

HISTORIC AND NATURAL DISTRICTS
INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

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YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: December 1989
Town Hall, 655 Main St.
 YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11751 TELEPHONE: 516.224.5450
 ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning, Housing, and Development

1. NAME OF DISTRICT: Awixa Creek Area District

2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Bay Shore

3. DESCRIPTION:

The shore front of the Town of Islip is a series of peninsulas separated by estuarian creeks that flow south from north of Montauk Highway.

The Awixa Creek Area District encompasses two of these peninsulas lying between Montauk Highway and the Great South Bay. It includes South Saxon Avenue on the east side of Awixa Creek and Awixa, Penataquit, and Montgomery Avenues on the west side of Awixa Creek.

-refer to continuation sheet-

4. SIGNIFICANCE:

Saxon Avenue was named for Daniel Saxton, an early settler, through whose land this road passed. Awixa Avenue was named for the first home of John Mowbray, the patentee, whose residence (not far from the present Awixa Avenue) was given as "Awixa." Penataquit was the early name of Bay Shore in honor of the Penataquit Indians who lived here. This neck of land is called Penataquit Point. Richard Montgomery, a prominent real estate businessman and former resident, laid out Montgomery Avenue as a development for summer residents.

-refer to continuation sheet-

5. MAP:

NYS DOT Bay Shore East Quad

Bowe Albertson, Topographic Map, Sewage Works Study, Sheet R 10.

6. SOURCES:

Byrnes, Horace W. Pictorial Bay Shore and Vicinity, 1902.

Tuttle, Etta A. A Brief History of Bay Shore, 1962.

Havemeyer, Harry W. "The Story of Saxton Avenue", Long Island Forum, Vol. LIII, Winter 1990.

7. THREATS TO AREA:

BY ZONING

BY ROADS

BY DEVELOPERS

BY DETERIORATION

OTHER _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

8. LOCAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE AREA:

9. PHOTOS:

Refer to continuation sheets for streetscape views.

Research by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities - KEK

3. DESCRIPTION:

This is a low-density well-treed residential district characterized by its low flat land area penetrated by residentially bordered Awixa Creek - and bounded on the west by semi-commercial Penataquit Creek.

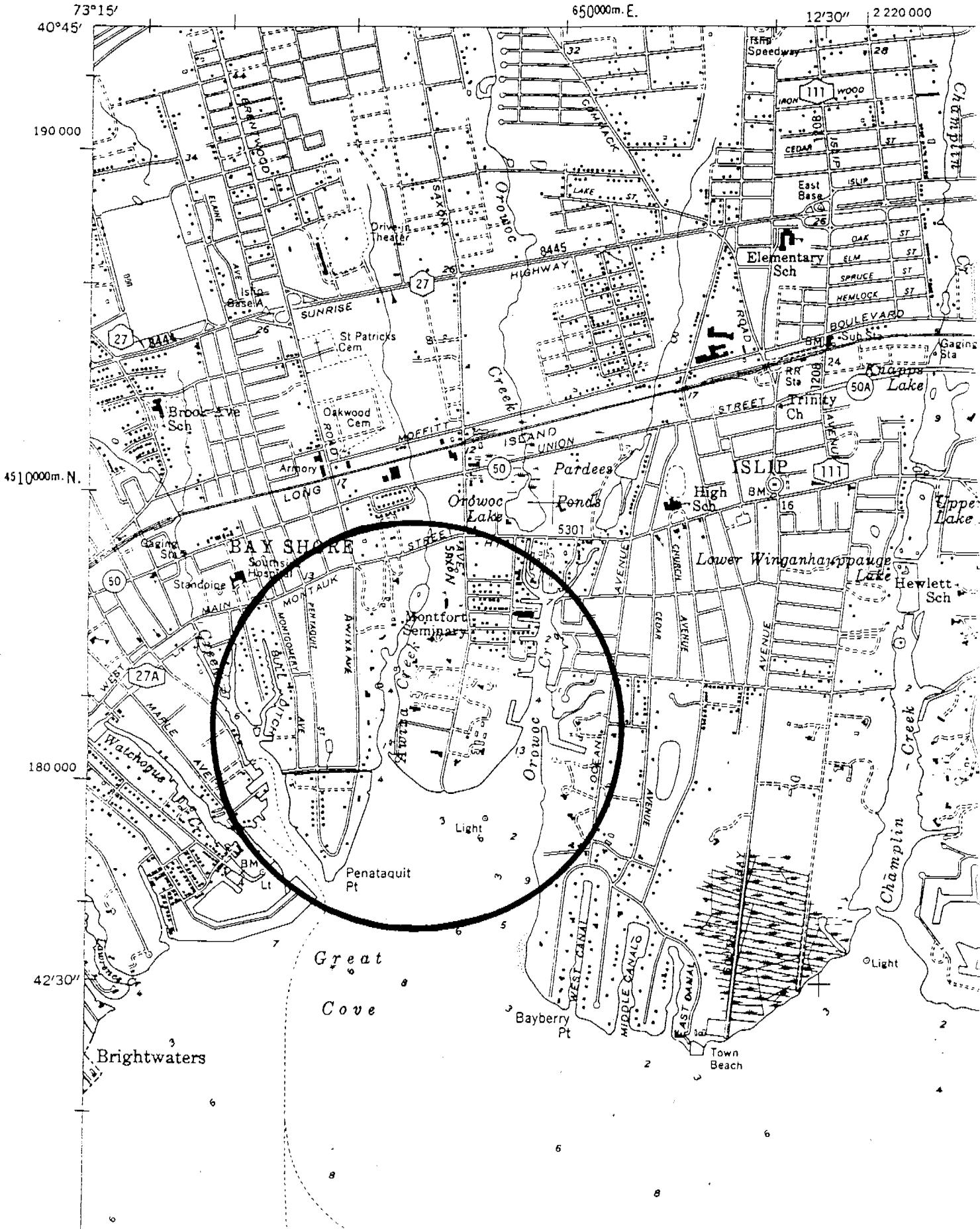
Montauk Highway (NYS Rt. 27A) was originally called South County Road and is Main Street through the south shore hamlets. It was one of the original major east-west arteries laid out in the early 18th century along the old Indian trails. Today Sunrise Highway (NYS Rt. 27) parallels it further north and takes through traffic away from this historic highway.

4. SIGNIFICANCE:

The peninsulas were not settled until the 19th century when wealthy sportsmen, who had come to the area for shooting and fishing, decided to establish summer residences on the shore front. Between the South Side Sportsman Club on the Connetquot River and the Babylon town line, Montauk Highway - then the South Country Road - was the site of numerous magnificent estates. The mansions that were built in the Awixa Creek area were part of that movement with many fine shingle-style houses dating from the 19th century. Because some of the estates have had their acreage subdivided, today there are new houses located between the historic mansions.

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GREENLAWN

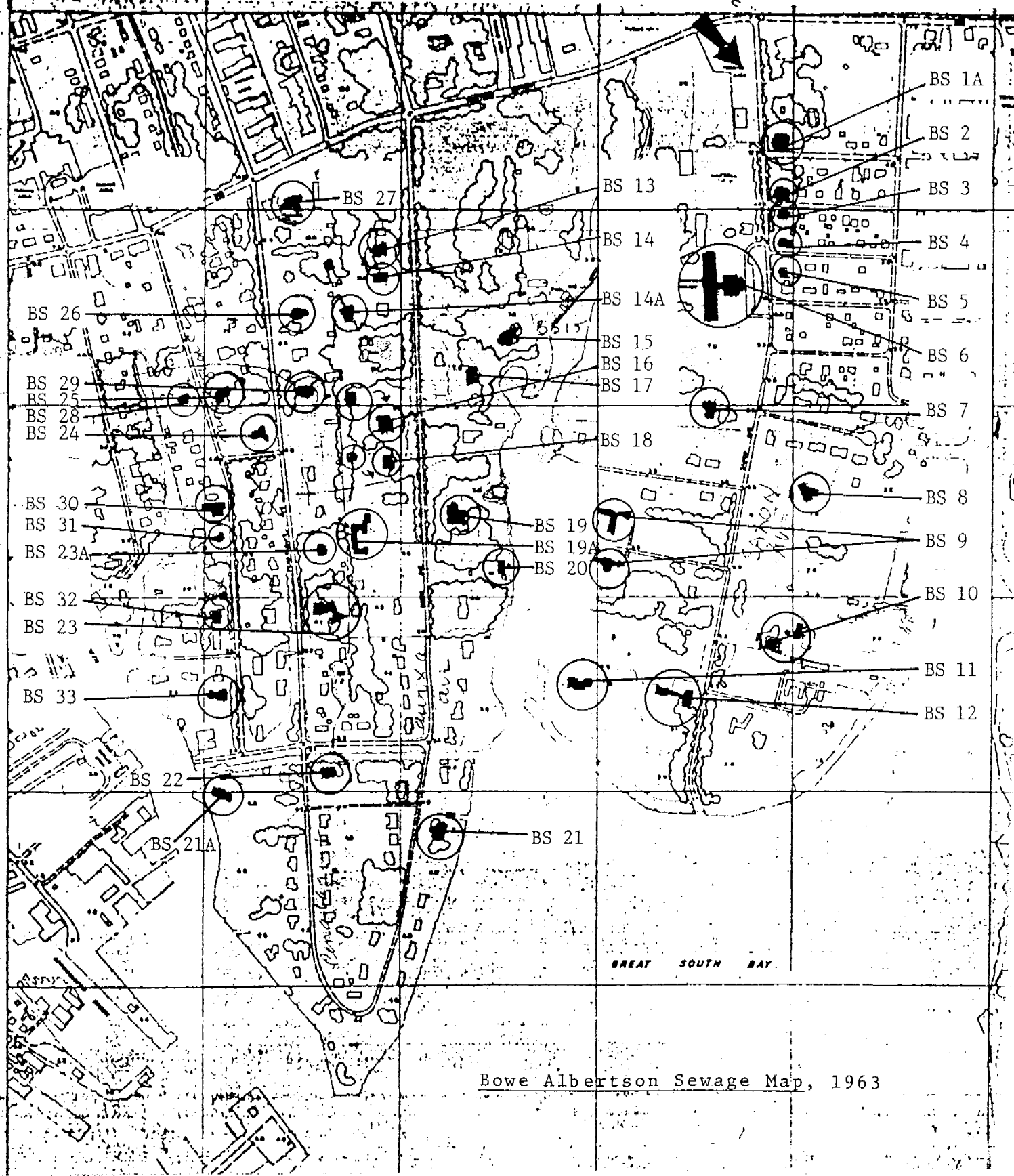


MONTGOMERY AVE

PENNSYLVANIA AVE

ANIXA AVE

SAXON AVE



BS 26

BS 29

BS 25

BS 28

BS 24

BS 30

BS 31

BS 23A

BS 32

BS 23

BS 33

BS 22

BS 21A

BS 27

BS 13

BS 14

BS 14A

BS 15

BS 16

BS 17

BS 18

BS 19

BS 19A

BS 20

BS 21

BS 1A

BS 2

BS 3

BS 4

BS 5

BS 6

BS 7

BS 8

BS 9

BS 10

BS 11

BS 12

GREAT SOUTH BAY



Neg. KK I-18, fm. NE. 52 Saxon Avenue (BS 7).



Left Side:
23 Saxon Avenue
(BS 2) and 25
Saxon Avenue (BS 3).

Neg. KK XIV-1A, fm. N. View of Saxon Avenue from Montauk Highway.



Left Side:
68 Awixa Avenue
(BS 18) and 60
Awixa Avenue (BS 16).

Neg. KK XIV-2A, fm. SE. View of Awixa Avenue.



Right Side:
Fence and gable of
60 Awixa Avenue (BS 16)
and part of 68 Awixa
Avenue (BS 18) next
south.

Neg. KK XIV-4A, fm. NE. View of Awixa Avenue showing pipe rail fencing.



Right Side:
yard and part of
Hulse House (BS 13)
and Wray House (BS 14)
next south.

Neg. KK XIV-5A, fm. NE. View of Awixa avenue from near Montauk Highway.



Left side:
street hedges and
entrance posts of
Wray House (BS 14)
and Hulse House (BS 13).

Right Side:
wooded area at east
side of Awixa Avenue.

Neg. KK XII-9. Awixa Avenue, view from S to Montauk Highway (north part).



Left Side:
street hedge of 68
Awixa Avenue (BS 18)
near lamp post and
fence at 60 Awixa
Avenue next north
(BS 16).

Neg. KK XII-6. Awixa Avenue, view from S to Montauk Highway (south part).



Left to right:
W.H. Wray House
(BS 14), W.W.
Hulse House (BS 13).

Neg. KK XII-8. Awixa Avenue, view from SE.



Left side:
street wall at 81
Awixa Avenue (BS
19).

Right Side:
fence at newer house
east of 82 Awixa
Avenue (BS 19A).

Neg. KK XII-7. Awixa Avenue, view from N to Great South Bay.



Left Side:
43-45 Penataquit
Avenue (BS 25).

