

The collection of newspapers articles are arranged in chronological order.

1898

Utica Sunday Tribune, January 16, 1898: "Dolgeville's Celebration: High Falls Electric Plant was Installed" [copy incomplete]

Utica Observer, January 17, 1898: "The Harnessing of High Falls: Ceremonies over the Completion of the Work; Many Notable Men Visited Dolgeville- The Banquet and Something of what was Said in Response to Toasts:" Saturday evening Dolgeville made merry and broke a cold bottle of or two in celebration of the completion of the plant of the Dolgeville Electric Light and Power Co. The erection of the dam, the power house, and the equipment with wonderful machinery has been given . as the work progressed in the columns of The Observer. The work that is just finished is a remarkable achievement and one that places Dolgeville among the foremost industrial towns of the United States. It is the second largest electrical plant this side of Denver, Colo, and it transmits power to the high efficiency of 10,000 voltage to distant manufacturing towns. It is the first great power station at the foot hills of the Adirondacks. The powerful plant is located at High Falls in the East Canada (or the Auskerada) Creek at Dolgeville. Amply water supply the year round is assured through the purchase of thousands of acres of land north of Dolgeville. This purchase includes upwards of twenty lakes, running from one to seven miles in length. Here the water is stored and an inexhaustible supply is provided.

In the fertile brain of Alfred Dolge were these great plans carefully fostered. Years ago there used to leak out once in a while a statement that such and such things would come to pass. While they were recognized as not impossible they were stamped as improbably. So when the boys heard that some day their favorite swimming place at High Fall would be destroyed by a big dam and an electric plant, they said "pooh" and nibbled on green birch boughs with the same air as their elder wisecracks said "bosh," and sleepily puffed at their pipes when they were told that Brockett's Bridge would be a large town and have a railroad some day....

Cooperstown: The Otsego Farmer, April 15, 1898: "Alfred Dolge & Sons Failure:" By far the most disastrous failure that has occurred in Herkimer county since the collapse of the big Remington firm of Ilion, occurred Monday morning when motion was made before Judge Hiscock at the trial term of the supreme court, held in the village of Herkimer, for the appointment of a receiver for the big industrial firm of Alfred Dolge & Son of the village of Dolgeville. The news of the financial disturbance came like a thunderbolt, and the news spread rapidly in all directions.

The first intimation of the collapse occurred early in the morning in the village of Herkimer, when a bog mortgage for \$300,000, together with several other smaller mortgages, was filed in the Herkimer county clerk's office. This mortgage was executed on June 16, 1893.

The mortgages were filed as soon as the clerk's office was opened, and as soon as court convened Mr. Robinson presented the papers in the case to Judge Hiscock, and the order was granted appointing the Hon. A.M. Mills of Little Falls as receiver of the firm of Alfred Dolge & Son.

The order was granted on an action commenced by Rudolph Dolge, son of Alfred Dolge, against Alfred Dolge, for a dissolution of the co-partnership. It appears from the complaint that the summons and verified complaint was served upon Mr. Dolge at the hotel Metropole, in New York City, on April 9, 1898.

The complaint states that the nominal assets for the firm are \$1,150,000 and that the firm owes over \$300,000.

In the afternoon the individual assignment of Alfred Dolge to Walter N. Kernan of Utica was also filed in the Herkimer county clerk's office. The assignment of Mr. Dolge was first filed in Fulton county. No preferences are made in the general assignment. The Hon. A.M. Mills filed his bond with the clerk. The sureties are the Hon. Titus Sheard, W. G. Mulligan, and David H. Burrell. Mr. Mills takes immediate charge of the work, and the Dolgeville factories of the firm of Alfred Dolge & Son are closed down for an indefinite period.

According to latest reports it is estimated by one who is in a position to know, that the liabilities will reach \$1,000,000, and it is said that Mr. Dolge's assets in Dolgeville amount approximately to \$1,500,000.

Mr. Dolge's Industrial Career

In 1873 Alfred Dolge settled in the village of Dolgeville. The place was a hamlet and known on the maps of Herkimer county as Brocketts Bridge. He early saw the value of water as a power producer, and this was his prime reason for locating in the village. He commenced the manufacture of piano sounding boards and felt for piano hammers. His business grew and prospered, and while he commenced business in a modest manner the products of the Dolgeville factories are now well known in the markets of the world, and the Dolge felts are the standard productions of the piano trade.

