The
Thompson’s Point
Association

Carl E. Braun
INTRODUCTION

With proper nurturing all things grow. This is true even of the history of a small community such as that encompassed in the Thompson's Point Association.

The first history of our cottages was a five-page document compiled by Jessie Gibbs in 1957. By 1973 when it was updated by Col. Elbridge Colby it had grown to eight pages. In 1996 I happened to be scanning a 1982 publication entitled "A Walk Around the Point of Thompson's Point, Vermont" which contains a section of photos of some of the camps. It struck me that nearly half of the camps pictured had changed owners since 1982. To me, that meant it was time for another update.

This version will require more pages and perhaps even a "fancy" cover, as my friends and neighbors have been more than generous in sharing new stories and providing many details regarding the cottages and the many fascinating people who have occupied them over the years.

My thanks to all who have contributed and who have encouraged me in what has turned out to be much more than I anticipated. I am particularly grateful to Norm Ansley who wrote the chapter dealing with the weighty question of how Thompson's Point came to be named, and especially to Bill and Laura Carroll for their wealth of knowledge and for lending me the diaries of their forebears' camping trips here in the 19th century.

March, 1998
The Charlotte Town or "Poor" Farm, a sight that greeted generations of Pointers and meant that they were almost at their destination. (Charlotte Historical Society)
EARLIER NAMES OF THOMPSON'S POINT

Norman Aegley

Esther M. Swift in her book Vermont Place Names (Brattleboro: Stephen Green Press, 1977) at page 169 states the Mohawk name for Thompson's Point itself was Addoniane, literally "it is the point." She does not use an apostrophe in Thompsons. She adds that one of the most fascinating names to ever appear on a map was Tommy Squatter. Applied to the deep-water fishing spots off Thompson's Point, it was a corruption of the Abnaki words "temi isquattam," meaning "deep water all around here."

William Wallace Higbee in his work Around The Mountain says "Split Rock, by the Iroquois, was called Re-gioch-ne. It is said the name came from a Mohawk warrior who was drowned there. But as to Thompson's Point: The London map of 1779 gives the point of land on the east side of the lake and opposite Split Rock as 'Point Regioine.' The question is, is this identical with the Iroquois name given to Split Rock: Were the makers of this map at fault, placing the name on the wrong side of the lake? Let us assume that everyone was right—that the unfortunate Mohawk gave his name to Split Rock, and the 'Regioine' was the name of the Indian maiden whose lover went to his death beneath the dark waters. In this we shall harm no one, and perhaps perpetuate an old and pleasing tradition." The Willilam Brasier map, London, 1776 lists Pt. Regioine accross from Cloven Rock.

In Guy Omeron Coolidge's book on the French Occupation of the Champlain Valley there is a map on page 86 which shows the French grant to Daneau de Muy, 1752 as Pte. au Platre, across the lake from "Split Rock" (spelled as such). At page 111 on Daneau de Muy it reports that on September 28, 1752, an Act of Concession to Jacques Pierre, Sieur de Muy, Captain of Infantry, of a Seigniory of three leagues front by four depth, starting at the great Otter River, said River included.

Higbee gives another name to Thompson's Point in quoting from a 1765 journal by William Gilliland in which Gilliland gives Split Rock the name Cloven Rock and Cloven Foot to Thompson's Point.

The map with the Charlotte Charter places what we now call Thompson's Point in Ferrisburg. So does the Ferrisburg Charter, both of 1762. However, a survey by B. Ferriss, Jun in 1763 clearly shows Thompson's Point as lots 121 and 122, in Charlotte. The original Grantee for lot 121 is Nehemiah Merritt Jr and 122 is Joseph Ferris Jr. The largest part of the point, western and southern is lot 122 described by B. Ferriss, Jun. in the Survey Bill of August 5th, 1763 as "... in the line between 121 & 122...about 71 chains to a hemlock tree mar(sic) Rd 121 for that southwest corner of that 121 lot to the northwest corner of the lot sa:ld corner's on the bank of the lake Champlain the lot is bounded on the north by the 121 lot on the west and south by Lake Champlain, on the east by the 111 lot and the lake." Note that Benjamin Ferriss Jun was also the surveyor for Ferrisburg in 1762 and 1763.

The first written record of Thompson's Point has the apostrophe. Subsequent changes to Thompsons and Thompson make little sense and lack precedent.
Footnotes

1. First map agreeable to the first instructions...deliver...James C. Thompson, July 21, 1769. Furnished by Kay Teeter


3. Ethan Allen sold to David Ferris, 200 acres of land in Charlotte and 100 acres of land in Shelburne of which David Ferris was the original grantee, and 100 acres of land in Charlotte of which the original grantee was Thomas Darling, dated November 20, 1782. See Volume A., p. 60, Town Records of Charlotte. Lillian Baker Carlisle (Ed), *Look Around Hinesburg and Charlotte, Vermont*, Burlington: Chittenden County Historical Society, 1973 states on p iii that Ethan Allen lived in Charlotte for a time in a house near the Four Corners. Ira Allen sold all of his right to land in Charlotte in which the original grantee was David Akin to Abel Newell, September 7, 1783. Volume A., p. 110, Town Records of Charlotte


CHARLOTTE ANNUAL REPORTS AND THOMPSON'S POINT

No report of income from Thompson's Point for the year ending Feb. 15, 1887.

For the year ending Feb. 15, 1888, the Town farm received money from the following campers: H. Greene 40.85, G. Robinson 5.15, L. Andrews, 8.72, E. N. Colton 5.29, S. N. Allen 1.00, A. Ray .30, Wells, Richardson & Co. 4.40, F. P. Sawyer 8.58, O. H. Alexander 5.71, H. M. Hull 42.88, Mr. Allison 2.63, Whitehall Camp 2.00, S. Baldwin 9.70, A. Gibbs 9.40, Troy Camp 4.80, Mr. Carpenter 1.20, Middlebury Camp 4.00, J. Mixx 1.60, H. Stowell 18.00 and Transient 9.00.


Note that in all these Charlotte reports it is Thompson's Point, with apostrophe.
The steamer "Ticonderoga" glides around the Point in 1937 as watchers sit on the nearly submerged dock in front of the Currier cottage. (Photo by Russell Williams, a gift of Mary Williams King, courtesy of the Charlotte Historical Society)
THE ORGANIZATION and EARLY YEARS
of
THE THOMPSON'S POINT ASSOCIATION

Exactly when the first people camped at what is now known as Thompson's Point will never be known. From the many stone artifacts which have been found on the Point it is obvious that native peoples used the site for centuries before the first white people were lured to its beauty and charm.

The section of the Point which now contains the cottages in the Thompson's Point Association has been occupied, on and off, for about a century and a half. We have written records from the 1870's and fairly detailed documentation from the last 100 years. Perhaps some day old diaries or letters will shed light on even earlier times here.

As great a mystery as when the first campers came here is how the Point came to get its name. Several theories deal with this, and research into the matter is being done right now. One theory has the place named for an early camper who sought refuge from the encroaching civilization of his era. Another traces the name to a possible French origin; Still another attributes the name to Zadock Thompson, an early State official. Perhaps the next version of this ongoing chronicle of Thompson's Point life will hold a definitive answer.

What we do know, thanks to meticulous minutes of meetings which have recently come to light, is that on August 16, 1895, some 14 people gathered at the home of Clarence Hicks in response to Mr. Hicks' call. Their stated purpose was to form "an Association to be known as The Thompson's Point Water Works Association." (1) It appears that there was already in place a rudimentary system for drawing water from the lake, and the new organization was to be a formalization of that system.

From references throughout the minutes of subsequent meetings it can be inferred that there was already in place an entity known as The Thompson's Point Improvement Association; there was also a Thompson's Point Ice Company. As far as is known at present, no records of either organization have survived to this day. What once served as the ice house still stands up in the woods to the west side of the road, serving as a boat and storage shed for the Paul/Hurlburt family. There are no records of who cut the ice or how and where it was cut, nor of who delivered the ice to the camps. Few camps show any evidence of the days when ice was used for food preservation; ice delivery doors can be seen on the present Hodges, Naylor, Currier and Gilroy cottages.

From what can be gathered in reading the old records, the pump house for the water system stood on or near its present site, utilizing a windmill for power. The water tank was on the high ground in front of what is now the Reid camp; water was piped to other camps by gravity feed. At a special meeting in August of 1896 Mr. Moses Bushey was retained to oil the windmill "as necessary at an expense not exceeding $1 per month." In response to complaints that the pump caused a "disagreeable noise" a
committee was appointed to correct the fault. At the annual meeting a week later it was voted to install a ladder and platform on the windmill tower to allow oiling "with greater safety." Apparently Mr. Bushey was simply climbing the tower and oiling the rig while hanging on for dear life.

The business of the new organization seems to have gone smoothly, and frugally, for the next few years, as the 1900 treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of $26. It was voted to purchase two pipe wrenches and a pipe vise for use by Association members; obviously repairs to the system were handled by the individual members in those days. Amazingly, the pipe wrenches were still among the various tools stored in one of the caretaker's sheds until they were stolen in 1995.

In those early years there was no caretaker as we know the position today. From time to time the minutes note that either Simon Obomsawin or John Lucier was hired to be the winter watchman for that season on a one-year basis.

No one showed up for the annual meeting in 1901, and the meetings of the next five years were devoted almost entirely to approving the minutes from the previous year and electing a slate of officers.

In 1907, however, a significant motion was made to merge the Thompson's Point Water Works Association with the Thompson's Point Improvement Association. The vote of the eight members present, plus three proxies, was unanimous in favor of the motion, and a set of by-laws and articles was drafted. (2) It is interesting that the financial arrangements provide that water for horses should be without charge. That the scope of the new association would be vastly wider than its predecessors is indicated in Article 2: "The objects of this association are the care of the dock and roads, the control of the sewerage and garbage, the supply of light, and the improvement generally of the Point, so far as it can be done without infringing on the rights of individuals."

