

PENNSYLVANIA CLUB HISTORY

Since 1896



by Timothy O. Flora
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The following people provided invaluable assistance in the preparation of this history:

Don Neal, Lou Hasely, Sr., William Tebay, Orville Flora

Also:

The Great Lakes Historical Society

Judge A. Hazen's *20th Century History of New Castle and Lawrence County*, published in 1908.

Appreciation goes to the following who helped in the 2022 update of the club history:

Jim Haas, Tony Fernandez

Two early club members



Farmer "Dinty" Moore & Jimmy Atkinson
1928

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The Early Years – Camp Pennsylvania

The Christian Island lighthouse keeper saw her passing his light heading north. About noon the same day, some lumbermen working in the vicinity of the Moon River heard her whistle as if in distress. It was on that fateful day, November 21, 1879, that Captain Burkett, his crew of 14, his nine passengers, animals and cargo perished forever in the water of Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, near the small islands known as Haystack Rocks. That marked the end of the *Waubuno* and the beginning of the story you all well know.

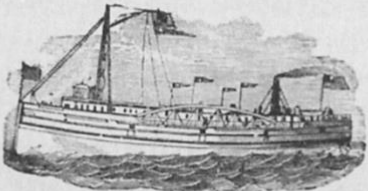
At the time of the demise of the *Waubuno*, the original founders of the Pennsylvania Club varied in age from around 2 years to 29 years old. By the time 1896 rolled around, most of the men who would soon band together had become some of the most prominent citizens of Lawrence County and the city of New Castle.

The Pennsylvania Club was conceived in 1888 at Sam Taggart's Cigar Store located at the intersection of Water Street and Washington Street, at the Neshannock Bridge in New Castle, PA. Gentlemen whose names are included in the pages to follow, met around the brass spittoon-guarded cigar case to discuss plans to travel together to Canada. Perhaps the whole thing got started as they leaned against the cigar counter looking at some of the advertisements for trips to explore the inner channel to Parry Sound and camp out and catch fish.

CELEBRATED
INSIDE ROUTE
—TO—
PARRY SOUND
—
No Rough Weather!
NO SEA SICKNESS!
—
STR CHICOUTIMI
—Leaves—
PARRY SOUND
—FOR—
Midland and Penetanguishene
—EVERY—
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
and leaves MIDLAND and
PENETANGUIHENE
for PARRY SOUND
every
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

*From the Parry Sound North Star
August 1, 1884*

GEORGIAN BAY ISLAND RESORT CO.
PERSONALLY CONDUCTED



CAMPING & FISHING PARTIES

“ISLE MOWAT,” one of the most picturesque islands in the Georgian Bay, is specially adapted for campers during the season of 1886. The island is a beautiful spot, with a fine park-like camping ground, with shade trees and good springs of cold water; a fine sandy beach for bathing.

“HARDY ISLAND, or ISLAND No. 2,” is located near the best Bass fishing ledges in the Bay, and near the finest Speckled Trout fishing streams. Several Cottages have been erected by the Georgian Bay Island Resort Company, which can be rented for the sum of \$10 per month, to families for the season.

The G. B. I. R. Co's steamer calls daily upon signal on the inside route from Penetanguishene and Parry Sound; whilst the steamer “Telegram” will call going and returning to Collingwood, Midland, and the East Coast, on the outside route.

Tent accommodation, with the use of furniture, supplied for \$1.50, or six shillings sterling per week. Sail Boats, with attendance, for hire.

Address
J. T. McADAM,
Manager G. B. I. R. Co.
TORONTO.

RETURN TICKETS AT EXCURSION RATES.



Sam Taggart sold his cigar store to Sam Klafter in 1898, so the signage in the picture above represents the current owner, which is still in business in downtown New Castle (as of 2022).

It would be worthy to note that the cigar store appears to have been the early epicenter of the Pennsylvania Club since Karl Rohrer's gun store and the McBride Shannon Insurance Agency were also on Water Street several doors down. Both Quincy McBride and Karl Rohrer were early members of the Pennsylvania Club.

The group of men that were the original members and attendees of the Pennsylvania Club first traveled under the name "Camp Pennsylvania". In later years, after the formal adoption of the "Pennsylvania Club" name, the annual meetings were held a few blocks up the street from Taggart's Cigar Store at the St. Cloud Hotel, and after that were held at the Elks Club which was located at the southwest corner of North Street and Mill Street in downtown New Castle. Later locations included Troggio's, the Olde Library Inn, Shad Hanna's East, Bingo's and East Wind restaurants and the current day, Edward's Restaurant (previously known as Mike Isabella's Lounge).

Back in the 1880-1900 time period the central business district of downtown New Castle was very much alive and prosperous. Lawrence County had abundant resources in the form of coal, limestone, some oil and natural gas; access to travel by water on the rivers and canals and, of course, the railroads which were built on the old canal tow paths. New Castle's many successful manufacturing operations

provided resources to the owners and managers to build exceptional housing and to enjoy exotic vacations.

Much of the housing built in this time period is still standing and included in one of the largest historical districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Many of the early members of what was to become the Pennsylvania Club resided in the neighborhoods included in this Historic Designation area which is very close to the central business district of New Castle.

Exotic vacations then did not include travel by automobile or planes as they were yet to be invented. The men who had resources, a love of nature, and the challenge of taking an exotic trip would congregate and discuss how they would accomplish their desires, which they knew would start with a train ride. New Castle was a great place to start a rail trip - as it was serviced by multiple first-class rail carriers.

Before there was a Zambelli Park and a GC Murphy store in downtown New Castle, there was the fabulous St. Cloud Hotel on East Washington Street. The hotel was built in 1828-1829 and was described in an article in September of 1911 as one of the most valuable properties in downtown New Castle. The property was built and owned by the family of Danny Harlan, one of the men who put money down to purchase the land currently owned by the Pennsylvania Club. The St. Cloud Hotel was destroyed by fire in March of 1937. The Harlan family sold the hotel to a gentleman by the name of Hugh Graham who was also an early member of the Pennsylvania Club.

They prepared for these early expeditions in much the same way one might picture a safari into some unexplored land. They gathered their equipment and food together in wooden boxes or footlockers. Then after packing various and sundry camping equipment, they reserved a baggage car at the west side station in New Castle. The group of men rode together in the same rail car with a large 30-foot banner on each side that said, "Camp Pennsylvania". They traveled by way of Buffalo and Toronto to Penetanguishene (Penetang) and later Midland.



New Castle Train Station



Dedicated rail car for Camp Pennsylvania participants - July 1894

OFF FOR CANADA.

Camp Pennsylvania Leaves at Midnight In a Special Car.

Camp Pennsylvania left over the P. & L. E. at midnight Tuesday, for Penetang, Canada. The party was composed of D. F., W. J. and Will Harlan, E. I., C. A. and John B. Phillips, E. M. Richardson, William Alexander, Clair Royce, David Graham, Jard M. B. Reis, D. W. Pearson, G. K. Welch, S. P. Emery, John McCaslin, J. J. and Art Fisher of Oil City, D. W. Cunningham, Dr. Fundenberg and C. S. Wise of Pittsburg. The party will reach Toronto this afternoon about 2 o'clock, going from there over the Grand Trunk to Penetang, where they will camp. Camp Pennsylvania is the best equipped camp to leave New Castle this season. They went in their own special through car to the camping grounds. C. P. Agent Blackford had left nothing undone for the accommodation of the party, and all left feeling well pleased over the arrangements. On each side of the car was a large banner with the words "Camp Pennsylvania, New Castle, Pa." The campers were all in good spirits, and a more jolly crowd never left New Castle.

*First documented trip to Sans Souci, with names of attendees
New Castle News - July 18, 1894*

These early members and guests completed their trip by taking a steamer, usually either the *Parry Queen* or the *Midland City*, to Sans Souci Island, where several hotels were located. The steamer traveled the Penetang to Parry Sound steamer channel known as The Thirty Thousand Island Route.

With the help of the Great Lakes Historical Society in Vermilion, Ohio, the following account describes the boat, *Midland City*:

The *Midland City* was originally an iron side-wheeler. The frames and hull of the *Midland City* were made in Scotland and shipped to Kingston, Ontario. The boat was put together by Thurston in 1871 for C. F. Gildersleeve. Originally the boat was named *Maud* after Mr. Gildersleeve's daughter. In about 1874, after being purchased by the St. Lawrence Navigation Company and being rebuilt and lengthened, it was renamed the *America*.

The vessel operated for many years as an exclusive steamer. In 1916, ownership changed to the Canadian Steamship Lines. Five years later it was purchased by a Midland group headed by James Playfair.

She was 521 gross tons, 153' by 33' by 6' depth of hull. Captain Wilfred Martin was her last captain.

Confirmation on the *Parry Queen* was not available. Several of the pictures donated to the club show various early members on one of these two boats.

Lou Hasely, Sr. described the trip from Midland to Sans Souci as taking approximately four hours. Excellent meals were served en route on the boat's restaurant. At the time, Sans Souci was described as a very small settlement with lake trout fishing as the main industry. Sans Souci itself was covered with hundreds of wooden crates used to ship the lake trout.

Being sons and grandsons of some of the early settlers of western Pennsylvania, their pioneer spirit and love for the outdoors attracted them to the still untouched wilderness of Canada. Accounts of the day suggested bountiful fishing and unspoiled land for the taking.



*Onboard the Midland City, en route to Sans Souci - July 1894. These are the men mentioned in newspaper article above who first assembled at Taggart's Cigar Store in New Castle and joined in the first documented trip to the Sans Souci area.
Picture courtesy of Sandy Phillips, grandson of Elmer Phillips, Sr.*

The name Sans Souci (without care) is used to describe the general area around the south side of Sans Souci Island and the opposite shore on Frying Pan Island.

Sans Souci Island was originally called Pearce's Island after John Pearce who first camped there in 1880. He purchased 100 acres on the island in 1894 and his wife, Ellen, subsequently renamed it Sans Souci. The Sans Souci Hotel was built that same year. At one point there were four hotels in the area.

After reaching Sans Souci, the Pennsylvania Club folks rowed their way a short distance to Ellen's Isle (B324), located on the southwestern tip of Sans Souci Island, directly across from present day Henry's restaurant, and pitched their tents. Ellen's Isle was bought by John Pearce in 1894 for \$6 and was named for his wife. It's marked as Ellen Pearce I. on the nautical charts.



Founder Dan Harlan standing far left - Ellen's Isle Camp



Camp Pennsylvania on Ellen's Isle - 1894

They camped there for several seasons. With rowboats and canoes, they explored various parts of the area known as the Moon River. Much of the area had been logged, but after tenting for a few years they found an island with a good harbor and abundant fishing.



Camp Pennsylvania burn marks are still visible on Ellen's Isle.

The Founding of Pennsylvania Club

In 1896, purchase was made for five acres from the Crown on the south shore of Island 49B (now known as Island B257/Pennsylvania Island). Title of the land was in the name of five individuals: **Danny Harlan, Clyde Morrison, Jared Reis, George Welch, and R. C. G. White.** Documents are lacking regarding the actual purchase of the property, however in 1900, it is known that the Provincial Government of Ontario was selling islands in the area to all comers at the fixed price of \$5 per acre, with the expense of surveying being paid by the purchaser.

Around 1899, they built a cottage consisting of a kitchen and dining room with sleeping quarters upstairs. The plumbing consisted of an outhouse. Water was dipped from the lake. A boathouse and flimsy dock were built. Double-ended Peterborough boats propelled by oars were used for fishing. Ice was purchased at Sans Souci as needed, and two men would row over and get it.

Based on newspaper articles it appears that the original Camp Pennsylvania cottage was used exclusively by the families and guests only of the five original owners until around 1910. At some point, it transitioned to the Pennsylvania Club we know today to be used by its 25 (later 40, then 50) members and invited guests.



Pennsylvania Club in 1904

The Five Original Members

David Franklin "Danny" Harlan - Son of David Franklin and Sara Jane Harlan was born in January 1861. The Harlan family built and owned the St. Cloud Hotel on East Washington Street in New Castle, not far from Taggart's Cigar Store. Worked for his father at the St. Cloud Hotel. Married twice. Second wife was Mary Burns of Jacksonville, Florida. They spent their honeymoon at Camp Pennsylvania. Died suddenly March 8, 1910, while in Florida, less than two years after remarrying.

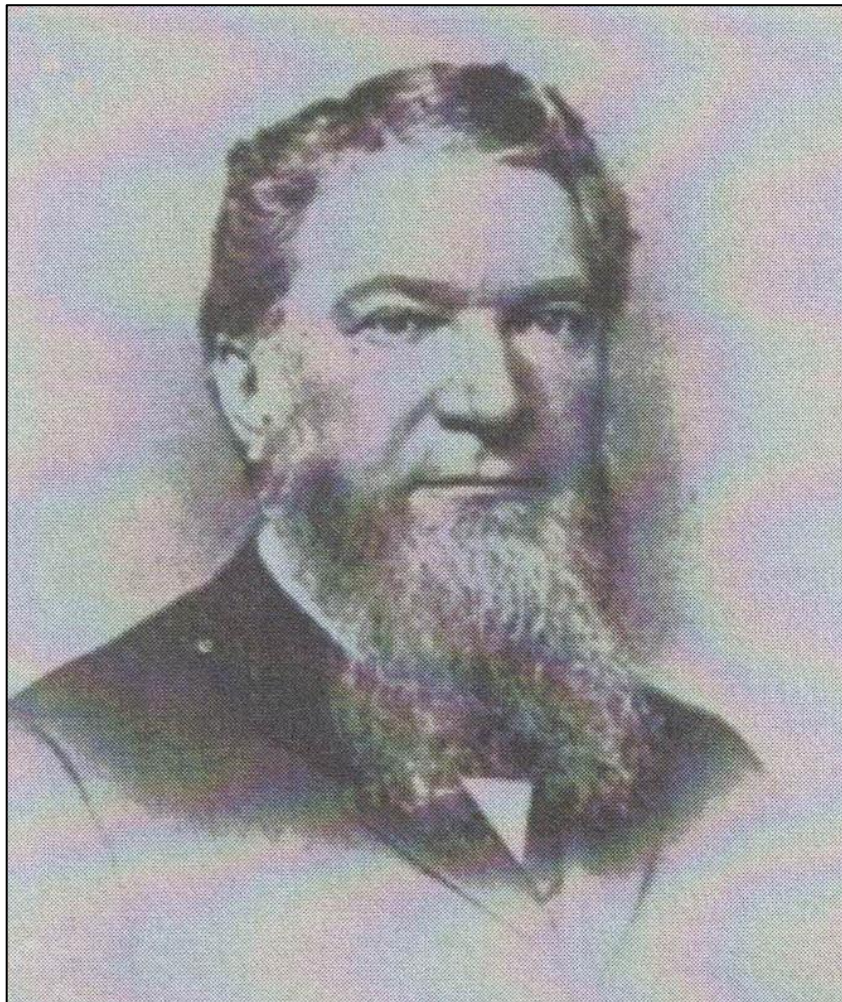


*The Phillips family visiting the Pennsylvania Club in 1909.
Dan Harlan seated at far left.*

Clyde Phillips Morrison - Born April 23, 1873, was the only Phillips family member that became a member of the Pennsylvania Club. Several Phillips were part of the initial 1894 Camp Pennsylvania roster. In later years, the Phillips built their own cottages on Sans Souci and nearby Totten Island, where they still reside.