Neg. KK XIV-6A, fm. N. View of Penataquit Avenue from near Montauk Highway.

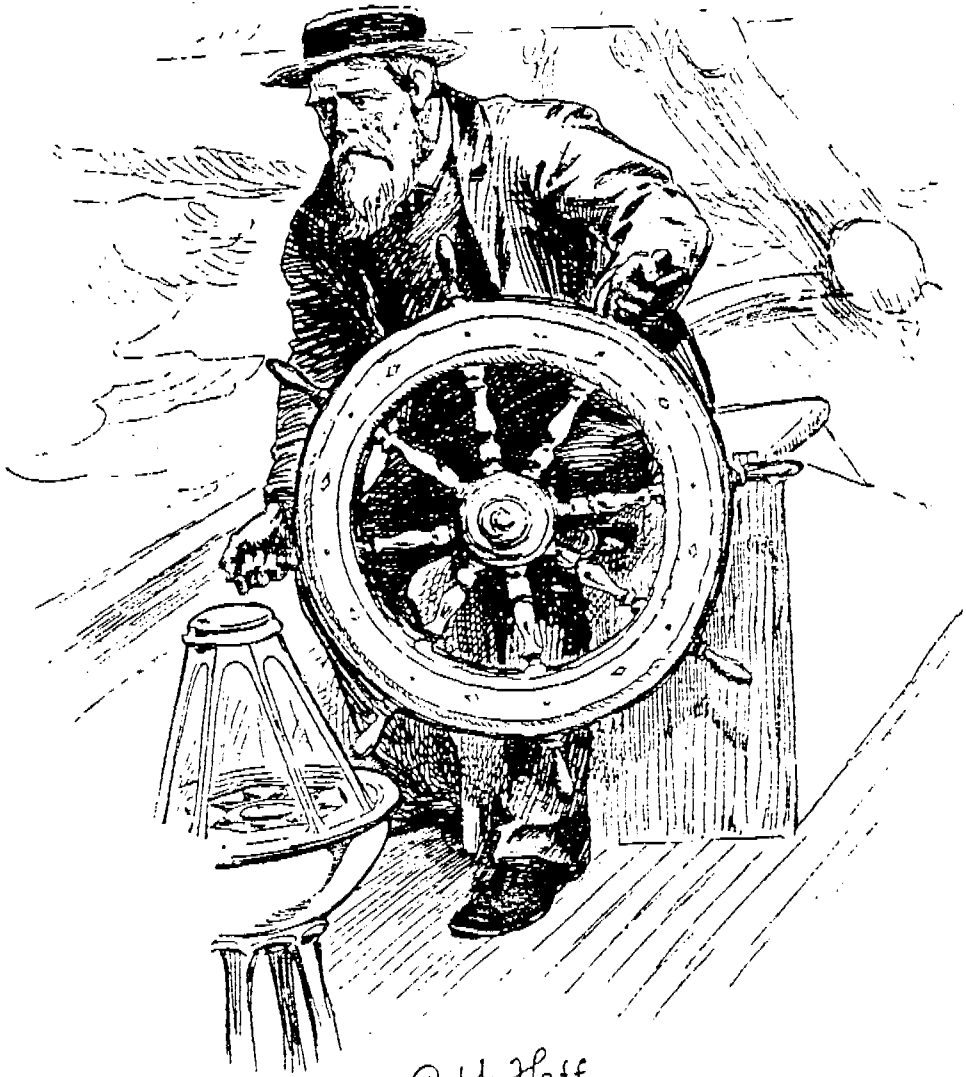


Left side:
street hedge and part
of 21 Penataquit
Avenue (BS 26).

Neg. KK XIV-8A, fm. N. View of Penataquit Avenue from near Montauk Highway.

DICK MILLIGAN

LONG ISLAND FORUM



*Capt. Haff
of
the Volunteer.*

THE STORY OF SAXTON AVENUE

Introduction

KNAPP, LIVINGSTON, Belmont, Rothschild, Havemeyer, Hutton, Adams, Pinkerton, Gibb are names of New York and Brooklyn families that in the later part of the nineteenth century were among the most prominent. The daily newspapers chronicled their births, marriages and deaths as well as their voyages to Europe and other far off places. By the turn of the century their comings and goings, their business and social activities were observed by newspaper and magazine readers throughout the Northeast. They lived in grand townhouses along Fifth Avenue, or just off Fifth Avenue in the east Thirties, or on fashionable streets in Brooklyn Heights. They immigrated to America in the early 19th century or before and had made successes in the world of commerce, becoming land holders in the process. At least one family, the Livingstons, went back to the earliest settlers of the Hudson Valley in the 17th century.

Their townhouses, of course, were not their only homes. There was always a summer home, and sometimes more than one, away from the heat and humidity of the New York and Brooklyn streets. These summer homes were often known as cottages, regardless of their size, and were usually located where various sporting activities could be pursued. Among these favorite pastimes were horse racing (both trotting and flat racing), coaching, polo, fishing, bird shooting, and sailing. In the 1840s the first summer resort, Saratoga Springs, became popular and by the 1860s and 1870s it was the most fashionable summer spa in America. "The fountains of Saratoga" said Harpers New Monthly Magazine in 1876, "will ever be the resort of wealth, intelligence and fashion." The idea had taken hold and was copied in Newport, R.I., Rumson, N.J., the Hamptons on eastern Long Island and on the so-called Gold Coast — the north shore of L.I. Sporting clubs were organized in these communities to further the pursuit of these favorite activities and the existence of these clubs

Harry W. Havemeyer

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Vanderbilt Historical Society

Bradish Johnson Sr.

drew other families, who shared that interest, to summer in the area. Often hotels, perhaps not as elaborate as the Grand Hotel at Saratoga Springs, were built where families could test out the area before building their own country houses.

The families mentioned were at the core of this affluent society. Their distinction for this story is the fact that at one time or another from 1880 until 1940 each one of them owned a summer home on Saxton Avenue between Bay Shore and Islip on Long Island's South Shore on the Great South Bay. What follows is their story, what brought them there, their clubs and their activities. For a short time, only 60 years, Saxton Avenue 3/4 of a mile in length, was a small "Gold Coast". How did it all begin?

Earlier Times 1708 to 1850

In the area of the Town of Islip of today were five original patentees. These were men of English and Dutch descent who purchased land from the Indians and whose purchase was then confirmed by the English governor of New York

in the name of the Crown and called a "patent". The first of the patentees, William Nicoll, was born in the town of Islip, Northamptonshire. His patent, issued in 1683, was the largest of the five, and together with later patents, made Nicoll the most prominent as well as the largest landholder. He named the area, Islip, after the English town of his birth. His land extended along the Great South Bay from Blue Point on the east to Champlin's Creek on the west.

The last of the original five patentees was a Scotsman, named John Mowbray. Mowbray came to Southampton via New England in 1685. He settled there for a while and married Elizabeth Anning. In 1694 he and his wife moved west to the area that is now Bay Shore. He purchased land there from the Penataquit Indians and on October 19, 1708 he received a patent from the Governor of New York in the name of Queen Anne. His patent extended from Orowac Creek on the east to Appletree Neck on the west. It adjoined Andrew Gibb's land (Islip Village today) on the east and Stephanus Van Cortlandt's land on the west, covering what is today the hamlet of Bay Shore and the Village of Brightwaters. Mowbray and his wife located on South Country Road near Mowbray's Neck (Penataquit Point). He later deeded the Neck to his son, Anning Mowbray. Either with or shortly after the Mowbrays came another early settler, Daniel Saxton. Mowbray sold to Saxton the land south of South Country Road between Orowac Creek and Awixa Creek and it became known as Saxton's Neck. Daniel Saxton thus became the owner of all the land on both sides of present day Saxon Avenue.

The town of Islip was organized shortly thereafter, and in 1720 the first town meeting was held. Only nine persons were recorded as being present. Among those were John Mowbray, his son, Anning, and James and Joseph Saxton. Others were two Nicolls, two Willets, and William Gibb. These men were the founding fathers of Islip.

The period from 1720 until 1850 or

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so was a period of very slow growth. Farming and timbering were the major activities. Those that did settle there had to be almost entirely self sufficient. Throughout most of this period there were very few shops, no churches or hotels closer than Babylon where the American House and La Grange Hotel were built in the 1780s. There was a paper mill on Orowac Creek at the South Country Road owned by Ebenezer Hawkins and by the end of the period slightly to the west of it was the farm of "Captain" W.W. Hawkins, the only person living on Saxton Avenue.

There were, however, some early signs of what was to come. The Doxsee family in the person of James Harvey Doxsee (born in Islip in 1825) was to develop Islip into a major commercial fishing center for the East Coast with his successful canning, clamming and fishing business. And of more significance to the story of the New York families summering in the area was the arrival in the 1840s of the first of these, not to Saxton Avenue, but to the West of Bay Shore. Bradish Johnson. Because Bradish and his two brothers Edwin A. and John D. Johnson were the first to come to the Great South Bay area between Babylon and Sayville to build summer homes, a word is in order about them.

Their father, Captain William M. Johnson, was born in Connecticut of a family of loyalists that fled to Nova Scotia during the American Revolution. He became a merchant and trader who sailed often to Louisiana to ply his trade. With his partner, a Captain Bradish, he acquired a sugar plantation South of New Orleans which was called Magnolia plantation, and it was there that Bradish Johnson was born in 1811. Captain Johnson already had two sons by a first marriage to Letitia Rice. After her death he married Sarah Rice, and sons Bradish, Edwin and John and a daughter, Lucy were born. In 1822 or 1823 Captain Johnson moved his family to New York where he built a distillery on 17th Street, between 9th and 10th Avenues. He acquired real estate in that area as well as along 6th Avenue. Successful commercial development brought him great wealth. It was said that at the time of his death the Captain

owned the largest whiskey distillery in the U.S.

Meanwhile his son Bradish, went to Columbia College from which he was graduated in 1831. He began studying law and was admitted to the bar in New York, but because his father's health had begun to fail at the time, he decided to enter business with him instead. The old Captain's death brought great wealth to all his sons. Bradish was to continue in the distillery business with a new partner under the firm name of Johnson & Lazarus. Brothers Edwin and John left the family business to pursue lives of sport. It was said of them, "they never missed a race on Long Island, and they owned the finest yachts and fastest horses that money could buy."¹

Brothers Bradish, Edwin and John all became summer residents on the south shore of Long Island in the 1840's. Bradish located on the north side of South Country Road immediately west of what is now the village of Brightwaters. He married Louisa Lawrance, (1819-1870) the sister of the Lawrances that were soon to follow to the area. Edwin and John located east of the present day village of Islip near St. Marks Lane (first called Johnson Avenue). They were founding members of the vestry of St. Mark's Church in 1847. Brother Bradish joined the vestry in 1852 and remained on it for forty years until his death in 1892. Bradish was a founder of the South Side Sportsman's Club in 1866. He and his descendents summered in the Bay Shore-Islip area for several generations. Some of them still live on St. Mark's Lane. Edwin and John owned extensive land to the east of Champlins Creek in East Islip. John also owned the steam yacht, Bonita, later chartered as the first ferry from Babylon to the Surf Hotel on Fire Island.

By 1850 there were a few signs that the pace of change was quickening. The area had been "discovered" by a few people of wealth from New York such as the Johnsons. In 1849 what is now known as the village of Bay Shore had changed its original name, Mechanicsville, to Penataquit. It would become Bay Shore in 1868. The local population was increasing more rapidly and there were several shops and

tradesmen conducting business in both Penataquit and Islip villages. What was to come and to change the area into a summer resort was the development of the sporting club and the resort hotel, both in the period of 1850 to 1880.

The Sporting Club and the Resort Hotel 1850-1880

"For the glorious bluefish, one must go to the Great South Bay, and hire a cat boat; or if you want the finest sport of all, go clear outside to the open ocean. You charter a thirty foot cat boat with one huge sail and with a crew of a man and a boy; the former to manage the boat, the latter to comment sarcastically upon the fish you do not catch. You "pole" down the creek to the bay through clouds of mosquitos and green-headed flies: then seven miles across the bay and through the inlet to the open sea... Now the gulls are close at hand. Swish! The line is jerked from your nervous fingers and runs out like mad. There's a fish on the line!"² This nineteenth century account of fishing on Great South Bay describes exactly what the committee of members of the Olympic Club were looking for when they visited the South Shore of Long Island in the spring of 1854.