During the summers of 1995 and 1996 there were many negative comments about the condition of the road into the Point. This appears to be nothing new. Association members at the 1908 meeting voted to raise $170 by voluntary subscription to improve the roadway. Back then there was a friendly working relationship between the Point and the Town to provide road maintenance, with expenses to be split. The 1908 meeting also voted to build a floating dock for $65, the costs to be defrayed by voluntary subscription.

The main orders of the 1909 meeting were to keep the street lights on until 11:00 o'clock and to purchase and install a gasolene engine at the pumphouse. This engine was to be used as an auxiliary to the windmill, and cost $40. Newcomers to the Point should remember that back then the streetlights were oil lamps!

A sad note opened the 1910 meeting as the membership was informed of the death of Justice Brewer of the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice David J. Brewer and his family had occupied what is now the Currier camp since
1895. A new schedule of dues for members was approved: regular assessment, $6; toilet and bath, $2; use of hose on lawn, $2; water in barns, $1; and water in minnow tanks, $3. Obviously the luxury of a minnow tank was deemed more costly than the necessity of maintaining a horse.

Thompson’s Point’s growing popularity was indicated in the minutes of the 1911 meeting when five new memberships were approved. The need for a water tank on higher ground to insure gravity flow to some of the new members shows that the northern bluffs were being occupied. Members empowered their executive committee to put the public dock in order each spring and to get a sign for the dock. It is hard to imagine that people arriving by steamboat wouldn’t know where they were, so the sign was probably more of a show of pride by Thompson’s Pointers.

In 1912 the secretary noted that the meeting was “called to order by the President, Captain Henry Stowell, with one of his usual happy little speeches.” One wishes that the contents of the speech had been recorded. Water system improvements were purchased to the tune of $264.16 which included a new 2HP engine, two-inch intake pipe, and a nearly new pump to meet increased demand for water. This was to be financed by an extra $10 assessment per member. This is the first meeting in which the matter of a caretaker is mentioned. It was reported that Simon Obomsawin would not stay another winter for $1.50 per cottage; the membership voted to increase Simon’s fee to $2.50 per cottage.

Simon’s role was further enhanced when he was one of three new members voted in at the 1913 meeting. Due to increasing demand, the water system was using two pumps at once: one with the gasoline engine and one with the windmill. Association members voted to petition the Rutland Railway to stop the noon northbound train at the Thompson’s Point station. The station consisted of a shed-like building and a platform located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Thompson’s Point Road and the railroad tracks. Following cessation of rail service to the Point the station building was removed to Lane’s Lane where it was incorporated into what is now the Tremblay place.

The major item for discussion at the 1914 meeting dealt with the safety of the water tank. During the previous winter a “considerable portion” of the cliff beneath the tank broke away, and the members pondered whether to move the old tank or purchase a new one (presumably to be located elsewhere). The decision was left to the executive committee.

Cooperative matters with the Town took up much of the 1915 meeting at which it was voted to spend more money for road repairs. The members pledged $262, of which $200 was to be paid to the Town, the Town to spend an equal amount. It is interesting to note that contact with the Town was made either directly to a selectman or through the Superintendent of the Town Farm. Later contacts are through the Superintendent of Thompson’s Point. The president of the Association was requested to contact the Town “with a view to the prevention of granting leases to undesirable parties.” Exactly what constituted an “undesirable party” was not defined. The executive committee was empowered to purchase
new street lamps as old ones went out of commission.

Eleven members attended the 1916 meeting where it was voted to have garbage removed twice a week at a charge of $12.50 per camp for the season. There was discussion of adopting uniform specifications for the "shore walk" which I assume is the present day path. Improvements to the walk would have been done at each camper's expense on his part of the path, with maintenance to be by the Association. After discussion the idea was found "not feasible" and it was suggested that wooden planks be placed over low spots on the walk, or gravel "of a suitable quality" be used to build up the path.

The year 1917 produced quite a busy meeting. It was reported that the Town had spent $70 on the road and that the Association had paid $21 to the Town, yet road problems evidently continued. The Road Commissioner and a selectman were contacted about the possibility of having the road scraped but they were too busy to do the work. However, they offered the use of the Town's scraper if the Association would provide the labor. E. F. Woodbury, A. Adsit, J.L. Hall and A.D. Gibbs were authorized to do the road work at an expense not to exceed $20. The contract for garbage collection was let at $12. There followed a discussion of "allowing transient fishermen and others to travel unrestrictedly or settle temporarily on the Point" and the matter was to be taken up with the Superintendent of the Point. Complaints about the pay telephone service at the Glenwood Hotel led to a request for better service and a phone booth.

Increased expenses brought a slight increase assessments at the 1918 meeting. The regular fee was raised one dollar, with specific fees kept the same as voted in 1910. The United States was fully involved in the Great War by now, and Thompson's Point families sent 14 of their own into the country's service. The membership voted to purchase a Service Flag to honor the 14: James L. Karrick, Robert Staley, William W. Sample, Jr., Albert Hicks, Elbridge Colby, Curtis Norton, B.F. Barnes, David B. Karrick, Dugald Stewart, Stacy Hicks, Murray Woodbury, Lloyd Sprague, Robert Adsit and Glen Johnson. There being no mention otherwise, it is assumed that they all came home.

Dock matters included a plan to raise the "steamboat dock" two feet at a cost estimated at $1300. An estimate of $850 was given to build a cement dock at the same level if the Town would furnish the timbers. It was voted to consult further and to assess each member not more than $15 for the Association's share of the job when the decision was finalized.

Leaping into the 20th century, the members voted to start work on installing an electric light system for Point cottages and the street lights. There was much discussion at this and a special meeting regarding the financial aspects of this change. It was decided that Col. Woodbury would run the system for the time being.

Along with road repairs, another continuing sticky point seems to have been mail service. The man in charge, Mr. Tim Dillon, operator of the Glenwood Hotel, never seemed to be satisfied with his remuneration. He threatened to quit several times, including in 1918, and there was dis-
cussion about getting an RFD route for the Point.

A mid-August meeting was held with Association members, Town officers and representatives from the Champlain Transportation Company on the matter of building a new dock, but no final decision was reached.

J.L. Hall's report contains the following on a tornado which did great damage at the Point. "As a matter of history I make the following memorandum: between 9 and 10 P.M. Aug. 7th, 1918, a tornado struck the Point from the northwest, it was accompanied by heavy rain & hail and incessant lightning. Literally hundreds of splendid trees were uprooted or broken down, the damage being especially severe on all of the occupied west and northwest front, Mrs. S.A. Peene coming in for especially heavy damage on the bay side of Point and Mrs. Simmons' cottage and premises across the bay near Cedar Point also suffered severely."

J. Barlow Reid, recalling the 1918 tornado in 1996, said that he was a lad of 13 staying with his mother, his grandmother and her cousin (a Civil War veteran) in the Estes (now Illick) cottage when the storm hit. One massive pine tree fell on the kitchen of the camp making it impossible to get into the kitchen for a day or so. When the storm struck the Civil War vet was "scared to death" but young Reid bent his frame to the front door trying to close it while his grandmother closed all the windows. Reid recalled that just as he managed to get the door shut a gust of wind blew some curtains into a hanging kerosene lamp, and he feared that the cottage would catch fire. However, once the door was shut the curtains and lamps posed no further threat.

The following morning hotelkeeper Dillon from the Glenwood and Simon Obomsawin hacked their way through the tangle of downed trees to see if the occupants of the Estes place were safe. Simon had built a small "summer house" of cedar branches down the slope in front of the Estes camp, but the storm left it "looking like a box of matchsticks that had broken open and scattered on the floor," recalled Reid.

Another story that Reid remembered but could not certify as true was that the water tank which stood in the woods between the Glenwood and the Estes cottage was blown into the lake in front of the Gibbs cottage. He said that many people in camps on the bay side of the Point never knew that the tornado had struck. "They just played bridge right through it," he said.

The next morning the lake was dead calm, leaving Point residents to wonder at the fickleness of nature as they began their massive clean-up.

Fourteen members answered the call to the 1919 annual meeting, including Simon Obomsawin; this is the first time he is listed among the members present. Discussion centered around changing the street lights from oil lamps to electricity. It was eventually decided to hold a special meeting on that topic. After consultation with the Charlotte Road Commissioner and the Deputy State Road Commissioner, it was agreed to re-gravel the road on the Point as soon as teams were available. The
cost was set at $500 with the Association to pay half of this amount.

At the subsequent special meeting it was proposed to install 22 to 24 75-watt nitrogen lamps approximately 110 feet apart from Col. Woodbury's gate (the present Allmon camp) to a point between Nortons' (Braun's) and Davis's (Outwaters') cottages. The lights were to be on for $\frac{2}{3}$ hours per night for 100 nights, the cost to the Association not to exceed $120 per year. It was noted that the (then) present oil lamp system had cost $110 in 1913. The vote was in favor of the electric lights. It was also voted to engage Simon Obomsawin as caretaker and winter watchman for $120 via a $4 per camp assessment.

The 1920 meeting minutes opened noting the "great loss to the Point thru the death of our President, Capt. Henry Stowell." Captain Stowell served in the 7th Vermont Regiment during the Civil War and was later active in the unit's post-war reunions and activities. He served his country and the Association long and well. It was voted to pay Mr. Dillon (at his own request!) a "bonus" of $15 monthly for three months of carrying the mail. It was recommended to put two cedar posts under the main water tank for temporary support (see 1914; cliff cave-in) and to consider later moving the tank back to a safer location on concrete piers. Due to the dry season, economy in the use of water in minnow tanks was recommended.