In the place of the tumble down factory plant, magnificent stone factories were reared, and the plant largely increased in size. Several years ago Mr. Dolge commenced the manufacture of felt shoes. This business grew to large proportions, and a few years ago the Daniel Greene felt shoe company was organized and incorporated. This company has a large plant located on the Fulton County side of the creek.

Later the C.F. Zimmerman autoharp was purchased by Dolge and moved from Philadelphia to Dolgeville. The C.F. Zimmerman autoharp company was organized and capitalized for \$350,000. A large plant was erected for the accommodation of this industry. This is a separate corporation and Mr. Dolge owned the controlling stock of the company. The Piano case company and Tanner foundry company are also separate manufacturing industries, recently established. Mr. Dolge owns the controlling interest in each as well as in the Dolgeville electric light and power company, the Dolgeville Herald company and the Auskerada land company. All of the Dolgeville industries are in apparently a prosperous condition, and until a week ago, when the war scare began to disturb the business world, the Dolge factories, or some of them, were running night and day, with two sets of operatives, to keep pace with the order book.

During the years of commercial prosperity of the house of Dolge the village grew rapidly, and from a population of less than 200 in 1873 the village now has a population of 2,500. Nearly every resident of the village is dependent on the Dolge firm for a livelihood. The streets have been nicely laid out, splendid business blocks erected, and it was one of the most pretty and contented villages in Herkimer county. It is owing entirely to the industrial enterprise of Alfred Dolge that the village has reached the magnitude it has.

He was the most extensive owner of real estate in the village, and aside from his industrial investments he purchased all the land surrounding the village a few years ago. Farm after farm was purchased by him, and his engineers soon had this property laid out into village lots. Between the village and the railroad station at least \$75,000 has been expended by Mr. Dolge in improving the property. Hills have been leveled to be laid out into streets. The hard times followed and the village did not grow to meet the expectations of Mr. Dolge. His real estate investments, therefore, proved to be a losing venture. For years the village was at a big disadvantage, for the reason that all the products and raw material for the factories had to be transported by wagon or sleigh eight miles over the sometimes almost impassable roads from Little Falls.

Then the Little Falls and Dolgeville railroad was constructed at the cost of several hundred thousands of dollars, and Mr. Dolge was the chief promoter in this enterprise. As soon as the railroad was completed and he had every reason to expect a big business boom along came the hard times of the last administration, and Mr. Dolge of necessity became a heavy borrower to keep his numerous industries going.

He was one of the early pioneers in the movement of utilizing electric power and transferring it by commercial wire to run the manufacturing industries of the village.

The second Edison dynamo that was ever manufactured was purchased by Mr. Dolge and set up in his mill in Dolgeville. The residents of the village looked on in wonder as Mr. Dolge commenced purchasing Adirondack timber land in the watershed of the East Canada. He now stands possessed of over 40,000 acres, on which are hundreds of lakes, all available to be used as storage reservoirs. Then he commenced to purchase a small strip of land along each side of the East Canada Creek for miles above and below the village of Dolgeville. One of the largest purchases was the land surrounding the Auskerada lakes. This chain of lakes is one of the beauty spots of the Adirondacks and forms the headwaters of the east branch of the East creek. The lakes so situated that the water covering several thousand acres could be raised several feet and thus form a storage reservoir for his Dolgeville water supply. After all these detail plans had been carried to a successful termination, costing him hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Dolgeville electric light and power company came into existence. He was the controlling power in this enterprise and a few weeks ago the plant was completed.

He was now about ready to realize on the plan that has cost him a gold mine of money to develop when the financial crash came. The power line has been extended from Dolgeville to Little Falls, and the work of putting up the wires is now going on. The present power plant is capable of producing and marketing 4,000 horse power, and experts who have examined the East Canada

power owned by Mr. Dolge say that it is capable of producing at least 12,000 horse power. He has in contemplation the construction of a series of storage reservoirs on his property so as to make this power perpetual in the driest weather.

The Dolgeville telephone company and the Dolgeville coal company were also organized at the instance of Mr. Dolge. He holds the controlling interest in each corporation and both are on a paying basis. The Auskerada land company was another corporation founded and owned by Mr. Dolge. This company holds the title to nearly all the lakes surrounding the Auskerada lakes. Mr. Dolge has had a corps of engineers working on this property laying it out in cottage lots. He proposed this season to place the lots in the market and without doubt would have realized handsomely on the investment, as the lakes are the prettiest in the Adirondacks and easy of access. Like his other plans, this was just on the point of being made a paying investment.