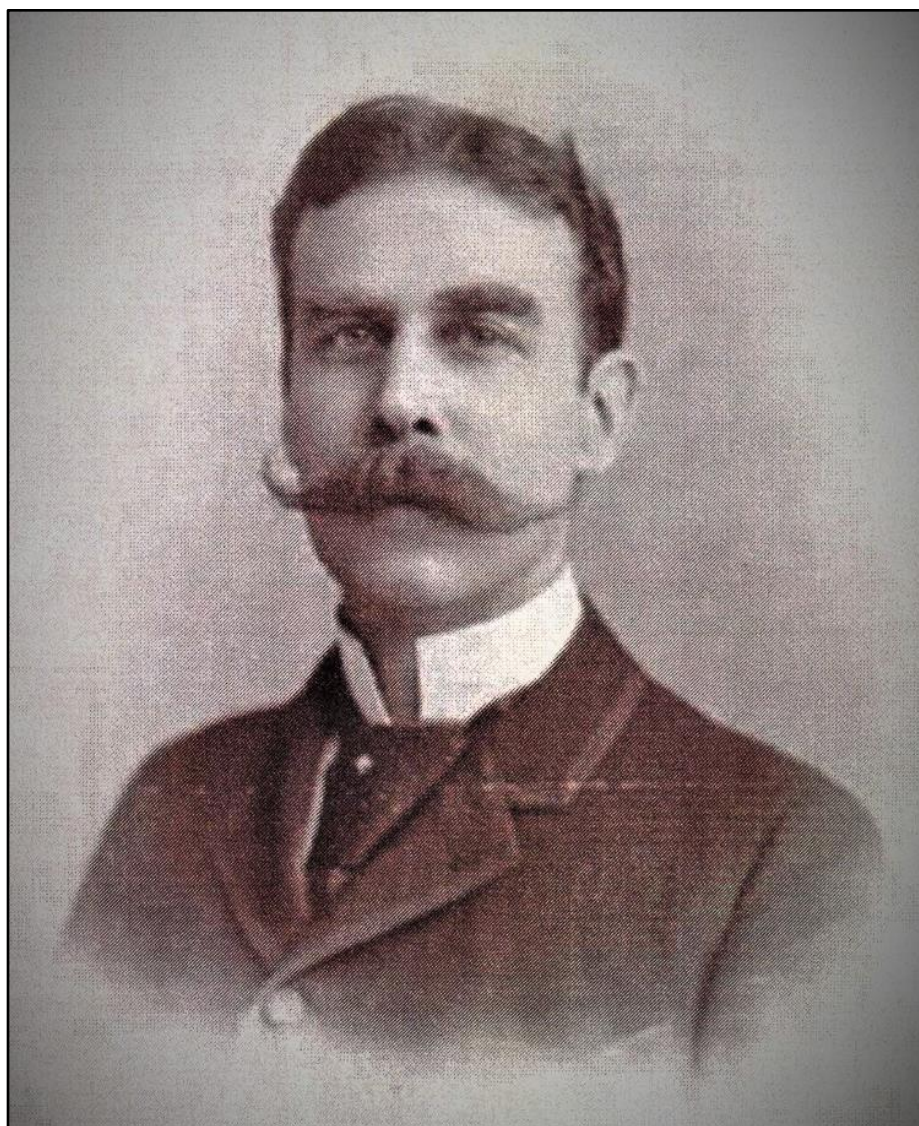
No pictures of Clyde Morrison have been found, but as he is a descendant of Thomas W. Phillips, one of the early leaders of New Castle, he is pictured below instead. Thomas Phillips was involved in producing oil in Lawrence County and Oil Creek, was part owner of the New Castle Agricultural Works that manufactured mowing and reaping machines and was a founder and President of Citizens' National Bank. He also served two terms in Congress.

The Phillips family was a very prominent family in New Castle. They cashed in on the early discovery of oil in Pennsylvania and put up the money for the tallest church in New Castle on the town square. They sold their first mansion to become the New Castle Hospital, and they donated the land for what would become the Sylvan Heights Golf Course.

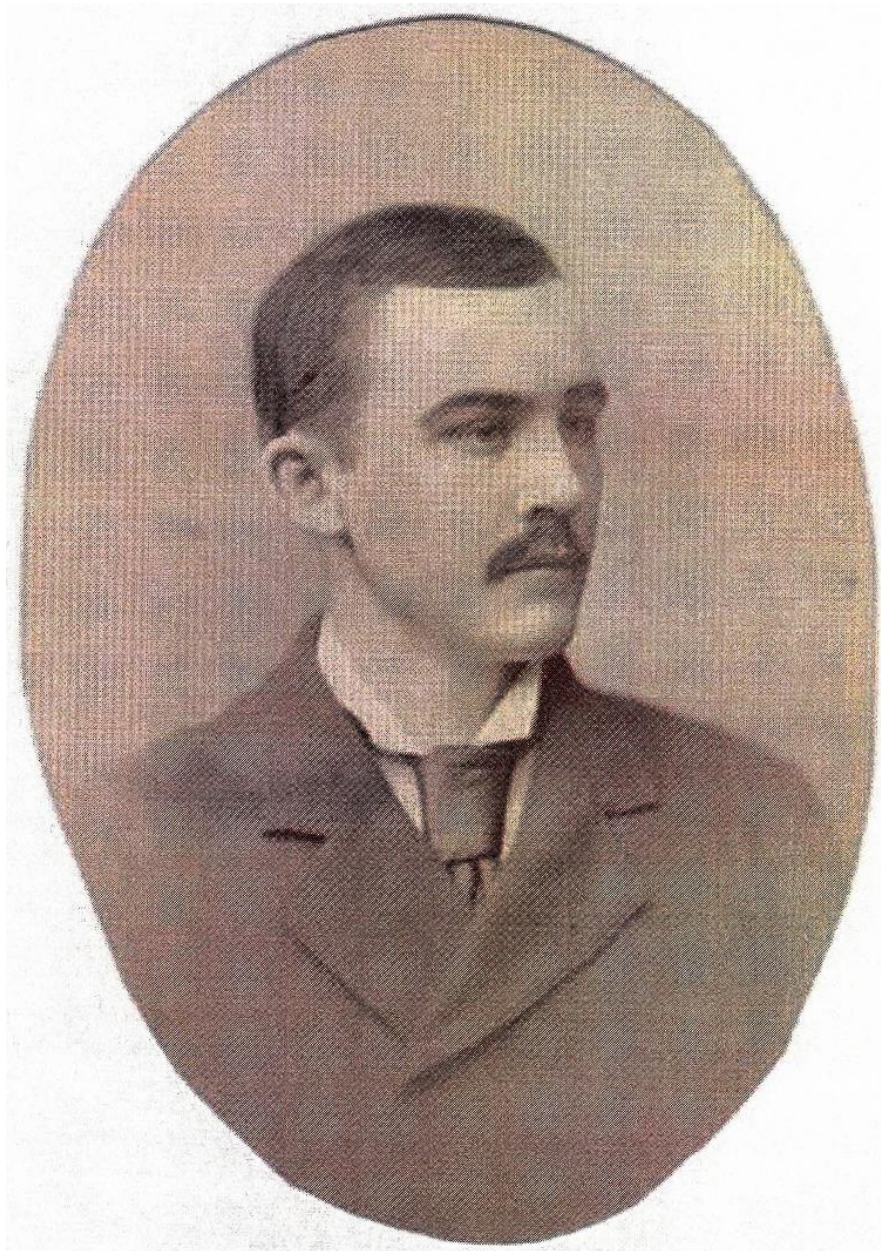


Thomas W. Phillips

Martin Brush "Jared" Reis - Born April 23, 1856, in Niles, Ohio to George Columbus Reis and Elizabeth Dithridge. His father was one of the pioneers in the steel industry. Married February 3, 1892, in Philadelphia, PA to Mary Virginia Ewing (who passed away on July 9, 1908). An industrial engineer for U.S. Steel Corporation, Jared lived at 318 East Street, New Castle, at time of his death on October 13, 1947, at the age of 91. An early member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, he was referred to as the Dean of Pennsylvania Sportsmen. Buried in New Castle's Oak Park Cemetery.



George King Welch - Born May 17, 1855, in New Castle, the son of Samuel H. and Saphonia King Welch. Brother to George S. Welch, Ella M. Welch and James Albert Welch and husband of Mary DeEtta Clapp. Residence in 1893 thought to be at 93 E. Wallace Avenue. He was a merchant as well as a ticket and freight agent for E&P RR in 1889. Owned the firm of Welch and Horton, and the Welch Hardware Store located at 26 E. Washington Street in New Castle. Member of Mahoning Lodge No. 23 F. & A.M., Hiram Council No. 45, Delta Royal Arch Chapter 170, Lawrence Commandery 62, and Lasty Man's Club of New Castle. Died April 6, 1925, in West Donegal, PA's Masonic Homes Hospital. Buried in Oak Park Cemetery, New Castle.





Robert Carlyle Gibson White - Born in 1850 in Princeton, Slippery Rock Township. His father was a blacksmith and later he himself learned a similar trade as harness maker and saddler in Harlansburg. Then, after working many years as a grocer, he was elected treasurer of Lawrence County. Later, he entered the furniture and undertaking business under the name of Offit, White and Company. In 1895 he started his own successful, independent undertaking business "R. C. G. White, Funeral Director". He lived on 410 E. Wallace. He was past master of Lodge of the Craft No. 433 and very active in the offices of the York Rite of Masonry. He was active in Shenango Lodge No. 195, IOOF and past chancellor of the Knights of Pythios. Died January 28, 1924, buried at Oak Park.

Other Early Members & Attendees of Camp Pennsylvania/Pennsylvania Club

James T. "Jimmy" Atkinson - Born June 11, 1863, to William and Harriett McClung Atkinson. He was the proprietor of the Washington Street pool and billiard parlors, and later operated a grocery store on the Youngstown Road. He was a member of the BPOE and Lawrence County Sportsmen's Association. One of the foremost trap shooters in this area, holding the title of Pennsylvania Trapshooting Championship three times. Died September 23, 1942.

George H. Bolinger - Born May 24, 1877, in Lawrence County, son of George and Louisa Bolinger. He married Olive Reed in 1927. George Bolinger & Son Wholesale Liquor store; saloon & restaurateur on Apple Alley. Later became president of the New Castle Paper Mill and still later associated with Haney Furniture. Member of the Lawrence County Sportsmen's Association, the Ellwood Sportsmen's Association, and the Bessemer Club. Served as head of the Greenwood Cemetery Association and past president of Second Ward Volunteer Fire Department. Life member of the BPOE, Lodge of the Craft, the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and the Shrine. Made his home in Walmo area. Elected county commissioner three times but died less than six weeks into his third term. Died February 11, 1944.

James A. Chambers - Attorney at law with the firm of Alkens, Wilkerson, Lockhart, and Chambers. Born in 1877 and reared in Eastbrook, Pennsylvania. Attended Volant Academy and Westminster College.

Percy Linwood Craig - Born April 11, 1868, son of Joseph and Matilda Staunton Craig of Allegheny City. Married Eleanor T. "Nellie" McKee in 1891. They made their home at 214 E. Lincoln. There were two children: Earle M. and Mrs. James Weaver. Was secretary and superintendent of New Castle Gas Co. (1893). He was a vice president and general manager of Fort-Pitt Gas Co. of Pittsburgh; vice president of Lawrence Savings & Trust (1901); president, then treasurer of the Freedom Oil Works Company; vice president of Chartiers Oil Company of Pittsburgh; and vice president of Home Trust Company. Craig was an active supporter and benefactor of Highland United Presbyterian Church, serving on building committee. Director of YMCA, president of Board of Trustees of Highland UP, trustee of Almira Home and president of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association. He died December 17, 1929, in Clifton Springs, NY.

Charles Markley Crawford - Born in 1859. Attended Camp Pennsylvania as early as 1883. Lived at 56 N. Jefferson in 1897. Owned C. M. Crawford & Co., lumber dealers, at Beaver & Bridge Streets. Son of George W. Crawford and Catherine Boyer. He married Ollie Herr of Enon. Died January 10, 1915, in Ironton, Ohio where he was owner of the Yellow Poplar Lumber Company.

Walter Crawford - Son of Eliza A. and James Crawford. Left New Castle about 1895. Died November 19, 1920, in Cleveland.

John Parker Hale Cunningham - Born in New Castle on October 15, 1852. The family moved to the then well-known homestead which later became the Margaret Henry home. Son of Robert Wilson Cunningham and Caroline Perry Woodward. His father was one of the most prominent and successful businessmen in New Castle. JPH graduated from Cornell in 1875 and went into his father's business, Cunningham Foundry. JPH along with Robert W. Cunningham, John Stevenson, Jr., Rufus Patterson, and William Patterson incorporated the New Castle Wire Nail Company. Same individuals built the

Rod Mill, and the two enterprises were merged. He was the treasurer from the time of the organization until its sale to American Sheet and Iron Company.

He had an interest in most industries in New Castle including Crawford Iron and Steel, the Tin Mills, the Forge and Bolt Works, National Radiator Company and others. President for many years of the New Castle Grocery Company. Director of the First National Bank and Citizens National Bank. Trustee of Shenango Valley Hospital for 25 years and served as president of the board. Served on the first executive committee of the 1917-Historical Society with Elmer I. Phillips and D. N. Keast. *"Every year when able he made a pilgrimage to the salmon fishing grounds in Lower Canada. In order that he might indulge his desire for the simple life, and gratify his taste for the piscatorial art, he built himself a cottage at Beaumaris, on Muskoka Lake in Canada. Here he spent most of his summers, returning occasionally to New Castle as his business affairs might require"*. Brother to Solomon Woodward Cunningham. He died at the family home at 306 N. Jefferson St. on December 17, 1922. (Mansion still stands.)

