

88-25-51st Ave.,  
Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373  
March 5, 1970

Dear Leah:-

All of us delighted to hear from you and have some Northern New York news. While we have no desire to live there (much too cold), we do enjoy getting in touch again with the relatives and friends there and getting acquainted with the younger generations. Edwards village is about getting down to the number of people who lived there when I was a little girl. I am sorry that the Union Church had to come down. We went to church and Sunday School there and to the Christian Endeavor meetings. Always had a program at Christmas with two real trees all lighed with candles, and decorations galore. At that time there was no Catholic Church there - in fact not many Catholics. But there was a church at Taleville.

My memories of Trout Lake go back to 1892 - they are faint but I have asked lots of questions when people were there to answer them. In 1892 we were there a week, I think, and lived in the cottage that belonged to Mrs. Stalbird (it may not have then but as I remember it, hers wixhis the name I recall now).

An interesting happening in connection with that summer, is that Frances Earle Graham and her family had the cottage next to the one we had, and now our children are living at the Lake again. The girls bought the Island that belonged first to the Carpenters in Gouverneur and afterwards to Ruth. Frances' two sons are again at the Lake - one bought the cottage that, in my early days belonged to Mr. Bullis and the other the cottage on what we used to call Blueberry Island. That first summer we were there, <sup>first</sup> was the Bullis Cottage, then coming down - on the hill one that the Leonard lived in at one time; the small one that belonged to a Mrs. Allen from Hermon, I think. The Drapers from Gouverneur were next - they had a small cottage and a tent in the summer. Then the one we were in and the next next the Earles. On the corner were the people from Hermon (their name just seem to evade me) but I think the cottage is owned by people of the same family. There were no other cottages till you came around the bay. On the left side the small one ~~belonged~~ belonged to Mrs. Jerusha Hill, (Minnie Little's grandmother) Next the cottage still there but I don't remember the name of the people. On the right hand side (the one now belong ing to the Bill Greens), (no recall there) . Next the Cleghorn cottage, I can still see the old gentleman out doing fishing. There were two cottages down toward the Lake - one belonged to the Wallaces from Canton, the Robert Wallace family. The cottage ironing on the Lake belonged to the Scripster family (Earl's family). They had one daughter, Tirzah - who died when quite young.

From there on to the next bay, was the hotel property - the hotel itself was well set back but the pavilion, of course was at the Lake itself. My mother said that once when she was teaching in Edwards, she went to a dance over there. There was no road in to the Lake, one had to drive toward Hermon and come in that way. ~~On~~ On the rise across from the hotel was ~~xxxxxx~~ a real house, belonging (I think) to the Woodman family. Both that and the hotel were later destroyed by a forest fire. At the end of the bay (the little lake) was a cottage belonging to the Rev. S.T. William I can still see him and his wife going leisurely for a boat ride, with Mrs. Williams shielding herself with a parasol. As you went around the Bay and came to the point, was the Anthony Cottage, people who came from Gouverneur. They were the people who had the steamers and once a year during the season the children at the Lake were taken for a ride. We always looked forward to that. And there were various programs put on in the pavilion - the only thing I remember about that, was that Lulu Clark Padgett sang.

There were no cottages at the lower end of the Big Lake. At the end was an ideal picnic spot and from time to time big picnics for all the Lake people. There was a sawmill at the outlet and at times during the summer the level of the Lake was changed. Our milk was delivered by a Mr. Ghering who came in a flatbottomed boat which he paddled around.

Camp Kelly was the place to go swimming and a great many people did from all over the Lake. In one of the bays toward the upper end, the Baptist minister in Edwards, Rev. Mr. Styran and his family camped there. No cottage.

The first time we came to the Lake, there was no road through the swamp and one cut through the woods and came out by Chub Lake (Cedar now). It must have been the 2nd year that a road was built through the swamp. It was a log road literally at first; later was partially filled over and was not quite so rough. As one came to the Lake end of the road, there was a house and barn (lived in but I don't recall the name). Around the corner there was a house with a barn. That was the Morrow place. The big rocks at the top of the hill behind the Morrow place, were known as Bread Rocks. Today they are surrounded by so much foliage, their real character doesn't show. The first road from there going to the head of the Lake was a plank one called Sidewalk Hill. At the end of the bay where ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ the Manzalotis are now, was the remains of an logging camp. There was also one at the head of the Lake where we finally had a cottage. My father ~~bought~~ bought this in the early 1900s and remodelled it into a house which is still there.

From 1893 on, we stayed in the cottage which now belongs, I think, to J.S. Brown. In 1894, the summer of the Edwards fire, we stayed there until it was too cold and the rest of the winter lived in the parlor and bedroom of the house you now live in. Pretty close quarters for a family of 5, but we managed. When studying irked me, I was allowed to go upstairs and work there. I think it was Edith and Elmer Grant who were there then. The next summer we moved across the street to where the Dulacks lived later. At that time it was the last house on the block, there was no street going across to the Fine road then. We must have moved into the house where we lived so long, in 1898 or 1899. The Detro family lived there first but Mr. Detro died and his wife had no desire to stay in Edwards. He was the Detro of the Detro and Taylor drugstore.

We continued to spend our summers at the Lake and in 1907, after three years in Gouverneur so Ruth and Miriam could go to school there, we moved to the Lake and lived there (Arcady it was called) all year. Ruth and Dr. Adams were married on the front porch there by the Rev. Mr. Williams referred to earlier. We lived there three years, then moved back to the house in Edwards.

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This is a sort of first hand production. After you look it over if you want more information, let me know and I will do my best. I have a few pictures of the Lake in those early days but, as yet, have not been able to find them. But I will.

The girls are planning on a trip to England in the spring and I hope to go to Kemmerer, Wyo., to spend some time with Lillian and her family. We hope to have a little time at the Lake. Had such a pleasant time there last summer.

Will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Broncroft Griffin  
(Mrs. Allan A.)