



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum

Town of Deerpark Historian P.O. Box 621, Huguenot, NY 12746

845 856-2702 www.1863schoolhouse.org

March 2020

Vol. 17

No. 1

- Martin's Lake
- Tri-State Driving Park
- 1916 – Polio Epidemic
- Summer Art Program

Along Huguenot Road

By Lynn M Burns



MAPLE TREES, Huguenot Road, near Port Jervis, N. Y.

Martin's Lake Huguenot, NY

Martin's Lake was not always a lake. Dr. John Martin owned the property and had a plan for a local resort.

The Martin Addition A Second Sale of Lots to Take Place On July 4th

*Tri-States Union
20 June, 1895*

“Dr. John Martin of New York City is in town making arrangements for an auction of lots on the Martin Estate near Columbia Driving Park, which was laid out in building lots in September, 1894. The first sale took place in November, 1894, and the number of lots were sold at fair prices. The Martin estate comprises all told 488 acres, lying along the Monti-

cello railroad, a large portion of it available and convenient for building purposes.

“The doctor is now making arrangements to convert some of the low-lying land on his property into a lake by damming two spring brooks which are filled with a never failing supply of spring water. The lake will probably cover an extent of 100 acres and combined with the race track, the beautiful grove and Doerr's comfortable road house, all lying within easy access to Port Jervis, will render it a charming and popular resort.”

A Dam Project Report That There Will Be a Lake Made On the Martin Estate Tri-State Union, 29 September 1898

“It is stated on good authority that during the fall or early next spring Dr. John Martin, of New York City, who owns a large tract of land in the vicinity of the Tri-States Driving Park, will erect a large

dam on the Neversink on his property and convert about 125 acres of land into a beautiful lake. The dam will be erected in the rear of Mr. Wolfe's house. This lake would greatly enhance the value of the Martin property as a resident portion of our village, and it would make an ideal pleasure resort, especially should the trolley line be run to that point. Mr. Martin has been in town during the past week, looking after the matter.”

Dam At Martin's Lake Part of It Gave Way Sunday Night – Country South Was Flooded

*Tri-State Union
6 March, 1902*

“A part of the large dam at Martin's Lake near the Driving Park, gave way, under the heavy pressure of water some time Sunday night taking away a number of farm-road bridges and flooding the flats below, and the property of

Mr. D. C. McCombs. His barn and other out buildings were flooded and his horses were standing knee-deep in water.

“The dam that went out was the one nearest the canal.”

***Havoc Wrought by
Cuddeback Brook
Tri-State Union
18 June, 1903***

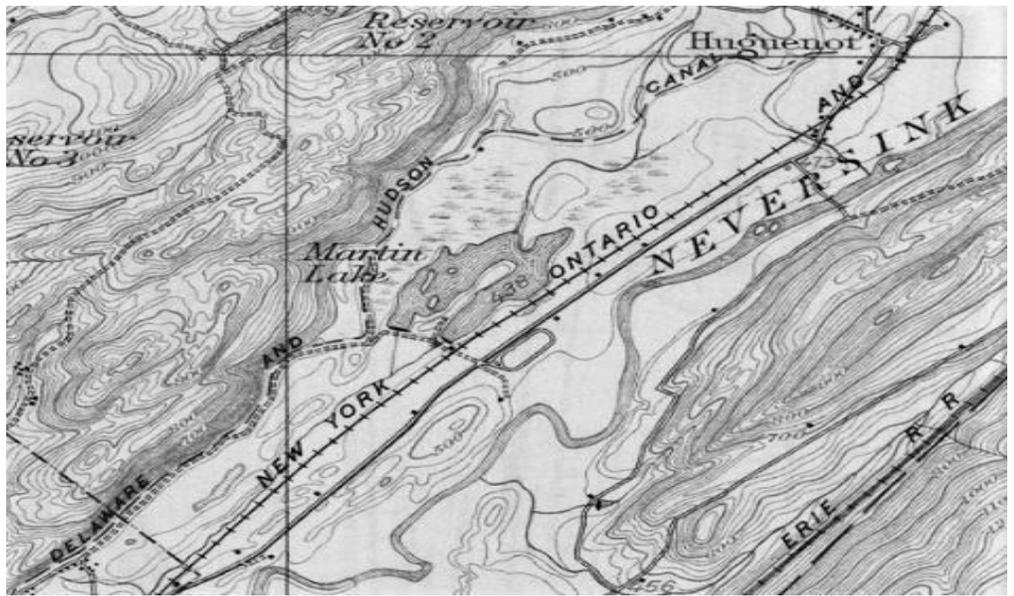
“The land lying along the Cuddeback Brook from Martin’s Lake to the Neversink river was flooded. This was due partly to the rainfall along its own watershed and partly to two ditches from the old canal and discharging the overflow from that source. The two combined caused such a flood that for a mile or two up and down the brook the country was one vast lake.