S. Woodward Cunningham - Born in New Castle December 11, 1850, to Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Cunningham. Graduated from Amherst College and then Columbia Law in June 1875, becoming member of the Lawrence County Bar. President of New Castle and Beaver Valley Railroad. Vice president and attorney of the New Castle Steel and Tin Plate Company. Director of First National Bank of New Castle, director and attorney of the Castalia Portland Cement Co., member of Iron City Fishing Club. Brother to J.P.H. Cunningham.

Charles C. Duff - Born in New Bedford on March 3, 1867, son of James H. and Mary M. Duff. Served as city clerk (1902), city treasurer (1911), re-elected in 1914; secretary and treasurer of People's Saving and Trust (1921). Member of BPOE 69. He died December 1, 1921.

S. Plummer Emery - Born in New Castle on September 30, 1864, to William and Margaret Curry Emery. Graduated from Geneva College in 1887, admitted to bar in 1889, and became member of the Lawrence County Bar Association. Elected as district attorney from 1892-1895 and city councilman, one of the youngest who ever served. Became a criminal lawyer and elected Lawrence County circuit court judge, serving from 1915 until December 31, 1925. President of Lawrence County Boy Scouts, member of New Castle Lodge No. 542, of the F&AM, New Castle Consistory, BPOE NO. 69, the protected home circle, the Loyal Order of the Moose and the Eagles. Honorary member of the Harry L. McBride Post VFW. Married Sue Wirsing. He died at Cleveland Clinic February 28, 1928, at the age of 63.

Louis Genkinger - Born in New Castle March 12, 1875, son of Christian and Barbara Kraft Genkinger. Clothing firm of Wylie & Genkinger. Later engaged in hardware business in Ellwood, and later the Standard Wire Company of New Castle. President of the Union Brewing, and active in New Castle Chamber of Commerce. Graduate of Thiel College. Member of Mahoning Lodge, No. 243, F&AM, New Castle Consistory, a past Exalted Ruler of the BPOE, past governor of the Loyal Order of the Moose, Exchange Club, and Civic Club, director of New Castle Motor Club and was a charter member of the Eintracht Singing Society. Wife Zulma Stone. Died December 28, 1944.

Quincy Adams Gordon - Born September 17, 1851, in Leesburg, PA. Married to Helen Patton who died April 6, 1926, at the age of 76. Child Jessie Gordon, born November 3, 1887. An attorney in Mercer County, he died February 1931.

David Franklin Graham - Born April 1, 1875, son of Hugh Graham and Sarah Harlan Graham. Worked at St. Cloud. Employed at Carnegie Steel Company. Member of Lodge of the Craft No. 433, F. and A. M., New Castle Consistory member of the B. P. O. Elks. He died October 14, 1920.

Hugh Graham - Purchased the St. Cloud Hotel from the Harlan family.

Harold D. Harlan - Born March 21, 1888, in New Castle, son of David F. and Birdie Dushane Harlan. Lived on Edgewood Ave. Had tire shop on South Mercer Street & South Street. Member of the New Castle Lodge 642, F. and A. M., the Valley of New Castle Consistory, Syria Temple of Pittsburgh and Lawrence Caravan 15 of the Shrine. Died December 18, 1970, at age of 82.

William J. "Will" Harlan - Son of D. F. Harlan, Sr. and Sara. Born March 30, 1859. Worked for his father at the St. Cloud Hotel. Was a member of the Republican Club with E. I. Phillips, R. C. G. White, S. J. Taggart, and Charles A. Phillips. Was associated with the courthouse, and appointed jury commissioner in 1899. Lived at 141 West Leasure Ave, living next door to E. Phillips. Listed as a "driver" in city directory after closure of hotel. Will died February 19, 1944.

Thomas H. Hitchcock - Born in England on August 11, 1876, to Joseph and Martha England Hitchcock, pioneer of Boardman. Resided at 322 Elizabeth Street. Served as president of Pennsylvania Club and of Men's Bible Class Trinity Episcopal. Was in the grocery and meat business. Member of the Lodge Craft No. 433 and Consistory. He retired in 1948. He and his wife, Anna, had two sons Richard and Wendell (also a club member) and a daughter, Gertrude, who married Eugene Poulton and were parents to three more Pennsylvania Club members. He died April 12, 1952.

David H. Long - Born December 18, 1879, to Scott D. and Eva Morehead Long. Married Sara Woods. President and a director of Oak Park Cemetery Association. Graduate of Williston Academy, Easthampton, Mass, and Washington and Jefferson College. Charter member of New Castle Country Club. Two sons, William W. and David S. He died June 5, 1967.

George S. Long - Born September 23, 1881, son of Scott D. and Eva Morehead Long. He was married to Elizabeth O'Brien Long. Attorney by trade. Secretary and Director of Community Savings and Loan Company. Lived on East Street. Pioneer member of New Castle Country Club. Engaged in insurance business. Attended Washington and Jefferson College. Member of New Castle Lodge 642, F and A. M., Valley of New Castle Consistory, New Castle Country Club, BPOE 69 and the Lawrence Club. David H. Long was his brother. He died November 24, 1958. Buried Oak Park.

James W. Marshall - Neshannock Ave.

John McCaslin

M. A. McClure - Wholesale lumber, had office at the New Castle Dry Goods. Moved sawmill from Harbor to Portersville in 1909.

Judge L. L. McGuffin - Born in Wilmington, Delaware on July 28, 1815. Early education in Carlisle, PA. Arrived in Lawrence County around 1831. Practiced law for more than a quarter century in Mercer, then Lawrence County. Served the citizens of Lawrence County as President Judge for eleven years.

Robert McKee - 117 E. Wallace, butcher.

John McMichael - Born July 1, 1834, in Crawford County to Robert and Katharine. Served as Captain in Pennsylvania 14th & 55th Infantry in Civil War. Elected as judge in 1884. He died April 17, 1892. At his funeral it was said that *"Many beautiful emblems were there, including the floral tent typifying the bright free days with Camp Pennsylvania by the Canadian Lakes."* Buried at Greenwood.

Judge Menhard - Mercer County.

David Alexander "Dinty" Moore - Born February 22, 1858, to Honorable A. P. Moore and Rebecca Junkin Moore. His first wife died in 1886. He remarried in 1896 to Alice K. Bowser. He farmed on the family farm in New Wilmington and made his home at 213 E. Lincoln. Elected member of the Pittsburgh Stock Exchange, he was manager of local office of stock brokerage firm of Childs, Kay & Woods, aka Kay, Richards & Co. He served as postmaster for four years, and later unsuccessfully ran for city council. Died July 18, 1936, age 78.

Edwin F. Norris - Born July 31, 1860, son of William and Rachel Bonham Norris. Secretary of New Castle & Butler Railroad. Served on the board of directors for Home Trust Company and was treasurer of the Shenango Valley Hospital, President of Rose Point Stone & Lime Co. Resided at 204 W. Grant. Member of the Lawrence Club, Elks Club and New Castle Field Club. Edwin died March 29, 1928 and is buried in Oak Park.

William W. Pattison - Born November 11, 1868 and engaged in the general teaming business in Mahoningtown. His 40-acre farm on Mahoningtown-Mt. Jackson Road was a testament to his farming ability. Later he opened a nursery business in the area.

David White Pearson - Born in New Castle in 1843 to Samuel Pearson and Nancy Mary White Pearson. Served in Civil War with 134th Pa. Infantry. With his brother, Joseph Kissick Pearson, they built the Johnson/Pearson building in 1893. The two were in a clothing business when it was constructed. The Pearson (Johnson) building contained offices of the Croton Limestone & Brick Co., Samuel DeGraff Pearson being the president of that firm. (The tobacco shop owned by Sam Taggart where the Pennsylvania Camp was conceived, was directly across the street.) He served on Greenwood Cemetery Company Board with S. P. Emery. He married Ella Beach. Wealth was attributed to his ownership in real estate. Moved to Geneseo, NY by 1904. He died July 22, 1911, in New York at the age of 68.

Samuel D. Pearson - President of Croton Limestone Company who was born June 4, 1877. He was an early Elks Club member.

Charles A. Phillips - Born August 17, 1863, son of Isaac N. and Agnes J. Morrison Phillips. In oil business in partnership with his brother, Elmer I. Phillips. Together with Elmer owned the Phillips Block on Mill Street. Largely instrumental in formation of Shenango China in 1900. Owned Shenango Construction Co. Was associated with W. M. Leslie in book and wallpaper business. Married Emily Arms Wilder, daughter of Joseph P. Wilder of Youngstown. Lived at 60 W. Grant.

Elmer I. Phillips, Sr. - Born May 20, 1861, in New Castle, son of Isaac N. Philips. He served as a state senator and was president of Lawrence Savings & Trust Company. Lived at 1503 Highland. A member of the city council from 1892-1899. Leading official of Lawrence Glass Company. Secretary and general sales agent of the American Glass Company; director of the Shenango Valley Hospital. Married to Beulah Ingels. Died January 1917. His son Elmer Isaac became a judge in 1926.

Errett Ernest Phillips - Born November 20, 1866, son of John T. and Martha Cable. Engaged with his father's real estate business, J. T. Phillips & Son. Died 1950.

John B. Phillips - Son of Rev. John T. and Martha Phillips. Wife Marie Wells Phillips. Lived at 712 W. North. Real estate dealer. Son, John Wells Phillips. Brother E. E. Phillips. He died January 22, 1938. Buried Oak Park.

Harry G. Preston - Born in New Castle November 23, 1875, son of John H. and Mollie Welch Preston. Owner of HG Preston Company - Wholesale grocers at 313 Grove Street. President of the Lawrence Club. He resided on Lincoln Ave. while in New Castle. Two sons John R. and Robert L., a brother Roy F., a sister Mrs. J. Paul Moseley of LA. He died September 5, 1949, in Bradford, PA.

John Ray Preston - Born July 26, 1900, in New Castle, son of Harry G. and Julia Ray Preston. Attended University of Pennsylvania and went into business with his father in wholesale grocery. Member of Lodge of the Craft, No. 433, F&AM. Was president of the Lawrence County Red Cross and treasurer of the Lawrence County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society for Crippled Children. Member of board of directors of YMCA and Dollar Savings Association of Lawrence County. Lived at 118 Hazelton. Became president of Citizen's Bank in 1950. Died June 12, 1951, age 50. Buried Graceland Cemetery.

Lewis/Louis H. Pyle - Born October 11, 1880, in New Castle. Superintendent at Jones & Laughlin Tin Mills at Woodlawn, PA, previously at American Sheet & Tin Plate in New Castle (1912). Married Margaret Cubbison in 1910. Lewis died March 7, 1952, in Aliquippa. Life-long member of New Castle Masonic Lodge.

James Ward Reis - Born September 3, 1865. Admitted to practice law September 1888. He was general manager of the National Steel Company. Brother of William E. Reis, president of National Steel Trust; John Reis, National Steel Trust; Jared Reis; Mrs. L. T. (Rosena) Kurtz and Mrs. Mary Reis Brown. He married Eleanor Blanche Crouch in 1893. They had three children Harriet, James Ward, Jr. and Elizabeth. Died December 16, 1899, at the age of 35 from typhoid.

James Ward Reis, Jr. - Born January 27, 1896. Studied at MIT. Died 1980.

E. M. Richardson - Pharmacist at 74 Washington, corner Washington and Beaver Streets in 1876. In addition to his pharmacy, he was the manager of the Opera House 1886. In 1888 he was also managing the City Roller Rink. In 1894 he moved to Cleveland.

Karl Rohrer - Born in Butler March 16, 1896, son of Charles T. and Katherine Henline Rohrer of 308 Knox Ave. He served in WWI in France. Married Caroline Mary Zeigler. Secretary of Nonpareil Rifle Club. He was a Lawrence County commissioner during the 1940s and member of the Union Township School Board. Member of New Castle Lions Club, Mahoning Lodge 243 F and AM, the Valley of New Castle Consistory and the Consistory Legion of Honor, member of Perry S. Gaston Post 343 of the American Legion. Life member of the Lawrence County Sportsmen's Club. He died January 27, 1970.

Bert J. Ross - Born September 5, 1873. He started out driving a delivery wagon for Haye's and Mitchel Grocers. Later, with much determination, he became the manager of the New Castle works of American Sheet and Tin Plate Company. He also was a member of the Lodge of the Craft No. 433 and higher branches of Masonry.

Clare Sidney Royce - Born in Wheatland, Michigan June 26, 1868. Came to New Castle in 1890 and connected with P&W Railroad. Married Rebecca Elizabeth Stritmater, daughter of William A. Stritmater, owner of Stritmater Brothers and Stritmater Building - still standing in New Castle. Royce was associated with his father-in-law's mercantile business and the couple made their home with him on Lincoln Ave. Clare had been ill for several months and went to Camp Pennsylvania in search of rest and regaining strength. He returned home a few weeks before his death at age 26 on September 18, 1894. He had one daughter, Emma.

W. H. Shipler - Born in 1865 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania. During his developing career, he worked extensively in England, Africa, and Mexico. He later became general superintendent of the Pennsylvania Engineering Works. He made his home at 312 Highland, a former home of William Reis and Lt. Gov. Brown, which is still standing.

Fred H. Siegfried - From Youngstown, at camp in 1901. Lived on N. Mercer.

Frank Smith

Robert L. Wallace - Prominent attorney at law, was born in Pulaski Township in 1876. He was an early graduate of Grove City College. He became a city councilman and the council president for a time. He also was active in the Blue Lodge and a charter member of Highland United Presbyterian Church.

J. Russell White - Son of R. C. G. White of Wallace Ave. His wife was Elizabeth J. Atkinson. They had three children, Robert C. G. Jr., James Russell, Jr. and Emma Jane. He was an embalmer and funeral director in the firm of White & Son. Member of the Lodge of the Craft, No. 433, F. & A.M. and other Masonic orders up to the New Castle Consistory 33rd degree. Member of Shenango Lodge, IOOF, Lawrence Encampment, New Castle Lodge, K of P, No. 160 and secretary of Pennsylvania Club. He died at the age of 38 on December 2, 1920. Buried Oak Park.

Charles A. Wilder - Of Piqua, Ohio. Lived at 29 N. Jefferson.