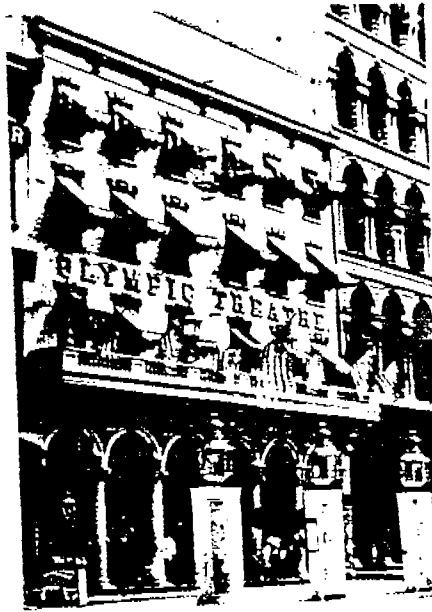
The Olympic Club was founded in 1841 by several members of a volunteer fire company in New York City who had a great admiration for the Olympic Theater and for the actress, Mary Taylor, who performed there. These firemen were also very fond of fish and clams, both catching and eating them. They banded together to further this activity and called their club "The Olympic". It was one of the first in America. At first they would spend a week or so together in the summer in an outdoor camp set up along the seashore. The firemen enjoyed the outdoor, rustic life away from their wives. The men were their own cooks, their own hewers of wood, drawers of water, and diggers of clams. They lived on what they caught, clams and fish, and at the end of the time they would pack up their tents and go home. A good supply of clams and fish was essential and it was a shortage of these that caused the firemen to move their camp sites. The first site was on the shore of Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn. After two or three seasons

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shooting expedition. They were after quail, partridge and ducks. The guide took Perry through an area two or three miles north of the village of Babylon where there were several lakes as well as some densely wooded forest. The land was flat and the birds were in abundance. Perry, age 13 then, must have impressed his father on how attractive the inland lakes were with excellent shooting and fishing because Belmont purchased 1100 acres of property with the intention of establishing a stud and breeding farm for his successful horse racing pursuits. He called the farm "the Nursery", built a suitable house for his family and used it often as a weekend retreat from New York City. Farm animals and kennels were kept there as well, but it was primarily the birth place for many of Belmont's winning thoroughbreds. The sport had been introduced to the area by Belmont, and August Belmont, albeit only a weekend and summertime resident, brought something to the South Shore that the earlier residents, the Johnson brothers, did not have, namely recognition as a leader of New York Society. If the area was good enough for Belmont and his horses, it must be pretty attractive indeed. A new resort for Society had been born.

Two years after Belmont purchased his property north of Babylon, he and several other gentlemen from New York founded a club along the Connetquot River in Oakdale which they called the South Side Sportsmen's Club of Long Island. Among the original charter members in 1866 were Belmont, Bradish Johnson, and Shepherd F. Knapp. Other early members were South Shore residents Francis C. Lawrance, and George C. Wilmerding, both from Bay Shore. The purpose of the club was to provide "for the protection, increase and capture of salmon, trout, and game." The membership was to be limited to 100 "gentlemen" of age 21 or older. Belmont and his New York friends would now be introduced to the Great South Bay area. It would not be too long before George L. Lorillard with his race horses and William K. Vanderbilt with his coaching parties would follow.

In 1873 Lorillard built a summer home, large racing stable and race track



The Olympic Theatre

directly west of the South Side Sportsmen's Club. It was known as Westbrook Farm, and the track was shared with the other members of the club. When they tired of fishing, they could put their trotters through their paces on Lorillard's track. With his brothers Pierre and Louis, George Lorillard trained many famous race horses at Westbrook Farm, including Iroquois, the first American horse to win England's Epsom Derby in 1881.

It is said that William K. Vanderbilt, known as Willie K. to his friends, was attracted to the South Shore by the sport of coaching. The New York Coaching Club was founded in the mid 1870's to promote the sport. Teams of four horses, attached to large "tally-ho" coaches were raced by gentlemen of wealth. The South Shore, being flat, was ideal for this activity and roadhouses were established to bring rest and relaxation to the weary coachers after the day's sport. Snedecor's Hotel on the old Stage Road in Oakdale was one such roadhouse until it became the South Side Club in 1866. Another was Joe Westcott's Somerset House in East Islip. If Belmont and Lorillard brought friends to the South Shore to see and admire their horses, William K. Vanderbilt brought

the world of High Society. There was no question at all after he built his house, "Idle Hour", in 1879 that to summer near the Great South Bay was to be in the preferred spot for prominent New York families.

A further word about South Side Sportsmen's Club founder, Shephard F. Knapp, is important to the story of Saxton Avenue. Born in 1832 the third son of Shephard Knapp and Catherine Kumble Knapp, young Shepherd was brought up amongst several brothers in the home of the successful banker who was for 35 years President of the Mechanics Bank of New York City and Chamberlain of the City (Treasurer of New York County) (This bank after a succession of many mergers over the years has become the Chase Manhattan Bank of today). Young Shephard became what was known as a sportsman in that day, that is, most of his time was occupied with various sporting endeavors. His great nephew was later to describe him as "a great trotting man, his team of bays, 'Charlie Hogan and Sam Hill' being known to all the trotting fraternity".⁴ He was an organizer, President and Director of the Gentleman's Driving Association. A friend's tribute to him after his death in 1886 said, "Respect for his elders and self respect were parts of his nature. These coupled with a pervading love of the sports of the field and water, won for him popularity, which like a halo, always surrounded him".⁵

Although the Knapp family were known to be interested in horses and horse racing until the end of the 19th century, Shepherd had interests in fishing and bird shooting as well. At the time of the founding of the South Side Sportsmen's Club he lived in the area between Bay Shore and Babylon near the Lawrances and the Bradish Johnsons. His older brother, William K. Knapp, had located on St. Mark's Lane in Islip and became a vestry man of St. Mark's in 1861. Living close to the Great South Bay, Shepherd discovered that although his South Side Club provided congenial fellowship, good fishing for trout and good hunting for pheasants, the Bay provided blue fishing and duck shooting unequalled anywhere on the whole South Shore. Thus it was that in 1878 he founded a

club on Captree Island to pursue these sports and called it the Wa Wa Yonda Club (sometimes spelt Way Wayonda). A large club house of two stories with "every convenience and comfort" was erected along side of Whig Inlet. It could be reached only by boat from Bay Shore or Babylon.

Wa Wa Yonda was the third club to be established for sport on or near the Great South Bay. Like the Olympic Club across the Bay it was open only in season and was a bachelor establishment. It was the most rustic of the three clubs. It was described at the time (1880) as "young and charming, as it is only an infant in age, and has a delightful situation not far from the entrance of the bay. (Fire Island Inlet) The Wa Way Yondas fish, hunt and sail for amusement and health, and a half-dozen boats belonging to the club are kept pretty busy in the fair days of summer. The members boast of cool breezes when New York is mopping its forehead in agony".⁶ As with the other two clubs many New Yorkers were introduced to the great advantages to summing near the Great South Bay.

Directly opposite the Wa Wa Yonda Club on Oak Island beach was a strange looking house, known at that time (1880) as Havemeyers. Henry Havemeyer,⁷ (1838-1886) was the son of William F. Havemeyer, three times Mayor of New York. Although a member of the New York sugar refining family, Henry was not active in that business, the responsibility for which was left to his younger brother Hector. Henry was a collector of an extensive and valuable library, an art connoisseur and a sportsman. He and his wife Jennie had located in the late 1870s on

South Country Road between Bay Shore and Babylon near the Knapps, Johnsons, and Wagstaffs.

In 1879 he leased from the trustees of the Town of Islip some land on the eastern most part of Oak Island beach on which there stood an old beach hotel. Havemeyer was said to have spent \$150,000 transforming the hotel into a summer time residence where he entertained lavishly. Separate buildings were erected for use as a gymnasium, barn, hennery and servants quarters of which there were a dozen. Thousands of cartloads of soil were transported across the Bay in vessels to cover the sandy point. Havemeyer was described in a local paper as "this prince of good fellows"⁸ and his residence became known as The Havemeyer Point Inn.

The South Shore was an ideal spot for this sportsman to entertain his friends who could stay overnight across the lagoon at the Wa Wa Yonda Club. This life for Havemeyer did not last long, for he died in 1886 at age 48 and the Havemeyer Point Inn was left to deteriorate until it became again a resort hotel around 1900, called the Fire Island Country Club. Today that point of the Oak Island beach is still known by old timers as Havemeyer's Point. It is now without buildings or trees at all — just sand.

Saxton Avenue 1880

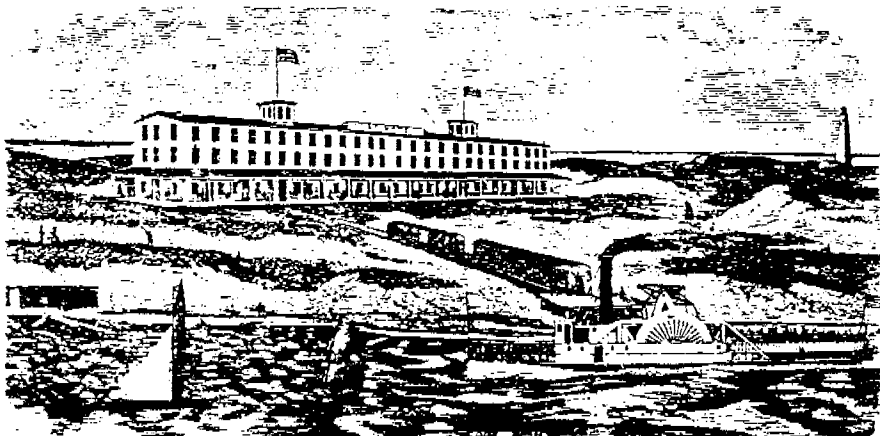
As mentioned earlier Saxton Avenue in 1879 was the site of the Olympic Club at the Bay end on the west side. Next to it was a three story frame house occupied by the President of the Club, T.B. Asten, and at the corner of South Country Rd. (then called Main Street

by everyone) was the chicken farm of Captain W.W. Hawkins. There were one or two smaller houses along the east side as well that were occupied by local tradesmen or were for rent. Saxton was still a very rural street.

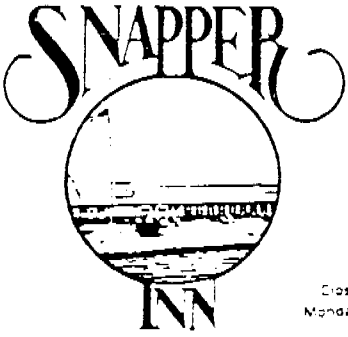
The Olympic Club had changed considerably by then from its humble beginnings over twenty years before. The dozen acres of land were shaded by a grove of five oaks and there were several buildings on the property. The main club house was described at the time as follows: "With their commodious quarters, comprising parlor, dining-rooms, some thirty odd rooms for sleeping purposes — many of them with fittings superior to those of the best of our summer hotels — with kitchen and servants quarters, ice houses and store rooms for provisions....."⁹. On the cricket lawn a few yards from the main clubhouse was a tall staff for the club burgee. This staff had been the main boom of the bark *Elizabeth*, wrecked on Fire Island beach in 1850. The club now had a permanent dock which projected into the Bay at the mouth of Awixa Creek, and good sized boats could dock along it. The club owned a sloop named "*T.B. Asten*" after the club President. The sailing around the Bay of an earlier day was now becoming yachting in the more formal sense. The club yacht was said to have won several prizes in club races and beaten all her competitors on the Great South Bay.

As sailing for fun changed into more serious yacht racing at this time, Olympic Club members hired professional skippers to race their yachts. These men were known as the "Islip crowd" and they became famous for their racing skills, locally at first and then far and wide on both sides of the Atlantic. The most famous of the "Islip crowd" was Captain Hank C. Haff. Haff was the master of the 60-foot sloop, *Fanny*, owned by John D. Prince of Islip in the 1870s. Later in 1887 he was the skipper of the successful defender of the America's Cup, *Volunteer*; and again in 1895 he successfully defended the Cup with the yacht *Defender*.

The great event of the yachting season was the contest for the America's Cup. At that time three or more races were sailed off Sandy Hook




The Surf Hotel and Fire Island Light circa 1859.



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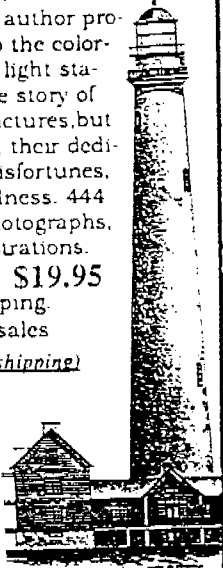
NORTHEAST LIGHTS
Lighthouses and Lightships,
Rhode Island to Cape May,
New Jersey.

by Robert G. Bachand

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and Coney Island. Every steamer and barge was hired to take thousands down the bay from New York City to see the event. Great steam yachts, such as J.P. Morgan's *Corsair*, were part of the spectator fleet. Captain Haff's fame grew around the world with these victories. He was one of three skippers, born in Islip, to be an America's Cup winner; the other two being Nathaniel Clock (1881 *Mischief*) and Harold S. Vanderbilt (1930 *Enterprise*, 1934 *Rainbow*, 1937 *Ranger*).

The Olympic Club, still for men only, was prosperous then. Its members were no longer only New York Firemen, although its oldest member, named Wenman, was said to be the oldest living New York Volunteer Fireman. A street, running off Saxton Avenue to the east, Wenman Avenue, was named after him. Some of the club members were summer residents in Bay Shore and Islip. They either had or would build homes there. One of those was Edward Spring Knapp, and he decided to locate on Saxton Avenue, the first of the "city folk" to do so.