“The brook began rising at about four o’clock yesterday afternoon, and it was reported that the Martin Lake dam had given way. Later, however, it was found that the overflow from the ditches caused the high water. The lowlands of Mr. Samuel Raymond were flooded, and his cattle were driven by water to the upland, taken around Ryantown and up the Huguenot road home.

“The lands of Mr. David McCombs on the Huguenot Road on the northern limits of the corporation were flooded, and his property damaged. This private bridge across the brook was lifted from its foundations and his gates and wagons floated downstream until stopped by the fence. His gardens and fields are a mass of water and mud, Other proprietors living along the Cuddeback brook have suffered more or less damage.”



The lake became quite a popular local destination for fishing, boating and picnicking. It was also known as Martin’s Lake, Lake Orinoco and Reuling’s Lake.



***Bruin Was Aggressive
Seen Between Port Jervis
And Huguenot
Tri- State Union
6 June, 1907***

“A party of young people from Matamoras who passed Thursday afternoon fishing at Lake Orinoco (Martin’s or Reuling’s Lake) had a thrilling experience on their return.

“Leaving the lake at about 8:30 p.m., they started to return by way of the tow path of the abandoned canal. When near an old bridge abutment, a small dog, which was with the party, came running up to them. The owner tried to set the cur on whatever the object might be, but the dog refused to leave them. A noise was heard and out came a bear.

“All in the party were greatly frightened as they had no weapons except fishing poles. The bear crashed through a fence and was on her way away. They surmised, she had a brood of young ones in the woods by the lake.

“The party arrived at the home of a friend in Brooklyn, where they told their thrilling story.”

***Eastern Stars Picnic
Tri-States Union
9 September, 1909***

“Pocono Chapter No. 62, Order of the Eastern Star, of Matamoras, and N. Taft Chapter, of Port Jervis, and members of Orange Chapter and visitors numbering 75 held a picnic at Lake Orinoco on Monday, Labor Day.

“Members of the Order and their friends met at Orange Square at 9:30 a.m. and were conveyed to the lake by teams from Vogt’s Livery of Matamoras and Jon Cuff’s Livery, of Port Jervis.

“Upon arriving at the grove on the island of the lake the committee began arranging the long tables. Fires were kindled and at about 12:30 the tables were loaded down with good things in abundance to which all did ample justice. The feast continued for two hours. The weather was delightful, and the afternoon was too quickly passed.”

***Transferring a Steam Sawmill
Tri-State Union
27 February, 1908***

“The large portable steam saw mill owned by the estate of Samuel H. Gariss which has been at work in Montague township, this winter, has been transferred to the lands of the Reuling Brothers at Lake Orinoco, where it will be put in use sawing lumber.”

***A Bungalow On Lake Orinoco
Port Jervis Union
26 September, 1908***

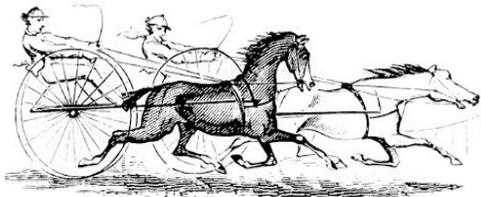
“Mr. Chas. P. Reuling and his son-in-law, Mr. Wm. Meyer, of New York, have constructed a bungalow on the high ground of the neck on Orinoco Lake. With their families they have spent considerable time there during the past ten days.”

***David Seidel Purchases
Martin's Lake Property
Port Jervis Union
1 June, 1920***

“Dr. C. N. Knapp has sold his property at Martin's Lake on the Huguenot Road, comprising 350 acres, to Davis Seidel, of New York. Mr. Seidel will make some extensive improvements in the property and eventually expects to make it his all-the-year-'round home in one of the best locations in the town of Deerpark.”

***Martin's Lake
Sold For Big Hebrew Camp
Port Jervis Union
4 June, 1923***

“The Martin's Lake property of 360 acres, on the Huguenot Road, has been sold by Glashow and Engerman to the Central Jewish Welfare Association of New York. It will be transformed into a summer camp for boys and girls probably for the season of 1924, when several camp houses will be built and various improvements made at a large expenditure of money. The camp will accommodate several hundred patrons. Simon Graham is the present caretaker of the property.”