H. Elmore Zerner, M.D. - Born July 19, 1872, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. After graduating from the medical department of the Western University of Pennsylvania, he moved to New Castle and was a prominent physician in the area. He was one of the organizers of the Physician's Club in New Castle around 1901.

As may now be evident, a group of self-made, highly motivated, and far-sighted men were responsible for the creation of the legacy we know as Pennsylvania Club.

The Early Days

In the early 1900s, the club purchased a sailboat and dubbed her the *Mary Anne*. The sailboat was used for various purposes. During camp it was used to tow the small flotilla of fishing boats to their favorite fishing holes. In 1920 a new canopy, splashboards, and three new lanterns were purchased for the *Mary Anne*, indicating its use at the time.

They would often row or use the *Mary Anne* to undertake the trip to the Clear Lake portage. They would then carry the rowboat or boats over the portage and come back to camp the evening of the same day. The next morning someone would suggest going to Clear Lake or Spider Lake, and they would do it all over again.

An icehouse was built behind the present boathouse and filled with ice each winter by John Cloarec, his father and others. This building fell into disrepair and a new building was put up on the south side of the boathouse. The horse used to pull the cakes of ice to the boathouse broke through the ice one winter but was saved from drowning.

Porcupines were so abundant that early members had trouble with them literally devouring the outhouse, especially around the crapper holes.

A wood stove was used and each year various members were appointed to obtain a cook for the season. Pictures donated to the club attest to the variety of people they found.



Around 1919, they decided to purchase a new icebox, 6' by 3' by 3', F.O.B. Penetang. Dues were an exorbitant(!) \$3 per year. Indebtedness amounted to \$150. A proposal to extend and screen the back porch was suggested and implemented. W.H. Shieler was instructed to purchase any necessary tools for the camp. Money was continually spent on roofing repairs. It appeared that every year several new holes developed.

In 1920, a letter was written to George Molineaux by the club requesting him to find out about worms, beer, ale and liquors for the season. Sound familiar? Fred McNamara was contacted to supply wood for the season. Teddy Norris was contacted to supply usable boats for the opening of camp on July 19. At a later meeting, the officers felt it advisable that Molineaux be written another letter instructing him not to exceed \$1.50/100 worms.

The next year, aside from purchasing a boat with a small outboard motor, the club felt it advisable to purchase a small portable (wind yourself) phonograph.

In 1922, the dues were increased to \$5 per year. Another McNamara named Jack was contacted and requested to deliver a new boat and act as guide for the season. Herbert Alexander was hired as cook for the season for \$20 per week.

During the 1924 season, Mr. James A. Chambers, one of the members described at the beginning of the story, served as cook.

The club purchased a few Johnson and Elto motors throughout the next several years, and at one time owned two boats with Clinton motors.

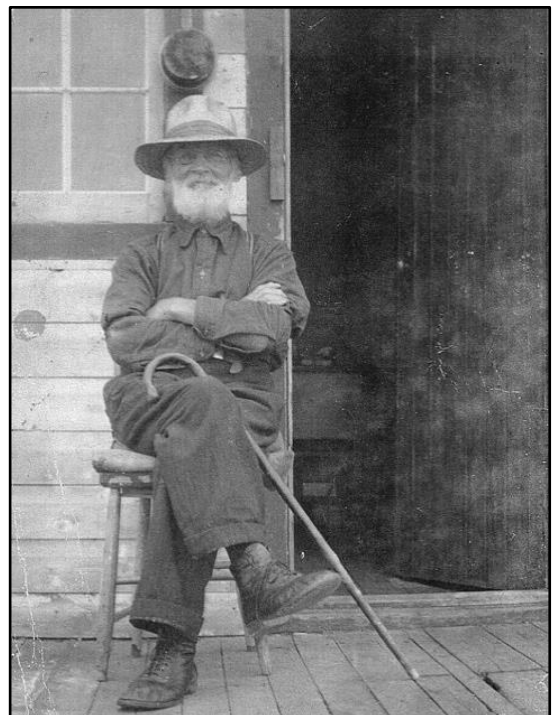
On August 25, 1932, Ed Knoblock, then responsible for club finances, fell into deep financial trouble. After an audit, it was found that he had absconded with \$907 of the club's money. They sent a registered letter to him at that time and gave him 30 days to respond. The minutes made no further mention of the final result.

The Depression years were very hard on some of the less fortunate members, and some had to drop out. However, they were later reinstated.

In 1935, further extension of porches, re-roofing the cottage, rebuilding the dock, and purchase of additional boats was discussed. Within the next two years this work was completed.

It was also around 1935 that the ill-fated story of Jim Pattison's pee can began. The story goes that some pranksters put a small hole in his pee can about a quarter inch from the bottom. When he used it, it leaked through the floor into or near a group playing poker in the clubroom. You can imagine the result!

In 1936, Dick Francis was hired to act as cook for the season. Six steel cots and mattresses were purchased. About this time, a Kohler generator was purchased with



Teddy Norris

the help of Lou Hasely, Sr. and installed in a small building near the icehouse. The wiring used at the time with this generator was hard bare iron wire and was insulated only at the points where it went through beams or where it was supported.

Around 1937, a water pump was purchased, and at last, cold running water was available in the kitchen. In later years a propane refrigerator was purchased. Max Ludwig joined the club and gave a Johnson motor in payment for his membership. Gasoline was purchased at \$2.20 per imperial gallon.

In 1938, 20 life preserver cushions were purchased, an additional boat was obtained, and the back porch we now know as the dining room was built (this became the pantry in 2011). A radio was purchased, and the boathouse repaired.

Several motors were stolen from the camp in 1938 but were later recovered by the police on a nearby island. Karl Rohrer was commissioned by the club to make a special trip to the camp to investigate. The police later arrested the guilty parties.

In 1939, the club purchased a radio to be given to E. R. McNamara as payment for his installation of an Auston motor on one of the club boats.

In 1940, a committee was set up to investigate all new members. A motion was made and passed that year to finally take a carpenter to camp to install a new roof and do miscellaneous other repairs.

In 1941, three rowboats and two sets of oars were purchased. The construction labor by a carpenter to build a new icehouse around 1943, including travelling expense, was logged at \$42.77. Mr. L. B. Round was commissioned to purchase sets of blocks and ropes for the boat and icehouses.

A motion was made and passed to purchase and use the best Canadian flag available. Mr. C. K. Brown had presented the club with a new American flag the previous year.



Time passed, more boats were purchased, and more repairs were made to the camp. In 1952, John Cloarec was contracted to cover the boathouse with aluminum. The water pump was replaced, and in the ensuing years a new light plant was purchased.

In 1954, repair and enlargement of the front porch was discussed. Further improvements were made to the kitchen.

Working with the Welsh Brothers, the club obtained electrical service for roughly \$500 in 1960. The old hard iron wiring was replaced with insulated wiring, a great deal of which was obtained from the Canadians installing the poles. The easement for the power line was sold to Hydro-Electric Power Commission for \$30 (CDN). The club showed a bank balance of \$678.31. The next year an electric refrigerator was installed for the first time.

In accordance with the far-sighted spirit of the club members, Don Neal, then secretary/treasurer, was the main instrument in obtaining letters patent incorporating the Pennsylvania Club effective January 24, 1963, a process that took 20 months. To do this, he contacted relatives of the original five members in whose name the club property was originally listed. After obtaining releases from them, Don worked through W.H. Green QC of Parry Sound to obtain the required papers. The Pennsylvania Club is now an Ontario registered corporation. All club members are indebted to Don for this service.

Also, this year a 300-gallon gas tank was purchased. Per diem was increased from 50¢ to 75¢ to cover the cost of gasoline now furnished by the camp. The club joined the Sans Souci & Copperhead Association.

In 1965, a broad range of improvements was suggested and later implemented under the guidance of Frank Bower, then president. They included: a new septic tank, converting the cook's quarters in the clubhouse into a bathroom with toilet and shower stall, moving up the hill and conversion of the icehouse into a cottage, construction of a fish-cleaning porch attached to the boathouse and remodeling of the lodge living room. Most of this work was performed in 1966.

In 1966, membership was increased from forty to fifty members, in addition to any honorary members. The last of the old wooden club boats were replaced with aluminum ones and an aluminum canoe was purchased from Orville Flora for the sum of \$100 to replace the canvas canoe at camp.



Main Cottage - 1971

In more recent years, under the continued direction of Frank Bower, Don Neal, John Kiefer, Bill Tebay, Orville Flora, Jack Pattison, Jim Haas, Ernie Gray, George Getty, Ken Bronder and other directors, along with the invaluable assistance and hard work by John Cloarec, the following additional improvements were implemented:

- Construction of a stone-faced front porch.
- "In Memoriam" board installed (1970).
- Construction of a stone fireplace with heatilator (1975).
- With the help of Wellington Welsh, installation of new C.B. radio set (1975).
- Carpeting of the clubroom floor (1976).
- New 500-gallon gas tank (1976).
- Installation of linoleum in the kitchen and dining rooms (1977).
- Rebuilding the boathouse foundation (1977).
- Installation of a floating dock (1977).
- Installation of an "Aquarobic" sewage treatment system at a cost of \$5,000 (1978).
- Replacement of the front windows (1978).
- Rebuilding the docks (1978).
- Purchase of a fleet of sturdy aluminum boats over several years.
- Installation of a new water pump and tank and UV water purification system (1980).
- Remodeling of the club kitchen (1980).

John Cloarec's house was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1974. The club asked for donations from its members and later presented John with a check for \$1,000 to help him replace his belongings that were lost.

In 1976, the club was still looking for volunteers for the June work week as only five had signed up two weeks prior. Per diem stood at \$8.50 for the July camps. Lou Hasely reported catching a 52", 34-pound musky. The following year, Larry Kiefer outdid Lou by landing one 53" long, weighing 40 pounds. One night in 1977, Tim & Matt Flora reported catching 33 crappies.

Per diem in 1979 was raised to \$11 for the July camps and \$5 for open reservations. Annual dues increased to \$20, with the guest fee being \$25. During work week, the beer boat collected the empty bottles and paid the club \$80 for the deposits.

To define totally what Pennsylvania Club is to its members today is impossible. However, Pennsylvania Club, among other things is:

- Bill Cobau's famous martinis or Bill Tebay's stingers, or several people's Canadian sunrises.
- Quailey's rock in front of the clubhouse.
- Everybody's story of "the big one that got away" or the ones that were caught and grew a little more with each telling of the story.
- Mrs. Kelso's good cooking and her talkative husband, Clare.
- The northern lights.
- Numerous hidden rocks that bear the distinction of being accidentally found by many a member's boat and/or motor.
- The excursions to Clear Lake or the minnow gathering lake.

The lodge echoes with stories past and bold early expeditions. Our fathers' fathers' fathers were alive when it was born. The Pennsylvania Club has evolved into a first-class fishing organization. It may well be one of the earliest organizations of its kind on the continent. Each member, representing most facets of the community, owns a piece of something that he could not hope to own without the aggregate cooperation of all the members' time, resources, and insight.

As in the past, the present and future of our organization depends heavily upon keeping a continual eye on improvement of the facilities, maintaining good relationships with the Canadians, and continual striving to make the club more available and accessible to the members.



Club History 1980 - Present

The preceding history is based mainly on Tim Flora's work, written in 1980. What follows are updates to the club's history, a project started in 2021 by several club members. Needless to say, there have been many changes to the club and its facilities in the intervening four decades. We have tried to highlight the important ones.

First, are some general comments and thoughts about how the club has evolved, followed by a chronological listing of changes made, then some pages devoted to families with a long history at the club. At the end is a listing of neighboring properties that have ties to New Castle and the club.



In its early years, the camp was open only for four weeks of men-only camps in July with maybe one or two members making a trip with family at other times. One of the club president's main responsibilities was to haul all the food to camp the first week of July, so the other members could focus on consumption of adult beverages. The rumors are true: There was indeed a beer boat at the time that brought cases of beer out to the island.

There was a time in the Pennsylvania Club's history when membership was very exclusive. A fellow could only be a guest at the club once in his life if he hadn't been invited to be a member. In fact, members had to bring to the annual meeting in April, the names of any guests that they wanted to bring to camp that year for approval by the other members.

After their first visit to the Pennsylvania Club, many of the New Castle folks' subsequent visits to Georgian Bay seemed to be linked to Pennsylvania Club member, Karl Rohrer, who had his own cottage

on Pennsylvania Island. This was true for Floyd Rice, Jim Haas, Walter Biebrick (the Coach's place), and Colin McConnell in Cloarec Bay, all who went on to build their own cottages nearby.

The "exclusiveness history" of the club is also substantiated by the story about the origination of the New Castle Club, who were people from New Castle that were once invited to the Pennsylvania Club and couldn't go back, so they started their own club.

Starting in the 1960s, the club's membership slowly began to evolve. With only 40 membership spots and a rock-bottom annual membership fee, the membership got older and older and opportunities to join were scarce. The club facilities were very much under-utilized. Capital resources were scarce and physical improvements were lacking.

Eventually, membership was increased to 50 members. The "one-visit only" rule was abolished. Several of the aforementioned cottages were sold when the owners were voted into membership.

The club continues to evolve in how it operates. By the 21st century, it has transformed into more of a vacation business, though still run by members who volunteer their time. From 2001 to 2019, revenues tripled, occupied weeks rose from 15 to 22 and the number of people attending camp almost doubled. Do you think those pioneers of the 1890s from New Castle would recognize the club today?

The Pennsylvania Club is now located within the boundaries of The Massasauga Provincial Park (the name massasauga meaning "mouth of river" in Ojibwe and also refers to the eastern massasauga rattlesnake). The park was formally established in 1989 and officially opened in 1996. Its formation led directly to the improvements of the road leading into Woods Bay.

Acting as a buffer to further development in the area, it should help to preserve the local environment for future generations. One change, though, that many members lament: the banning of motors from Clear Lake. Paddle power only from now on in Clear! We would also be remiss if we didn't mention the stricter enforcement of liquor laws on the water that the park's establishment brought.

As an aside - where did the name Woods Bay come from? In 1914, there used to be a hotel in the area known as the Crawford Hotel. A local farmer named J. W. Wood was paddling home one night after an evening of drinking and partying at the Crawford. His canoe overturned in front of the present-day Moon River marina, and he drowned. Hence, the name.