A number of members were hopping mad when the 1921 meeting rolled around. They complained about the landing place of the Thompson's Point - Essex - Westport ferry, the "Admiral", which docked at a long rickety pier at the present "caretaker" access directly in front of the Stowell and Eno cottages. It was suggested that Flat Rock offered a better location for the landing. This discussion was made moot by the winter ice which destroyed the dock, ending the ferry service.

"Mr. Van Bomel stated that he had built a swimming float for general use and that it was all paid for by parties interested, but he wishes to form an Athletic Association independent of the Thompson's Point Association for the purpose of not only building a finer float, but eventually to erect something in the nature of a Club house for social purposes and exclusively the use of the Association." The membership voted its approval for Mr. Van Bomel to pursue his idea.

At that time there were two tennis courts on the Point, one at the present parking area behind the Moore-Rixford camps and the other where the present first clay court stands at the Club. Obviously Mr. Van Bomel was not one to waste time, because we find the 1922 Association meeting being called to order at the Club House on July 15.

Twenty members gathered at the new facility and got right to the matter of funding road maintenance. J.L. Hall was appointed to solicit subscriptions for a road fund. Also, the Secretary was directed to ask the Rutland Railroad to restore telephone service at the Charlotte station.

"The matter of picnic and other undesirable parties coming onto the
Point was discussed and the President was authorized to get the consent of the Supt. of the Point to put up a proper sign forbidding picnic or temporary camping parties on private ground." It is interesting to note that a Town chart of the Point, originally dated 1897 and updated in 1922, 1932 and 1938, shows no public rights-of-way from the road to the lake. Several such rights-of-way are alleged to exist at present (1998) leading one to wonder when and by whom they were created and whose lots were reduced in size by these access lanes.

At the regular meeting of 1923 a Committee of Five was appointed (Messers. Norton, Hall, McCord, Hackett and Van Bomel) to deal with the water situation, with the proviso that the assessment for a new water project not exceed $65. Their report was given at a special meeting on August 18. A new tank was ordered for the next season. A pump in Vergennes was to be investigated to see if it would fit the Association's needs. Otherwise a new pump would be ordered from the factory. The treasurer was empowered to arrange with those members who wished to pay their $65 assessments in installments.

The resulting new water system was in operation by the time the 1924 annual meeting was held. The new pump cost a whopping $1909.64, but the new pipe for the system was donated by Messers. McCord and Van Bomel. There was some delay in getting the system running due to the need for a new electrical transformer. Three cottages were reported in arrears for their assessment for the water system. A new "bargain" was struck with Charlotte by which the Town would supply gravel for the roads and chloride would be applied to the Point road. A new set of revised by-laws for the Association was approved. These are the ones printed in the light blue booklet (amended in 1953) currently in the possession of many cottage owners.

Members at the 1925 meeting were pleased to hear of the widening of the road "beyond the schoolhouse and near the Emerson farm" toward which the Association paid $142.25. This amount was taken from the ice company's surplus. The Town promised "a two track road" to the end of the Point by the spring of 1926. A letter was received from Town Road Commissioner Smith thanking the Association for its help with road repairs. A "new and necessary" electrical transformer was installed, wrapping up the expenses for the new electrical system on the Point. However, some camps had added electric stoves which led to further electric expense. It was voted to add a $10 assessment for each cottage with an electric stove. A final stern measure was taken when it was voted to cut off water to camps whose owners had made no attempt to pay their $65 water assessment.

Thus the first 30 years of the Thompson's Point Association came to a close. During this time the Association grew from its formation to the body which is much as exists today. Water, garbage, the caretaker, the street light system, all continue to be major matters of business; and while the Association has no role in the upkeep of the roads they still come in for their share of discussion at annual meetings.

There is no steamboat service, of course, and the dock has mostly
fallen into the lake. The Hotel Charlotte or Glenwood Hotel no longer accept genteel guests from downcountry, and there are no Charlotte or Thompson's Point railroad stations. However, if tentative plans for revised passenger rail service to and from Burlington are brought to fruition a Charlotte station is a distinct possibility in the foreseeable future.

What might some of the old Pointers think if they were to return today? Captain Stowell would probably feel right at home in the camp still occupied by his family. Mr. Van Bomel would be pleased to see three tennis courts being enjoyed in front of the clubhouse that he was instrumental in having built. J. "Linn" Hall would find little changed at Osarinehoh where his grandson still spends pleasant summers. Col. McCord would recognize the outside of his former camp, but the vastly improved interior might surprise him. "Aunt Ida" Peene would be pleased to see Opie's relatives taking such delight in their cottage and the memories left by former occupants. Mr. Dillon would probably want more money for handling the mail, if there were a local branch post office at the Point. "Dick" Irving would probably use a hand-held radio to call for his lunch while out fishing, but Alice could deliver it easily with an outboard motor. We can only guess what the fee would be for water for the Irving minnow tank! Relatives seeking the Obomsawins would be surprised to see the fine new Price cottage, but would take pride in the family artifacts displayed in the Charlotte Historical Society Museum.

Yes, the characters at the Point have changed, but the character has not. People still come for one main reason: to enjoy summers in one of the most beautiful places in Vermont or any other part of our nation.

FOOTNOTES
1. Minutes of organizational meeting (1895) with names of signatories and list of officers.
2. This and following quotes are from secretary's notes from annual and special meetings.
3. Text of Constitution, By-Laws and Amendments printed elsewhere in this pamphlet.
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

THE THOMPSON'S POINT
ASSOCIATION
THOMPSON'S POINT, VERMONT

As Adopted July 12, 1924
And As Amended July 11, 1953

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.
This organization shall be known as The
Thompson's Point Association, having suc-
ceeded the Thompson's Point Water Works
Association and the Thompson's Point Im-
provement Association pursuant to resolutions
adopted by the members of both the above
associations, at meetings held August 10th.
1907.

ARTICLE II.
PURPOSE
To care for the dock and roads, control of
sewage and garbage, supply of water and light,
and the improvement generally of the property
occupied by and surrounding the cottages be-
longing to the members of this Association,
located at Thompson's Point, in the Township
of Charlotte, State of Vermont.

ARTICLE III.
MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. New Memberships in the Associa-
tion shall be formed by an owner of a cottage
at Thompson's Point, and lease from the Town
of Charlotte, applying for membership to the
Executive Committee of the Association, ac-
companied by the payment of such fees at the
time of application as may be determined on
by the Executive Committee. A majority vote
of the members of the Executive Committee
shall be necessary for election to membership.
Section 2. Membership in the Association may be terminated on an owner disposing of his cottage and lease from the Town of Charlotte to a purchaser and such disposal of cottage and lease shall entitle the purchaser, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to membership in the Association, but no such transfer of membership shall be accepted by the Association if the original member is in arrears to the Association for assessments.

Section 3. The privileges of the Association shall be denied and cut off from any member of the Association who shall be six months in arrears for assessments or for conduct detrimental to the Association. Before such action however shall be taken by the Executive Committee it shall notify the member so in arrears or accused of mis-conduct and an opportunity given for an explanation in defense.

ARTICLE IV.
Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, three members of the Executive Committee and two auditors.

Section 2. All the above named Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and have qualified. In case of the death or resignation of any Officer, the Executive Committee shall elect a member of the Association, as successor to fill the unexpired term of such Officer.

Section 3. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and the three members as provided in Section 1 of Article IV shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Association. They are empowered to supervise and conduct the regular affairs of the Association; make contracts and employ help for the operation of its utilities, and have control over the expenditure of the funds of the Association in the intervals of Annual Meetings. They shall bring before the Association at either the Annual or a Special Meeting any matters that may require an extraordinary expenditure of money. They shall make a report in writing at each Annual Meeting, giving in detail all proceedings of the Executive Committee since the last Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V.
Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be presented in writing to the Secretary at least thirty days before the Annual or a Special Meeting of the Association. The Secretary shall mail a copy of the proposed amendment to each member not less than ten days before the Annual or a Special Meeting of the Association, and if two-thirds of all votes cast are in favor of the proposed amendment, it shall be adopted.

ARTICLE VI.
The Association may at any Annual or Special Meeting adopt By-Laws for the conduct of the Association, or may enact changes in said By-Laws.

BY-LAWS
ARTICLE I.
Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held at Thompson's Point on the second Saturday of July in each year.

Section 2. Special Meetings may be called by the President or upon a written request of five members, stating fully the objects of the meeting.

Section 3. Ten members qualified to vote shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Association and a majority vote of the members present shall rule.

Section 4. Four members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee and a majority vote of the members present shall rule.

ARTICLE II.
DUTIES OF OFFICERS
Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association. He shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his duties; act for him in his absence or disability and perform the duties that usually pertain to his office.

Section 3. The Secretary shall attend each meeting of the Association and of the Executive Committee. He shall keep the minutes of the proceedings, conduct the correspondence of the Association and execute all the business that he may be officially instructed or authorized to perform. He shall notify all members of the meetings of the Association and also notify all persons of election to membership and keep a register of members. Upon the election of a member, having been officially notified by the Treasurer to the effect that all fees have been paid, he shall issue to said member a certificate of membership in the Association, which certificate shall state that the said member is the owner of a share in the Thompson's Point Association covered by his membership. He shall also, upon the transfer of a share of membership by the sale of a cottage and lease, after approval by the Executive Committee, issue to the new owner a certificate of membership provided the old certificate of membership is surrendered and made null and void. Such certificates shall be attested by both the President and the Secretary of the Association.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall collect all fees, assessments or such other moneys as may be due the Association, and shall keep in suitable books for the purpose a correct account of the same. He shall pay all bills or other indebtedness when audited by the President or Secretary, and shall report at each Annual Meeting of the Association the amount received and disbursed by him during the year just passed.
ARTICLE III.
FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. The Executive Committee at least 10 days before the time for the Annual Meeting in each year shall meet and determine the amount of the regular assessment which shall be due and payable at the Annual Meeting in lieu of annual dues; they shall also determine on receipt of an application for new membership the amount that shall be charged for a membership fee in the Association.