Tri-State Driving Park

After the Civil War, horse racing parks became all the rage. Every town or village boasted a fine track for riders and trotters. Deerpark was no exception. Located two miles north of Port Jervis, just off the Huguenot Road on the right side across from Martin's Lake, the Tri-State Driving Park was laid out in grand style. Horse owners from all over, entered their prized stallions into races which offered surprisingly high purses. Local newspapers saved ample front-page columns to announce racing news, entrants' names and any scheduled entertainment that might be included.

GREETINGS FROM HUGUENOT, N. Y.



STATE ROAD, PORT JERVIS IN DISTANCE, PORT JERVIS, N. Y.



Road to Hotel Huguenot, Huguenot, N. Y.

**At The Driving Park
Tri-State Union
3 July, 1890**

“Two races will come off at the Driving Park tomorrow afternoon, a trotting and a running race. If you wish an afternoon of sport visit the Driving Park. No admission will be charged. Trains will be run every hour.

“The Port Jervis Turn Verein* will also hold a picnic at the Driving Park tomorrow. Arrangements have been made to have a balloon ascension, sack races, wheel-barrow races, fencing, tugs of war and other sports. Trains will run over the P. J., M. & N. Y. Railroad every hour after 10 o'clock. The fare for the round trip is 25 cents, children 15 cents. This is a good opportunity to spend the day. You can go to the picnic and to the horse races without extra charge.”

*Turn Verein – A German American Gymnastics club.

**Beauty Of The Track.
Tri-States Union
17 August. 1899**

“We do not believe there is another race track in the country that is so prettily situated as that of the Tri-States Driving Park. Bounding the view on the east are the beautiful Shawangunk mountains. On the south can be seen the steeples of Port Jervis, on the west is Martin’s Lake, with high hills in the background and on the north is the beautiful Neversink valley. Everything to please the eye and surely the people that visit the park could pass a pleasant afternoon even if they did not have the added attraction of the races.”

*

**Epidemic – 1916
Polio – Infantile Paralysis**

Polio is a contagious viral illness that in its most severe form caused nerve damage, paralysis, difficulty breathing and sometimes death.

1894 saw the first outbreak of polio in epidemic form in the U.S. in Vermont. The next greater outbreak reached epidemic proportions in New York. There were 9,000 case in New York City alone where 25% died.

3,000 movie houses, Sunday School classes, picnics and outings were

canceled as children under the age of sixteen were not allowed.

Our Tri-State area was rife with fear and drastic measures were set into place to prevent its spread.

**Four Year Old Boy In West End
Has Infantile Paralysis
Only case in the city – Second Death
and Fifth Case at Milford-**

**More Police Added
Evening Gazette
10 August, 1916**

“Chief of Police Frank A. Brown has added 15 special policemen to the police department of Port Jervis under the resolution passed at the special meeting of the board of health. The men have been stationed at the city entrances in three shifts of eight hours as follows: Kingston Ave. Barret Bridge, Tri-States Bridge, Erie and O. W. depots, Riverside Hotel and Skyline Drive.”

Try to Evade Law

“People have tried to evade the guards placed at the entrances to Port Jervis but in nearly every instance the police officials have stopped the offenders.

“On Wednesday afternoon while Officer Stephen Campbell was at the Barret Bridge a boy under the age of 15 years started to come into New York State to go camping near Rio. He was sent back to Pennsylvania. A short time after this incident the officer with the aid of his field glasses detected the youngster crossing the river in a row boat, saw him go up the dyke and disappear on the river road. Officer Campbell hastened to Sparrowbush on a trolley car to head off the boy. When he arrived at Reymar’s hotel where the two roads meet, he learned the boy had gone up the road to Patterson’s Eddy Farm to go out above Sparrowbush. Officer Mulvaney, who was the guard at Reymar’s Hotel started in pursuit on a bicycle and overtook the boy who was brought back to Pike County with a warning that if he attempted to come back he would be placed under arrest.”



Art Programs – 2020

At the
Deerpark Museum
25 Grange Road
Huguenot, NY 12746

This project is made possible, in part, with funds from The Orange County Arts Council.

All programs begin at 1 pm – Free and open to the public – ages 10 – 110!

May 19th – Cynthia Harris Pagano – Fast Pastel Portraits

June 16th – Barbara Johnson – Needlework Techniques

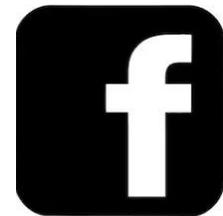
July 21st – Al Champy – Watercolor Techniques

August 18th – Mef Gannon – Beadwork Art

September 22nd – Dennis Fanton – Still Life in Oil

Please join us for these fun and popular events.

Thank You, Susan Miiller for creating this program.



Follow us on Facebook
Deerpark Museum