For many years, the thought of a phone line at the club was resisted by many. Finally succumbing to pressure concerning safety, a four-party line was installed in 1994. Then in 2005, it was replaced with a dedicated Pennsylvania Club-only line. In the mid-2000s, cellphone service came to the surrounding area. Spotty service was the norm for many years, but by 2018, good coverage was available. Though not high-speed, you can now get reliable internet service at the club.

Starting in 1980, past president Jim Haas sponsored an August week for many of his buddies. Bringing together guys from all over the country (Florida, Colorado, Texas, Ohio, New York, as well as Pennsylvania), it lasted as a formal group until 2001. Not that everyone stopped coming after that, but the structure of the club changed so that a dedicated private week wasn't necessary anymore, i.e., more member camps were offered.

The rendezvous point for many years was Parry Sound. A night at the Brunswick Motel was the norm. Groceries would be bought on Friday, with everyone chipping in with the shopping. (The shopping list said 18 half-gallons of milk, not 18 1/2 gallons!) The dock on Saturday morning was always bustling and depending on which water taxi showed up, the trip to the club could take 30 minutes to a couple of hours, depending on how loaded down the taxi was (i.e., how much beer was loaded).

In those days, almost everyone came and went to the club as a group. Only one or two private boats were in use, with club boats and 9.9 motors being the norm. And before the septic system was overhauled, showers were limited to two per person for the week. Luckily, August always provided warm lake temperatures.

With the upgrades to the road into Woods Bay, by 1994, Moon River and Grisdale's became the jumping off point to the club. No longer needing to drive to Parry Sound, the Woodsman along Highway 69 became the overnighting spot. With the highway improvements that turned 69 into 400, in 2000, the Woodsman shut down and was eventually demolished (it stood where Exit 185 is now located), so the group moved down to Barrie for Friday night activities. The quaint town of Bala also became a favorite spot to many. Over the years, club boats gradually gave way to private boats, allowing members and guests to be more flexible with their schedules and to come and go as they pleased.

Fishing practices also changed over the years, mainly due to the improvements in boats used. No longer restricted to fishing only short distances from the club, faster boats allowed a much larger area to be explored. Electric trolling motors put an end to endless dropping and raising of anchors. Nightcrawlers and minnows gave way to artificials. Where twice-a-week fish dinners and taking home your limit used to be the norm, catch and release practices gradually became the standard, with an ensuing improvement in quality of the catch.

In 2002, the club entered the digital age with the introduction of its own website. Several years prior, someone had the foresight to reserve the pennsylvaniaclub.com domain name, so it was available when the website went live for the first time. Primitive and sparse at first, the website has gone through numerous iterations as content was added and improvements made. The site will go through many more as it strives to keep up with fast changing technology.

As with many other club functions, the website is maintained by volunteers. It has proven to be a significant benefit to its members as well as guests. First-timers to the club can access tips on what to bring with them, what to expect when they are there, fishing advice, even driving directions, both by car and how to navigate to the club from the marina by boat. Club members also use the site to make reservations, choose their food menus and access fishing reports, club documents, minutes, rosters, and much more.

If you are reading this, you must have stumbled onto the history page of the website - where we've tried to archive anything of historical interest. Many photographs have been digitized and posted, thereby preserving much of the club's rich past.

Chronology

1981 was noteworthy for the passing of long-time friend of the club, John Cloarec. The front porch stonework, fireplace and small cottage all carry on his legacy. More can be learned about John in the Elliott Family section below.

Also in 1981, a three bedroom and bathroom, 24' x 24' addition was constructed on the north side of the small cottage (the original icehouse) by Dave Garside. A \$250 assessment was levied on members to pay for project. The two local to one non-local member policy was adopted.

Installation of TRAM system in 1984 to carry supplies and belongings from the dock to the cottage. This proved to be a short-lived system.

In 1986, the second bathroom was constructed in the main cottage.

1988 brought the first increase in per diem in seven years, to \$14/\$8. Work projects included raising the boathouse and building new floating docks, a multi-year task.

The main work week project in 1989 involved putting up drywall and paneling in the large cottage bedrooms. Stone walkway laid down to small cottage. An attempt was also made to clean out old outboards in the motor house. In September, the aluminum flagpole was installed (more information may be found below under the Elliott Family section). Adopted were "club rules" regarding minimum size of fish to be kept. The minimum suggested tip for the cook was \$5 per person per week.

Canada mandates recycling beginning in 1990.

Another addition to the small cottage was undertaken in 1991. A 15' x 20' gathering room was added on the southeast corner and a front porch was built. Most of the work was contracted out to Bernie Martin at a cost of \$19,500, funded mainly by a \$200 assessment on all members, active and honorary.

Low attendance at the July men's camps the previous year resulted in decreasing them from four to three. There was a big increase in per diem to \$20 for 1991, still a bargain considering the club provided a room, cook, meals, gas, oil and worms!

1992 marked the passing of Leona Kelso, who cooked for the club many years. Bernie Martin, club caretaker and operator of Sans Souci Marina sells the business to Remi LeBlanc.

1994: Bill Blakey of Moon River Marina advertised a water taxi service capable of carrying 16 people/4,000# to the club for \$50 Canadian. You could also rent a 14' boat with 9.9 motor for \$84 CAD/day.

1995: Annual dues increased from \$20 to \$30, but dinners at the club meetings were free. An ice maker was purchased for the first time. Dorothy Pagan made her first appearance as cook, a streak that continued until 2014.

New septic system installed in 1996, as well as the keystone in front of the main cottage, celebrating the club's 100th anniversary.

In 1997, there were three men's camps and 10 private weeks offered, as well as the usual work week. The large cottage had a new green, steel roof installed.

Per diem for men's camps was increased to \$22 in 1998. The board discussed the high cost of fishing worms for men's camps. They talked about the possibility of not providing worms during future camps, however no action taken. The club had ~\$42,000 in the bank.

In 1999, men's camps were increased to four. Well-respected musky fisherman, Howard Wagner, was the featured speaker at the April member meeting. The club had 14 applications for membership on file. The bylaws were changed so that dues would increase to \$300 should a member not be an active participant in the club's activities. A new roof matching the large cottage was put on the boathouse during work week.

The new millennium brought changes to the bylaws expanding the geographic area considered to be a local member. Tom Elliott donated his pontoon boat to the club as his health prevented him from making the trip to Canada.

2001: To counter the recent perceived decline in bass fishing, a "Catch and Release is Fun" sign is hung on the boathouse. Another sign is to be posted reflecting recent changes to the boating laws that a buoyant heaving line, bailer and sound signaling device are now required onboard all boats. The dining table was resurfaced. Two kayaks, one canoe and one boat purchased.



2002 work week projects included: Last of floating docks were rebuilt, eliminating the foam-shedding problems with the old ones. Their anticipated lifespan was 10-15 years, yet they were still going strong in 2022. Concrete pad poured for the new generator that was installed the previous year. New light installed over dart board in main cottage. Outside contractor hired to replace rope on flagpole. Three new club boats purchased. Sold three old boats, three old canoes and two sections of old dock for \$700 CAD. New canoe/kayak rack built.

The per diem in 2003 stood at \$26 for men's camps and \$16 for private weeks. Annual dues were increased to \$50. Meals at club meeting will now cost \$10 for all members. There was a little under \$30,000 in the club's bank accounts. Club establishes minimum level of revenue for July and August private camps of 16 people x 7 days x per diem. Moon River charges \$75 CAD for water taxi to club.

In 2004, the Board instituted a deposit of \$100 per person for men's camp and \$500 for private weeks. Members were assessed \$50 to improve the camp water system. Nine new members (an all-time high?) were voted in at the spring meeting. Accounting software adopted, replacing paper books.

A new per diem payment form was created in 2005 to provide for the newly introduced full-service option and to start charging for gasoline. Previously, gasoline was provided in the daily per diem charge. Members are increasingly bringing their own boats with larger motors and using more gas. Per diem rates were reduced to \$23 for men's camps and full-service and \$13 for non-full service, but gas charged at \$4/gallon. Club saw a 20% increase in camp days over 2004.

2005 facility improvements included Dion Construction replacing the roof on the small cottage to match the others (at a cost of \$9,100), updating the cook's sleeping quarters in the small cottage, building a wooden walkway between the two cottages, constructing a boat ramp for the club boats and repositioning them to the north side of the boathouse. Significant boathouse cribbing repairs were contracted out (\$13,000+). A new incinerator was purchased from member Ken Davis and transported to the club.

In 2006, a new password-protected, members only section of the website was created for club business. Several members traveled to Cleveland, Ohio to attend a briefing by the Georgian Bay Association.

In 2007, the Directors established a naming rights policy for future camp improvements. A floating break wall system proposed by Moon River Marine was discussed to try to reduce damages to our dock and boats from wakes generated by the large boats in the main channel. However, no action was taken. Pennsylvania Club logo ball cap sales were popular. Only three private weeks did not use full-service option.

The small cottage bathroom was renovated, and the boathouse shelter was built and dedicated in Jack Quailey's honor. It is located where the camp boats were previously stored. Electric outlets installed at the docks. No more running extension cords to the boathouse to charge up the trolling motors.

Per diem rates for 2008 were \$26 for full-service and \$16 for non-full service. Men's camps deposits raised to \$100. Club no longer required to collect or pay sales tax. New insurance carrier hired resulting in significant cost savings. The club signed a 20-year lease agreement with Bell Canada for the communication tower on the Pennsylvania Club grounds.

During work week, the kitchen was upgraded with improved ventilation, new flooring, counter tops and refurbished cabinets. Steps constructed on existing dock ramps due to low water levels. Plans for the

proposed new dining room were prepared and approved by the Building Department in Parry Sound and concrete foundation pads were installed by the Skubak brothers in September. The new dining hall was made possible through the generosity of the Bronder family and their significant financial contribution.



Skubak brothers erecting dining hall addition in 2009.

The dining room addition was constructed in 2009. Work begun on the walking trail, with the help of Shenango High School students. Members discussed the club recommendation of catch and release and the impact of eating fresh-caught fish over store-bought frozen fish. Ontario enacted the requirements to purchase a 3-year Outdoor Card in addition to an annual fishing license. A driver's license no longer will get you across the border - a passport or equivalent now required. Club joins the Woods Bay Cottage Owners Association for \$30 a year. Cash on hand as of October: \$58,000.

Camp per diem rates were raised in 2010 to \$28 (full-service) and \$18 (non-full service). A new food barrel platform was constructed to alleviate the bear and raccoon problems related to dumping food scraps in the treed area behind the camp. Cabinets constructed in new dining hall addition and a new firewood storage area built. The walking trail was extended further toward Pratt Channel. Replacement of aluminum camp boats was discussed. Six new Trex Adirondack chairs purchased, which proved very popular at happy hour on the docks. Check-in policy of no earlier than 9 AM on Saturday was formally

established. Bylaws amended to reflect that any member delinquent in their dues for one year will lose their membership. Member applicants invited to attend the fall meeting.

In 2011, proposals were considered to install a water chlorination system for the camp domestic water system. Members questioned the continued use of the attic as a sleeping area and debated whether to eliminate smoking in the cottages. Five men's camps offered: May, June, July, August & September. With all weeks now being full-service, it was determined that the food requirements have outgrown a single cook's capability, so starting next year, a cook's helper will be hired.

2011 work week: Food pantry built in the old dining room area, 24 new dining hall chairs stained and varnished, fire pump storage box built on dock, stairs to attic rebuilt and under-stairs storage area installed.

The camp added a portable defibrillator in 2012. The camp calendar was expanded to 21 weeks with camp opening in early May. Jim Grisdale was contracted to deliver the Sysco food order weekly. The camp per diem rate stood at \$30 per day and the gasoline charge at \$7 per gallon. A new position of Food Service Advisor was established to run the full-service program. A tool shed was added behind the existing motor shed.

Club bylaws were amended in 2013. Member dues and guest fees were raised to \$100 and per diem to \$35. A proposal to charge honorary members \$50 was discussed, but not approved. A minimum per diem charge of seven days per person was enacted. The club dinner will now cost you \$15 and there were 31 applicants on the list for membership. The main work week project was a new ceiling and reinforcing the joists in the main cottage.

The annual spring meeting in 2014 recognized Tom Elliott for his 65-years of membership and his many contributions to our camp. Plans were presented to the members for a new bedroom addition which would eliminate sleeping in the attic and ensure most bedrooms would be limited to two persons. After a lively meeting, the membership approved the addition. Many members contributed their personal funds to raise the necessary monies for the new cottage. Building documents were prepared and a permit was secured to allow site clearing and foundation pad installation to occur in September (again, performed by Dan & Dennis Skubak). Member applicants and their guests were allowed to attend men's camps on their own, without their sponsor.

To help fill a lightly used week, a Pike Tournament was held in early June and camp was full. During the June work week, new windows for the living room area of the main cottage, donated by member applicant, Jim Tata, were installed. The back steps to the main cottage were rebuilt.

A smoking policy was implemented that eliminated smoking from all cabin areas except the living room in the main cottage. Couples week was held for the first time and proved such a success that it is now a fixture on the reservations calendar. The fall meeting was quite the event, where we had a huge turnout to honor the retirement of Dorothy Pagan, our cook for the past 20 years. Many said that she was the best thing to happen to the club. Over the years she was often assisted by her husband, Dave, and daughters, Rose and Trish.



The new bedroom addition was constructed in 2015. Thirty-five new mattresses were donated by member applicant, Jim Tata. A club Policy Manual was developed and incorporated into the club website. The club required a boater safety card for use of a camp boat and recommended all boat operators secure this certification to avoid issues with the OPP. An online menu selection for camp captains was implemented. Karl Menges reported the discovery during the site clearing and foundation construction last fall of an ancient stone carving tool used by Indians to hollow out wooden canoes. In July, the club hosted two graduate students from McMaster University while they were conducting some research in the area looking for musky spawning areas.

Camp attendance was an all-time high in 2016 and annual revenues exceeded \$100,000 for the first time. A no-graffiti policy was implemented to stop the continued damages and defacing of the finished wood surfaces in the cabins. An emergency medical manual was prepared to help members understand how to respond to medical emergencies at camp. Some members raised concerns about smoking in the main cottage living room. There were no changes made to the smoking policy. Kudos were extended by President McConahy to carpenters Dan and Dennis Skubak and all the club members who helped construct the new bedroom addition.

The water level raised so much that the steps added in 2013 had to be removed from the dock ramps. New gas storage was constructed behind the boathouse to provide safer storage of portable gas tanks. The main cabin front porch and small cottage rear porch decks were completely replaced. Railings were added to the dock area as a safety issue. Significant septic systems repairs were contracted out. The waiting list of member applicants stood at 37.