Edward Spring Knapp (1852-1895) was the son of Gideon Lee Knapp and a nephew of Gideon's younger brothers William K. and Shepherd F. Knapp, both mentioned earlier as South Shore residents and sportsmen. Gideon also had spent summers near the Bay so that his young son, Edward, while growing up became very attached to the area and the life there. He grew up amongst various other Knapps (his cousin, Evelina, was to marry Harry B. Hollins of East Islip), Johnsons, Wilmerdings and Lawrances. In 1878 Edward Spring Knapp was married in New York City to Margaret Ireland Lawrance, the daughter of William Lawrance and cousin of Francis C. Lawrance of Bay Shore. In the spring of 1879 the newly wed couple purchased 12 acres of land on the west side of Saxton Avenue midway between the Main Road and the Great South Bay. That summer work began on the building of a summer home which they called "Awixa Lawn" as it fronted on Awixa Creek which flowed into the Bay. The house was finished and the Knapps moved in with their new born son, Edward S. Knapp Jr., in the spring of 1880.

This original house the Knapps built

was later described by their son, Edward, as "tiny with a hall, a sitting-room and a dining room on the main floor; above that, a small bedroom, which Katie (nurse maid) and I occupied and, across the hall, a large bedroom for Father and Mother, with servants rooms. The coachman slept in a room in the stable."¹⁰ This "tiny" house was added to in 1886 with a big dining room, a very large butler's pantry and a large bedroom on the second floor. Again in 1891 a southwest wing was added to include a very large living room with a truly enormous fireplace, two beautiful adjoining bedrooms above that, and still two more above that to one of which I moved."¹¹ "Awixa Lawn" had become a very grand home indeed.

Except during vacations Edward S. Knapp would commute to New York City everyday on the "new" Long Island Railroad (it reached Bay Shore in 1868). He would get to the Bay Shore station, two miles or so away, with a fast horse and carriage. The coachman would take him in the morning and bring him home in the evening. A good horse was a necessity then for daily life, and the Knapps, all being good horsemen, took care to have the best. No automobile made an appearance until the late 1890s. The few roads were of dirt, but by and large they were straight and the "Main Road" was used often for trotting and coaching races.

The Knapps had a vegetable garden and a gardener at "Awixa Lawn". Two acres on fine ground along Awixa Creek were carefully tilled and all the vegetables the family used were grown there. An adjacent greenhouse enabled the young plants to get an early start each spring. "The most expensive thing in the garden was a very large asparagus bed." "I remember Father saying to Mother, 'Maggie, that's the best damn asparagus I ever tasted.'"¹¹ There was also a cow named Beauty and a barn where the hay was kept in the loft.

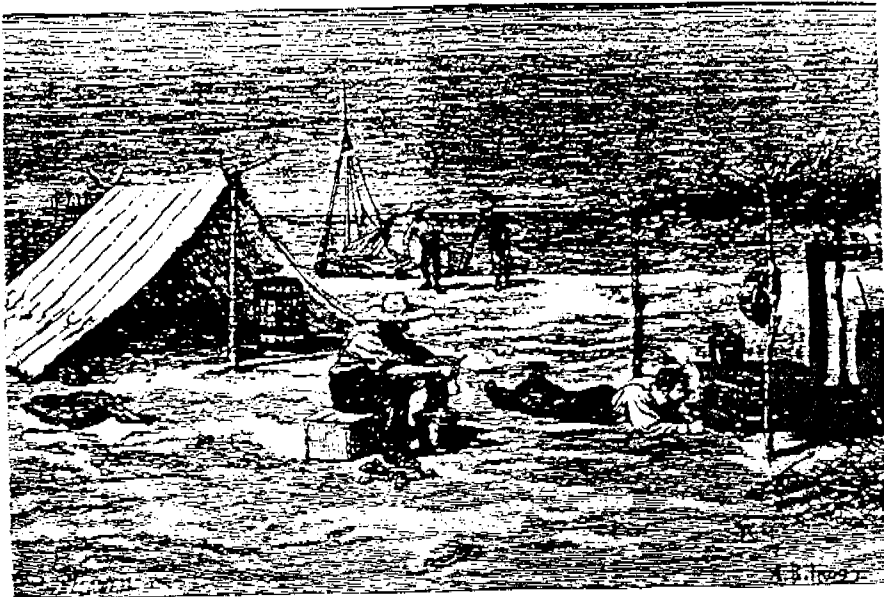
The Knapps were not entirely self sufficient for their food. They bought eggs and chickens from Captain Bill Hawkins up at the corner, and trademen from Bay Shore and Islip made deliveries each day. Edward Knapp Jr. remembered the iceman in his yellow

covered wagon, marked D.S. Hubbard — Ice, as well as Dickerson, the butcher, and the grocer's boy who smoked cigarettes.

Knapp described this as "a carefree, lazy, happy life". He is remembering his boyhood and it is the fond memories that dominate. Behind those there were undoubtedly many trials and much hard work to have created such a summer home as he has described.

Although the Knapps had many friends in both the Bay Shore and Islip areas by 1880, none as yet lived on Saxton Avenue. Edward was a member of the Olympic Club, but his interests were not in sailing or yachting, but rather in horses and in shooting birds. He was a member of the South Side Sportsmen's Club and was considered an excellent shot, "as good as there was". Bird shooting on the Bay in the summer and fall (there were no restrictions then, and many birds) was his greatest sporting pleasure. He would shoot all sorts of snipe, plover and shore birds in the summer season. With his brother, Gideon, he would hunt quail each autumn on farms he had leased at Blue Point, and duck shooting, always a favorite sport on the Bay, prompted a story he related to his son. Decoys had been put on the river shore where the ducks liked to feed. "A flock of seven red heads came in to their blind and Father shot — just one barrel — and killed all seven. His description of it was that they came in rather high, and that after he shot, 'the sky just seemed to rain ducks'."¹² My how the young lad must have been impressed!

The Knapps were Episcopalian and had been married in the Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York City. When they were resident on Saxton



The first Olympic.

Avenue they attended St. Mark's Church in Islip, and in 1890 Edward joined its vestry which then was a lifetime position. Most of their friends in Bay Shore and Islip were also Episcopalian and belonged to St. Mark's. Among those were Schuyler Livingston Parsons, Harry B. Hollins, Samuel T. Peters, William Bayard Cutting Sr., Lucius K. Wilmerding, Bradish Johnson Jr., Henry H. Hollister and William K. Vanderbilt. It was Vanderbilt who gave all the money for a new church building, designed by Richard Morris Hunt after a Norwegian church, and completed in 1880 (it stands today).

By the mid 1880s Bay Shore, Islip and East Islip had changed dramatically from what they were like 20 years before. Bay Shore historian, Etta Anderson Tuttle, said "Bay Shore became not just a summer resort — it became *the* summer resort, second not

even to Southampton. This was the most fashionable watering place for millionaires and people in high society."¹³ Historian Richard M. Bayles said, "West Islip, occupied almost exclusively by the country seats and palatial residences of gentlemen of wealth and ease. Nowhere else in the country do we find so many elegant and elaborate surroundings as here."¹⁴ Perhaps summer residents of Newport would contest these comments, but there was no question a large change had occurred in the area from Babylon on the west to Sayville on the east along Great South Bay.

Now that Edward and Margaret Lawrance Knapp had established themselves at "Awixa Lawn" on Saxton Avenue, others were to follow.

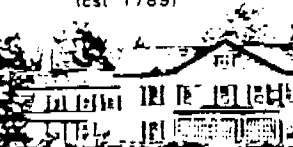
New Arrivals There and Elsewhere

During the decade of the 1880s Saxton Avenue remained the sparsely

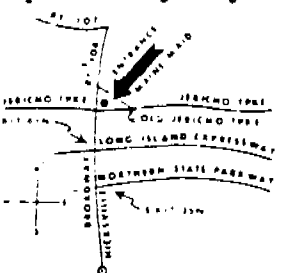
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settled lane described by Edward S. Knapp Jr. in his recollections. To the south of the Knapps and also on the west side was a large Victorian shingle house. Three stories high with a verandah around the ground floor and a roof marked with several gables, it was typical of many houses built in that era in Islip and elsewhere. It was occupied by Major Augustus W. Conover. Also on the west side was the house of W.E. Goodridge and the T.B. Asten house mentioned before. The east side of Saxton Avenue down to the Bay was owned by Daniel D. Conover. He also owned some property on the west side and in other parts of Bay Shore. The Olympic Club still occupied the southwest corner of Saxton's Neck.

New York and Brooklyn families in the 80s were moving much more rapidly into other parts of the Bay Shore to Great River area. William K. Vanderbilt has already been mentioned, building "Idle Hour" in Oakdale in 1879-80. The W. Bayard Cutting family bought out George Lorillard and built their new large summer house (also called Westbrook) in 1886, designed by the notable architect, Charles C. Haight of New York. William L. Breeze had built a home, called "Timber Point" where the golf course is today, and J. Ives Plumb and George C. Taylor owned what is now known as Heckscher State Park.

Perhaps the most popular spot for the city folk to locate at that time was on both sides of Champlin's Creek. On the east was the stock broker, Harry B. Hollins Sr. with his large home, *Meadowfarm*. And further up the creek

on this side could be found Robert Livingston, Bradish Johnson Jr. and Colonel H.R. Duval. On the west side of Champlin's Creek and along St. Mark's Lane were such homes as those of Schuyler L. Parsons, called "While-away", Mrs. William K. Knapp, William C. Whitney, John D. Prince, Henry H. Hollister, Benjamin Sumner Welles, Lucius K. Wilmerding, Courtland D. Moss, W.F. Wharton, Samuel T. Peters and near the end of the decade Henry O. Havemeyer, Peters' brother-in-law. All were prominent New York families and most were members of the South Side Club.

Creeks that emptied into the Bay were fed by fresh water streams coming from the inland watershed along the South Shore. This flow of fresh water would keep the creeks open for boats to navigate. The larger the fresh water flow the more desirable was the property unless commercial development had already taken hold, as was the case with Orowac Creek, with its commercial fishing and canning, and the Bay Shore creeks which were partially commercial with ship yards and public docks.

The largest of the creeks in the area was called the Connetquot River between Great River and Oakdale. It was along this river that Vanderbilt and Cutting had located. The next one to the west was Champlin's Creek to be followed by Orowac Creek and then Awixa Creek before reaching Bay Shore. West of the Bay Shore creeks, there was Oconee, where the Lawrance family was located, and then the Brightwaters Creek where Bethuel Phelps and Bradish Johnson Sr. had

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built their homes.

A very small stream flowed from the Henry B. Hyde property to the Bay (where Southward Ho Country Club is today). With such a limited number of creeks and with the fact that the land along the shore line was inevitably marshy and could not be built on except with the great expense of adding fill, once the property along the Connetquot River and Champlin's Creek was occupied with summer residents, Awixa Creek property became much more sought after. This occurred in the decade of the 1890s and with it new residents came to Saxton Avenue.

Moving Towards A New Century

By 1900 the population of Islip village had doubled within two decades, and it was the largest village in the entire town. This was due in part to the influx of New Yorkers coming to the area, building their large summer homes and engaging employees to be farmers, gardeners, dairymen, horse-men and the like. An enormous amount of money was put into the Islip community in this manner. Islip town historian, Carl Starace, says, "Islip village was the most important business center of the area for many years and by the end of the 19th century had 1127 residents, the finest school building in Suffolk County, four churches, the Doxsee canning factory that sent its products all over the world, ship yards, marine railways and a planing mill."¹⁵ A major development undertaken in Islip during the last decade of the old century was the creation of Bayberry Point, Henry O. Havemeyer's "Modern Venice" on the Great South Bay.

Henry O. Havemeyer, known in the press as "the Sugar King", was the creator of the Sugar Trust in 1887 and President of the American Sugar Refining Company from 1891 until his death in 1907. Because the Sugar Trust was almost continuously investigated by governmental bodies during those twenty years, Havemeyer was a name well known to the reading public in the trust busting time of President Theodore Roosevelt. Havemeyer was often pictured with the motive of greed and a large accumulation of wealth. He was, however, a very private man who intensely disliked the publicity with which



Henry Osborne Havemeyer.

he was often surrounded.

He was also very much a family man, and he had a great love of shooting, fishing, and most of all sailing, where he could escape from the trials of his business. It is likely that he was introduced to the Great South Bay area by his older brother, Thomas J. Havemeyer, who in 1874 had become a member of the South Side Club. Undoubtedly Henry, then a bachelor, went with Thomas to the club for shooting and fishing. Henry was also a close friend of Samuel T. Peters and his wife Adaline Elder Peters. The Peters began summering in Bay Shore in the early 1880s and commissioned the Patchogue boat builder, Gil Smith, to build them a 45-foot sloop, which they called *Patience*.