1907

Utica Herald-Dispatch, March 15, 1907: "Watt Lumber Company:"

The Watt Lumber Company with a capital stock of \$70,000, was organized in this city yesterday. The principal stockholders are W.D. Watt, W.H. Watt, L. E. House, R. F. Livingston of this city and J. B. Fenner of Dolgeville. The new company will take over the holdings of J. C. Livingston at Stewarts Landing near Canada Lake, and will continue the lumbering operations as now conducted there, including the running of the sawmill. It is the intention of the new company to also establish a sawmill and lumber yard at Dolgeville. The Messrs. Watt, who were formerly proprietors of the Central Drug Store at the corner of Main and Second streets, will be in active charge of the management of the new company.

1912

Gloversville Morning Herald, August 27, 1912: "Herald's Stories Over the Years:" August 27, 1912: Members of the Canada Lakes Protective Association are securing signatures to an agreement on part of property owners to the effect that in case overflow results from the erecting of a dam at Canada Lake no actions for damages will be instituted against the Caroga Lumber Company. This move is a preliminary step towards the erection of a dam at the well know resort which will greatly relieve conditions caused at the present time by low water.

1913

St Johnsville Enterprise, May 7, 1913: "Storage Dams on Lake Emptying into Canada Lake: East Creek Light and Power Company Arranges for a Water Supply in Dry Season"

Plans have been quietly laid for the construction of a series of storage dams above Canada Lake. It is understood on good authority that the Durey Land & Lumber Company has disposed of a large share of water rights on the streams and lakes in its holding of many thousands of acres to East Creek Light & Power company, and this company proposed converting a number of smaller lakes into reservoirs to hold water and insure sufficient flow during the dry weather to successfully operate its plant at High Falls, south of Dolgeville.

Lying to the north of Canada Lake and emptying into it are thirteen lakes some of them large and some of them small. Already contracts have been let to the Durey Land & Lumber company for the construction of dams at the outlet of four of these lakes, namely Nine Cornered lake, Otter Lake, Stink and Bellows lake. It is probably within a short time dams will be built at the outlet of a number of the others.

Johnstown and Gloversville residents have some additional interest in this matter as it will probably mean a more even flow of water in Canada Lake, will be kept at a level somewhat above where it is inclined to go in seasons of droughts. Many Fulton county residents have cottages at Canada Lake and these cannot fail to be benefited by the new arrangement. The sail down Canada Lake has been pronounced by seasoned travelers to be one of the most beautiful in the Adirondacks. The wild scenery north of Canada Lake and surrounding the lake cannot be eclipsed by anything in New York. The declaration of the Durey Land & Lumber company to preserve its holding as a private park under the ...of the conservation commission of the state will mean that in the matter of games and fishing in the section surrounding the lakes will be protected.

James Y. Fulton went up to Canada Lake Saturday and opened Fulton's hotel for the 26th consecutive season. He announces the house will be run as heretofore but there will be one or two innovations. He is planning to serve course dinners on certain days of the week, putting up a meal equal to any in the lake region. He is also counting for much from the storage dams proposition, as a more uniform depth of water in Canada Lake will make less difficult the operating his steamer from the hotel to Stewart's Landing and back. Mr. Fulton reports that the roads from Johnstown to the lakes are in fine condition with the exception of a very short distance near Newkirks, where the compromise gravel and macadam road is being constructed. But this is easily passable.

Gloversville Morning Herald, June 13, 1913: "Durey's Company Gets Water Rights:" The Durey Land and Lumber company, of which Cyrus Durey, collector of Internal Revenue, is president, has commenced the construction of four dams at the outlets of as many lakes north of Canada Lake and contracts for five or six more will be awarded this summer. The dams are being built by the East Creek Electric Light company and are to regulate the flow of water into Canada Lake to High Falls where the power plant is located. This company has purchased from the Durey company the water rights on all of the thirteen lakes lying north of and emptying into Canada Lake as well as the water rights along contributory streams.

For years there has been low water during the summer at High Falls and difficulty was experienced in getting out sufficient power to meet the demands on the company. With these new dams in operation, an even flow of water will be assured, even during the time of greatest drouth. The dams under construction at present are at Stink Lake, Nine Cornered Lake, Middle Lake, and Otter Lake.

This is one of the largest schemes ever undertaken in this section to preserve and regulate a water supply. Many residents of the Glove cities own summer houses at Canada Lake and all of these will be benefited by the higher water in this lake during the dry summer months. The increased

flow during the hot weather will also make sure that the daily trip of the steamer to Stewart's Landing and return.