In 2017, the water level continued to rise. The dock ramps are almost completely level. The kitchen in the small cottage was demolished and completely redone. The boathouse overhead door was removed

and replaced with a rollup fabric door. The old outhouse was dismantled. A new fuel storage tank installed behind boathouse. Major electrical improvements involved converting to a single feed for entire camp.

The club bylaws were updated in 2018. The ice machine was relocated from the kitchen to the back porch to alleviate the heat it generated in the kitchen. Additional ice machine installed in the boathouse, making for a shorter walk during happy hour. All electrical overhead wires moved underground. Walkway constructed from docks to back of main cottage.

During their May 2019 visit, the birding Bryant family identified 91 species of birds around Pennsylvania Island. Work week projects included: final bathroom in main cottage remodeled, the three bedrooms in small cottage renovated, a solid fixed dock built to attach to the finger docks behind boathouse. At the fall meeting, it was announced that there are 52 member applicants and there were 2644 camp nights for the season, a record. With its recent legalization in Canada, a cannabis smoking policy for the club was adopted.

2020: The year of COVID. The border never opened, so for the first time in its history, camp was not occupied. Despite this, the club lost only \$5,600 for the year as members and guests donated over \$12,000, mostly in deposit money. Necessitated by the pandemic, board meetings held virtually (online) for the first time.

After sitting idle for 22 months, camp reopened in August 2021. The first week was spent thoroughly cleaning all spaces and making it fit for occupancy again. Mice and beavers seemed to have taken up residency in the absence of humans. All the paper files in the club's possession such as minutes, reports, financial statements and the visitor logs were scanned, digitized and cataloged. For the first time, changes to the bylaws were voted on electronically, with 93% member participation. The geographic area considered as local for membership was expanded to a roughly 100-mile radius of New Castle.

Except for some supply chain issues, normalcy returned to the club in 2022 with camp being open for 23 weeks. Per diem was raised for the first time in 10 years, now at \$40. Work week saw a matching second bedroom, an all-new front porch and sunroof and new front windows in the cook's cabin. The back dock was expanded and electrical power and lights installed.

2023 was a banner year with record attendance and revenue. During work week, the two adjoining bedrooms in the main cottage were converted into three rooms and most of the main dock was rebuilt with new lumber. Seven new members were voted in at the fall business meeting.



Special recognition must go to the Skubak brothers: Dan and Dennis. Without their unselfish contributions of time, equipment and expertise, many of the camp improvements of recent years simply would not have happened. Here is a list of some of the projects that they designed and constructed:

- 2007: The boathouse shelter & small cottage bathroom renovation.
- 2008: Kitchen remodel including renovated countertops, cabinets and improved ventilation.
- 2009: Dining hall addition. Note: all the footers for the dining hall and boathouse shelter dug by hand.
- 2010: Cabinetry in new dining hall.
- 2011: New pantry, stairs to attic redone in main cottage, storage area added under stairs.
- 2012: Tool storage shed added behind motor shed.
- 2013: New ceiling installed in main cottage with reinforced joists, new lights & ceiling fans.
- 2014: New windows in front of main cottage, stairs at back of main cottage.
- 2015: New three-bedroom cottage addition. Again, the foundation pads dug manually.
- 2016: Decking in front of main cottage & stairs for the small cottage.
- 2017: Long bench by windows in front of main cottage. Kitchen in cook's quarters redone.
- 2018: Bathroom in main cottage remodeled. Steps from docks to main cottage.
- 2019: Second bathroom in main cottage & bedrooms in small cottage.

Elliott Family

Tom Elliott Sr. and his family have a rich history of service and participation at the Pennsylvania Club.

Tom was President of the highly successful Elliott Brothers Steel Company in New Castle, PA and joined the club as a young man in 1949. His youth, energy, love for the outdoors, and generosity greatly benefited the Pennsylvania Club. Tom, along with Bill Tebay, Jim Haas (dec. 1982), and Jack Pattison led the way to help establish the rich history of the Work Week tradition which has enabled the Pennsylvania Club to quadruple the annual camp days/year and annual rental income. These fellows worked tirelessly to remodel the facilities which provided the revenues for improved facilities.

Back in the '50s and '60s, the point of entry to the Pennsylvania Club was the harbor at Parry Sound, which is an 18-mile boat ride to Sans Souci. Prior to that, members and guests could arrange passage from Midland or Penetang via the *Midland City* or *Parry Queen* steamers. Getting from Parry Sound to the Pennsylvania Club was quite often a bit of an ordeal.

The Pennsylvania Club had a long-standing agreement to have a local gentleman by the name of John Cloarec look after the Pennsylvania Club for us. John and his brother Charlie, with their parents, had emigrated to Canada from the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea between Great Britain and Ireland, in 1911. After first living in Penetang, in 1935 they built their home in Clear Bay (more commonly known as Cloarec Bay), where they had a house, a boathouse, a sawmill, and large garden on the mainland.

The members of the Pennsylvania Club loved John for his hard work, his honesty, and for his humbleness. Tom Elliott and Jim Haas thought it would be great if John Cloarec had a boat large enough to provide transportation to members of the Pennsylvania Club to and from Parry Sound. This was 20 years before Ontario built a road into Woods Bay.

Tom and Jim knew that a friend by the name of Bob Love had just completed building a 25' wooden boat in his garage in New Castle. They also knew that this project had taken several years to complete, and that Bob's cancer had progressed to the point that Bob would never be able to use utilize his 3+ year project.

After Bob passed, Tom and Jim approached Bob Love's widow about buying the boat that had not yet been fitted with a motor or propulsion system. They bought the boat, hauled it to Canada, and gave it to John Cloarec as a gift. John had people in Parry Sound put a motor and drive system in the boat, and John used that boat to take many of us out to the Pennsylvania Club with all our supplies.

Back in those days the only full-service weeks were during the four weeks of men's camp in July and the club president usually got stuck with buying all the groceries and attending the first week. Private reservations in August always required getting to Parry Sound on Friday, grocery shopping for 20 guys on Friday after dinner, and then enjoying the night life in Parry Sound. Back in the '70s there were three separate bars that had bands, and young folks came from quite a distance to be in Parry Sound on a Friday night. Many a guy on John's boat on Saturday morning wished that they had taken it a little easier on Friday night.

Tom's sons have provided details and stories of some early projects at the Pennsylvania Club. There was the work week trip in the '70s where the workers agreed to rebuild the cribbing under the docks. This was a painful process, as it involved spending a good portion of every day submerged in icy cold water.

We are told that the final setting of the docks was only arrived at after our caretaker, John Cloarec, rammed his boat into the docks at about 20 mph to make a final adjustment. Tom's group was also involved in purchasing and installing the present-day kitchen cabinets in the large cottage. They recalled an ornery customs agent at the Canadian border making them unload and looking in every box of cabinets.

Other remembrance of the Elliott boys' (Tom III and Jamie) experiences at early work weeks included the complete tear-out of the old red brick fireplace in the main lodge. It was quite a chore as all the bricks from the roofline to the floor had to be removed. They then had to gather rocks for John Cloarec to split for the new fireplace which is still standing today. John would then split the rocks with a sledge and used his masonry and artistic skills to make sure the stones on each side of the fireplace were a symmetrical match and had the same coloring as the corresponding stone on the other side of the fireplace. The Elliott boys had to go into the back bays and excavate sand that John would mix with the mortar almost dry, so the weight of the granite stones wouldn't push out when he was laying them.

Another work week story involving the Elliot and Harcar boys was when they, along with John Cloarec, again took on the task of replacing the cribbing under the boathouse. They accomplished the task without the services of a barge-based crane to hold up the boathouse as they replaced the cribbing. It was John Cloarec's ingenuity that enabled it to occur. John went into the woods and cut three saplings and he put them vertically in the water down to the rock. He then put come-alongs on them with hooks mounted to the stringers and he jacked one side at a time off of the cribbing, so the cribbing could be replaced.

Tom Elliott was also instrumental in the aluminum flagpole project of 1989. Tom arranged to procure from Howard Bruce, the owner of the Bruce and Merrilee's Electric Company, and fellow Pennsylvania Club member, a broken-off aluminum light pole. Tom then arranged to have Ken Davis convert the broken aluminum pole into a flagpole.

After the base was welded onto the pole and the opening cut for the ropes and the pulleys and cap attached, Tom said to Ken Davis, "Now how am I going to get this up to Canada?" Kenny said, "Why don't you see the guy in the building behind my shop, Mark Stovich?" He said that Stovich repairs cars and trucks and that he just completed redoing a school bus.

Tom went over to see Stovich and paid him to haul the new flagpole to Canada in his school bus. In the meantime, a work week crew built the base with anchor bolts to hold the new flagpole. The pole laid on the ground for quite a while and several groups of guys attempted to erect it. Big "D" (Don Bronder) suffered a broken leg during one of the attempts, when the pole crashed to the ground and went sideways.

There was also the time in the '60s when Tom Elliott Sr., Tom Elliott Jr. and Blane Borman made a late-in-the-season fishing trip to Canada. Orville Flora and Bill Tebay also came along. Early one morning, the two Toms and Blaine went to fish around John Cloarec's house in Clear Bay and John came out to greet them. John mentioned that winter was coming, his meat supply was low and he wished he could get a deer. Tom Sr. said, "Maybe I can help you with that." So, he went back to camp and got his .44 Ruger pistol, .30-40 Krag rifle and Blaine got his shotgun and some punkin' balls.

They returned and John Cloarec was ready with his dog and single cylinder Massey Ferguson tractor. They all climbed on the tractor en route to the place on the portage trail to Spider Lake where John was going to post the three hunters, and the tractor put up a flock of grouse or, as the Canadians call them,

quail. Tom Sr. pulls out his .44 pistol while riding on the bumpy tractor and takes the head off a bird that they ate later that night.

After about a ½ mile ride on the tractor, Tom Sr., Tom Jr., and Blaine get off the tractor and John Cloarec tell them where he wants each of them to post. John gets back on his tractor, goes another ½ mile to an old dry lakebed where the deer like to hang out. John then releases his dog, and the dog immediately smells the deer and gives pursuit. Tom Jr. hears the dog yapping, gets ready to see a deer and drops a 270-pound eight point. John Cloarec hears the shot and comes by and sees that Tom got the buck and John says, "Why didn't you shoot the two does with him, I could have used the meat."

Tom Sr.'s final trip to the Pennsylvania Club was late in the fall of 1996. It was a special trip for Tom, as all five of his sons (Tom, Jamie, Steven, Quentin and Eric) were in camp with him. Tom in those days enjoyed fishing on his pontoon boat, which he kept in the back bay behind the boathouse, so he was able to get on the water with all five boys at one time. After the week, Tom decided to donate the pontoon boat with its motor to the club. The Pennsylvania Club graciously accepted the donation. The boat and motor were sold to Remi LeBlanc at Sans Souci, and the proceeds were added to the Pennsylvania Club checking account.



One final story follows which ties into the work week tradition that has made the Pennsylvania Club what it is today and relates to John Cloarec's ingenuity. The attached picture of a Work Week crew working on the icehouse came from the Elliott family archives, so Tom had to have been part of the work week crew that year. The club Board decided to hire a woman that cooked for a fraternity at Westminster College to cook for the Pennsylvania Club. It was a perfect fit, as this woman, Leona Kelso, had the summers off and the only time the Pennsylvania Club needed a cook was in the summertime.

The Pennsylvania Club board at the time wanted to arrange for housing for Leona and her husband, Clair, that was separate from where all the men stayed. Since the club was not flush with cash, and since with the installation of generators they really didn't need an icehouse to keep their fish cold, it was decided that Leona and Clair should sleep in the icehouse. The icehouse would also be moved from its place next to the boathouse to a location on top of the hill next to the large cottage. They talked to John Cloarec about the job, and he accepted the assignment. Using only a block and tackle and a team of horses, John Cloarec moved the icehouse from its location next to the boathouse to the location where it stands now and is a part of the building we call the small cottage. The amazing thing is that he did this ...ALL BY HIMSELF.

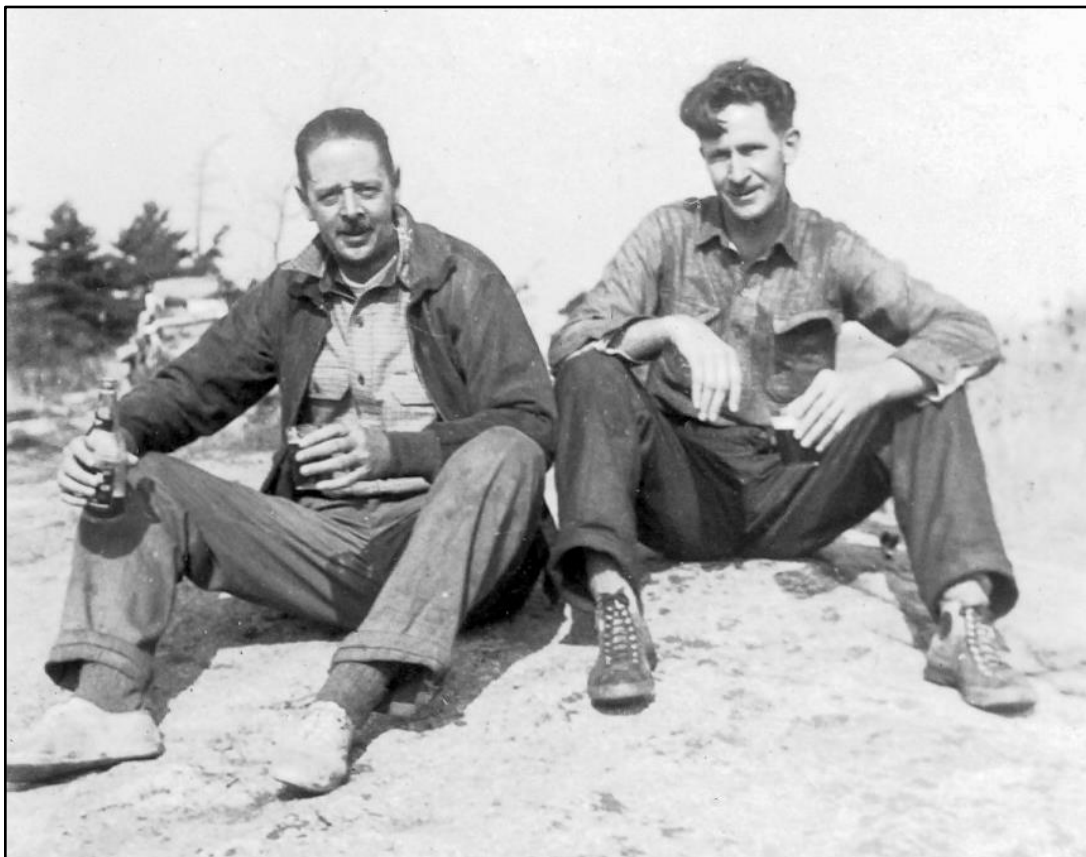
Tom Elliott III

Hasely Family

Louis W. Hasely (Lou Sr.) started his career with Kohler Co in the 1920s. Somewhere in the mid to latter part of that decade, the Pennsylvania Club decided they would like to have electrical power in the camp. One of the club members (I wish I knew who) invited Lou to Pennsylvania Island to see if one of Kohler's generator plants could be a feasible power source for the club. Evidently, Lou and some of those early members got along well, as Lou soon became a member and attended regularly for the next 50+ years. My father (Lou Jr.), myself, and the newest Hasely PA Club member, Steven, are all very thankful that Lou Sr. made that generator sales trip.