Section 2. The Association shall have power, by two-thirds vote of the members present at any Annual Meeting or Special Meeting called for that purpose, to levy assessments upon the members, and any assessment so levied shall be considered to be in addition to the regular assessments of the Association.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. Amendments to these By-Laws may be made in the manner provided for in Article VI of the Constitution.

Section 2. When not otherwise provided, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Association and of the Executive Committee.

The steamer "Chateaugay" at Thompson's Point's "Big Dock."
(Wm. Carroll photo, courtesy Charlotte Historical Society)
HOTEL
CHARLOTTE.

THOMPSON POINT.

HOW TO GET THERE

The large and elegant Steamer Chateaugay lands at the wharf twice a day, making it convenient for any who desire to take a trip up or down the lake and back.

TERMS

Transient guests, - - - 2.00 per day.
By the week, - - - $7.00 to $11.00

Wm. E. HOSFORD,

P. O. Address: Proprietor.

CHARLOTTE,

VERMONT.

Beautiful Lake Champlain.
HOTEL
CHARLOTTE.

THOMPSON POINT.

Much has been said of our beautiful Lake Champlain, its clear waters, and great fishing grounds where pike, pickerel, perch, and other kind of fishes are caught in abundance.

Its shores are dotted with summer resorts and cottages which are occupied from May until October, each season, by those coming from cities, to revel in the sunshine, beautiful sunsets and inhale the pure fresh air which gives new life and vigor, and gives them new energy for duties on their return home.

THE RESORTS
Are scattered along the shores of the lake and visits back and forth furnish a delightful variety and spice to lake life.

THOMPSON POINT.

Is a new house, and newly furnished. It is located on a bluff which overlooks the lake for miles each way. It is shaded with cedar trees. It is noted for not having mosquitoes. There is also a fine bay where those who choose can enjoy the pleasure of bathing.

Nothing is so inspiring, so life giving as a day about Lake Champlain, when the summer sun is shining—the blue sky, the crystal waters, the grand old forests with their inviting shades captivate one and arouse a love for the beautiful.

There are many shaded walks that extend back among the cottages, while others takes one along the shores of the lake. No more romantic spot could be selected for Excursions. Lunch can be taken and after that has been partaken of, what can be more entrancing to the fancy than to sit and quietly read by the shore, the waters rippling smoothly at your feet, or the time can be passed in rowing or floating about the bays.

Situated 12 miles from Burlington, 2 miles from Cedar Beach, 3 miles from Long Point and 10 miles from Westport.

The Hotel will accommodate forty guests. It is situated on the most beautiful site along the lake.

THE CUISINE
The tables will be supplied with eggs, butter, milk, cream, etc., vegetables, meats of all kinds, and such delicacies that are obtainable in their season. The management has taken proper care that the table appointments are first-class.

APPOINTMENTS
The rooms are large, airy and cleanly furnished. Every room permits a view of the lake.

AMUSEMENTS
A Steam Yacht can be chartered for the day or hour at reasonable rates, or boating and fishing can be had any where near the hotel.

People troubled with malaria will find this place a great benefit to them.
A HISTORY OF THE COTTAGES AT
THOMPSON'S POINT

These sketches of the cottages are updated from the versions done by Jessie Gibbs and Elbridge Colby. Much of their original language has been kept, with the data since 1973 humbly added by myself. I have also taken the liberty of adding a few anecdotes about some of the legends, human and otherwise, without which the lore of the Point would be sadly lacking. Doubtless there are more tales to be told which will appear when someone improves upon this endeavor.

Before the first cottages were built, early "Pointers" camped in tents. (Wm. Carroll photo, courtesy of the Charlotte Historical Society)
CURRIER COTTAGE (1891)

That known presently as the Currier cottage at the end of the Point was built by Frank Manchester in 1891. It was sold in 1895 to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David J. Brewer, who occupied it for many years with his children and grandchildren, one of whom, David B. Karrick, became one of the governing Commissioners of the District of Columbia. In 1923, after Justice Brewer's death, the camp was sold to Mrs. Nathaniel Webb of Greenwich, CT, and her sister, Mrs. Cole. Its ownership was transferred in 1928 to Mrs. Webb's daughter, Catherine Webb (Mrs. John R.) Currier, whose descendants continue to occupy it.

Adjacent to that cottage, up the slope toward what was then our windmill and is now our electric water pump, Martin F. Allen of North Ferrisburgh had a nice, two-story cottage. It was struck by lightning in 1907 and destroyed by fire in an event vivid in the minds of many cottagers who were then but youths and have now become old timers... with women and children forming a bucket brigade up from the lake, and older folk with garden hoses at work close to the intense heat. The volunteers saved the Brewer place, although blistered, but could not save the Allen camp. In October of the same year, Justice Brewer took over the Allen lot and in 1908 a new lease from the Town combined the two. Thus the Currier property now goes from the remains of the "Big Dock" up to the pumphouse and down along the shore to the remains of the Curriers' dock at the very "point" of Thompson's Point.
REID COTTAGE (1887)

When Martin Allen built the cottage that was burned in 1907, he also in 1887 put a smaller one on the high bluff where later a small old iron water tank used to stand, and now only a stone pier marks the spot. The smaller camp was for Sarah F. Allen of Ferrisburgh. It was sold to W.F. Hackett of Ogdensburg, NY, in 1908, and by his widow in 1939 to Robert J. Adsit, Jr., a former Middlebury College football great and resident of Burlington. He and his family occupied it for a few years after he returned from the U.S. Navy in World War II.

He sold it in the fall of 1950 to Barlow Reid, then of Yonkers, NY, who, as a child, had spent brief summer vacations in several cottages including the Enos' (now the Kuennes'), the Coreys' (now the Illicks') and the Peenes' (now the Naylors'). The Reids moved to suburban San Francisco in 1959 but have used the cottage for longer or shorter parts of every summer for 45 years. Their children and grandchildren continue to be frequent visitors.

HODGES COTTAGE (1883)

The site next to the "Big Dock" and across the road from the Currier place holds one of our oldest cottages. There a Mr. Hubble of Charlotte in 1883 put up a "camp" which was sold to C.E. "Dick" Irving in 1894 and occupied by him and his wife, Alice, for roughly half a century. During that span he became one of the outstanding characters of Thompson's Point, both by seniority and personality. He was a giant of a man and larger than life in many aspects.

One legendary memory is of Dick consuming a couple of pounds of bacon and a dozen eggs for breakfast before rowing down to the south reef to fish. If the fishing was good, at lunchtime he would dig out his megaphone and bellow to Alice who would dutifully row down to deliver his noontime meal. Alice, herself, is remembered for her sweetness, as when she gave mint candies to little Anne Drye and "Ditty" Currier to ward off grasshoppers when they went to the beach.

After Dick Irving's death, and following World War II, the cottage was sold to Dr. N. Howell Furman, a distinguished chemist at Princeton University and one-time president of the American Chemical Society. This in 1947. Since 1965 his widow, now Mrs. Percy VanZandt, continued to summer here with her family, children and grandchildren. With Mrs. Currier across the way, they faithfully greeted the end of the annual Fourth of July parade.

The VanZandts sold to Dr. Robert Drye whose family enjoyed the many activities of the Point.

In the summer of 1990 Barney Hodges, an apple grower from Cornwall, VT, and his wife Dee took up residence there. Their gaff-rigged sloop "Glyde" has recently been restored and joins the other antique boats in the cove.
NAYLOR COTTAGE (1897)

After first leasing the Thompson’s Point property in 1894, George Pease of Williston, VT, built a cottage on lot #14 in 1897. In 1907 the property was sold to William N. and Alice Root of Charlotte, who subsequently sold it to Ida (Mrs. Stephen) Peene of Yonkers, NY, in 1915. The Peenae added the present west rooms of the cottage that year.

Although deeded to Ida Peene’s daughter, Emma Peene Fulton, in 1937, it was deeded back to Ida Peene and Emma Fulton in 1947, shortly before Emma’s death. The following year Ida Peene deeded the cottage to Margaret Openshaw, better known as “Opie”, a long time loyal friend of the family who had come from Rhode Island to take up residency in Burlington. Still called the Peene cottage, it was enjoyed by Ida Peene and Opie, along with Ida’s nieces Carrie Rhoeder and Grace Ingham, for many summers. After Ida’s death in 1960, Opie, Carrie and Grace were commonly seen in their white boat fishing for bass in the “cut” beneath the pumphouse.

Opie was an active member and officer of both the Thompson’s Point Association and the Thompson’s Point Country Club, and was widely recognized as the unofficial “mayor” of Thompson’s Point. Her stories, fishing lore, and passion for spirited conversation endeared her to generations of Thompson’s Pointers until her death in 1992. The property then passed to Opie’s cousin’s daughter, Dorothy O. Naylor, and family, the present owners.

THE UNFORGETTABLE OPIE

As a matter of editorial privilege, I would like to add a couple of Opie anecdotes.

Her kindless to Point youngsters was manifest, and mine was a case in point (no pun intended). Fishing with Opie was a grand adventure, a lesson in sportsmanship and responsibility, and the chance to learn some fascinating stuff not discussed at home. In fact, for a couple of summers I had a room at Opie’s cottage where I could sleep after a late night of fishing or in preparation for a morning outing slated to begin before my folks’ normal rising hour.

Opie, Aunt Ida, and later Carrie and sometimes Grace were our guests for almost every Christmas dinner I can remember, as we were their guests at Thanksgiving. We usually had a beagle in residence, and it was an annual battle between Opie and our dog for the turkey skin. My father, who carved the turkey, usually sided with the hound, but Opie always got more of the crisp skin!

