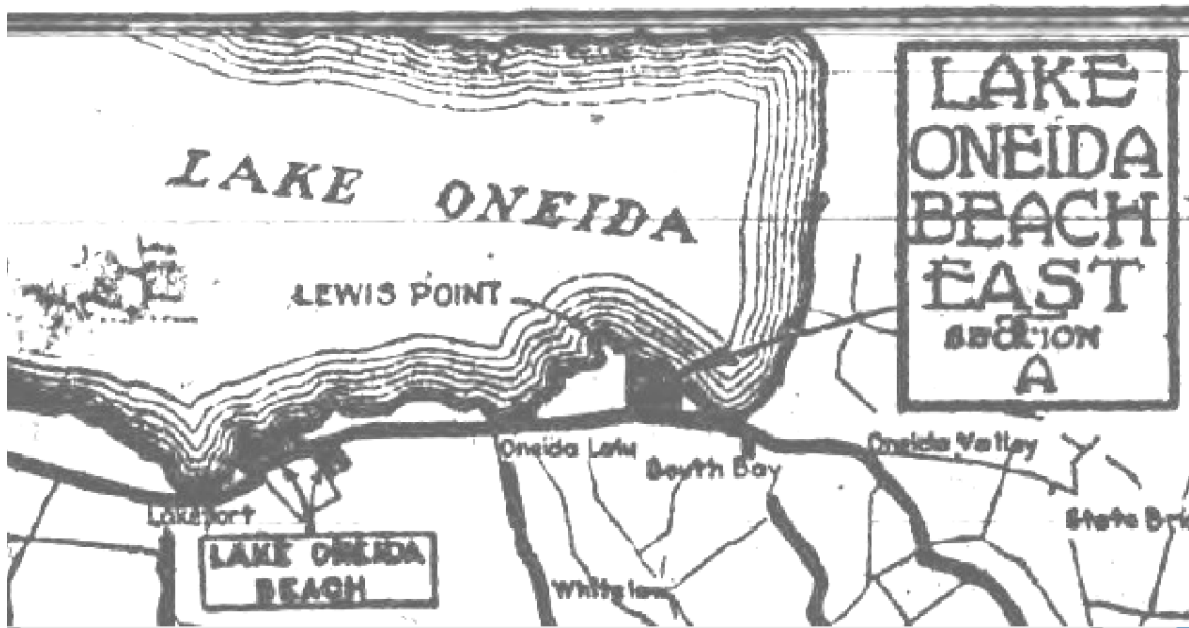
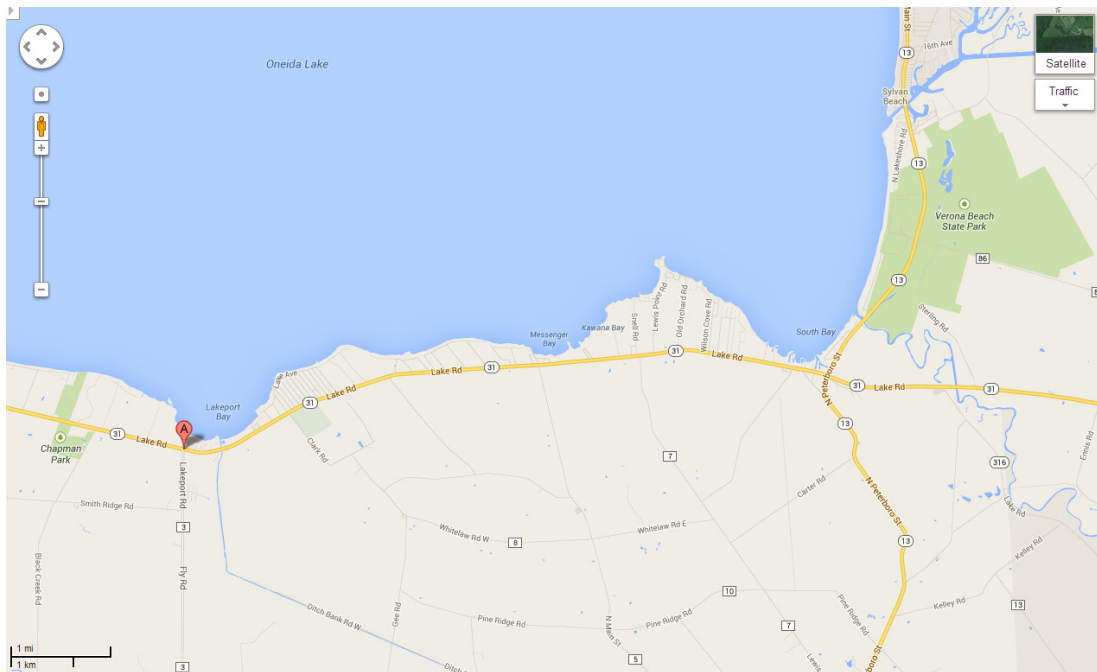
HOW TO GET TO LAKE ONEIDA BEACH FROM SYRACUSE
ROUTE 1
ROUTE 2
FROM ONEIDA
BEST ROUTE

Map showing the location of Lake Oneida Beach on the south shore of Lake Oneida, accessible via Route 1 and Route 2 from Syracuse and Oneida respectively.