Gloversville Morning Herald, June 16, 1913: Herald's Story Over the Years:" June 16, 1913: The Durey Land and Lumber Company of which Cyrus Durey collector of internal revenue, is president has commenced the construction of four dams at the outlets of as many lakes north of Canada Lake and contracts for five or six more will be awarded this summer.

Utica Herald-Dispatch, June 17, 1913: "Dams North of Canada Lake: Big Power Scheme:" The Durey Land & Lumber Co. of which Cyrus Durey, former Representative in Congress from this district, has commenced the construction of four dams at the outlets of four lakes north of Canada Lake and contracts for five or six more will be awarded this summer. The dams are being built by the East Creek Light & Power Co, which supplies electricity for Canajoharie and are to regulate the flow of water from Canada Lake to High Falls. This company has purchased from the Durey company the water rights on all of the 13 lakes lying north of and emptying into Canada Lake as well as the water rights along contributory streams.

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This is one of the largest schemes ever undertaken in this section of the Adirondacks to preserve and regulate a water supply. It will also be a fine thing for Canada Lake and cottagers will be benefitted.

1914

St Johnsville Enterprise, August, 1914: "Skeleton Found After Twenty Years: Pine Lake Shore Gives Victim Apparently Drowned Many Years Ago:" Saturday's Leader Republican- A skeleton of a boy or girl apparently about sixteen or seventeen years of age, and supposed to have been buried about twenty years, was unearthed at Pine Lake Thursday of this week by laborers who were engaged in enlarging the dam owned by the Durey Land and Lumber company.

The find was made when the men were filling in behind the concrete portion of the dam, which has been raised.

The workmen noticed a number of bones, but no attention was paid to them until a skull was brought to light. Cyrus Durey was notified and together with Dr. George L. Streeter, the son of Mrs. George A. Streeter of this city who is the former instructor of anatomy at Michigan University and is spending the month of August with his family at Canada Lake, went there.

Dr. Streeter and family arrived at the home of Frank Prindle on North Melcher street this afternoon and when interviewed by a Leader Republican reporter in regard to the finding of the body the doctor stated that it was impossible to tell whether the body was that of a male or female. He estimated that the body had been buried about twenty years, although he could not say exactly, not knowing the condition of the land there.

Although numerous theories have been advanced as the probable cause of death of the person, it would appear from the condition of the ground near where the bones were found that came as a result of drowning and the body was washed ashore and during the course of time had become covered with earth. Only the larger bones of the body were recovered.

Inquiry of a number of residents in that section of the country failed to bring to light any information that would lead to the solving of the mystery in regard to the finding of the body. No one remembers the disappearance of anyone about the time that the person is supposed to have met death. The affair has caused quite a sensation in the vicinity of Pine Lake.

The bones were placed in a box and were buried near the spot where they were unearthed. A marker was placed on the grave stating the conditions under which the body was found.

Albany Knickerbocker Press, August 22, 1914: "Pine Lake Workmen Uncover Skeleton: Disappearance of John Ortel Twenty-Five Years Ago Is Then Recalled, Went to See Sweetheart, Tanner Left on Twelve-Mile Snowshoe Trip on Bitter Night in Winter Season:" John Trenham of Utica, an engineer, formerly employed by the Pine Lake tannery at Pine Lake, believed that the skeleton found last week while workmen were excavating a dam on the land of the Durey Land and Timber company, is that of John Ortel, who disappeared mysteriously nearly twenty-five years ago.

Trenham is quite certain that the skeleton is that of Ortel, as there have been no other persons reported missing in that section in the past forty years. "I very often visit my old home within a few miles of Pine Lake, and I know what I'm talking about," he said. "It's between twenty-two and twenty-five years ago since Ortel was last seen. I've forgotten the exact date, but perhaps George Ellis, John Peters, George Schawumberger or John Smith can remember. With the exception of Smith, all of these men still reside in the town of Bleeker. They all saw Ortel start out on his last journey.

"It was one of the coldest days of the winter that Ortel reported to me for work in the morning and told me that he wanted the afternoon off that he might go to see his sweetheart, a young lady named Baird, who lived at a distance of twelve miles from the tannery. Before starting out he went to the barroom of the hotel and bought two bottles of whiskey in addition to the several glasses of the liquor which he drank at the bar.

"He was a trifle befuddled when he left the hotel on snow shoes, but we thought that he would be all right after he had walked a short distance. A man named Selon met him passing through the woods and endeavored to get him to go with him. Ortel refused and Selon left him. He was the last to see the young man.

“When it was found that Ortel had not arrived at the Baird home a search was made but no trace of him was ever found. I believe Ortel fell into the lake, was drowned and that his body was washed ashore and had been covered up in the course of time.”