Chud Fuellgraf may be able to shed some more light on this, but to my knowledge, although I'm sure they knew each other through business, Lou Sr. and Charley Fuellgraf did not become close friends until they both happened to choose the same Florida retirement park in which to spend their winters. That would have probably been in the mid to late 60s.

I remember attending July camps with my grandfather for several years before I was old enough to drive. That would date those trips to be pre-1972. Charley Fuellgraf and his friend, Elmer Campbell, were, I believe, guests of my grandfather on most of those trips. I'm not sure of this, but my impression is those were among the first trips Charley and Elmer made to our club. By the way, Charley soon began bringing his grandson, Chud, to camp with him. Chud and I were often, by some 50 years, the youngest in camp during those weeks. As such, we not only became great fishing buddies, but the favorites of the cook at that time, Mrs. Kelso.



Charlie & Lou Hasely enjoying a mid-day root beer - 1935

A little story from a 1979 trip to the club:

I had been up to camp in September of 1978 and told John Cloarec I had always wanted to see the area in the winter. I asked him what time of winter would be the best time to come and he told me mid-February as the ice is solid and the snow in the woods is settled by then. There was no way to communicate with John in those days. He seldom saw another person from about Thanksgiving until ice melt the following spring, so he didn't know if I was serious about planning the trip.

I asked my friend, Ken Molnar, if he would like to join me. At that time, Ken had never been to the Pennsylvania Club, but he was always up for an adventure. We packed up skis, snowshoes, and all the winter camping gear we had and left for Parry Sound on, I believe, February 14. On the drive north we kept hearing the local weather reports saying the Parry Sound region was expecting -40° temperatures over the next few nights. Being young and stupid, we figured that -40° Celsius was probably "only" -10 or so Fahrenheit and we knew we were prepared for that.

Ken and I went to some sort of benefit pancake breakfast early the next morning. We knew it was bitter cold but didn't realize just how cold it was until we met a local at the breakfast. He informed us that the one temperature where both the Celsius and Fahrenheit scales were the same was..... -40! This fellow we met was very good to us. When he found out what our plans were, he told us he lived very near our jumping off point and insisted that we leave our truck at his house. He told us he would take the battery out of our truck and keep it in his house while we were gone. That way we would have at least a chance of starting the truck when we returned.

Ken and I set out about 0900 that morning. Though there was several feet of snow in the woods, the wind kept most of the snow off the lakes. We were able to hike on the ice without using skis or snowshoes. Crossing through the woods between lakes required snowshoes. We crossed a couple inland lakes and eventually found our way onto Spider Lake. About the time we were starting to look for a place to camp for the night, we saw a snowmobile headed towards us. That was the first sign of anyone we had seen since leaving the truck. It turned out to be a local out checking his beaver and otter traps and, once again, we lucked out. The trapper knew John and offered to take us the rest of the way, so we wouldn't have to spend a night out in the -40° degree cold. We happily accepted his offer!

When we arrived at John's, he wasn't home. There was smoke coming out of his chimney, so I knew he couldn't be far. I followed the trail to the spring behind his house and met him coming back to the house with water.

Now remember, I hadn't seen or communicated with John in over five months and had just trekked most of the way out from Parry by foot during the coldest weather they had seen in years. John, in his quiet and understated way, looked up at me and said, "I kind of thought you'd be here today." I'll never forget that.

We spent three wonderful days with John. Though I don't believe the temperature ever made it to positive numbers, the weather was beautiful. There was no wind, a spectacular blue sky, and sparkling, unbroken snow everywhere you looked. We spent the days snowshoeing to all of my favorite spots, including all around Clear Lake. The evenings were spent around John's table listening to his stories.

The highlights for me were our hike out to the Pennsylvania Club and when John took us to his “church”. John was a deeply religious man. Every Sunday during the winter, weather permitting, he would hike to a high spot west of his camp where he could look out across Spider Bay and into the open Georgian Bay. He had a little bench there where he felt especially close to God. I believe we were among the few people ever taken to his special spot. I felt humbled and honored.

When it came time to leave, John started his old snowmobile and took us about halfway back. He knew we could make it to the truck from there. The weather had warmed some by then and we had an uneventful journey. When we made it back, the kind man who had let us park at his house put the battery back in the truck, the truck started, and we were on our way home.

John Cloarec was one of the most amazing men I have ever met. He could make or do just about anything with very little. He kept up with everything that was going on in the world (he had a radio) and knew the Bible inside and out. I am blessed to have been able to call him a friend.

Bill Hasely



Pictures from this adventure may be viewed on the club’s website History page.

Kiefer-Poulton Week and the PA Club

Gene Poulton grew up in Columbiana, Ohio. He met Trudy Hitchcock in the late 1930s on a blind date and dated for several years. Trudy (Navy Nurse) and Gene (Army Air Corps) served in WWII and married after the war.

Trudy's father was Tom Hitchcock, who, through the Depression, owned and operated a small grocery store on West Sampson Street in New Castle. Tom Hitchcock was a member and past president of the Pennsylvania Club and introduced Gene Poulton to the Club. Wendell Hitchcock, Trudy's brother was also a member of the Club.

After graduating from college in 1947, Gene joined Hill, Barth and King, a CPA firm in Youngstown and was given the option to set up a branch office in either Salem, Ohio or New Castle. He chose New Castle, Trudy's hometown and home of the Pennsylvania Club.

Gene and Trudy raised four children: Tom, Lynda, Jeff and Robert. Tom Hitchcock sponsored Gene Poulton for membership in the PA Club and until his untimely death in 1969, Gene made numerous stag and family trips to the club. He also provided accounting services for the Pennsylvania Club.

Trudy and Min (Figuly) Kiefer were high school friends in the 1930s in New Castle. Min married John Kiefer and raised four sons: John, Larry, Gary and Wayne. Through the friendship of Trudy Poulton and Min Kiefer and membership in the Masons in New Castle, Gene Poulton and John Kiefer became best of friends.

Over the years, Gene and Trudy, John and Min and their families participated in numerous activities. In the 1960s, the Poulton and Kiefer families spent summers sharing a rented cabin at Sherwood on Lake Erie. Gene and John jointly purchased a 14 ft. Starcraft fishing boat for use on Lake Erie and named the boat *Lynda C*, after the only daughter in the two families.

Gene sponsored John Kiefer for membership in the Pennsylvania Club. Gene and John attended stag weeks together at the club, usually in September after Labor Day when days were cooler, less bugs, kids were back in school, and bass and walleye fishing was still in season. Sons Tom Poulton and John Kiefer became members of the PA Club in 1970.

Gary and Larry Kiefer graduated from NeCaHi in 1963 and were slated to start their freshman year the third week of September at Grove City College. The Pennsylvania club was not being used as much in those days, and the second week of September was open. John Kiefer reserved that week and a tradition of attendance at the Pennsylvania Club the Saturday following Labor Day began with a small group of 6 or 7. Participants included John Kiefer and his sons, John, Larry and Gary; Tony and son, Jack Kosior and maybe Guy Bennett or Steve Holmes. Gene Poulton and son, Tom, soon joined the group along with Kiefer relatives Norman Keeling, Fred Zabawa, Melvin Young and friends of Larry and Gary.

Over the next several years the group continued to grow and included club members Brownie Collins, Tom Pawlak and Joe Campbell. The core Kiefer-Poulton group has continued attending this same week every year since except in 2020 due to the coronavirus. For more than 50 years, this group has consistently averaged 16-18 participants, comprised of friends and relatives hailing from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Florida, with occasional guests from Texas and Illinois.

The early years of our trips to and from the club starting in September 1963, access to the camp was through Parry Sound. Those of us who lived in or around New Castle would meet at John Kiefer Sr.'s house early Friday evening and drive through the night to the main pier in Parry Sound. In the early days, few of us trailered our own boat, except for the *Lynda C*, which was used to transport spare motors and gas tanks for use with camp boats.

Upon arrival in Parry Sound, we usually dozed in the parking lot at the pier, waiting until the liquor and grocery stores opened Saturday morning. Teams were dispatched to stock up on necessary supplies, groceries and cases of beer, and then wait for John Cloarec to pick all of us up in his wooden taxi boat. Gary and Larry made the trip back to Parry Sound one year by bush plane. It was their first ever airplane ride. It was a short flight, but a long and very special memory for them.

In addition to the beverages and people, we loaded outboard motors, gas cans, etc. along with all the other gear and groceries for the week. John used this boat as a work and taxi boat quite a few years. We took our own cooks for the week, who most of the time were couples and other family friends. The cooks' spouses assisted their wives with meal preparation and also fished with the rest of the guys.

Those trips out to the island from Parry Sound, although several hours long, gave the group the opportunity to reconnect and enjoy a drink together and a euchre game or two. This trip closely followed the mainland coast and occasionally encountered short stretches of open water. It was generally sometime in the early afternoon before we reached the Club. It was always very uplifting when you finally went through Anchor Pint and caught your first glimpse of the Pennsylvania Club.

This arrangement with John as our taxi lasted until we started to trailer our own boats in the late '60s. For a short period of time, individual boats often made the trip from Parry Sound. Until one fateful trip... Running into rough open water that swamped one of the boats overloaded with gear and equipment and towing another boat, while trying to follow Cloarec's taxi boat put an end to that. Fortunately, no one was injured and most of the cargo was recovered.

After returning home, the group learned from Floyd Rice that access might be possible via Woods Bay. The following year, Larry did some exploration out of MacTier through the woods, and in the early morning darkness he found the access to launch sites on Woods Bay. Grisdale's boat launch site became the preferred Woods Bay launch. Jim Grisdale would get us launched and parked while his wife issued our fishing licenses. In the early days, much of the access route was a single lane road with some areas no more than two tire ruts through the weeds. Access to Woods Bay has significantly improved since then.

Traveling via Woods Bay shortened the trip considerably vs. the drive to Parry Sound. It also created a new challenge for groceries and supplies needed for a week on the island. The drivers of each of the vehicles traveling to camp were given logistical assignments by John Kiefer to secure food and supplies at home and transport to the club. All this changed, of course, when the club changed to a full-service food operation.

Many tales, experiences and memories were made over the years that include portages to Clear and Moon Lakes, Pratt Channel walleye runs, Cloarec Bay crappie bonanzas, Hocky's run-n-gun fishing techniques, daring guts-n-guts poker games late into the night, the yellow submarine, Ed Marshall's story-telling and investigations, Neil's famous escape, water fights at the dock, mouse hunting, tricks and sabotages, a middle-of-the-night fire brigade, exploration trips to beaver dams and lakes on Moon

Island and to Peanut and Lost Lake, fishing contests, big fish day, and fishing records. All these were developed and archived over 25 years.



Kiefer-Poulton Group - 2016

Over 50 plus consecutive years, the Kiefer-Poulton group has spanned multiple generations. John Kiefer's sons John, Larry and Gary became members of the Pennsylvania Club, as did Gene's sons Tom, Jeff and Robert. Active participation in the club has also stretched generations with members of this group. John Kiefer Sr. was President of the club. His son, John, also served on the club Board of Directors. John Sr., his son, John, Larry and his son, John, have attended numerous work weeks.

Gene Poulton assisted with treasurer duties. Tom Poulton has provided construction documents, building code and zoning coordination, sketches and renovation recommendations for numerous projects. Gene Poulton introduced Sam Shirey, also a CPA, to the Pennsylvania Club. After Gene's death in 1969, Sam Shirey took over leadership of the New Castle office of the Hill, Barth and King accounting firm.

Tom Poulton

McBride Family

I'm going to give some memories about the PA Club and the McBride family. I hope it's reasonably accurate.

I'm not sure if Quincy was a founder, but he was born about 1880 and would only have been 16 in 1896. He started going to the club about 1908 or so. He took my grandmother, Rachel, there starting in about 1919.

There was no clubhouse and they stayed in tents for two weeks. The trip alone took about a week. They took various trains to Midland and then took the ferry to Pennsylvania Island.

The club had one boat with a motor, and it would tow rowboats to the various spots we still fish today. They would fish the one spot all day and have a shore lunch with the abundance of fresh fish.

My father, Dave Sr., was born in 1915 and his first year at the club was in 1932. There was a strict 16-year-old rule for sons. He missed very few years after that and died in 1998.

David McBride Jr. started coming in 1963, 16-year rule again. Duncan and I started in 1966, as the 16-year rule was changed. Our early years included many legendary members: Frank Bower and the Bower family, Bob and John Henderson, Big D (Don Bronder), Reg Bailey, John Dean, Clint Snyder, the Keifer family, Bill Tanner, Bob Myers, the Poultons, Sam Shirey, the McConahy family, and many more.

We always went to men's camps and my mom never went there. I never attended the camp with ladies until the year a mid-July week didn't sell, and John McConahy opened the camp to all. Dave Jr. and I attended that week with Bud and Kathy Bukowski and her mom and sister. John and Debbie were also there.

We discovered that the ladies were an asset, and it was so much fun we started organizing a McBride family week soon after. That was also the first year Dave and I went twice, which I've done every year since. We try to attend with the family about every three years due to the family diaspora.

When we were young, we fished exclusively with worms and ate any bass we could, three times a week. My dad (Dave Sr.) routinely killed every pike we caught, called them a garbage fish (how wrong).