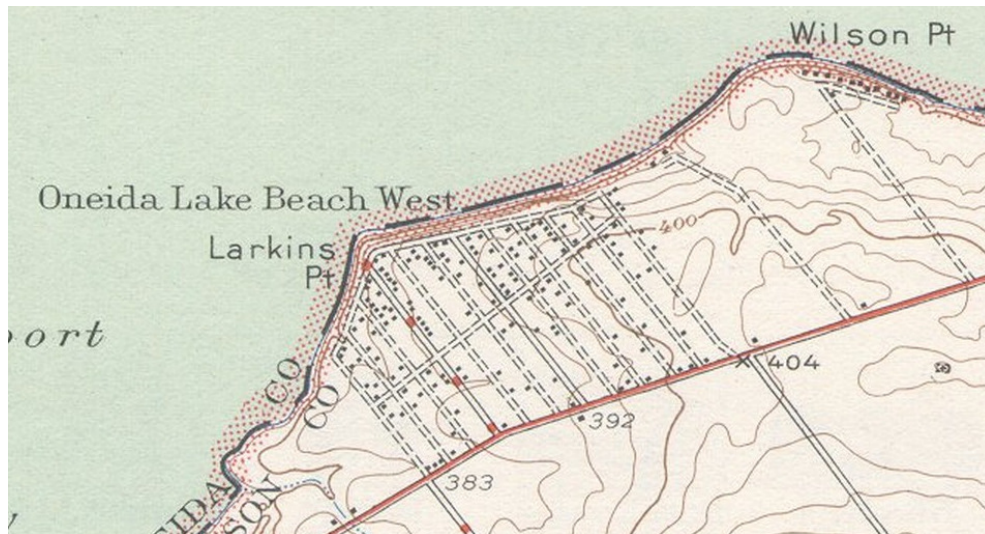
This is the earliest ad found – it was from the Herald on June 3, 1923. During the summer of 1923 there were very few actual articles in the Herald about the development – all the news was contained in the large half page and full page ads. The number of these ads peaked in June and there were a large number of ads in July and August but by September it was essentially over.

Writing an historical paper requires an adherence to the facts. In a novel one could always pull a "Steven King" and bring in aliens at the end to "explain" everything. However, non-fiction has an advantage over fiction. If it happened then it happened, it doesn't make any difference if it doesn't make any sense or doesn't seem logical. Who would have thought that a Syracuse newspaper would sell Oneida Lake property on the cheap just to sell newspaper subscriptions. It turned out that was exactly what they did.

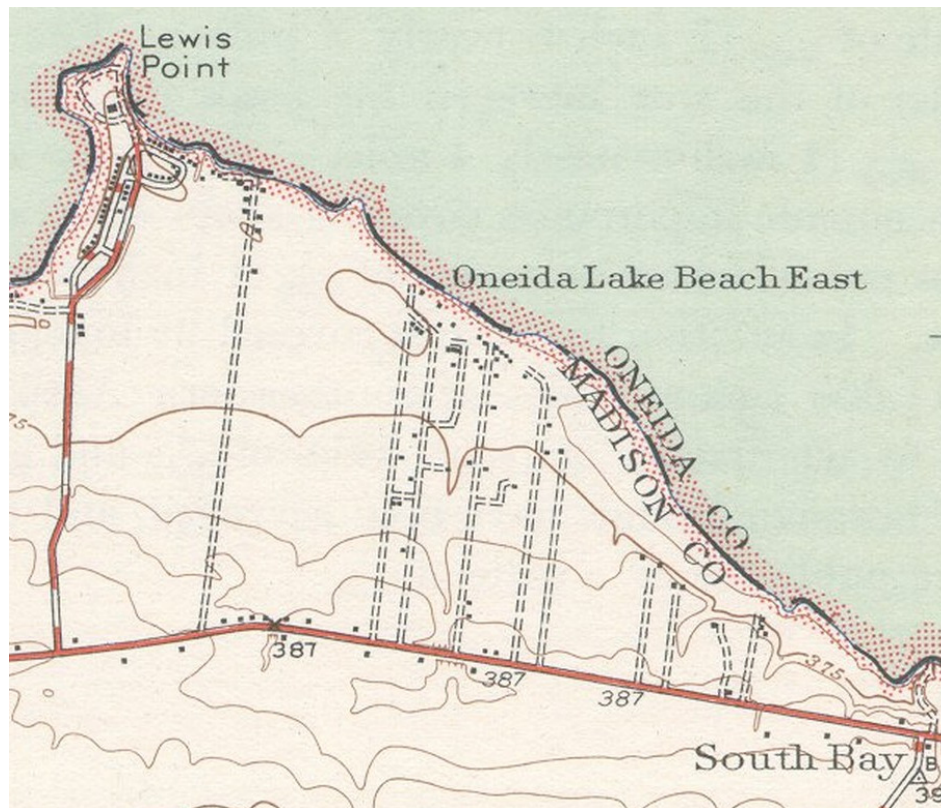
Lake Oneida Beach East



The first tract sold out so fast a second tract further east was opened in August, near Upper South Bay. At first Section A was opened and it was followed quickly by Section B (August 26, 1923). As Lake Oneida Beach East was about to open the Herald announced that 3,500 lots had been sold to 1,500 individuals and 59 cottages or bungalows were under construction. On August 25th, the day before Lake Oneida Beach East, Section B opened, a total of 3854 lots had been sold and 71 cottages or bungalows were under construction.



This map shows the location of the original Herald development, spreading out from Larkins Point. In 1941 it appears that only three roads in the development were improved, indicated by solid lines. Along the lake that road is known as Lake Ave today. The fourth road from the left appears to be the main road in and is known as Larkin Ave today. The third improved road was the third road to the east of Larkin and it is called Cayuga Ave. today.



This map shows the second development opened by the Herald newspaper in the summer of 1923. By the time section B of the East development opened in late August 1923 the demand began to wane. The density of cottages in the eastern half of Oneida Lake Beach never approached the density found in the western portion.

The USGS maps on the previous page show the two areas that the Herald developed during the summer of 1923. The maps were published in 1944 and were based on a survey conducted in 1941, well after the development boom had died down. The dotted lines represent undeveloped roads, i.e. probably dirt. The tiny black squares represent structures, most likely beach cottages. Ignoring the structures right on the State Road, the following numbers were found in 1941 survey. Lake Oneida Beach West – 141 cottages; Lake Oneida Beach East 46 cottages. This is a total of 187 cottages. The last advertised count was given in a Herald ad, on August 25, 1923, and it was just 71 cottages at that time.

This raised some new questions.

- (1) Did Bernard buy the lot in the summer of 1923 during the initial rush or did he pick it up in the 1930s when some owner couldn't keep up the payments? [Purchased in 1923 or 1924]
- (2) I was always told that Bernard had built the camp. Why aren't there any pictures of the camp under construction?
- (3) The earliest pictures I have seen of the camp were from 1936, during a visit by Dick Stack. Why no pictures of the actual camp before that?
- (4) Is it possible that the pictures from the 20s are of the same lot in Lake Oneida Beach West but before the camp was built? (See next page)
- (5) My mother (Jean Stack McGraw) said they used to sleep in a tent before the camp was built. At the time I had thought she meant the purchase, the tent and the construction of the camp all happened in the same year. Perhaps they used the tent for quite a few years before they finally built Camp Edward.