My father was a stickler for detail, especially in financial matters, and his boasting of always balancing his checking account to the penny finally drove Opie to what may have been the greatest of her innumerable practical jokes. As treasurer of the Country Club, she easily got the number of Dad’s checking account, and one day she deposited seven cents to the account. You cannot imagine the consternation which ensued when...
he tried to balance the monthly statement. Opie let him stew for several days before she finally ended his agony by confessing.

As unofficial "mayor" of the Point and self-appointed watchdog for "her" end (she eventually, perhaps grudgingly, ceded the bay end to me over time) she was anything but bashful. Anyone not known to her who set foot on the "Big Dock" could expect to be challenged from her porch. One of the many scuba divers who survived her challenges and came to be a friend said that he missed being yelled at.

The opposite ends of Opie's spectrum were shown in an incident late in her life. Living alone and slowed considerably, her condition bothered me. I thought that she should have someone with her, but of course she would hear none of it. When I learned of a young lady from my home town who was coming to Champlain College but had no dorm room available to her, the situation seemed right. I called Opie and asked if she would rent a room in her house, only two blocks away from the college, to the girl, and she agreed. I passed her name and phone number along to the student. A couple of days later I inquired of the girl if she had worked out an agreement with Opie. The girl said she had called but was so terrified by Opie that she was dropping the whole idea. Two days later I drove the girl to Burlington and we took Opie out to lunch for a face-to-face meeting. The upshot was that the girl moved in on schedule and became yet another friend of the lady whose friendship knew no bounds.

VAN ZANDT COTTAGE (1887)

Seven families from Essex Junction in 1887 put up and for many years occupied in turn an adjacent structure which was simply called "The Essex Junction Cottage" rather than by the names of the titular owners, Reed and Sawyer of that town. It was sold in 1909 to William Brown of Rutherford, New Jersey, whose daughter Marion still (sic) "camps" there, the wife of S. Russell Williams of Charlotte, to whom it was transferred in 1933. Just another of those cottages of long tenure here in the same family.

Russell Williams, whose brother "Bill" owned The Old Brick Store in Charlotte, was a recreational sailor of considerable talent, and he started what became a weekly series of races for small sailboats in the area. In the 1970's ownership passed to Marion and Russell's daughter, Mary Williams King, who occupied the camp until 1987 when she sold to Edgar and Elna VanZandt of Princeton and Flemington, New Jersey.

They had been visitors at the Irving-Furman-Drye camp since 1969 (Hannah Furman VanZandt was Edgar's stepmother). Ownership of the cottage was passed to the VanZandts' four children in 1993.
The present Gilroy cottage was built before 1899 by Reverend W.S. Roberts of Burlington. The cottage was sold to Mrs. Alice Sprague of Brandon, Vermont, in 1906, and then to W.C. Staley in 1908. It was here in 1913 that former President Theodore Roosevelt visited when his Secretary of the Treasury, Leslie M. Shaw, was a renter on the Point.

After a very brief ownership by Mr. Roy Rohrer, a relative of Alice Irving, the cottage was purchased in 1931 by H. Clay Ward of Great Neck, Long Island. Ownership subsequently passed to the Wards' daughter, Elizabeth Ward Gilroy, and the cottage is enjoyed by her and her family.

An old postcard view of the cottage (presently the Gilroy cottage) all decked out for the 1913 visit of former President Theodore Roosevelt. The cottage was then rented by TR's former Secretary of the Treasury, Leslie M. Shaw. (Charlotte Historical Society)
HURLBURT COTTAGE (1891)

The present Hurlburt/Paul cottage was built in 1891 by E.B. Bailey of Burlington and sold to Mrs. Helen Doutney of Burlington in June of 1904. There the Doutneys, the Simmonds's and the Johnsons enjoyed and enlivened the Point and its young folk. In 1912 the cottage was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Caldwell of Brooklyn, New York. The property is still held in that same family more than 80 years later.

The Caldewells' daughter, Mrs. John W. Drye, inherited it in 1950 and shared it with her husband, children and three grandchildren until her death in 1975. The house passed to her husband, John Drye, who was one of a dedicated cadre of golfers on the Point. Upon his death in 1979 the camp passed to their daughter, Anne Paul. She and her husband Ted and their three sons enjoyed it until Ted's passing in 1994. In 1992 Anne married Dick Hurlburt, and they and their sons and their families continue to enjoy the Point each summer. There are a lot of people in the house and many boats in the bay!

BRADLEY - STODDARD COTTAGE (originally 1899)

Arthur Crane of Burlington in 1899 built the next nice cottage in the depths of the bay of boats, and his family summered here until it was sold to Maude R. Williams and Mary R. Falby of Charlotte in 1907. It was then purchased in 1911 by W.W. Sample of Brooklyn, New York. It was occupied by his family for many years and by Mrs. George Hicks, the Samples' daughter, and her husband until it was burned in 1943. After the close of World War II, when materials and labor again became available, Mrs. Hicks built again on that lot and summered here and wintered in Florida until her death in the 1970's.

The cottage passed on to her son, Dr. William Hicks of Columbia, South Carolina, and Anna Mae Hicks, whose presence greatly enlivened Club Suppers, Tennis Wednesdays and other social events.

In 1994 the cottage was purchased by Gracey Luckett Bradley and her daughter Frances Stoddard.

ANSLEY COTTAGE (1894)

In 1894 E.E. Clarkson, outstanding merchant and bank president of Burlington, leased the lot next door but did not build for two years. In 1897 the cottage was transferred to Mrs. Mary K. Paine of Windsor, Vermont, and A.N. Ogilvie. It was long known as the Paine cottage, even though Mrs. Paine bequested her share to Andrew Ogilvie in 1905 and he turned it over to Mrs. Delia M. Miller and Miss Emma Lanou, sisters of Mrs. Alvaro Adsit whom we shall meet later.

From 1924 this cottage was in the possession of the genial, late Archie B. Rugg of Essex Junction. Following his death, Mrs. Rugg in 1959
sold to Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Crane of Burlington, the latter the former Elas Woodbury - of whom also we shall hear later - who, following her husband's death still summered here with many visits from her children and her children's children. Frances and Edward W. Crane bought the camp from his mother in 1982.

In 1996 Nancy and Norman Ansley of Severna Park, Maryland, long-time renters (27 summers in 14 different cottages) became permanent Pointers with the purchase of the cottage. Nancy first came to the Point in 1939 when her family frequently visited the Blanchards at the cottage now owned by the Bacons.

Norm, a dedicated bibliophile, donated a collection of books which he squeezed into every nook and cranny of the Clubhouse in the early 1980's. He established the library on a "borrow one, bring one" basis, and it works!

Recently he has embarked on a serious search for the Point's namesake, but as of this writing he has been unable to pinpoint that man "Thompson." However, he will carry on his endeavor and would be interested in clues from anyone.

**GIBBS COTTAGE (1883)**

The cottage next eastward along the shore was built about 1887 by A.D. Gibbs of Burlington, and has since then been in the hands of five generations of that family. Its recent former owner, Donald, who considerably improved the structure, lived at Chappaqua and more recently in Ossining, New York. After his death in 1995 the camp passed to his widow, Jocelyn. Donald's mother was a friend of the Carrolls, a daughter of the Staley's, and until her death one of our oldest old-timers, and was the original author of our printed history.

Her son, Donald Staley Gibbs (1904-1995), spent all his summers here at the camp. His greatest thrill as a very young boy was when Captain Jack of the 'Ticonderoga' called and said, "Here, Don, you catch the line," as the graceful ship came in to the Big Dock. Thompson's Point was a major part of his life, and because of his love for it he wrote countless poems - he called them "doggerel" - for and about T.P.. The fifth generation of Gibbs made its presence felt at the Point in 1996 in the person of Donald Staley Gibbs, III.

**ALLMON COTTAGE (1874/1900)**

The point of land upon which the Allmon cottage now stands was the earliest occupied. In or about 1870 a group of eight sportsmen camped on what is now the vacant lot #23, calling it "Camp Pleasant." In 1874 John H. Thorpe of Charlotte, a member of the original sportsmen's group, built a small camp. At about the turn of the century this camp was moved across the ice to Long Point, and the present cottage on the Thompson's Point site was put up by Frederick Beckwith of Middlebury.
Beckwith sold to Colonel E.B. Woodbury of Burlington who was much involved in Point activities and improvements until 1922 when he sold to Colonel Willard N. McCormack, a retired Army officer. His son, Willard F. McCormack, camped here on summer vacations from his Department of the Interior tasks in Washington, DC. For many years the McCormack camp was the site of challenging intellectual games for Point young people and lively bridge games for their parents.

It was to this cottage that Elsa Woodbury (of the former Crane, now Ansley cottage) first came as a little girl to the Point. Here it was that W.W. Higbee in 1899 spoke of John Thorpe sitting in his front yard and saluting the 'Chateaugay' as she passed morning and night within a few hundred feet of his front door.


In 1986-1987 the camp was renovated with the original roof line still intact. Beneath the camp one can still see the original tree stump supports; nothing has changed in 100 years. In 1996 nine of the Allmon clan were in residence at the Thompson's Point cottage.

JOHNSON COTTAGE (1894)

The next, the large cottage with the deep roof, was built in 1894 with large roofage and large porches by that large Burlington family of Clarence Hicks. Four of the six children were long identified with our neighborhood; Stacey was Postmaster of North Ferrisburgh after his experiences in World War I, Marion also in North Ferrisburgh just over the Charlotte line on what the town has just named Hicks Road, Albert recently in Massachusetts but with a cottage of his own where the motorboats roam at Long Point, and of course George at the new Sample-Hicks cottage on the other bay.

Also originally of Burlington, Mrs. M. DeFalovitch bought the Hicks camp in 1946 but two years later sold to Willard A. Nicholson of Coral Cables, Florida. During her brief tenure Mme. DeFalovitch was the unwilling hostess for one of the Point's exciting moments when the caretaker's pig got loose. After a lengthy chase the errant porker was finally cornered on the front porch of the of the home of the very proper matron.