When the Peters moved to the end of St. Mark's Lane in Islip and acquired all the land there down to the Bay around 1888, Havemeyer, by then married to Adeline Peters' sister, Louise,

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Moorish House Bayberry Point, Bay Shore L. I.

Postcard view of a "Moorish" Bayberry Point villa.

followed and occupied a house on Dock Road near Champlin's Creek. He built a farm as well, south of Dock Road between St. Mark's Lane and South Bay Avenue. Another member of the family, Adaline Peters' and Louisine Havemeyer's brother, George Waldron Elder and his wife had come to live in Bay Shore on the west side of Awixa Creek in the 1880s and to enjoy the sailing life on the Bay as well. Their mother, Mrs. George W. Elder, a

widow, lived in a house at the corner of Saxton Avenue and the Main Road until her death in 1907 so she could be looked after by her son and two daughters.

In 1893 Havemeyer acquired from several different owners all the land to the south of Ocean Avenue, Islip, which is now called Bayberry Point. It was mostly marsh and was unsuitable for house building. It was bounded on the east by land of S.T. Peters and Schuyler

L. Parsons, on the north by land of William Dick, and on the south and west by the Great South Bay. It amounted to over 100 acres. From 1893 to 1898 Havemeyer had two large canals dredged, each a half a mile in length. The sand from the dredging was pumped on top of the marsh to create a firm base for house building, and the canals thereby created were perfect for mooring small boats. With the preparation of the sandy point completed Havemeyer engaged a young New York architect to design a community of summer houses.

Grosvenor Atterbury, under 30 years old at the time, was educated at Yale and Columbia and had worked as a draftsman at the prominent firm of McKim, Mead & White. He also attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris and upon his return to New York, opened his own office. Havemeyer's commission was among his first and quite a coup for the young architect. "As an Early Modern House, the Havemeyer Estate was one of his most published and widely admired projects," said the critics Liisa and Donald Sclare in 1980.¹⁶ What he presented to Havemeyer were plans for ten houses, five on each side of the west canal, a gate house, and a bridge to walk across the canal. The houses were to be built of brick and stucco. Of four different plans and sizes they were called villas in the prospectus.

The New York Times, in an article on May 23, 1897, described the project as a "Modern Venice" on the Great South Bay and concluded, "there is every prospect that Bayberry Point will become a Tuxedo of the seaside (reference to Tuxedo Park, New York, the creation of Pierre Lorillard) and a place well worth a visit." This prediction could not have been less accurate, for the "Modern Venice" soon became known locally as "Havemeyer's Folly".

Henry O. Havemeyer and his family of three children moved to the southwest house on the canal as soon as it was ready and summered there until his death in 1907. He organized Bayberry Point as a membership association to control who would be the occupants. The houses were priced from \$20,000 to 25,000, not much for

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Creek for the mooring of yachts, as Penatquit Point was exposed to the choppy waters of the Bay.

All but two of the nine founders were New York or Brooklyn men. Samuel T. Cushing and Harry M. Brewster came from Bay Shore. J. Adolph Mollenhauer was the Commodore and Edward B. Mowbray (a descendent of Bay Shore's founder John Mowbray) was the Secretary. The club attracted members from Babylon to Patchogue, mostly summer residents, but also some all year round residents such as Brewster and Josiah Robbins. It was a great success and by 1902 had 160 members with 25 power or steam yachts, 42 sloops and 15 cat-boats. Virtually all those who had come to the Great South Bay area for the summer because of a boating or sailing interest belonged to the Penatquit Corinthian Yacht Club and enjoyed the life it promoted and the races it sponsored. The largest steam yacht was Frederick G. Bourne's 189 foot *Colonia*. Bourne, a resident of West Sayville as well as New York, was later Commodore of the New York Yacht Club. Mollenhauer, another great yachting enthusiast, owned at that time the 58-foot *Dawn* and was building his larger 90-foot *Corinthia*, one of seven steam yachts he owned in his life time. The sloops were between 45 feet and 15 feet in length and several were built by the famous bay boat builder Gilbert M. Smith of Patchogue. Gil Smith was himself a member and listed his 36 foot cat-boat *Mollie D*.

Several of the members of this new club had come to the area from New York and Brooklyn, and looking for waterfront or canal front property had located at this time on Saxton Avenue, where such land could still be found of sufficient size to build a proper country house.

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- ³ *Summer Clubs on Great South Bay*, by Thomas W. Knox, *Harpers New Monthly Magazine*, July 1880
- ⁴ *We Knapps Thought it was Nice*, by Edward Spring Knapp, 1940

⁵ *We Knapps Thought it was Nice*, by Edward Spring Knapp, 1940

⁶ *Harper's New Monthly Magazine — Summer Clubs on Great South Bay*, July 1880

⁷ Henry Havemeyer should not be confused with his 2nd cousin, Henry Osborn Havemeyer, 1847-1907, President of American Sugar Refining Co. and developer of Bayberry Point in Islip in the 1890s.

⁸ Article of July 29, 1905, *Long Island Collection*, The Queensborough Library.

⁹ *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, July 1880

¹⁰ *We Knapps Thought it was Nice*, by Edward S. Knapp (Jr), 1940

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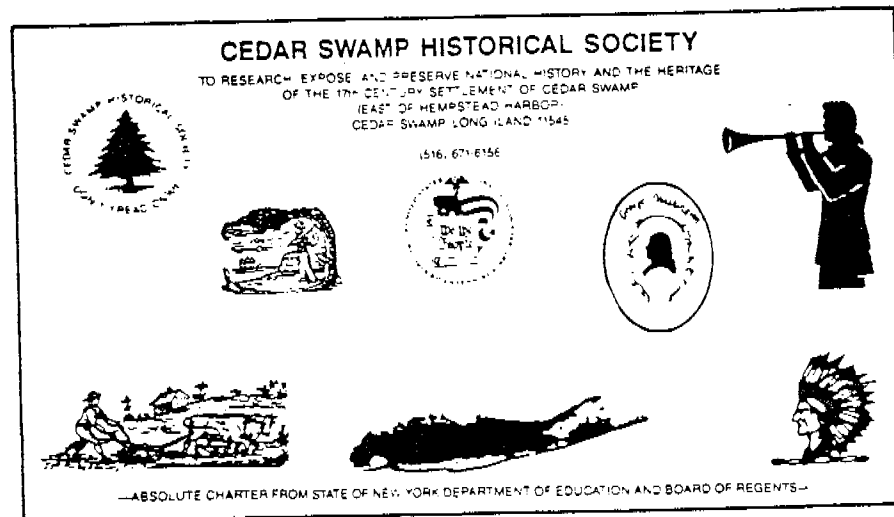
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¹⁵ *Remarks by Carl A. Starace*, September 28, 1988

¹⁶ *Beaux-Arts Estates*, A guide to the Architecture of Long Island, 1980

(TO BE CONCLUDED)

The author, a lifetime resident of the Great South Bay area, is working on a book about the summer residents of the South Shore, between West Islip and Oakdale, during the period from the 1870s until World War II.



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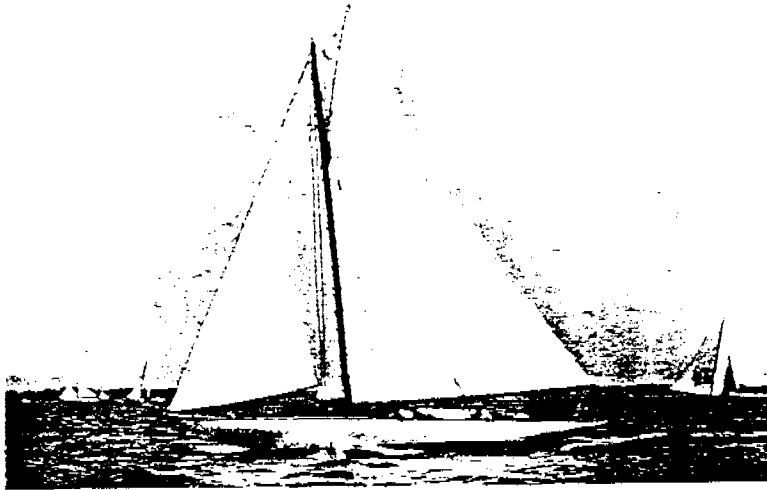
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the affluent of that time, but he could only persuade family and a few relatives to move in and that on a rented basis, year by year. One suspects there were two problems. No trees could grow on that sandy soil; it was kept treeless on purpose so mosquitos would be blown away. The whole development looked barren and windswept. Also these "Moorish" homes were designed for summer use only, that is July and August, whereas the affluent wanted for their country residences much more of a year round weekend estate, such as existed on St. Mark's Lane and would be built on Saxton Avenue.

Havemeyer enjoyed most of all his time sailing on the Bay. His Islip One-Design sloop, 42 feet in length, called *Electra* (his daughter's name as well) was often seen sailing or racing about the Bay. With him was his sailing captain, Charles L. Suydam of Islip. His second sloop, *Adaline* (his other daughter's name) 33 feet long, was sailed by his young son, Horace, with young Charles L. Suydam Jr. as both mentor and crew. Sailboat racing and powerboat yachting were becoming more and more popular and attracting more people from New York and Brooklyn to the Bay area. A yacht club was needed and in 1896 J. Adolph Mollenhauer of Brooklyn, having just moved to Bay Shore on the west side of Awixa Creek, together with eight other men founded the Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club of Bay Shore, New York.

The Olympic Club, although it did have a dock and a sailboat, was not the club envisaged by those that were looking for the formal traditional activity that was called "yachting" in the 1890s. There had also been a Bay Shore Yacht Club in the area, but it had been discontinued. There was, then, a need for a new organization, and the Penataquit Corinthian was to be patterned exactly after the Eastern, Larchmont, and Sewanhaka Corinthian Yacht Clubs on Long Island Sound, all formal, exclusive and traditional clubs of that day. Property was purchased at the end of Penataquit Point in Bay Shore where a large handsome club house was built facing south onto the Bay. It was a three story shingle style house with a sur-

Electra - 1902
30 Footer



Henry O. Havemeyer's Islip one-design sloop *Electra*, named for his daughter, was sailed and raced on Great South Bay. His sailing captain was Charles L. Suydam of Islip.

rounding verandah on the ground floor and a surrounding balcony or deck on the second floor. A tall flag pole stood at the point where the club burgee and American flag were raised at 8 a.m. and

lowered at sunset with the firing of a gun, all in accord with the proper "Yacht Routine" as spelled out in detail in the club yearbook. The club also owned property along a Bay Shore

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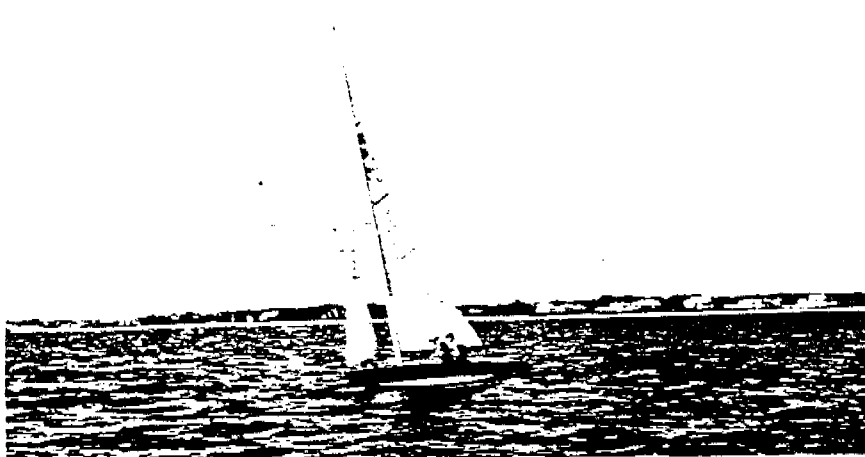
Harry W. Havemeyer

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Part II

A CHANGE had taken place on Saxton Avenue by the turn of the century. Edward Spring Knapp, its earliest summer time resident, had died prematurely in 1895 at the age of 43. His widow, Margaret Lawrance Knapp, was left with three young children under 16, a very large house and farm to maintain, and many memories. Although the family stayed there for a while, it was clear to Mrs. Knapp that she would not remain on Saxton Avenue for the rest of her life and early in the new century she sold her property. Major Conover had died as well and his land, directly south of Knapp, was sold in 1901 to Simon F. Rothschild, a new member that year of the Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club. He later would enlarge his estate by the purchase of some additional land to the south.