This is a 1937 picture known to have been taken at Camp Edward on Oneida Lake. On the left is Don Taylor and Evelyn Stack while on the right is Edward Stack and Helen Gilmore. The run down structure in the background is possibly the same one seen in the 1929 picture below. The shape of the roof is similar and the wide opening in the front corresponds to the door and adjacent windows on either side, seen in the picture below. It looks like the door and all the windows were taken.



Based on the approximate ages of the girls, this picture was taken in 1929. Shown in the picture are Jean Stack, Margaret Jane Stevenson and June Stack. If the cottage in the background is the same one as that seen in the 1937 picture above, then that means that the Stacks had a lot or two at Oneida Lake Beach as early as 1929. At the far right in both pictures is another cottage that looks identical in both pictures. Therefore this is the same location.

The Very Earliest Camp Picture - 1925



In the foreground is Mabel Stack with baby Jean Marie next to her. Standing in the back are the other siblings, Edward and Evelyn. At the right edge of the picture once again can be seen the cottage across the road. The camp looks finished in this picture but doesn't have the porch roof on the back yet. The string and pole extending out of the shot, on the right, could be part of a tent which the family was said to use while the camp was being built. Since my mother (Jean Marie) is only 1-1/2 years old in this pictures this wasn't a tenting experience that she would have remembered. There must have been a second one.

This is a much smaller structure than that seen in the Camp Edward pictures from the late 1930s. A second camp must have been built at a later time. While the larger camp was being built they probably used tents once again and that later experience was the one that my mother remembered.



This picture is from the summer of 1924. In the picture are Evelyn, Bernard, baby Jean – born Dec 13, 1923 – and Edward. Although it isn't certain, the area in the background looks like the area around Lake Oneida Beach where they built the camp. Apparently the Stacks were into the Lake Oneida Beach development right from the first or second season.

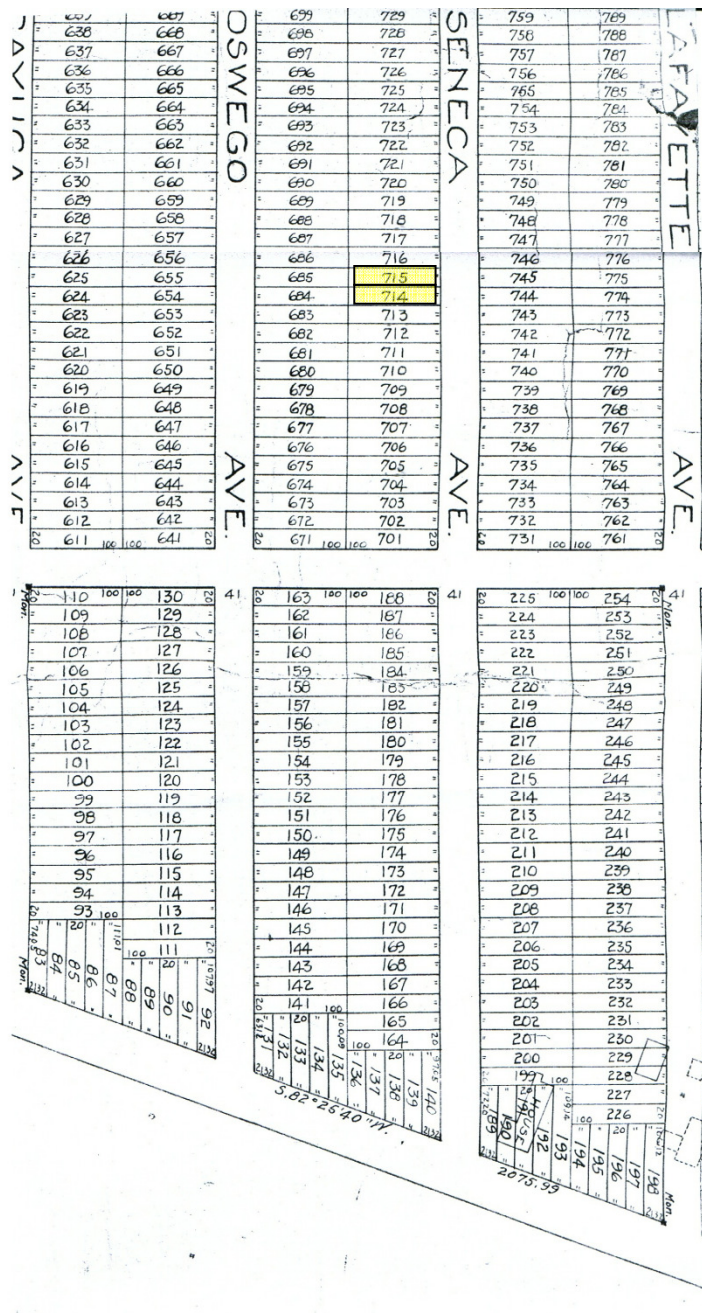
Camp Edward Lake Oneida Lot Found

The purchase or sale of the Lots by Bernard Stack at Lake Oneida Beach West could not be found at the Office of the Clerk of Madison County. However, the Madison County Historian (Matt Urtz) was able to find an "Appraisal of the Estate of Bernard L. Stack" in the surrogate Court of Onondaga County in Liber 414, Page 415-416. In that document the property was described as:

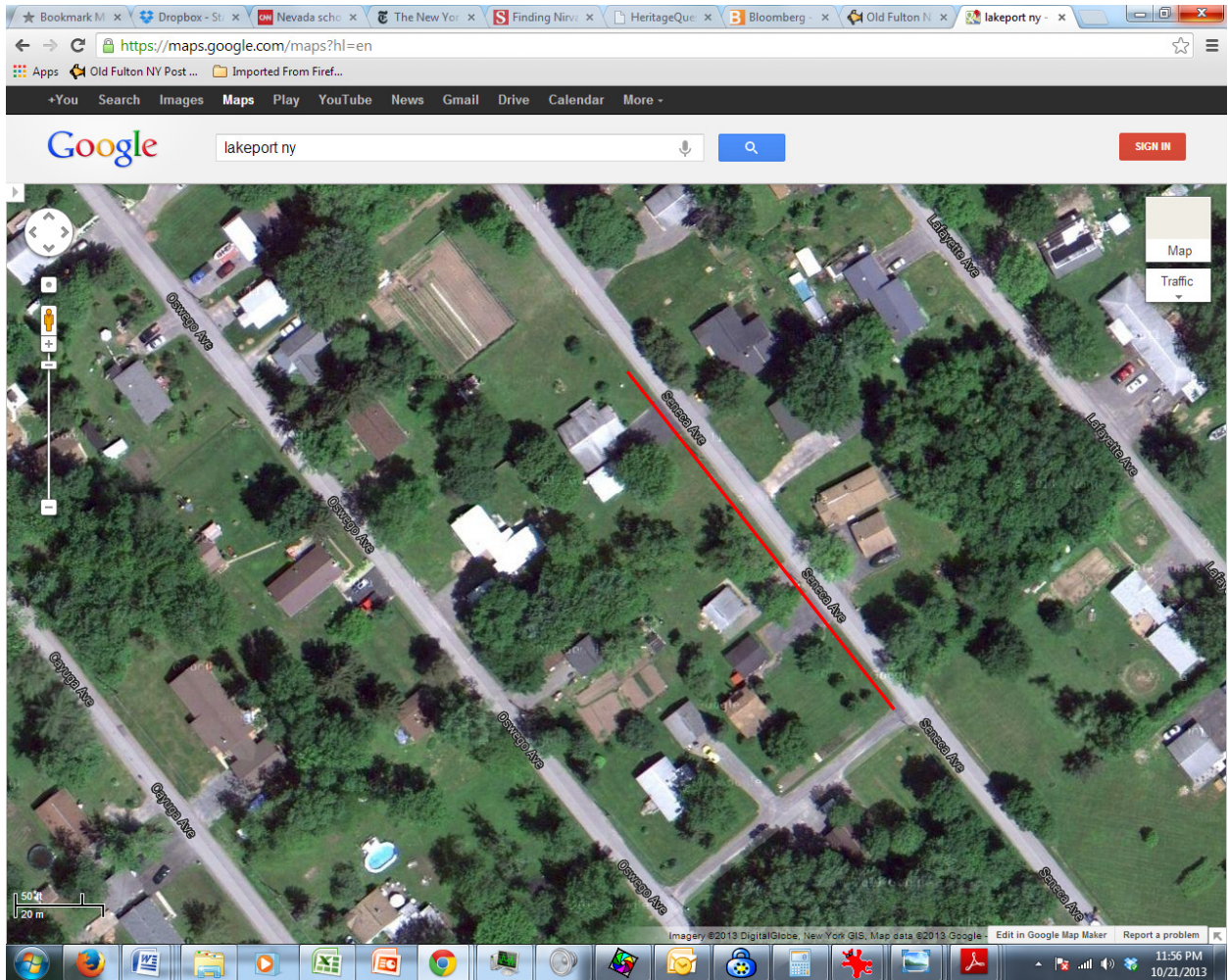
"All that piece or parcel of land situate and being in the Town of Sullivan, County of Madison and State of New York, as described as follows, to wit: - Lots Nos. 714 and 715 as designated and delineated on the map entitled ' Map 1, Lake Oneida Beach as revised, Town of Sullivan, Madison Co., survey by Allen Williams, C. E., Canastota, N. Y., Jan. 1923, map by William J. Kauffman, C. E., 221 West 57th Street, New York, March 24, 1923, and filed in the Office of the Clerk of Madison County in Drawer "F" on the 13th day of June, 1923, "



Deponent further states that said premises consisted of two lots approximately 20 feet by 100 feet each, making a total parcel of land approximately 40 feet by 100 feet in depth. That said premises were improved by a three-room frame camp with no indoor plumbing facilities or electricity. That said premises are assessed by the taxing authorities of the Town of Sullivan in the amount of \$ 450.00. That in his opinion the said property was worth a fair and reasonable gross value of \$700.00 on the date of death of the decedent herein .



This is a portion of the map filed in the Office of the Clerk of Madison County in 1923. The development was Lake Oneida Beach West which in 1923 was sold by the Herald newspaper to people who took a subscription to the paper. An individual was limited to a maximum of five of the 20' x 100' lots. Bernard Stack's lots were 714 and 715, shown in yellow above. The avenues actually run northwest to southeast, but map has been rotated to up and down to make it easier to overlay the two pieces of this large map. The road at the bottom is Route 31, Lake Road.



This scale above represents 300 feet. The diagonal red line on the picture above is also 300 feet long. That was the length of 15 Herald lots. Lot 700 started at the corner where the red line begins. It ends 15 lots away at the far side of Bernard's lot 715.



This is a close up view of the house now located on Lots 714 & 715 on Seneca Ave at Lake Oneida Beach West. This was the former site of Camp Edward. The old lots were only 20 feet in width and most people purchased at least two adjacent lots. Running along the south side of Seneca Ave., the left side, the lots started at 700 at the corner of Sterling Street and increased continuously toward the lake. The far end of Lot 715 was 300 feet from this corner. The lot boundary for Lot 715 runs approximately along the north side of the house with the big "X" on the roof.

The Many Families at Camp Edward

The regular visitors to Camp Edward during the late 1920s and 1930s were the Bernard and Dick Stack families, the Ed and Patrick Finn families, the Michael and Daniel Crowley families and the George Gilmore family. The Stack and Finn families had a common ancestor back in Ireland, they were first cousins. Jane Crowley, sister of Daniel and Michael, married Patrick Finn. George Gilmore worked with Bernard in the Syracuse Fire Dept. George's daughter Helen married Bernard's son Edward. Later, George, a widower, married the widow of his friend Bernard, Mabel Vincett Stack.