The Nicholsons' brought a Florida influence to the Point when their children introduced water skiing to the youth of the community. Refinishing and refurbishing the camp, the Nicholsons also made substantial additions. Title eventually passed to Herndon Rowe, a stepson of Willard Nicholson, who in turn sold the place to Lawrence and Kathleen Snodden, then of London, England, in 1991.

The camp was bought from the Snoddens in 1994 by Jim and Carol Johnson of Mendham, New Jersey. In 1996 they replaced the ancient wiring throughout the camp and built a small bike shed by the driveway.
MOORE - RIXFORD COTTAGES (1887 & 1896)

The present brown-colored Moore-Rixford cottage and its green next-door neighbor stand on what the old maps show was a single large lot. The brown camp was built by Willard Greene, a Burlington merchant, in 1896. Upon the death of his son, Henry Greene, the cottage was occupied by Mrs. Fuller and Mrs. Blake. Then in 1920 it was turned over to the younger Fuller son, known as "Ned" or "Speed", of Burlington. He was a tennis and track athlete at UVM, having honed his tennis skills on the court which "Grandpa" Greene has blasted out of the slope side at the top of the lot. His daughters said that he acquired the nickname "Speed" when he loaned his track shoes to a runner who won a big event; thereafter he was known as "Speed" because his shoes won but he didn't! Ned and his family were fixtures at the Point until his death in 1958; after his widow's death in 1974 title passed to the Fullers' three daughters.

The green cottage was the original Fuller place, built in 1887 by Truman Post Fuller, and by having been there from childhood Ned had a prime claim to being one of the Point's longest-term inhabitants. At the turn of the century he used to carry the mail by buggy or by horseback from the Thompson's Point railroad crossing to the Glenwood Inn. Along with the brown cottage, this camp has most recently been shared by two of the Fuller daughters, Helene Moore of Charlotte and Jean Rixford of Highgate, and their children and grandchildren. The lakeside boathouse here is one of the unique features of Point architecture.

COLBY COTTAGE (1880)

A small cottage was built upon the adjacent point in 1880 by Ovette Stone of Ferrisburgh, one of the original members of the Thompson's Point Club organized in 1870. He sold it in the spring of 1894 to Professor Charles E. Colby of New York, NY, who had rented it the previous two summers and had boarded in the summer of 1891 at the Field's farm, later Emerson's and then Bucklin's. He improved the cottage with the help of the famous Joe Stone of North Ferrisburgh.

Following his death in 1897, the cottage, known as "Bonnie View", continued to be occupied by Professor Colby's widow, Emily, and her daughters Dorothea ("Bunny") Massacar and Sabra Colby Tice with her husband, Walter. Their brother, Colonel Elbridge Colby, his wife Margaret and son William were frequent summer visitors between military tours.

Elbridge Colby, who balanced academic and journalistic pursuits with his military career, may have been best known to his Point neighbors for leading the successful battle against federal bureaucrats to retain the apostrophe in Thompson's Point. Younger Pointers will remember his annual patriotic talks at the Big Dock following July 4 parades.

At the death of "Bunny" Massacar in 1959 the cottage passed to her nephew William Colby, a decorated O.S.S. operative in World War II who rose through the ranks to eventually become director of the C.I.A..
Bill, his wife Barbara and their children - Jonathan, Catherine (d. 1973), Carl, Paul and Christine - enjoyed it for many summers. Now, with the passing of the cottage to the four adult children and their families, Bonnie View sees its fifth generation sharing Champlain summers.

BARRIE COTTAGE (1902)

In 1902 Alvaro Adsit, Burlington merchant, sailboat builder and sailor, and amateur photographer, built a large cottage upon the next two lots along the shore and extended the property, well landscaped and gardened, up almost to the road. He sold in 1908 to Mrs. Alice Sprague of Brandon. That place was destroyed by fire in 1912 but Mrs. Sprague re-built it nearly indentically with the original. She sold in 1922 to Mrs. Frank McCord of Flushing, NY. Her heirs transferred it in 1944 to Mr. C. Sabin Brush, and his in 1950 to Mr. A.W. Rutter of Burlington, Texas (El Paso and Midland). In 1975 he gifted the property to his children, and currently the large cottage is occupied by Charlene R. Barrie of Columbus, Ohio, and Alicean R. Kalteyer of Austin, Texas, and their families. The smaller new cottage is occupied by Dorothy R. Engberg of Albuquerque, NM, and her family.

BEDFORD COTTAGE (1914)

Next door, between his family's cottage and what was then the McCord place, Captain Stowell's son William built his own cottage in 1914, and he occupied it until his death. It was sold in 1946 to Molly and Ward Bedford of Middlebury, who were members of our community for the next 45 years. Ward contributed his leadership skills, honed during 20 years as a State Representative and Senator, at the Thompson's Point Country Club and Association, both of which he served as president for many years. During the 1950's their sons were often seen with their cousins, the Nicholsons, water skiing and teaching the pastime to others. Both made teaching their profession, though the subject matter changed to history and math. The cottage remains in the family, and Crayton Bedford became sole owner in 1994.

CAPTAIN HENRY STOWELL

A Vergennes resident, Henry Stowell enlisted in Company B of the 7th Vermont Infantry on December 20, 1861. A corporal, he was promoted to sergeant in October of 1862, then commissioned 2nd lieutenant in Company F in March of 1863. Seven months later he made 1st LT, and in September of 1864 he was promoted to captain of Company C. He was mustered out of the service in March of 1866.

The 7th Vermont saw action during the siege of Vicksburg before being ordered south. It participated in a number of minor skirmishes and won battle honors at Baton Rouge and Gonzales Station, LA, also the Mobile campaign and battle at Spanish Fort, Alabama, and fired its final shots at Whistler, Alabama, on April 13, 1865.
Captain Henry Stowell of Vergennes and of Troy, NY, was one of the originals in this neighborhood. He had first come to the Jolly Club Camp by Cedar Beach, and had been a boarder at the Field’s farm, and a renter in the Ovette Stone place in 1887. In a diary he recorded shooting squirrels at Thompson’s Point in 1880, and an entry had his daughter Julia rowing to Thompson’s Point from the Jolly Club in August of 1877. In 1890 he took up two lots and on the farther of them he built the cozy cottage which was occupied by his daughter until past the mid-century. It is still in the family and was enjoyed by grandson William V.N. Carroll throughout his long life. "Bill" Carroll was a great source of Thompson’s Point history until his passing in December of 1997.

After Henry Stowell built in 1890 on lot 29, he turned lot 28 over to his son William, who, much to the disgust of his father, built the present Bedford cottage in 1914.

In 1921 a Captain Goodsell developed a ferry to Essex and Westport from the foot of the bay and a jerry-built dock at the site where Pete LaBerge and subsequent caretakers have floated our boats into service. Goodsell lived in a shack on the "Public Lot" between the Stowells and the Enos. After a minor disaster or two the ferry and the dock were damaged, and when winter ice took out the dock the ferry service ceased. In 1923 Mary Jane Stowell, Bill’s grandmother, leased lot 30 to prevent further intrusions on placid summer life.

Bill Carroll as a child on the lawn in front of his grandparents’ cottage. (Wm. Carroll photo, courtesy of the Charlotte Historical Society)
KUENNE COTTAGE (1896)

Back from the water’s edge on the high ground in a grove of shagbark hickories, with a deep view of the lake, R.N. Eno of Charlotte in 1896 built a cottage which long remained in his family. The lot was first leased to Professor Colby in the winter of 1892-93, who surrendered it when he bought the Ovette Stone place in 1894.

The camp was transferred in 1919 to Sarah Eno Sherman of Charlotte, later Mrs. Walter Peterson. Wintering in Florida, she centered on the Wooster-Eno farm, and was substantially interested in and a donor to the Charlotte School and its school library. The cottage was bought in 1966 by A.W. Rutter, Jr., of Texas, and the following year by Professor Robert E. Kuenne of Princeton University and his wife Janet, a granddaughter of Mrs. Simpson of the neighboring camp. The Kuenne made considerable improvements to the cottage and grounds, including painting the roadside barn a traditional barn red and emphasizing the wrap-around character of the distinctive front porch. Gardens were added to the roadsides that border the cottage, and deep plantings of pachasandra were added as landscaping at the front.

SIMPSON COTTAGE (1867)

Although jointly held by Jeffrey C. Simpson, Janet Brown Kuenne and Diana Brown Sheridan, the cottage which occupies the small point of land innermost in the bay has long been known as the Simpson place.

After coming here for years to "camp" in tents, Leonard Andrews of Hinesburg built a cottage in 1887 situated to afford a wide view of the lake and the distant Adirondack Mountains. This cottage remained in the Andrews family until 1926 when it was purchased by Mrs. Anita Lawrence Simpson. As a teacher of Spanish at Yonkers High School in New York at the time of the purchase, she named the cottage "La Casita," the name which still adorns a sign next to the path and road. She undertook major alterations, enlarging the original house and converting a former boathouse and icehouse to additional bedroom cabins. One of these cabins has served as an author's retreat in which portions of books by three members of her family have been written. The cottage remains in her family, having passed from her children, Beatrice Brown and Robert Simpson, to three of her grandchildren.

HALL COTTAGE (1902)

J. Lindley Hall, businessman of Burlington, built in 1902 and moved into his, the next cottage on Button Bay. With two daughters and two sons they livened the place for many years. In 1940 ownership was transferred to the sons, David B. Hall of Towson, MD, and William M. Hall of Lexington, MA. The cottage in its entirety was bought by Bill after David's interest waned due to following his son's baseball career. Dick Hall pitched the Thompson's Point team to many victories over nearby camping communities before going on to professional ball. He played in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization before being traded to the Baltimore Orioles.
where he became one of the more reliable relief pitchers in the major leagues.