Simon F. Rothschild was born in 1861 in Alabama. His family moved north after the Civil War, and Simon went to City College in New York. After graduation he began work as an apprentice for his grandfather's banking firm, F. & A. Rothschild. Not long thereafter an opportunity presented itself to work in the newly expanding store of Abraham Abraham on Fulton Street in Brooklyn. Mr. Abraham had developed this store from a small dry goods shop where he had started with fellow clerks, Benjamin Altman and Lyman Bloomingdale. To properly expand the store Abraham needed more capital and invited Nathan Straus to become his partner. The store was then called Abraham & Straus. Young Rothschild was a great success in the merchandising business and highly valued by Messers Abraham & Straus. His success was assured when he married Lillian, Mr. Abraham's daughter. With their young son Walter N. the family established their summer home on Saxton Avenue. Simon loved sailing and his sloop, *Lillian*, was often seen racing on the Bay. Rothschild later went on to be Vice President, President and finally Chairman of Abraham & Straus before his death in 1936. He was



The Star boat "Gull" #940, sailed by Horace Havemeyer off Bayberry Point in 1937.

a leader of the Brooklyn Jewish community, a philanthropist, and active in civic improvement.

Simon and Lillian Rothschild did not live in Major Conover's house on Saxton Avenue. They built a new house nearer Awixa Creek of brick and stucco. It was the sailing that had attracted them to the Great South Bay, and with them came their in-laws. Edward C. and Florence Abraham Blum. The Blums settled on Penataquit Avenue and built a summer home at this same time. The two sisters' father, old Abraham Abraham, was likewise a member of the new Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club. His yacht, the *Rose*, was not the largest, but at 85 feet it was substantial indeed.

North of the Knapps at this time lived Henry Beekam Livingston (known as Harry) and his wife Frances Redmond Livingston. A direct descendent of Robert R. Livingston, one of the earliest English settlers in the Hudson Valley in the 17th Century, as well as of the Beekman family of New York, Harry came to summer in Islip in 1892 along with his cousins, Robert C. Livingston and Schuyler Livingston Parsons. They were all members of the South Side Club. Harry was a member of the New York Stock Exchange and would commute to New York daily on the Long Island Railroad. He had three

daughters, one of whom, Lillias married Harry B. Hollins Jr. of East Islip.

On the east side of Saxton Avenue nearer the Bay and fronting on Orowac Creek were the homes of Allan Pinkerton and his sister Mrs. Lewis M. Gibb. Two large shingle style homes with open surrounding verandah were built, angling toward each other and of identical design. The Gibbs occupied the north one (it stands today amongst some modern houses) and the Pinkertons lived in the south one. They also had a polo pony farm there with several barns and a caretaker's cottage. Allan Pinkerton known as "Bud" was a grandson of the founder of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. Born in 1876 the son of Robert A. Pinkerton of Brooklyn, he had summered in Bay Shore with his family on Penataquit Ave. His sporting interests were sailing and polo. He owned the sloop *Pinkie* a 41-footer and sailed with the Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club.

Allan Pinkerton was an enthusiastic polo player and part of a group of younger men that played the game in Bay Shore and Islip both before and after World War I. Matches were usually played at what was known as either the Islip Polo Grounds or as Oakwood Park. It was located on Brentwood Road north of the Oakwood Cemetery, at the corner of present-day

Sunrise Highway (which did not exist then). Oakwood Park was also the site of the annual Bay Shore Horse Show in the first decade of the new century. The horse show was a social event held in early August. Its governors included Samuel T. Peters, Edward C. Blum, Simon F. Rothschild, J. Adolph Mollenhauer, and Bradish Johnson Jr.

Allen Pinkerton also played polo at the private polo field on Samuel T. Peters' property. Peters' son, Harry T. Peters, was a competent player as was Henry O. Havemeyer's son, Horace. They were all considered mid-range in ability in a sport that ranked players from one to ten, ten being world class expert. Pinkerton was a member of the Meadowbrook Club in Old Westbury, the mecca of American International Polo during its heyday in the 1920s and 1930. Allan Pinkerton was gassed in World War I and was a partial invalid thereafter. He died in 1930 at the age 54. His widow lived on in the Saxton Avenue house until World War II when the house was torn down.

Two more families moved to Saxton Avenue around the turn of the century, J. Dunbar Adams and Frank D. Creamer, both of Brooklyn; A word about each of them. Adams was the son of Thomas Adams, the man who developed the use of chicle in chewing gum. After his father retired J.D. Adams and his brother Thomas Jr. merged their business into the American Chicle Co. of which J.D. was chairman for many years. Their product, the chiclet, became the most popular form of gum in America. Both J.D. Adams and Thomas Jr. summered in the Bay Shore area: Thomas Jr. in West Bay Shore on South Country Road and J.D. Adams between Awixa Avenue and Saxton Avenue. The latter's home called "Woodlea", where he lived for 45 years, was on the west side of Awixa Creek with the driveway entrance on the Main Road. He also owned land that extended to Saxton Avenue. Known to the local people as "chewing gum Adams", he outlived a son of the same name and died in "Woodlea" in 1934 at the age of 85.

Frank D. Creamer was a Brooklyn politician from an early age who rose to become elected Sheriff of Kings County in 1898. He was known as a lieutenant of long time Democratic party boss Hugh McLaughlin. He had established a successful brick business

in Brooklyn which he left to his two sons. Creamer and his wife located on the east side of Saxton Avenue at the end of the road directly across from the Olympic Club. In many ways it was the best site on Saxton's Neck. He died there in 1913 and his property was put up for sale.

Saxton Avenue, by 1905 or so, looked quite different than it did fifteen years earlier. Many more homes by then were occupied in the summer by families that were enjoying the Bay breezes as well as the social life. The Avenue was lined with Norway maples and occasionally an automobile was seen going up and down, and frightening the horses. Horseback riding on Saxton Avenue or on Ocean Avenue or others, all still dirt roads, was a pleasant activity for many of the summer residents. The land was so flat that one could ride for miles without tiring the horse too much. More changes, however, were in the offing and some new arrivals were still to come.

LEADING UP TO WORLD WAR I

Many of those coming to summer near the Great South Bay were looking for or building what has been described as the American country house. Usually large and sometimes gigantic, such as W.K. Vanderbilt's "Idle Hour", and F.G. Bourne's "Indian Neck Hall", the country house was essentially patterned after the English stately home or manor house. It had to have certain essential features. It "must possess the country and should fit the place where it stands." . . . "A country house must have a garden of some type, either natural or formal, and it should have outbuildings, or support structures, though they can be limited to a garage, pool house, or garden pavilion. A country is built for show, but also for pleasure, relaxation, and sport, and in addition to the nearby country or hunt club, or polo field, it should have its own sports facilities such as a pool or tennis courts. The house itself must be large and contain a luxury of space especially in the public areas such as halls, staircases, or conservatory. The architectural style of the house is important, but there is no one style. Styles have ranged from English half-timber to the popular classical derivatives — A country house must have its own name, for it exists as an independent personali-

ty, a picturesque creation on its own right." (*The Country House Tradition in America* by Richard Guy Wilson.). The architects that were most prominent for their country houses in the Great South Bay area were Richard Morris Hunt for the first "Idle Hour", Charles C. Haight for the Cuttings' "Westbrook", Ernest Flagg for Bourne's "Indian Neck Hall", and Isaac H. Green for the South Side Sportsman's Club and for "Woodland", the Bradish Johnson Jr. house in East Islip. In a slightly later period Harrie T. Lindebergh would design a country house for Horace Havemeyer on Saxton Avenue and William F. Dominick for Landon K. Thorne in Bay Shore. The story of Havemeyer's home will be told later.

All of the summer homes built on



Horace Havemeyer riding "Angelo" at the Islip Horse Show in July 1913. Below, Horace Havemeyer 1886-1956, owner of Olympic Point, Saxon Avenue from 1916.



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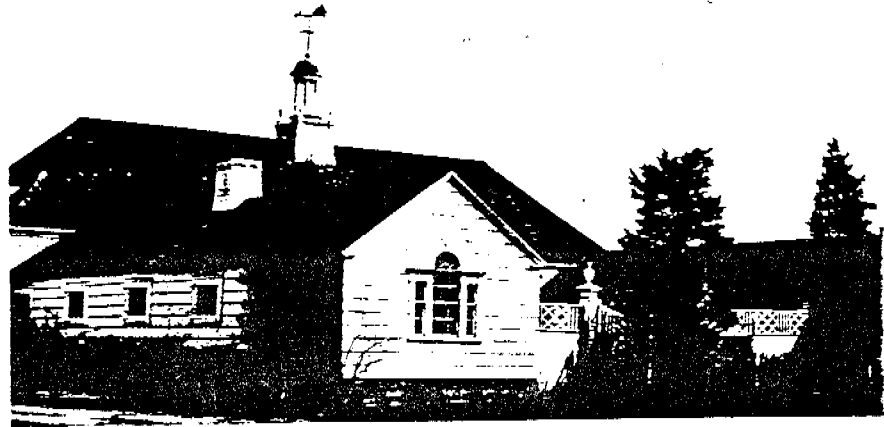
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The barns on the Horace Havemeyer place, designed by Alfred Hopkins and completed in 1919, as was the Havemeyer country house, pictured below.



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Saxton Avenue from the Knapps onward could probably be described as varieties of the American country house. Usually of shingled style until 1916, they had all the required features as described above. Saxton Avenue had become a grand street to build on. Around 1910 the two Hutton brothers and August Belmont Jr. moved to Saxton and Awixa Avenues and more glitter was added.

Edward F. Hutton and his younger brother, Franklyn L. Hutton were the sons of James L. Hutton, who had come to New York from an Ohio farming family. Born in the family home on East 42nd Street in 1876 and 1877 respectively, Edward and Franklyn were educated in city schools. Edward started work as a mail boy in a securities firm at age 17. Ambitious and quick he progressed rapidly until 1904, at age 28, he left the firm to establish E.F. Hutton & Co., stock broker and securities dealer and member of the New York Stock Exchange. He was on the road to success. Brother Franklyn, meanwhile, had gone to Yale University, graduated

in 1899, and later joined Edward in his new firm. Franklyn remained with E.F. Hutton until 1931 while Edward was managing partner only until 1921, although he was Chairman for the rest of his life.

Edward's first marriage was to Blanche Horton. Franklyn in 1907 was married to Edna Woolworth, heiress to the five and dime fortune made by her father F.W. Woolworth. Edna was said by the press at the time of her death in 1917 to be the richest woman in America with a fortune estimated at \$18,000,000. Franklyn and Edna Hutton had only one child, a daughter Barbara, born in 1912, who would inherit the entire fortune at her mother's premature death. The Franklyn Huttons purchased the land on the west side of Saxton Avenue that lay directly to the north of the Olympic Club and fronted on Awixa Creek. A few years later they would add to it by purchasing more land on the north adjoining Simon Rothschild's property, thus ending up with 12 to 14 acres. They lived in a shingle style Victorian house located

quite near the Avenue. This house had been built in earlier times by the Conover family.

The Huttons were said to be lavish hosts both in New York City and at their Saxton Avenue summer house. They had a cottage, some barns and a windmill built nearer to the creek where the help could live that looked after the estate. It was on Saxton Avenue that Barbara Hutton spent her first summer as a child, and it was from there that Franklyn rushed to New York on May 2, 1917 to find his wife dead in her apartment of a mysterious ailment of the ear. Franklyn remarried in 1926 and sold the Bay Shore property a few years later. One can only speculate that there were too many sad memories to relive there, and besides brother Edward had left by then as well.

Edward and his wife Blanche had settled on Awixa Avenue on property near the Main Road that was adjacent to "Woodlea", the Adams estate. This was not waterfront property, but they could always use Franklyn's dock and the Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club was still very active when both Huttons arrived. Only a year after Edna Hutton died, Blanche Hutton died as well. Two years later Edward married the Post cereal heiress Marjorie Merriwether Post and they moved away from the South Shore to build their summer home in Brookville, Long Island, on the North Shore's "gold coast". Edward and Marjorie Hutton would later own the famous four-masted, 322-foot yacht, *The Sea Cloud Watch*, sailed with a crew of 70. Perhaps he then would think back on his earlier sailing days on the Great South Bay with fond memories.

As a very young child August Belmont Jr. had spent a year or two with his parents in Babylon at the horse breeding farm of his grandfather, the

first August Belmont described earlier. Young August was born in 1882, the son of August and Elizabeth Morgan Belmont. (When the senior Belmont died in 1890, his son August III became August Jr. after his grandfather's death.) August Jr. was educated in the best private schools in New York, attended St. Mark's School, and Harvard from which he graduated in 1904. He then went to work in the family banking house, August Belmont & Co., and was admitted a partner in 1910. He was also an enthusiastic sportsman, particularly interested in shooting, yachting and polo. He joined several prominent sporting clubs: New York Athletic Club, Racquet & Tennis Club, and the Meadowbrook Club. He was also a member of a boating and shooting club on the Great South Bay called the Short Beach Club, founded in 1887 by H.B. Hollins and Schuyler L. Parsons and located on Sexton Island across from the Wa Wa Yonda Club. His sporting interest and the family horse farm had made him familiar with the inviting aspects of the Bay area.

In 1906 August Belmont Jr. was married to Alice de Goicouria, the daughter of a family friend and prominent member of the South Side Sportsmen's Club. August and Alice were a popular young couple in New York Society and well known by most of those who had chosen to summer in Islip. It was not surprising then that they looked to Bay Shore and Islip to establish their summer residence, and it was at this time that the widowed Mrs. Edward S. Knapp wanted to sell her Saxton Avenue home. The Belmonts bought most of the Knapp estate, some nine acres of it including the house, boathouse, stables and a 5 car garage. The rest of the Knapp land went to their neighbor on the North, Henry B. Livingston.