Our first year, Ann Elliot was the cook, and her quarters was the present-day lady's bathroom. After that, for many years the cooks were Leona and Clair Kelso. The icehouse was moved up to where the



Duncan & Doug McBride - 1968

cook's apartment is now and that was their home. The food could be a little rough, but she really knew how to cook bass.

John Cloarec and my dad were the same age and were close friends until their deaths. The fireplace in the living room was erected by John and my brother, Dave Jr. I don't know what year that was. If you look closely, the stones, which were gathered by John over several years, are all symmetrical.

We went through several cooks, including Tex, who put hot sauce on everything, but the club really improved when we hired Dorothy Pagan (in the mid-1990s) and the food was great after that. Then her daughter, Rose, and husband, Dave Davis, took over and the food cooked with love continued.

Doug McBride

In June 2021, New Castle Junior Senior High School picked a neurosurgeon to be the guest speaker for their commencement ceremony. However, Dr. Duncan McBride was not just giving something to the students, he also received something - an honorary high school diploma. Turns out that Duncan never received a high school diploma, as he enrolled in a foreign exchange program that sent him to Denmark his senior year.

Proving that a diploma isn't absolutely necessary, his higher education included Yale, Harvard, NYU, the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, Northwestern and the University of Copenhagen. He's a professor at UCLA who will retire soon.

Rice, Latore & Mauk Families

My first trip to the Georgian Bay and Rice Island (B307) was in July 1963. My wife and I made subsequent trips to the cottage until it was sold in 1967. With that said, I will do my best to tell the history of each family's connection to the Pennsylvania Club.

Floyd L. Rice (1911-1992): "Once you met him, you didn't forget him."

Floyd Rice was an exceptionally intelligent individual with great retention and who read at least two books a week. He could recite poetry for two hours without repeating himself. Floyd and his wife, Harriett, owned a neighborhood grocery store in New Castle, Rice's Market, and he knew the prices and margins for just about every item in the store.

In addition to being a storekeeper, he loved gambling, especially poker and craps. His gambling quote was, "The less you bet, the more you lose when you win." He would host a poker game just about every Friday evening in his house at the northeast corner of Highland Ave. and Glen Moore Blvd. As I remember, they always had a minimum of six to eight players who played with silver dollars and sometimes the game did not end until 9 or 10 Saturday morning. The poker table that they played on, Floyd donated it to the Pennsylvania Club and is set up in the main club room.



Rice's Market

Floyd's love of the outdoors was such that he was one of the first owners of a cabin on the Neshannock Creek off Sunset Valley Road in New Castle. Floyd was proud of the fact that it was he who named the road, Sunset Valley Road. Floyd also enjoyed shooting craps and on one occasion, to keep the local authorities from knowing about his crap game at his cabin, he floated a crap table on a boat down the Neshannock creek so he and his buddies could shoot craps in discretion.

Floyd was an outdoors person who especially like fishing, be it casting or trolling. He would usually fish with two poles in the water most of the time. He loved to go out fishing at night, especially under a full moon.

Floyd made his first trip to the Parry Sound/Georgian Bay area in the 1940s. He was good friends with Karl Rohrer who told him about the area's natural beauty and great fishing and accepted his invite to the Pennsylvania Club. He stayed at the Pennsylvania Club as a guest of Karl's and then stayed at Karl's cottage, after it was constructed in 1950.

Floyd fell in love with the area after his first visit and returned every year. In 1951, he brought his two young daughters Sally Mauk and Betsy Latore, who were 10 and 8 years old, for a week at Karl's. In 1952, he returned with his daughters and stayed at the Pennsylvania Club. Sally and Betsy have 70+ year history!

Floyd was best friends with Jim Haas (young Jim Haas' uncle) who lived on the next street behind his store. As a daily ritual, they would play cribbage in Floyd's back office. They kept score of their wins on a wall in the office. As the story goes, when they ceased playing, one guy chocked up 5,324 wins and the other 5,319 wins. We never knew who had the most wins.

They often talked about the Georgian Bay area when playing cribbage. Floyd introduced Jim to the area, and they would either stay at Karl's or the Pennsylvania Club. On many occasions, they would spend the whole day exploring the surrounding waters or portage to one of the inland lakes.

Sometimes, before sunset, they would find a place to bed down on rock for the night. They both got to know the waters very well and occasionally would still nail a rock or shoal.

Floyd and Jim made numerous trips to this area they loved, and their passion was to each buy an island and build a cottage. When the Crown made islands available in the late 1950s, they each purchased an island. Floyd had 1st choice, so he chose Island B307 and Jim B303. Floyd's island was not on the Hydro line, but Jim's island was. Good choice for Jim!

Floyd constructed his cottage first, and with the help of Jim Haas and John Cloarec finished it in 1960. The cottage had three bedrooms, one small bath with shower, kitchen and living room with a classic "John Cloarec" stone fireplace for heat. Since it was not on the Hydro grid, he had a petrol generator for lights and the water pump and septic system. Refrigerator and stove were propane. Hot water was from a tank on the roof heated by the sun.

Floyd and his family enjoyed the cottage for the next few years and the daily adventures to find the best fishing spots. The cottage did require hands-on upkeep with any major repairs done by John Cloarec.

Floyd did encounter a health challenge the fall of 1963. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis which was prevalent at that time. He applied and was admitted to the B'nai B'rith Sanatorium in Denver, CO and returned home in June 1964. While in Denver, his wife, the butcher and family ran the family market.

He continued to go to the cottage on a limited schedule, but the annual upkeep and maintenance plus the demands of the market took a toll on him. Since his children didn't have the time or the means, he made the decision to sell the cottage.... which he somewhat regretted but realized the Pennsylvania Club was a better option. He sold the cottage in 1967, I believe, for about \$25,000.

I don't know the dates Floyd and Jim Haas became members of the Pennsylvania Club (Floyd became a member in 1974 and Jim in 1975), but know that they always attended several work weeks and many of the men's camps.

My first Pennsylvania Club men's camp was in 1970. Some of the members that were in attendance were Garth Tebay, Bob Myers, Ernie Gray, Jim Haas and several others. I also attended a work week with Floyd and Jim Haas. I cannot remember the year in the mid-'70s that I submitted my application for non-local membership, since I moved from New Castle to Cleveland in 1966. My application was finally approved in 2002. My brother-in-law, Dick Mauk was a local member approved in 1978 and who passed away in 2010.

In 1976, Betsy and I, with Floyd and Harriett, made our first boat trip by water, from Cleveland to the Pennsylvania Club. It was in my 1976 Sea Ray 22' cuddy cabin. There were no electronics on board except for the boat compass and speedometer. We did plot our course on the lake charts and calculated

the distance traveled by our speed and elapsed time. The trip was quite the experience and took us three days, running between 8 and 10 hours a day.

We did have smooth seas but there was a heavy fog crossing the Georgian Bay. At times we could barely see the bow of the boat. Since then, my wife and I made three subsequent trips in much larger vessels equipped with all the navigational electronics.

Our last trip was in 2000 on a 60' Sea Ray Sundancer with our son, Kevin. We docked the boat at Henry's and used our tender to go back and forth to the club. We usually made the trip in two days running 8 to 10 hours a day depending on the seas. We carried 850 gallons of diesel fuel and burned 75 to 85 gallons per hour. On our return home, the seas were running 10-12' on the Georgian Bay. We left Henry's at 6:30 am and ran for less than an hour but decided to turn back and return to Henry's. It would have been a 4-to-5-hour crossing.... the boat could handle it, but we couldn't. We left early the next morning in 4-5' seas and arrived in Cleveland, non-stop, at 1:00 am the next morning. Total run time, stopping only for fuel, was 19 hrs. The total fuel cost for the trip was around \$8,000.

We attended many of the prime weeks as a family since 1970 with 20 to 24 in attendance. We never had a problem getting the week of our choice, but always preferred the week of July 4th. However, that changed when Canada made July 1st the opening day for bass. After the 1st week of July was changed to a men's camp and the passing of Dick Mauk in 2010, it was more difficult to get that week since I was the only member on the reservation application. If you would ask any of our family's children what's their favorite vacation, it was always our family week at the Pennsylvania Club.

Since my first stay at the Pennsylvania Club, so many major improvements and additions were made because of all the hard work and a total commitment by the Board and membership to make the club a first-class destination for all members and families to enjoy. We thank you all for your vision!

Cheers,
Don (Butch) Latore

Walter Biebrick Cottage/The Coach's

Originally built by Walter Biebrick, who taught German at Westminster College and was good friend of Karl Rohrer. Currently owned by Dave Chambers, former ice hockey coach for Ohio State, York University and the Quebec Nordiques (1990-91).



Jim Haas Cottage/Narnia

Jim Haas was born in 1923 and passed in 1982. Jim was the consummate outdoorsman and he loved fishing and hunting. He resided in the same Historical District as the Pennsylvania Club's founders at 214 Park Avenue in New Castle. His house shared a back yard with Floyd Rice's Market and Jim and Floyd became best friends and spent a lot of time together. They both enjoyed playing cribbage and they kept track of the score on the back wall of Floyd's store.

Jim and Floyd spent a great deal of time fishing the waters of the Georgian Bay. They fished from Honey Harbor to Parry Sound, and they loved the waters around the Pennsylvania Club.

In the early 1950s the Canadian government, referred to as "The Crown", surveyed all the islands in the area and approved certain ones as suitable for a cottage and announced them for sale. Sometime in the late '50s, Jim and Floyd each decided to purchase an island for the asking price of \$500. The stipulation was that the buyer of the Crown property had to build a cottage in a specific time period.

Jim Haas (the uncle of the Jim Haas who is a past president of the Pennsylvania Club), built his cottage in 1963 between Black Bass Island and Fry Point and called it the House of Haas. Jim and Floyd each traveled to their respective cottages as often as they could, but found that a good portion of their vacation time was spent chasing down material to maintain them. When the opportunity arose to join the Pennsylvania Club, they each jumped at the opportunity and sold their cottages.

He sold his cottage in 1975 for \$25,000 and he had to carry the paper for the new owner. The cottage he built burned down several years after he sold it and was rebuilt. The island is currently called Narnia and is officially known as Island B303.



Colin McConnell Cottage

Ralph McConnell bought the cottage from John Cloarec in 1954, who had built it for himself when his parents were still alive. John Cloarec's dad passed shortly after John had finished the cottage, so he sold it and continued to reside in the family homestead.

Ralph had other partners in the cottage over the years by the names of Harry Rodgers and Ed King. Ralph McConnell, who was from New Castle, had been to the Pennsylvania Club as a guest of, Tom Pawlak, we think. Ralph learned of John Cloarec's interest in selling the cottage and the sale was made.

Ralph's son, Colin, had been a CPA and worked for Wally Cunningham at Carbis Walker at one point in time. Colin went into the family upholstery business after he gave up accounting. That business was on the south side of Maitland Lane just west of Wilmington Road in New Castle.

As of 2022, Colin's sons, Colin and Edward, now own the cottage in Cloarec Bay. Their father passed away in 2013.



Reverend J. A. Mueller/New Castle Club Cottage

Around 1940, Reverend J. A. Mueller's cottage on B305 was known as the New Castle Club. It was a fishing club started by people from New Castle, PA who never got invited to become members of the Pennsylvania Club. By the mid '60s the New Castle Club was no more. Their cottage became a private cottage for a single family. The New Castle Club probably operated in the '40s, '50s and maybe early '60s.



John Preston Cottage/Wa-Wa-Nosh

Breen Island (B311) was bought from the Crown in 1922 by Judge Ackerson of Buffalo who camped on the island while his cottage was being built. In 1942, the island was purchased by John Preston who was a director of the Sans Souci and Copperhead Association for some years. After John Preston's death in 1951, his wife kept the island for the enjoyment of her children, Joanne and Patti.



Floyd Rice Cottage - Island B307

Floyd Rice purchased the island from the Crown in the late 1950s and with the help of Jim Haas and John Cloarec, finished the cottage in 1960. Health issues, the annual upkeep and maintenance, plus the demands of his business at home forced him to sell it in 1967. He became a club member sometime after the sale. More information may be found above on the Rice, Latore & Mauk Families page.



Karl Rohrer/Menning Family Cottage

In the late 1940s, Karl Rohrer, a long-standing and active member of the Pennsylvania Club, purchased two pieces of property on the southwest side of Pennsylvania Island. As the owner of Rohrer Construction Co. in New Castle, Karl employed several of his tradesmen in helping to construct what many called the "big house" on one of the properties in 1950.

Karl thoroughly enjoyed the Georgian Bay area and spent several entire summers there, boating, fishing and making friends among many of the locals, including John Cloarec. John Cloarec, as he did for several other Pennsylvania Club cottage owners, served as caretaker for Karl's house. John also constructed at least one of Karl's boat docks, an icehouse, a generator house, and other miscellaneous structures in addition to watching over the property in Karl's absence. The icehouse was stocked by John Cloarec during the winter, as hydro was not available in the area at that time. Karl relied on a gas-powered generator until electricity was brought to the house and little cottage in 1958. The generator house then became a storage house for outboard motors.

Sometime between 1956 and 1958, Karl added a large boat house, which included a boat lift and large storage area, similar to the Pennsylvania Club boathouse. The boathouse metal roof could be seen from miles away and served as a good landmark for boaters coming from the north.

In 1960, again with assistance from a few of his employees, Karl built what was called the "little cottage" which stood on Karl's second piece of property, just across the bay from the big house. The little cottage was built originally for his daughter, Vivian, and her husband Rudy Menning, who over the next twenty or so years also rented the cottage to close friends.

In 1970, Karl passed, leaving the house and cottage to Vivian and Rudy. Care and maintenance of the two properties became fairly time consuming as Rudy continued to work full time as a tool and die maker for the Packard Electric Corp. in Warren, Ohio. However, with the help of friends and coworkers, Rudy continued to maintain both properties for the next twenty or so years and finally sold the little cottage sometime in the late 1980s.

Rudy passed in 2005 and in time, his son Tom Menning and daughter Carol inherited the big house. Tom made several improvements to the house, including a new bright red roof, reconditioned boat house, and other noticeable upgrades. Tom still uses the house regularly for summer vacations (2021).

Jim Terchila



1971



2022

Sheer Luck Cottage

Sheer Luck cottage (B304) was built in 1958 by Robert Stamberger from Ohio. It was a prefab, barged in from Midland and erected by Wellington Welsh. The stone foundation and flagpole base were built by John Cloarec.

In 1978 it was purchased by member David TerBush, who sold it in 1981.