The pictures displayed on the following pages have been gathered together by Bill and Joanne Casey from his mother Evelyn's photo albums. These have been supplemented by pictures from his sister Donna Carr and his cousin (and mine) Lynda Brittel. Donna and Lynda have been helpful in assigning names to the people in these pictures. I have decided to leave this section as a work in progress because there are still a few identifications that need to be made and some of those already made could be in error. I will let the readers of this document have fun second guessing us.

The Camp Edward Families



This picture doesn't really have anything to do with the Camp Edward pictures but I just love it and wanted to use it somewhere. However, the more I study the camp pictures the more familiar some of these faces become. There is Bernard Stack on the far left in the front row. The guy with the pipe reminds me a little of Michael Crowley, who has a pipe in a couple of the camp pictures. The guy on the far left in the back row bears a certain resemblance to Daniel Crowley but appears to be too tall based on other photos of Daniel. The guy on the far right, in the back row, looks a little like Ed Finn. I'm guessing that the picture was taken some time after 1910 because Michael Crowley, if he truly is in the front row, was living in Rochester at that time. This represents what a typical male social group looked like at that time. Despite the fact that all the gentlemen are dressed in suits, I don't believe that they are on their way to church.



Front row: Daniel Crowley, Michael Crowley, Bernard Stack, Jane Crowley Finn, Pat Finn

Back row: Unknown-Mom, Margaret Crowley, Loretta Mohr Crowley, Clara Stack, Dick Stack, Mabel Stack, Ed Finn, Ada Finn

This photo was labeled 1936. Patrick Finn, front row – far right, died on June 8, 1938 so the latest possible date for this picture would have to be something like Memorial Day 1938. However, later a copy of this photo was found with a “Cunningham Studios” insignia on the back labeled with the year 1937. Therefore 1937 appears to be the correct year for this group of pictures.

Dick and Michael Crowley and Jane Crowley Finn are siblings

Dick and Bernard Stack are siblings

Ed and Pat Finn are siblings

Husband	Wife
Daniel Crowley	Loretta Mohr Crowley
Michael Crowley	Margaret (?) Crowley
Bernard Stack	Mabel Vincett Stack
Patrick Finn	Jane Crowley Finn
Dick Stack	Clara Kahn Stack
Ed Finn	Ada Hill Finn

In the picture on p. 33, all the ladies are wearing the same dresses as seen in this group photo shown above. The events in these pictures occurred on the same day in 1937.



Along the back row, on the far left – Patrick Finn is partially visible behind Mabel Stack. The next lady might be Patrick's wife, who was Jane Crowley. The dark haired guy has his left arm around the woman on his left – probably his wife. These are Daniel Crowley and wife Loretta Mohr Crowley. Two away the light haired man has his arm around the woman on his right – probably his wife. These are Michael and Margaret Crowley. The dark haired woman in front of the light haired man is Ada Finn. Ada's husband, Ed Finn, is seen on the far right holding a small child, most likely his son Gerald. Looking over Ed Finn's right shoulder appears to be Edward Stack. The two dark haired girls in the front row, in the triangles, are Betty Finn on the left and June Stack on the right. Compare these two with the picture on of the Ed Finn family on p. 29. Notice the similarity in the hair and the color of the suits. The girl between the two triangles is thought to be Evelyn Stack.

Based on their approximate ages this picture was probably taken in 1929. The rest of the children are going to take a little more work. The adults in the back row, along the bus, are sitting or kneeling – beware of height comparisons based on this picture.

The circles indicate persons that have not been identified yet.



The Beagle Bus 1929

Here are Michael Crowley, Patrick Finn, Loretta Mohr Crowley (wife of Daniel Crowley) and Margaret (?) (wife of Michael Crowley). Now there are three children to be identified and three families represented in this picture. The three children seen in this picture are the same ones that were in the doorway of the bus in the picture on the previous page.

Children and their ages in 1929

Michael Crowley: Catherine (24), Margaret (22), Daniel B. (18), Helen (16) and Leo (12)

Patrick Finn: Nora (19), Patrick (17), Edward (15), Richard (13) and William Robert (10)

Daniel Crowley: Myrtle (9) and Arlene (5)

The smallest child, standing in front of Margaret Crowley can't be her daughter because Margaret's youngest daughter was Helen who was 16 in 1929. Of all the possible children listed above, five-year old Arlene Crowley seems the most likely. Margaret Crowley would have been her aunt, while Arlene's mother, Loretta Crowley, was standing next to Aunt Margaret.

Patrick Finn had only one daughter, 19-year old Nora, and neither girl in the doorway appears to be that old. The youngest girl in the bus doorway might be 9-year old Myrtle Crowley, sister of Arlene. The older girl in the doorway might be 16-year old Helen Crowley, daughter of Michael and Margaret Crowley. Then of course, the doorway girls could have just been friends from the neighborhood that came along for the day.



This picture was taken on the same day as the bus pictures in 1929. This is a picture of the Finn and Crowley families, taken at the Stack camp on Oneida Lake. On the left, in the back row, is Patrick Finn, followed by his brother Ed Finn. I believe the white haired gentleman is Michael Crowley and next to him is his brother Daniel Crowley. The center row appears to be the wives of the men in the back row. Going from left to right in the center row are Jane Crowley Finn, wife of Patrick and sister of Michael and Daniel Crowley; Loretta Mohr Crowley, wife of Daniel and Margaret Crowley, wife of Michael. In the front row, going from left to right, is Ada Hill Finn, wife of Ed Finn, and Mabel Stack, wife of Bernard Stack.



This a 1929 photo. It was labeled the Finn Family, specifically the Ed and Ada Finn Family. In the front row, from left to right, Jean Stack (shading her eyes from the sun), Gerald Finn, and June Stack. In the second row are three Finn children: Betty, Ed and William and Mabel Stack, right behind June.

In the back row there is Ada Finn on the left. There is a curious young gentleman lurking in the background who remains unidentified. In 1929 the only remaining Finn child would have been 11 year old Estella, who is probably the one standing next to Ed Finn with Ed's right arm around her shoulder.



1937 – Group shot from Camp Edward.