August and Alice entertained often from their new country house on Saxton Avenue and brought up their five children there. Happiness was not to last long for this young Belmont family, for on March 29, 1919 August died after an emergency operation at the age of 36. Alice Belmont sold the Saxton Avenue estate in 1923 and moved away. The house was described at that time as having 25 rooms with "every improvement".

In 1914 World War I came to Europe and that opulent, extravagant age known as the Edwardian era ended. Although the United States did not enter the war for almost three years, the conflict was having an effect on resort life in this country. Many wealthy Americans volunteered for service with British and French units in France. The building of new summer homes slowed up and the psychology that inspired the sporting life was gone. Changes came to Saxton Avenue and to Great South Bay as well.

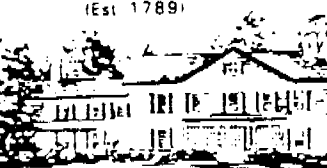
SOME CHANGES OCCUR

It was at this time, 1914 or thereabouts, that several changes occurred in the Saxton Avenue scene. The first was in the name of the Avenue itself that had been taken from Daniel Saxton, the first English owner of that neck of land. In the map printed in 1915 for that area, the "t" in the name had disappeared and was never to return. Saxton Avenue had become Saxon Avenue, which is its name today. A map maker's oversight perhaps, or because the word Saxon is easier to say, the reason is not known. A more significant change occurred at the end of the avenue; for there the old Olympic Club had been disbanded and filed a


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It is likely that the Olympic Club had been going downhill for years since its heyday in the 1880's and 1890's. Its buildings had become old and decrepit; its dock, running directly south into the Bay, was constantly battered by the southerly gales; and its membership did not have the wealth nor the will to rebuild. Fishing was better from the Wa Wa Yonda Club (the Short Beach Club had closed in 1912) and sailing or racing was best from the Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club. None of the new "summer-residents" of the Bay area had joined the Olympic Club, a clear sign of what lay ahead.

At the bankruptcy sale in September 1913 the Club property was purchased by three men: neighbors Franklyn Hutton and Allan Pinkerton, and Edward C. Blum of Penataquit Avenue. They had purchased it to protect themselves from the property getting into the wrong hands. They did not purchase the house at the corner, once owned by T.B. Aston, and then by James Kempster the former president of the defunct Club. This house was always reserved for the Club President if he wanted it. Hutton, Pinkerton and Blum jointly held on to the Club land until 1916.

Meanwhile on Penataquit Point another change had taken place. The Yacht Club there had found it impossible to go on and closed its doors. The day of the large steam yacht was suspended until it revived somewhat in the 1920's. Some of the most affluent members had died or left the Bay area by then, and the formal yachting style that the Penataquit Corinthian practiced must have seemed out of date to the younger members. The Club property,


in fact much of Penataquit Point south of the little waterway was bought by J. Adolph Mollenhauer to protect his Awixa Creek home from an undesirable neighbor.

Lastly, at the end of Saxon Avenue on the southeast part of the point, Frank Creamer's property was for sale following his death. So it was that in 1916, as war came closer for the United States, two of the most desirable pieces of property anywhere along the entire Great South Bay could be purchased, Penataquit Point and next to it Olympic Point. Of the two, Olympic Point was the more desirable. First, it was not adjacent to Bay Shore harbor, as Penataquit was, which was becoming more commercial at that time with ferries going almost hourly to Fire Island. Secondly, because it was set back further in the Great Cove, it was more protected from the prevailing southwest winds by Penataquit Point and from the southeast storms by Bayberry Point. Lastly, even though less exposed, it had a broad view of the Bay together with the protection of two creeks for the safe mooring of boats. Thirty acres of land were available on this almost unique site and they were purchased that year by Horace Havemeyer.

**THE CREATION OF
 "OLYMPIC POINT" 1916 to 1920**

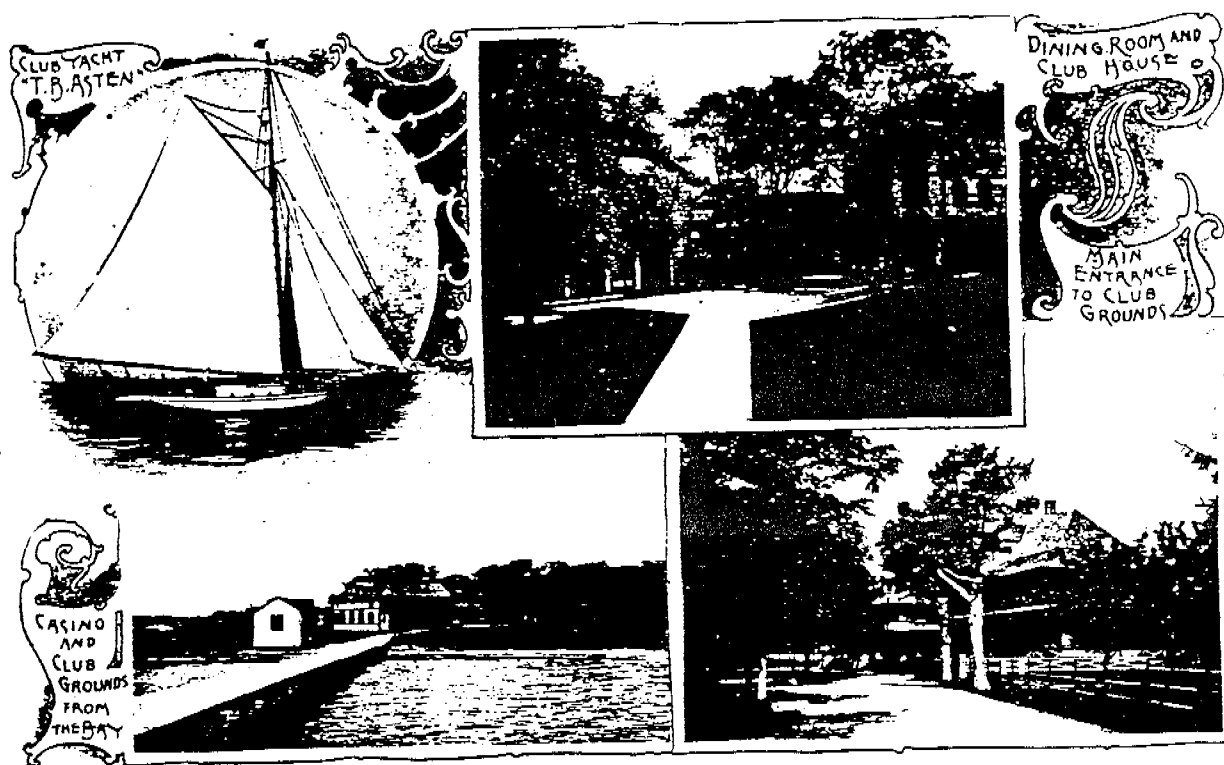
Henry O. Havemeyer's only son, Horace, from his early childhood had spent his summers in Islip, first on Champlin's Creek and then in the family home on Bayberry Point. He had grown up with horses and shooting on his father's farm in Commack L.I., but it was sailing on the Great South Bay that the boy loved the most. He was

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The Olympic Club as shown in "Pictorial Bay Shore," Horace W. Byrnes, B.D.

happiest when summer came and he could sail under the watchful eye of Charles Suydam Jr. Suydam knew the Bay as well as anyone, where the fish were and when to look to the northwest for the summer squalls. In search of the bluefish they would sail out Gilgo Inlet (no longer in existence) and back through Whig Inlet where the tides were strong and the shoals uncertain.

Or they would sail to Carabus Island, owned by Havemeyer Sr. as a duck shooting spot, or to nearby Point O' Woods on Fire Island to swim in the ocean surf. Young Horace learned about and grew to love every aspect of the Great South Bay. He was later to call it "The most favored spot in the world." He also learned to race his family's sloop, *Adalline*, and greatly enjoyed the competitive aspects of small boat racing. During his sixty years on the Bay, Horace raced in almost every size sailboat from the 15-foot Snipe to the 30-foot Islip One-Design.

After his marriage in 1911 to Doris Dick, who summered with her family on Ocean Avenue in Islip, Horace and Doris occupied the Bayberry Point house next to his late father's, and it was in that house that their eldest son, Horace Jr., was born in the summer of 1914. The children (there were two

older sisters) were outgrowing the "Moorish House", and besides Horace wanted to put down his roots permanently on the edge of Great South Bay and to build a proper American country house. At the end of Saxon Avenue he found the perfect place to do this.

Although Havemeyer had been able to purchase the land occupied by the old Olympic Club quite easily — its owners Hutton and Pinkerton were delighted to have him for their new neighbor on the south, James Kempster did not want to sell at first and held out for a very high price. Since the two acres he occupied were crucial to the whole parcel, Havemeyer had no choice but to pay up. After buying out Kempster, Havemeyer moved the house away as he only wanted the land on which it stood. To the east of Saxon he bought the land that would become "the farm".

In the same way that many had done before him Havemeyer engaged three prominent architects to design his "country house". Harrie T. Lindebergh of the New York firm of Albero and Lindebergh was to design the house itself; Alfred Hopkins was to design the barns for the farm; and the Boston firm of Olmstead & Olmstead (son and stepson of America's most

famous landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead) was to prepare a landscape design for the residential property west of Saxon Avenue. Of the three, Lindebergh was the youngest — 35 years old — and the least notable when he was engaged. Characteristically Havemeyer — age 30 — picked someone he could work with rather than a more famous name whose ideas had already been set. Lindebergh designed a three-story house of red brick with a slate roof and many large, leaded French windows to take maximum advantage of the unique site. As a country house should be, the rooms were large and there were a great number of them. The public rooms were spacious and the stairway to the second floor was grand. The master bedroom on the second floor was extremely large with a spectacular view towards the Bay. No detail was overlooked to make the house livable and practical as well. Havemeyer, of course, was anxious to move in. However, because the leaded windows had to come from France where the trench war was in stalemate, a long delay occurred, and the house was not completed until 1919, when the war was over.

The Hopkins barns were classics. He had done a dairy barn for Bourne's



The Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club

"Oak Neck Hall" in Oakdale and for some North Shore estates as well. At 45 he had already established a notable reputation. For Havemeyer he built a complex of barns that included a horse barn at the center with two adjacent wings for stables and for cows and the dairy. A second floor on the horse barn had rooms for the groom. Nearby was the ice house, various sheds for farm equipment and a four-car garage over which were quarters for the chauffeur. All these barns provided space for the horses, the cows, a bull, and equipment for caring for a vegetable garden, flower garden and almost 20 acres of mown grass.

Olmstead and Olmstead had a marvelous feature to start with. To the west of the main house site there stood four 250-year-old English beech trees that must have been planted by old Daniel Saxton or another English settler as the English beech is not indigenous to America. They stood considerably higher than the house was to be and made it already seem a part of an old English estate even before any other planting was done. To the south of the house two American elms were

placed inside a yew hedge which surrounded the south and west. To the north a gracious circle described the front entrance drive running right through the old Kempster house site. Other Olmstead features were a flower garden and trees planted to highlight open vistas in the English park manner. A boat basin was built on Awixa Creek to berth the sailboats away from the Bay chop and the entire property was surrounded with bulkhead to prevent erosion. A tennis court was built and later a squash court.

Havemeyer could claim to have a complete "American Country House" in a place where his favorite recreations of sailing and polo (in his early years) could be easily undertaken and where his family of three children could be carefully encouraged and supervised. And all this was on a magnificent site overlooking Great South Bay. He called his new home, "Olympic Point".