Following in his father's footsteps, Bill served for many years as treasurer of the Thompson's Point Association. "Linn" Hall used to hold executive committee meetings in the dining hall of the "Ticonderoga" while commuting to work in Burlington. As their three sons' families grew, Bill and Sally decided "that we would build a guest house, with us as the guests, in the southwest corner of the lot." The original cottage, called "Osarhehon," continues to be occupied by Peter, Joseph and Stephen Hall and their children. Bill continues to enjoy sailing even into his 90's.

Bill said that his mother told him that "Osarhehon" was the Indian name of a chasm in northern New York state, meaning "hard to get out of." In his research he found a site called "Osseruenon" - the first of three walled villages on the Mohawk River, which flows into the Hudson. According to the legend, the Mohawk Indians took their captives to this village to torture them. Alas, Bill reports that he has never been able to locate the actual chasm that his mother told about. However, it is certain that summers at "Osarhehon" are far from torture.

OUTWATER COTTAGE (1907)

In 1907 Dr. J.H. Blodgett of Bellows Falls put up the next place. He transferred it in 1910 to Mr. Arthur Lincoln Davis of Mount Vernon, NY, who occupied it for many years. After his death Mrs. Davis sold to Sidney and Eleanor Falby of Charlotte. This was in 1943. The cottage was sold again in 1959 to John O. Outwater, Jr., a former New Yorker who was a professor at the University of Vermont; he expanded the grounds and the outbuildings, and has adorned the waters of the bay with his sailboat.

Adjacent to the Outwaters' there was for long an empty lot. In 1901 it was transferred from Thomas Thompson by a quit-claim deed to Harris P. Prindle. In 1904 the property skidded into the hands of Cyrus P. VanVliet, to a John Whalen, and again to VanVliet, all before mid-July! In 1915 it went temporarily to John Lucier, then the caretaker, who transferred it to A.L. Davis and agreeing to remove all buildings by mid-summer. Mr. Davis then merged the site with what is now the Outwater place, and is named "Pebble Beach."

BRAUN COTTAGE (1913)

Having leased his lot two years earlier, Mr. Guy Norton built on the next property in 1913. His cottage was sold to UVM Professor Charles E. Braun in 1936. A chemist of considerable reknown, he contributed much to scientific periodicals and to the University where he chaired the chemistry department for many years and served as the institution's first Dean of the Graduate College. During World War II he served in the Chemical Development Division of the U.S. Army where he developed a filtration system for gas masks and a field gas detection kit for use by
troops in the front lines. He also worked on the refinement of napalm and flame throwers. After the war he monitored the Thompson's Point water system to insure that it met state purity standards.

His son Carl, the present owner, pursued careers in education and journalism. His success in rifle marksmanship took him to the top echelons of national competition; he represented Vermont on state teams at several national championships, and was invited to try out for the Olympic and Pan American Games teams. Since his retirement he continues to write a weekly newspaper column and to work at his interests in Vermont/Civil War history and antique firearms collecting.

PRICE COTTAGE (1996)

Constructed in 1996, the most recent camp to be built on Thompson's Point is owned by Jeff and Andy Price. It is interesting to note that this camp replaces the previous most recently constructed camp which was also erected by the Price family in 1960. Ben and Jane Price built on the site of the former home of William and Marian Obomsawin, son and daughter of Simon Obomsawin who was widely believed to have been the last full-blooded member of the Abnaki tribe. A cannonball was later found on the site, although there is no reason to believe that anyone ever fired a cannon at the Obomsawins.

Simon served as caretaker for the Association in its early years, and one of the Point legends involves his tenure here. A camper walking the path at night allegedly spotted something large up in a tree. Believing it to be a bear, he went to get his gun. When he returned he found that the "bear" was Simon's wife who had climbed into the tree and fallen asleep. William and Marian were good friends and neighbors to Point campers. They earned a little money making and selling baskets and their unique cedar furniture to campers, and their vegetable garden provided fresh fare for many Point tables. Back when Vermont paid a bounty for rattlesnakes, Obomsawin relatives would occasionally row over to New York's side of the lake to catch snakes and bring them back for the bounty. In 1959 a tragic fire took William's life and Marian left the Point to live with relatives. According to the account of the fire in the October 13, 1959 Burlington Daily News, Obomsawin means "Make Fire."

Ben and Jane Price came from the New York City area where he worked for the Herald Tribune. They built a one-story shingle cottage that differed from the mainstream Victorian ambiance of the Point "proper." For years they sought to gain approval from the Town of Charlotte to make over their camp. Finally, in 1995, a year after Ben's death, the Town granted a permit. A traditional "Adirondack-style" camp was finally fitted into the Point, completing the journey started by the elder Prices four decades earlier.
During 1913 Mr. Grant Jackman leased the first lot on the high bank at the edge of the pine grove at the head of Button Bay. By the next year his cottage was up. This was the first cottage on the Point to have a cellar. In 1930 he sold to Josephine Ready, who sold in 1933 to T. Arnold Haigh of Burlington, who in turn sold to E.A. and Frances Blanchard in 1937.

In 1954 George and Edith Mascott, former residents of Burlington who later returned to the area, purchased the cottage after renting at both Simpsons' and Carrolls'. They rehabilitated the house, adding facilities, putting pine paneling in the enlarged living room, and decking the improved lawn with flowers. Their sons, Ted and Chuck, were active on the lake and the tennis courts before moving on to careers in pharmaceuticals and insurance, respectively.

George Mascott sold the cottage in December, 1983, to Jason and Nina Bacon who were at the time based in London, England, but who now live in New Haven, VT.

KJELLEREN LOT

Between the Bacon and Palmer camps stood a lone brick chimney, the only reminder of the cottage built on that site by Fred Bacon in 1905. Mr. Bacon, a resident of Shelburne Falls, was the partner of Walter Palmer; the two ran a lumber mill.

Hazy records indicate that ownership transferred to someone named Brodie, then to Barber/Perry. The camp burned to the ground in 1937, after which the Palmer family took over the lot. It is presently leased by Donald and Lorelei Palmer Kjelleren.

PALMER COTTAGE (1904)

In 1903 business partners Walter Palmer and Fred Bacon leased adjoining lots at the very head of what was once called Button Bay. Walter and Lucy Palmer built their cottage in 1904, to which they travelled by horse and buggy from their Shelburne Falls home to enjoy weekends on the lake.

Lucy inherited the camp at Walter's death, and eventually passed it on to their children, Loren, Raymond and Lois. The brothers and their families "regularly reached beyond their bay to enjoy the deep water and the fish of the broad lake." Now the third and fourth generations of the family take their pleasure on the lake in craft ranging from kayaks to a regal sailboat.
In 1912 Carrie Prindle took the last lot at the end of the water line, built, and then sold to Leroy S. Morse in 1915. After his death his heir, Pearl Morse Shafer of Jeffersonville, VT, inherited. Mrs. Rachel Skinner Bicknell purchased the lease and cottage in 1941. Her husband was principal of the Barton Academy over in Orleans County and was also very prominent and highly respected in educational circles elsewhere about the State and at the University.

George Bicknell died in 1978, and Rachel deeded the camp to her descendants Donald and Ann Bicknell Hodgman, with all three names being on the deed. After Rachel's death in 1992 Donald, one of the last of the old-style family physicians in Vergennes, inherited the camp, and he added to the deed the names of his children: David, Timothy, Peter, Paul, and Ann Bicknell Lorenz. The camp has recently undergone significant renovations.

**BARTON COTTAGE (1896)**

On the bluff, beyond the Reid cottage and just past the gorge, George Foote of Charlotte in 1896 built a very large cottage which was sold to E.C. Orvis of Manchester, VT, in 1905, and then to Leroy A. Van Bomel of New York in 1919, who expanded it considerably. Roy was the moving spirit behind the formation of the Country Club at its present location in 1921-1922. Prior to that tennis enthusiasts had enjoyed their game on the court which is now the parking area behind the (then Fuller) Moore-Rixford cottages. He became president of a huge New York City milk firm, which took much of his time. After he personally stopped coming to the Point, his mother occupied the camp for many years.

The cottage and the properties were sold in 1942 to Mr. Bond E. Davis of Burlington, and by him in 1959 to the Rev. Charles A. Barton and Jane Barton of New York and, later, Atlanta. The Bartons added access stairs and a dock in the deep gorge. The houses were inherited by the Bartons' four children, Martha Barton-Rivera, Carol Barton, Stuart Barton and Susan Lee Barton-Kriese, after Jane died in 1993 and Charles died in 1994. In 1995 the four formed a partnership, "Lookout Lodge, Ltd," to maintain both houses.

Also in 1896 there had been built next door to the main cottage a hostelry variously called the Hotel Charlotte and the Glenwood Inn, with, Higbee said, "broad plazas and a magnificent outlook" across at the Adirondacks. During the years of our independent mail service in the first decades of the century, a corner room here held a summer post office and a candy showcase. Here campers and campers' kids gathered twice a day waiting for the mail to arrive and be sorted. Mr. Van Bomel took this building over, tore off its porches, moved it northward, used the ground floor for a garage and fixed living quarters upstairs. Mr. Davis and the Bartons continued to maintain this as a rental cottage.
In January of 1997 that portion of the "Lookout Lodge, Ltd." holdings was sold to Adam Kalkin and Adele O'Brien of Bernardsville, NJ. The former Hotel Charlotte and Glenwood Inn has since undergone extensive renovations.

SEARCHING for "CHAMP", A QUEST

From the days of its earliest history Lake Champlain has been rumored to be home to a mysterious monster of the deep. Numerous sightings were reported by natives and visitors alike through the years, and the discovery of the famous Charlotte Fossil Whale in the 19th century lent a certain amount of credence to the belief that monsters did indeed lurk in the lake's depths.