Front Row: Michael Crowley, Ed Finn, Patrick Finn, Daniel Crowley

Back Row: Unknown-Pop, Bernard Stack (kneeling), Don Taylor, Dick Stack, Edward Stack

The Stack Families – Bernard and Richard - 1937



Front Row: Jean Stack, June Stack

Second Row: Bernard Stack, Evelyn Stack, Edward Stack

Third Row: Mabel Stack (Bernard's wife), Dick Stack, Clara Stack (Dick's wife)

All the children are those of Bernard and Mabel. None of Dick and Clara's children made the trip north from NC – at least none of them were captured in any of these 1937 pictures.

Identifying Daniel Crowley



Left picture: 1929 Party at Camp Edward

Center Picture: 1937 Men at Camp. To the left of the circle man are: Ed Finn (l.) and his brother Patrick Finn (r.)

Right picture: 1937 Dick Stack's Visit. The man in the circle is standing between Patrick Finn on the left and Edward Finn on the right.

The years mentioned in the headers of these pictures were those originally associated with these pictures. They have subsequently determined to be in error and are corrected in this paper.

First step: Is the man circled in all three pictures the same person?

Second step: Is this person Daniel Crowley, brother of Michael Crowley and brother of Jane Crowley Finn, wife of Patrick Finn?

The lady in the heart, in the left hand picture, has previously been identified with the man in the circle. If he is Daniel Crowley then she is Loretta Mohr Crowley.

Some More Daniel Crowley Comparisons



It has finally become apparent that the bus pictures and the group pictures labeled 1928 or 1929 were all taken on the same day. The same is true for the Dick Stack visit pictures and the group pictures labeled 1935, 1936 or 1937, they were also all taken on one day. The two pictures on the left were taken on the same day in 1929. The two pictures on the right were taken on the same day in 1937.

The connection is in the dresses that the ladies were wearing. In the 1928-1929 pictures the ladies were wearing the same dresses in each of the pictures. This is true of the clothes that the men were wearing but their clothing was not as unique as that found on the ladies. The same thing is found in the 1935, 1936 and 1937 pictures. The only other possibility is that all the ladies had a special "beach dress" that they wore every time they went to the camp. I don't think so, guys might do that but not women.



Front Row: Jean Stack, Helen Gilmore, Mabel Stack, Evelyn Stack and June Stack.

Second Row: Ada Hill Finn, "Mom", Mary "Mame" Gilmore, Gertrude Taylor (wife of Ralph), Clara Kahn Stack (Dick Stack's wife), Jane Crowley Finn (wife of Patrick), Loretta Mohr Crowley (wife of Daniel), Margaret Crowley (wife of Michael Crowley-not in this picture), Margaret Stevenson (mother of Mabel Stack).

Back Row: "Pop", Edward Stack, Robert Taylor (brother of Don), Ralph Taylor, Dick Stack, Don Taylor, Patrick Finn, Daniel Crowley, Edward Finn.

The year for this picture is 1937. The only unidentified persons are Mom & Pop

Mom and Pop Shown in a 1937 Camp Picture



These two unknown individuals have been named Mom and Pop. They appear in only one group of pictures taken on a given day in 1937. There is no information that there was a connection between them. Since they appeared together in this picture to the left, it has been assumed that they were together and married to each other. This was the only picture in which they appeared together. Of course, all these assumptions could be proved wrong.

There are three classes of possibilities:

- (1) A Finn, Crowley, Stack or Gilmore relative.
- (2) A couple that traveled north with Dick and Clara Stack from North Carolina.
- (3) Friends or neighbors of someone from Syracuse attending the party.

If Cases (2) or (3) prevail then only a stroke of luck will provide an answer to the identity of Mom and Pop.

We will examine possibility (1):

Crowley family: The only available Crowley would have been Michael, Daniel and Jane Finn Crowley's sibling Mary Crowley Curran. However Mary passed away on April 28, 1932. The other two Crowley siblings were living in Ireland: Nora Crowley Roche and Jeremiah Crowley.

Stack family: There are no Stacks available: William (d. 1915), Edward (d. 1906), Mary Christine (died before Nov 1914) and Theresa (d. 1914)

Gilmore family: George had a brother Robert living in Detroit, MI. This would be a long shot because it hasn't been determined whether George Gilmore himself had attended this event. His daughter Helen Gilmore was there.

Finn family: Five possible Finn siblings – Mary Ellen Finn Scully and Richard B. Finn in the Boston area and Michael, Cornelius and Stella Finn in Ireland. Ignoring the Irish siblings; Mary Ellen Finn Scully became a widow between 1915 and 1920 so she didn't have a "Pop" to travel to Syracuse with her. Richard Finn married Bertha Hall in about 1905 and they had no children. The year for this picture was 1936 – Richard Finn could fill the role. By 1940 he was a patient at the Foxborough State Psychiatric Hospital. The only problem with Richard is that Pop looks more like a Stack than a Finn.



1938 Camp Picture

Back row: Hughie (?), Don Taylor, Bob Curtis, Ed Stack (cut off).

Front row: Mary (?), Ruth Mace and Helen Gilmore



Evelyn Stack Taylor, Donna Taylor, Ruth Mace Curtis, Baby Curtis. This picture was taken on the library grounds next to the Stack home at 117 E. Colvin St. Ruth and husband Bob Curtis show up in the camp pictures. Evelyn and Ruth were both active in the Alethean Society in high school together.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Curtis, 128 Hatch Street, photographed at their wedding. The bride was Miss Ruth C. Mace, 321 East Onondaga Street.

35.11 x 23.80 in

Robert A. Curtis Takes Bride In All Saints

Ruth C. Mace Is
Gowned in White
Satin with Veil

Miss Ruth Cordelia Mace, daughter of Mrs. Warren J. Mace, 321 East Onondaga Street, became the bride of Robert Arthur Curtis, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Curtis, 706 Summit Avenue, on Nov. 23, at 3 o'clock, in All Saints Episcopal Church. The bride's brother, the Rev. Warren E. Mace, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Marcellus, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Fenimore E. Cooper, rector of All Saints Church.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her other brother, Kenneth W. Mace, wore a white satin gown with a lace jacket. Her finger tip length veil was of tulle. She carried a bouquet of white roses.