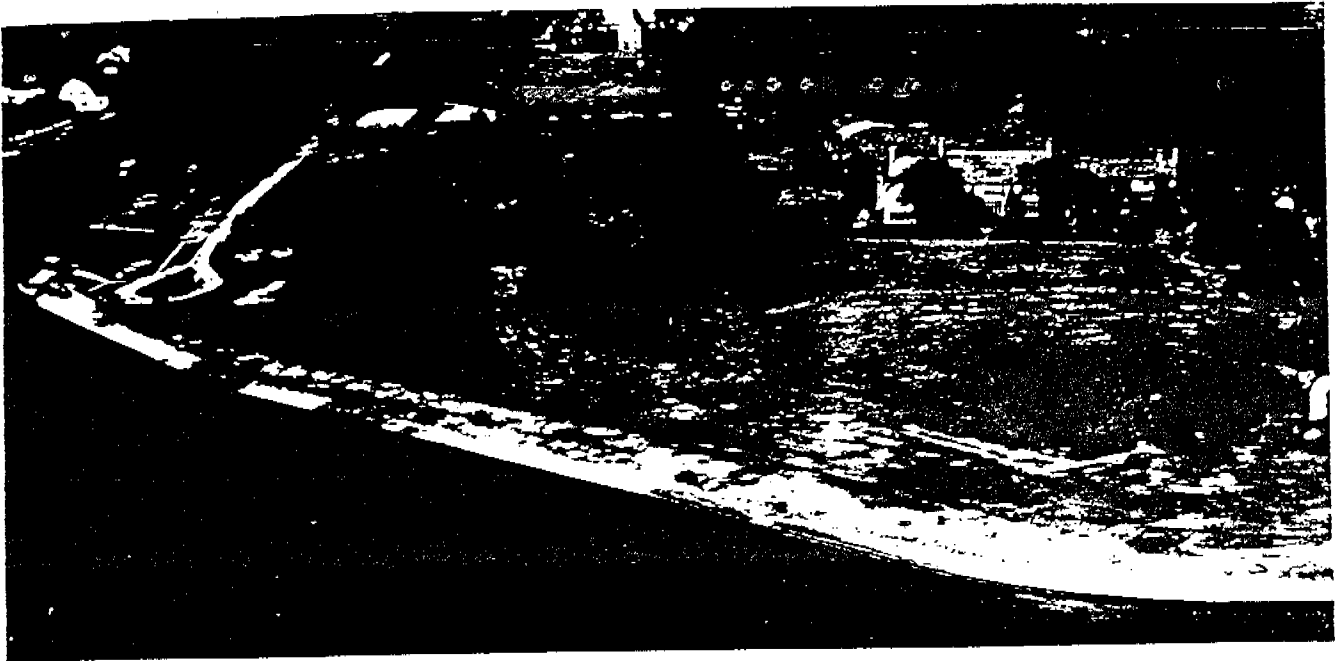
The 1920's

The Nineteen Twenties were an expansive, carefree and extravagant era in American society. Parties, often lavish,

were given regularly in American country houses, and it seemed like Long Island was the center of much of this gay activity. F. Scott Fitzgerald captured the mood and pictured it best in "The Great Gatsby". Wealth was easy to come by and easier to spend. Resort life in the summer was a particular focus for the "fast set", who often turned the night into day. One might have thought that this would have happened along the Bay area. The wealth was there, as were the homes and the people. However after World War I the favored summer resorts on Long Island had moved to the Gold Coast on the North Shore and to the Hamptons, especially Southampton. The resort aspects of life along the Great South Bay were changing as well, but in a different direction.

The day of the resort hotel was over by 1920. Babylon's Argyle Hotel, built by Long Island Railroad president Austin Corbin in 1882, had gone. The Prospect House in Bay Shore had burned down and was not rebuilt. In Islip the Pavilion Hotel had burned as well, and Stellenwarf's Lake House had become the Harry K. Knapp Estate. The Surf Hotel on Fire Island was closed for good, after its temporary use by New York State as a quarantine against a cholera scare frightened away any future guests. As has been noted, the Olympic Club, the Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club and the Short Beach Club had gone. Only the South Side Sportsmen's Club remained as a "social" sporting club. Finally some of the families of wealth had left or would leave shortly. On Saxton Avenue Mrs. Belmont and Mr. Franklyn Hutton departed shortly after the death of their spouses. 1919 and 1920 would see the death of Frederick G. Bourne and William K. Vanderbilt and with it dramatic changes in their great estates of "Idle Hour" and "Indian Neck" Hall. The estates of George C. Taylor and J. Ives Plumb would become Hecksher State Park in Great River.

This is not to say that the sporting, summer life had ended along the Bay, for it certainly had not. In fact for a short time there were very vital signs that it would continue pretty much unchanged from the pre-World War I days. Polo continued to be played in the 1920's by younger men such as Harry T. Peters, Horace Havemeyer, the Pinkertons, Allan and his son Bobby.



View of Olympic Point from the air, taken in 1938 before the great Hurrigan of that year.

and by young Juan Ceballos of the Spanish and Cuban sugar family that lived in Bay Shore, north of the Main Road opposite "Chewing Gum" Adams. Gold and sail boat racing were still very much in favor and to engage in those sports a new club was born.

At the place where the Connetquot River flows into the Great South Bay a point of land protrudes southeastward towards Fire Island. It is known as Timber Point. The surrounding acres were owned by the Nicoll family under the original land grant until 1882 when William L. Breeze of New York bought the property on which he built a summer home. He called his estate "Timber Point". Following Breeze's death "Timber Point" was sold to the New York lawyer, Julian T. Davies, who summered there until his death in 1920. It was then that a group of men organized the Timber Point Country

Club. The club was the first in the area to offer both golf and sailing to its members, and during the decades of the 20's and 30's it was a great success. It was not the first golf course to have been built, however. That distinction belonged to what was called the Westbrook Golf Club, a nine-hole course built in 1895 on property belonging to W. Bayard Cutting, a part of the old Lorillard horse farm. Harry B. Hollins was Westbrook's first President, and its golf pro was Arthur G. Griffiths, brought over from England by Hollins to become a much respected member of the Islip community.

At Timber Point an eighteen hole seaside golf course was built and Arthur G. Griffiths became the professional. "Griff" as he was known to all, had become a golf legend by then for his making the wooden golf clubs used in that day. The back nine of the Timber

Point course was considered particularly challenging, as it was laid out along the Bay in the Scottish manner and often had to be played in "the teeth of the gale".

Just up the river from Timber Point was a natural cove to moor sailboats out of the chop of the Bay, and here the Timber Point class sailboats lay when not in use. These 17-foot racing sloops were owned by the club members and became an important class in Bay racing. They were particularly good boats for young and old alike, and because of their centerboards they could easily navigate the shoals around the Bay. With the demise of the Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club the gap was filled with smaller boats, racing either from Timber Point or from a revived Bay Shore Yacht Club. The Davies residence was converted into a colonial style clubhouse for the new Timber

Saks Fifth Avenue

Garden City, Long Island

Point Club by the New York architect, Hart and Shape, and the Babylon builder, E.W. Howell Company.

The club became a center of sporting and social activity in this period.

There were some new arrivals building country houses in the 1920's, and of course some of the sons and daughters of the earlier families continued to summer along the Bay. On Saxton Avenue the Franklyn Hutton property was sold to Hamlet G. Sharp and his wife Ruth in the summer of 1930. The Hutton house was removed and a new gracious country house was completed in 1932. It was designed by the architect, William H. Russell, whose wife was the granddaughter of early Bay Shore settler, Bradish Johnson. The Sharp house looked remarkably like the Havemeyer house directly south of it. Red brick, whitewashed, with a gray slate roof and large leaded windows, it was a slightly smaller mate to the house next door. It was sited near Awixa Creek, but faced the Bay which could be seen over the Havemeyer tennis court. In the summer of 1944 the Sharps sold their property to Frank and Margaret Riggio, who lived in the house until their deaths in the late 1980s. And in West Bay Shore Landon K. Thorne built a similar house, designed by a different architect, on property south of South Country Road. Thorne, the son of Edwin Thorne, long time Bay Shore and Babylon resident and famous bird shot, built an American country house in its fullest meaning.

On Penataquit Point in the 1920's changes were occurring that were signs of the post World War II era yet to come, the beginning of the subdivision development. H.O. Havemeyer's Bayberry Point in 1898 was a development of sorts, but it was restricted in that owners were required to join the association to keep the community "exclusive". In 1907 Thomas Benton Ackerson began his development of Brightwaters, just to the west of Bay Shore. By 1916 he had created a modern seaside development complete with lakes, a yacht harbor and even a beach casino. This would meet with much greater success than did Bayberry Point. After the death of J. Adolph Mollenhauer, much of the Penataquit Point property that he owned south of the small waterway was put up for sale at auction. It was subdivided in lots of

one-eighth acre each, but did not include that lot at the end of the point where the old Penataquit Corinthian Yacht Club house had stood. That lot had been bought by Horace Havemeyer from Mollenhauer, the uncle of Havemeyer's wife, at an earlier time for protection to his neighboring "Olympic Point". The 1926 Mollenhauer land auction was quite a success, and some new owners were to come to Penataquit Point to join the already established Italian tile merchant, R. Gustavino, who had built his Italianate house earlier (1910-1915). It remains there today.

However at the auction not only prospective home owners were buyers. One successful bidder for five lots fronting on the Bay intended to build a night club, which would make Olympic Point a very noisy place indeed as it was directly downwind. Havemeyer was able to buy out the prospective night club owner in 1927 at a very high cost. Doubtless the night club proprietor made more on the sale of those five lots than he ever would have with his night club as 1929 was not far away.

Some of the sons of families mentioned earlier entertained lavishly in the

gay twenties. One in particular, Schuyler L. Parsons Jr. of St. Mark's Lane, Islip, was noted for the building of what he called "Pleasure Island" in the middle of Champlin's Creek. There he entertained prominent people from the world of arts and the theater, such as Charlie Chaplin, Bea Lillie and Gertrude Lawrence. The Prince of Wales, later to become the Duke of Windsor, was a guest at the Hollins home in East Islip during this period.

In the fall of 1929 the stock market crashed and the severe depression of the 1930s was ushered in, slowly at first but by the end of 1930 there was no longer any doubt that severe economic distress lay ahead. Some of the wealthy had been wiped out in the crash. Others were barely able to scrape by on a much reduced style of living that certainly did not include having a country house, and some were able to maintain a lifestyle hardly changed at all.

The 1930's

Saxon Avenue in the 1930's did not see as many changes as might have been expected given the economic distress in that decade. A Roman Catholic

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Seminary had located on property once occupied by Knapp, Belmont, and Livingston. Called the Monfort Seminary, it was established for early religious schooling of those intended for the priesthood. Allan Pinkerton had died in 1930, but his widow and his sister continued to occupy the "twin" houses on the east side of the street. "Chewing Gum" Adams died in 1934 and two years later Simon F. Rothschild passed away. Rothschild's brother-in-law and sister-in-law Edward and Florence Blum lived in the house on Penataquit Avenue until after World War II. They were often seen cruising about on the Bay in their black hulled powerboat, the last of their generation to enjoy the Bay breezes and the life on the water.¹

Mr. Edward C. Blum died in 1946 and Mrs. Edward C. Blum died in 1959 age 87. Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting lived on at Westbrook in Great River until her death in 1949 at the age of 94, and Mrs. Samuel T. Peters of St. Mark's Lane, Islip, died in 1943 at age 86. The senior Mrs. Ceballos died in the mid 1930s at her home in Bay Shore, but her

son, Juan, and his wife continued to live there for a time. On Awixa Avenue Mrs. J. Adolph Mollenhauer continued to summer in the house they called "Homeport" until her death in 1935. The house remains there today although the property has been split up and the farm across the street is gone. Finally at "Olympic Point" at Saxon's southern end Havemeyer and his wife lived with their growing family which by now included a second son, Harry, who spent his first summer there in 1930. In recognition of the changing times and the expense of polo Havemeyer had given up his horses and stable, but the cows and dairy were kept until the war came in 1941. Except for this one change life at Olympic Point was much the same. In fact there was an important addition in this decade, the coming of the Starboat.

With his great love for sail boats and in particular for racing them, Havemeyer had been disappointed with the Bay racing. He experimented with racing on Long Island Sound in the ten meter and then in the twelve meter class

boat. The trip to get there was difficult and besides, the breeze was not nearly as good as on the Bay. In July and August the Sound would often have no wind at all! In the early 1930's the Star Class boat had just come to the Bay. Havemeyer's problem was solved, and he bought two of them, one to sail himself and another for his son, Horace Jr.

Havemeyer Sr., as a member of the Bay Shore Yacht Club, would race his Starboats, he owned 13 of them in total, for 20 years until almost the end of this life, winning the Great South Bay Race Week Championship in 1945 at the age of 59. At that time he was called by the press "the grizzled veteran at the helm", a worthy successor in the tradition of Bay skippers started decades before with Captain Hank Haff of Islip.

On Bayberry Point 1930 brought a new development. Horace Havemeyer, acting for his father's estate, built a third canal to the east of the two his father had built in the 1890's. He envisaged a further development of the Point, but the Depression halted those plans. He did, however, sell for the first time (they had only been rented before) some of the original Moorish houses. The one his parents occupied was sold to Frank Gulden, the son of Charles Gulden of New York and Bay Shore, the developer of Gulden's mustard. By the decade's end all of the 10 houses had been sold or given to his children after they had married. At the end of the East Canal Havemeyer gave some Bay front land to the new Bayberry Beach and Tennis Club so that it could be located there, and its members could enjoy tennis and Bay swimming.

In Great River the Timber Point Club with its excellent golf course remained a private club until the war came, and a newer private golf club had opened in West Bay Shore, called the South Bay Golf Club. Not a seaside course, the 18 holes were built north of South Country Road on land once owned by Henry B. Hyde of New York and then by Louis Bossert of Brooklyn. Part of the Hyde house was used as the clubhouse for the new golf club. The South Bay Golf Club barely survived the lack of members during World War II, but with a large assist from one of its members, it did manage to continue until the post war prosperity brought great numbers of new members and a change of name to Southward Ho Country Club.

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