In the early 1990's a group of youngsters enjoying the lake in the gorge between Reid's and Bartons' spotted something out in the main lake which they believed to be "Champ", the name by which the elusive creature is known. There were several reported sightings that year, and in 1993 "Champ" became the object of an international search effort.

Scientists from Japan came to the area and set up permanent surveillance cameras at a number of spots, including inside the Thompson's Point Association pump house. In addition to the stationary cameras, the teams made several searches of the lake using boats on a grid pattern.

It was never revealed what, if anything, they observed, and the mystery of "Champ" continues to be unsolved.

ILLICK COTTAGE (1897)

A little farther along the bluff C.L. Atwood of Starksboro took up lot #7 in 1897 and built there in 1900. He sold to James A. Cory of Shelburne in 1910; he to William Greenlease in 1921, and he to Margaret C. Paine in 1925. Mr. Frederick Shephardson of Burlington came in 1937, bought the lease and cottage, took over lot #6 and half of lot #8, and began a happy career as a local leader. For many years the "official" fire alarm for the Point was a large bell at Shephardson's. There was a printed fire response plan under which, at the sounding of the bell, camp owners would bring hoses, axes and ladders to the scene of the fire.

In 1955 the Shephardsons moved to Shelburne Point and the cottage was sold the following year to Dr. E.B. Crane of Charlotte. In recognition of their contributions to life on the Point, including many years as president of the Association, "Fritz" and Mary Shephardson were made honorary life members of the Country Club. For many years thereafter they would join their friends and former neighbors at Club Suppers and other social events.

In 1966 Mrs. Crane sold the cottage to Professor and Mrs. Rowland Illick, then of Middlebury and later of Kennett Square, PA. A world-recknowned geographer, Dr. Illick entertained and enlightened Pointers
with talks about his travels, and served several terms as president of the Association.

TEETOR COTTAGE (1910)

Alvaro Adsit, a Burlington merchant of reknown, placed his second home on the high bluff on the north side of the Point. His first choice of lots was on the south side of the Point, more conducive to his grand style of building and racing sailboats, the largest of which was the beautiful "Sandalon." His fine work as an amateur photographer and as the Commodore has preserved the history of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club. His choice of builders was superb as Clayton Gove, the son of Moses Franklin Cove of East Charlotte, had built several houses at Cedar Point where all the Coves spent their summers.

Alvaro was said to have tested the entire Point for the "good wind" and selected a two-lot location adjacent to the Atwoods (presently Illicks). The Adsit family continued ownership until 1947 when Col. Elbridge Colby and wife Margaret purchased the property. In the latter Adsit years Guy Cheng, a Davis Cup entrant from China, occupied a small outbuilding which is still on the property. He provided volunteer tennis instruction to Point youngsters, instilling a sense of joy in his - and their - work.

The Colbys came up from "Bonnie View" on the south shore, a camp built by Professor Charles Colby of New York City. Having spent boyhood summers at the Point, and himself an excellent swimmer, Elbridge Colby was inspired to hold swimming races. He also organized the now traditional Fourth of July parade, using the story of a small boy at Independence Hall. "Ring, Grandpa, Ring," was the rallying call for son William Egan Colby and daughter-in-law Barbara and their five children, and, in time, a host of Pointers. The march, starting at the Clubhouse, goes down Colby path and along the shore to the old Ti dock where celebrants here a speech and try group singing, all with waving of flags and the sounds of a variety of noisemakers.

The Colonel led a formidable battle to insure retention of the apostrophe in Thompson's Point. He won a favorable ruling from the State Library Board over U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey bureaucrats who were striking out all kinds of grammatically correct designations. So high was the fever, so well publicized the issue in the early 1970's, that a sign on a Greenbush Road barn read "WORM'S."

Paul Teetor, a one time State's Attorney in Addison County and later in Washington, D.C., and his wife bought the house in 1973. They enjoyed aquatic adventures on their Alcort Sailfish and organized Sunday races which attracted many small craft sailors from the area.
OUR FRIEND, GUY CHENG

Although never a cottage owner within the limits of the Thompson's Point Association, Guy Cheng is widely considered "one of us." His is a wonderful human interest story.

Guy came to the United States in the mid-1930's as a member of China's Davis Cup tennis team. While he was here he remained to play in other tennis tournaments and war swept over his homeland. At the U.S. Open at the fabled Forest Hills Club he teamed up with a new partner for doubles competition. Upon learning that Guy was in a precarious situation, his new partner told him to wait for a telephone call at his hotel. When the call came Guy learned that he had been awarded a full scholarship to Tulane University.

Seeking summer employment, Guy answered an ad for a tennis instructor at a boys' camp in Vermont. He loved the state and made many friends here, among whom were Bob Adsit, "Fritz" Sheardson and Rhodes Bucklin. It was through them that he became acquainted with Thompson's Point. Through the efforts of his many friends here, a special Act of Congress was passed granting Guy U.S. citizenship. A Thompson's Point gala celebrated the event, at which Guy received a Cocker spaniel puppy named "Citizen."

For a number of years Guy lived in the little red house just south of the (former) Bucklin farm. He became famous for his unique style of handcrafted jewelry with its intricate swirls of gold and silver wire. Even more popular were the friendship rings which he made, and which were worn by generations of Thompson's Point ladies, young and old. Guy was a fixture on the tennis courts where he instructed countless Point youngsters and gave "hands-on" clinics to old and young alike in doubles matches. His constant smile and gentle demeanor masked the inner "tiger" who could do amazing things with a tennis ball to frustrate opponents. He was awarded an honorary life membership in the T.P.C.C. in gratitude for his generosity.

Guy bought a shop at the junction of Route 7 and Mt. Philo Road, to which he added and later expended living quarters. Of course, a tennis court was also installed. He married Barbara Davis who is related to the famous Cochrane skiing family in Richmond, and soon Barbara was an integral part of the weekly ladies' doubles gatherings. They bought a camp across the bay from the Brauns, which later was sold to Glenn Mitchell. Guy served as tennis coach at UVM for several seasons. After his "official" retirement he still continued to hit a ball with old friends until advancing age finally forced him to quit.

Well into the 1990's Guy and Barbara contributed to the success and enjoyment of Club Suppers and social events at the Point.
SMITH COTTAGE (1936)

Mr. R.D. Hawley and his son A.B. "Bob" Hawley of Pittsfield, MA, built on a jutting bluff on the north shore in 1936, next to the (then) Adsit cottage. They and their sons' families enjoyed the place, the Point, and the fishing at which they were phenomenally adept. Both Bob and his wife served the Country Club long and well.

Madge Hawley became somewhat of a local character after her appearance on television news in March of 1968. This was after she was eyewitness to the Great Ice Floe Break-up incident. She was also a fixture at local selectboard meetings after taking up residence in Charlotte.

The cottage was sold to Kim Smith and Juliet McVicker of Bristol, VT, in 1994.

THE GREAT ICE FLOE BREAK-UP OF 1988

Thompson's Point spawned what could have been a mass tragedy but which turned into a heroic rescue story one wintry day in March of 1988.

What started out as a nice day of ice fishing off the north shore near "Whiskey Bay" changed abruptly when a strong south wind blew up. The wind caused a floe of ice about two acres in size to break away from the main ice sheet along the shore. About two dozen ice fishermen were shocked when they noticed their lines going out from the holes at an angle instead of hanging straight down. They soon saw that they were adrift on the ice floe and blowing northward at an alarming speed. To make matters worse, pieces were breaking off from the edges of the ice floe.

Fortunately some people on shore, including Thompson's Point summer resident Madge Hawley, saw what was happening and called authorities to set a rescue effort in motion. However, nobody could anticipate how difficult that rescue would be.

One plan was to have the Charlotte-Essex ferry ease close to the ice floe and remove the stranded anglers, but this was ruled out as too dangerous to the boat and too precarious to the anglers. The next plan was for a helicopter rescue, which would take time to initiate. Alas, time was what the anglers adrift on the ice did not have as the floe was getting smaller by the minute.

Rescue helicopters from Burlington and Plattsburgh were pressed into service, but each could carry only a few fishermen on each trip. With their raft of ice still breaking up and moving northward in the blustery wind, the fishermen could only hope that enough "chopper" runs could be made to get them all off safely.

With darkness descending and the ice floe down to about a quarter of an acre the last fisherman was successfully plucked from danger. Surprisingly, some of the anglers were upset that they were not permitted to bring their gear and fish along with them in the helicopters!
Thus in a few winter hours Thompson's Point became a focal point for area media outlets. Madge Hawley was in demand for interviews, appearing on TV to the delight of her friends and neighbors. The incident finally received nation-wide attention when it was the subject of a story in "Yankee" magazine.

COLEBURN COTTAGE (1936)

Mr. Charles Sackett of Larchmont, NY, took up four lots along the bluff in 1934, and built there amidst the woods facing the "broad lake" through the trees. Already, members of the fourth generation of that family have summered there. A garage and a workshop in the rear have been converted into additional living space, very attractive and substantial. In 1960 a supplementary building was put up which became the new workshop.

TONINO COTTAGE (1928)

Mr. C.H. Voorhees of Hartford, CT, in 1928 took up the last two lots in the Association on the north shore, just at the edge of "Buckwheat" or "Whiskey" Bay, which is the Town's access for ice fishermen. The cottage was transferred in 1946 to the musical and motorboating William D. Hammond, a famous fautist once with Kate Smith's band but since turned independent. He was then of Ridgewood, NJ, but more recently of Closter, NJ. His wife for years could be seen hiking vigorously (not "jogging") along the road with a wave and a smile for Pointers motoring by.

In 1991 the camp was bought by Dick Tonino and his wife Ellen Postlewaite. Already a year-round Charlotte resident, Dick works as a geriatric physician in Burlington and Ellen is a social worker. They move to the camp with their two children, Molly and Leath, as soon as school gets out in June and spend the entire summer at the Point.

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