Mrs. Ralph Essig, matron of honor, wore a teal blue taffeta gown and had a bouquet of pink roses and yellow pompons. Miss Evelyn Stack, bridesmaid, wore a rose color taffeta gown and had a bouquet of Talisman roses and bronze pompons. Cleon Seeber was

best man, and ushers were Donald Taylor and Robert Zogg.

Mrs. Mace, the bride's mother, wore a dusty pink and black outfit. Mrs. Curtis, mother of the bridegroom, wore a plum color dress with black accessories. A wedding breakfast was served at the Carolina for 25 guests.

The couple went to New York City on a wedding trip, the bride wearing a dusty pink and black ensemble for traveling. They are living at 128 Hatch Street. Before her wedding, the bride was entertained by Miss Reba Thompson, Mrs. Irving Klock, Mrs. Daniel

Group, Mrs. Ralph Essig, Miss Evelyn Stack and the Alethean Alumni Society.

The Syracuse American,
Syracuse, NY,
Sunday, December 10, 1939

The Post Standard,
Syracuse, NY,
Saturday, May 26, 1979

Robert A. Curtis

Private services for Robert A. Curtis, who died Thursday at Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital, will be Monday at Gates Funeral Home, Baldwinsville. Burial will be in Lysander Cemetery.

There will be no calling hours.

Curtis was a life resident of the Syracuse area. He was employed by the Onondaga County Highway Department and had operated the Lysander General Store for 23 years.

Surviving are his wife, the former Ruth Mace; two daughters, Miss Suzanne and Miss Tammy; two sons, Russell of Houston, Texas, and Robert I.; two sisters, Mrs. Bernice Seeber of Taunton and Geraldine Mace of Marcellus; two brothers, Ernest and Clifford; and two grandsons, Scott and Michael.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

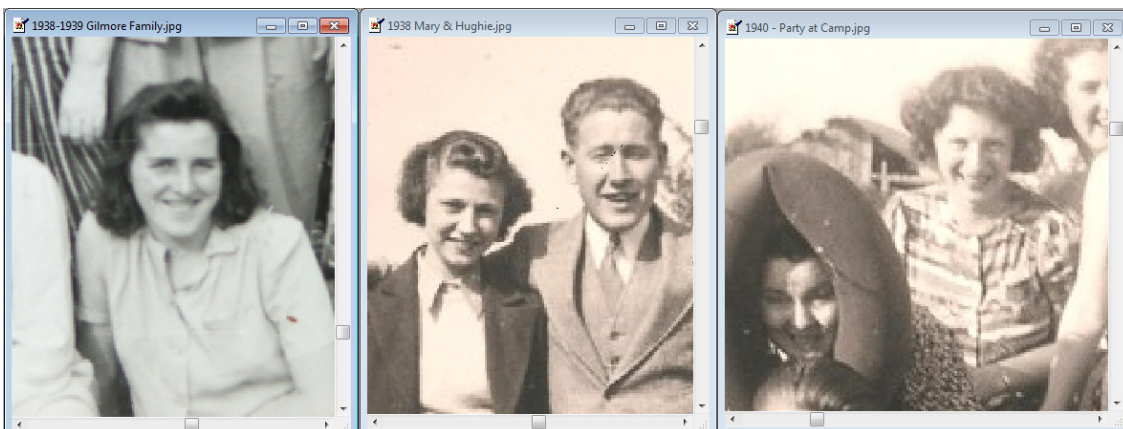
Who Was Hughie and Who Was Mary?



Left picture: A 1942 Gilmore family picture. Standing is Bud Loeffstedt and Mary Gilmore Loeffstedt. They weren't married until 1943. In front of them is Florence Gilmore

Middle picture: 1940 Party at Camp – Is that Hughie doing his “Tube Man” impression? Mary Gilmore is at the far right in the back row. Bob Stoffel and Florence Gilmore are in the lower left hand corner.

Right picture: 1938 “Mary and Hughie” This Mary looks like the dark haired girl next to Tube Man, in the center picture above.



Could Mary have been Barbara Gilmore, shown in the picture on the left?



This is a group picture from June 1935. It isn't known for sure that this photo was taken at Camp Edward. In the front row left is an unknown male (possibly Robert Stoffel?), Mary Gilmore and Edward Stack. In the second row is an unknown girl kneeling, Helen Gilmore, Helen's arm is around the shoulder of another unknown male. The girl on the back of the car with her arms around an unknown male on the left and Joe Gilmore on the right is Adeline Smith (his future wife). Next is Don Taylor with Evelyn Stack in front of him. In the upper right is Dorothy Webb.



Front Row: Florence Gilmore, Adeline Gilmore, Helen Gilmore Stack, Barbara Gilmore, Edward Stack
Back Row: Bud Louf, Mary G. Louf, George, Mame, Joe Gilmore, Theresa Gilmore

Mary G. Louf is the former Mary G. Gilmore. The last name is actually Loefstedt and “Bud” is actually Martin Earl. Mary and Bud were married in 1943. There were only five Gilmore sisters – Adeline was Adeline Smith, who became Joe Gilmore’s wife sometime after Aug. 1940. Edward Stack, on the far right in the front row, married Helen Gilmore, June 8, 1940. Below is a 1942 Reunion picture.



The Top Photo on the Previous Page Was Labeled 1938-1939:

- (1) When Edward Stack married Helen Gilmore in 1940 he was noticeably thin. In this picture his arms are now quite muscular. If this were today we might want to test him for steroids. Seriously though, this picture wasn't taken in 1938 or 1939.

The 1942 Reunion picture

- (1) Mabel Stack is on the left pouring from a huge coffee pot.
- (2) The lady on the right with the plate in her left hand is unknown at present.
- (3) The people seated with their backs to the camera, left to right: Joe Gilmore, Adeline Smith Gilmore (partially hidden by Mabel), Florence Gilmore, Bud Loefstedt, Mary Gilmore Loefstedt, end of table unknown.
- (4) Back side of table, facing camera, left to right: end of table hidden by Joe Gilmore, an older couple (partially hidden by Adeline and Florence), Barbara Gilmore, Aunt Mildred (Mabel's sister).

Now compare the following in the two pictures – You need to blow the pictures up to 200X or 300X to see these details

- Florence's dress – the pattern – dark with light figures.
- Mary Gilmore Loefstedt's outfit: backless, light on top and dark on the bottom.
- Bud Loefstedt's shirt: Collar, light colored, short sleeve, not tucked in.
- Joe Gilmore's shirt: Light colored, short sleeve, not tucked in.
- Adeline Smith Gilmore's outfit. Both she and Mary are wearing backless summer dresses.
- The neck on Barbara's shirt

I believe that these pictures were both taken on the SAME day. 1942 seems closer to the correct year. But summer 1942 was seven months into WW II and young men were going into the service.

Mary Gilmore's engagement to Bud Loefstedt was announced Feb 1, 1942. He wasn't in the service at that time. He is in both pictures.

Florence Gilmore's engagement to Robert Stoffel was announced July 12, 1942. He was described as a Private in the US Army Air Corps. That would explain why he wasn't there.

Don and Evelyn Taylor were in San Antonio, TX in July 1942.

I don't know when Ed Stack went into the service but it was probably after this picture.

This was probably their last chance to get together before WWII scattered everyone to the far corners of the globe.

A black and white photograph of a group of nine people, likely a family, posing in front of a house. The group includes three men, four women, and two children. They are arranged in two rows, with some people standing on a porch or steps. The house has a dark awning over the entrance. The people are dressed in mid-20th-century attire. The photograph is mounted on a dark album page.

Thanks to Marty Brown for helping to sort out the following. Dick and Clara's children were: Dorothy (39) [child from Clara's first marriage], Sarah (33), Helen (29) and Richard (27). The numbers in parenthesis were their approximate ages in 1943. Dick's son Richard is obviously not in the picture. The little boy, Templer Shubrick Horry III, is the son of the lady whose hands are on his shoulders. The young girl behind the little boy is Sarah Stack Nichols Huber. The two ladies on the right, in the first and second rows, are two of Dick Stack's three daughters. They are Helen Stack Horry Kostoff – front row (Marty Brown's mother); Dorothy Stack Shepherd (half sister to Helen) – second row. But, who is the lady in the back row?

The Bernard and Mabel Stack Family in About 1940



Front Row: Bernard Stack, Mabel Stack

Back Row: Edward Stack, June Stack, Evelyn Stack, Jean Stack

Camp Memories From Jean Stack McGraw

On December 24, 1980 Shirley Maloney interviewed Jean Stack McGraw for memories about her father, Bernard L. Stack. The following is a summary of her remarks.

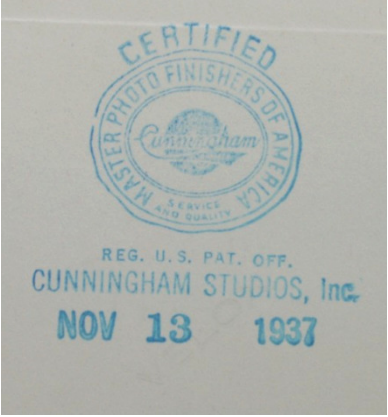
He built a camp on Oneida Lake around 1930. It was a mile past Lakeport, NY, it was sold around 1948, after Bernard died. He had a car to transport the family to the camp, but when he had a big party he hired a bus. The family spent the entire summer at the camp each year and Bernard would commute to his job as a fireman. It was a long way from the water. The lake was about 3 city blocks away, but they couldn't swim there because it was too stony, and the water was too shallow. They had to walk about 15 city blocks to a decent area to swim. (Francis McGraw claims these distances are being exaggerated).

The camp is probably still there (as of 1980). When you first turned down the road, it wasn't paved and was full of ruts. Bernard always wanted to go out there as soon as spring came, but Mabel, his wife, would say, "Now Bernie, we're not going out there, we'll just get stuck." But, Bernie was going to go anyway, and they always got stuck. Then Mabel would say, "I told you so," while Edward (their son) would get out and push.

The first camp on the left as you went out, there was a man who lived all by himself. They always called him Dillinger, and the kids were scared of him...they thought he was going to murder them.

When the camp was originally built, there was a big porch and one great big room (living and dining). There was no indoor plumbing. They had a well, but brought city water for drinking. Eventually, Bernard installed a sink which water could be poured down in the kitchen. The bathroom facilities were outdoors. Eventually, he built one indoor bathroom for Mildred, Mabel's invalid sister, but it was a lot of trouble to flush so no one else could use it. They slept in a tent while the camp was being built. There were two bedrooms with a double bed in each one and curtains for doors. Mabel and Bernard used one bedroom. June and Jean had to sleep on an old sofa bed couch in the living room. Jean swears she got a bad back from it. The person who slept on the outside rolled into the center where there was a big hole. There were two cots on the porch where Edward usually slept. Evelyn got the other bedroom when Mildred wasn't there.

REVISIONS

Revisions in 10-29-13	1.0
1.1	Page 45: Added part of 1980 Interview with Jean Stack McGraw by her daughter Shirley McGraw Maloney that described her camp experiences.
1.2	Page 43: Added correct picture descriptions to 1943 picture of Dick Stack's family, based on input from his granddaughter Marty Brown.
1.3	Page 41, 42: Corrected Edward Stack's wedding date, June 8, 1939 is now June 8, 1940.
1.4	<p>Adjustment of the date of the camp group pictures.</p>  <p>It has already been argued that a large number of the camp pictures had been taken on the same day. The labeling found in the various photo albums had labeled these pictures as 1935, 1936 or 1937. The imprint above was found on the back of one of these camp group pictures. Now, unless they kept the roll of film for over a year before having it developed the correct year for these pictures is 1937. The appropriate changes to the years mentioned in this paper have been made.</p>
1.5	Page 39: "A 1938 -1939 Gilmore family picture..." changed to "A 1942 Gilmore family picture..." As a general rule any date appearing in a Windows Title area over a picture <u>should be ignored</u> . The picture files were usually named with the year found with the original picture. After some analysis many of those years proved incorrect. The correct years will be in the captions or text describing the pictures.