Trenham stated that he thought Miss Baird was now living with her two brothers, Charles and Rant Baird, at Blecker.

Gloversville Morning Herald, August 20, 1914: “Mystery of Skeleton Is More Mystifying: Latest Developments Indicate It Is Neither That of Ortel or Bradley:” The finding of the skeleton at Pine Lake a week ago today has brought to light a mystery which becomes more mystifying as efforts are made to solve it. The skeleton is evidently not that of John Ortel, nor George Bradley, both of whom have been mentioned in connection with the case. Both disappeared a number of years ago and nothing was ever heard of either of them since. John Ortel was lost somewhere between Pinnacle and North Branch twenty-eight years ago, and George Bradley was lost somewhere near Arietta seventeen years ago last spring.

J.W. Frommer of 268 Blecker street was one of the party of our men who started out in search of John Ortel, and there is no doubt in his mind that it would have been impossible for Ortel to have reached Pine Lake. Mr. Frommer says that Ortel started out from the Smith & Deming tannery just before one of the heaviest storms which ever visited this section broke loose and started to go to North Branch. Nothing was heard from him and Frommer among others feared for his safety. A searching party made up of Frommer, Bill Skiff now in Blecker, George Gates, also of Blecker, and Philo Smith of Gloversville, who is now dead, started out to locate Ortel a few day later. They went on snow shoes and could make very little progress on account of the heavy fall of snow. They managed to follow tracks made by Ortel for a long distance toward Silver Lake swamp, which indicated that he had gone in that direction and could not possibly have reached Pine Lake, which was in the opposite direction. It would have been beyond the ability of any human being to have reached Pine Lake from Silver Lake swamp during the fearful storm which raged while Ortel was traveling. Ortel new the country well, but the woods laying between Silver Lake and Pine Lake would have baffled any one and would have made it absolutely impossible for Ortel to have reached Pine Lake.

A few years later Frank Copeland and Fulton Baird both of this city found a boot in Silver Lake swamp. They examined the boot and found that it contained a human foot in an advanced state of decay. On it were tw socks. The boot was similar to the one which Ortel had borrowed from Will Caton who worked at the Smith & Deming’s tannery, and it was known that Ortel had worn two pairs of socks. Caton was practically the only one who could have positively identified the boot but he had left the tannery the year before.

Mr. Frommer, who knew Ortel personally and who had a personal knowledge of the circumstances of the case and made a personal investigation, is sure that Ortel could not have reached Pine Lake, and that the finding of the boot on the route he had taken would bear out his theory that the skeleton is not that of John Ortel. Such is also the general opinion in the case.

The other theory, that the skeleton is that of George Bradley does not seem to fit the facts in that case either. While there was a possibility that the bones were those of John Ortel, there is no doubt that they are not those of George Bradley in the mind of his sister, Mrs. Stephen Fuller of Northbush. Her brother, she said last night, was over six feet tall and weighted 175 pounds at the time of his disappearance, while the bones are those of a person of much smaller stature and of slighter physique.

George Bradley was employed at the Ell Kiuneal camp seventeen years ago. He went out hunting in the neighborhood of Arietta one day and that was the last that was seen of him. He was a man about thirty-eight years old and knew the woods well, and it is not considered likely that he went astray in the woods.

With these two possibilities eliminated, the mystery becomes deeper than ever. No one can recall any other person who was reported missing fifteen or more years ago, during which time the bones are supposed to have lain where they were found last week. They are supposed to be the bones of a person about twenty years old and there is no indications as to sex. The entire skeleton was not found so the whole matter is really open to conjecture.

St. Johnsville Enterprise, September 30, 1914: "Improvements at Stewart's Landing: New Dam Has Been Built on Durey Lumber Co.'s Property. Other Improvements:" The Durey Land & Lumber Company has made a number of important changes this year to its property at Stewart's Landing which is the outlet to Canada Lake. A new dam has been built on the site of the old one, with bulkheads four feet higher and a much longer spillway. It is intended to open the gates every spring, just before the ice goes out and let the water out, thus permitting the ice to break up and melt more rapidly.

After the spring freshets the gates will be closed and the dam will be allowed to refill. The water under the new arrangement will be two feet higher than it was before and the channel will be deepened to such an extent as to afford a much easier passage to the main part of the lake. Five of the chain of lakes to which Canada Lake belongs have now been equipped with dams which makes power conditions better at point below the lakes on the East Canada Creek. Many improvements have been made this year to the road from Emmonsburg to Stewart's Landing and the trip to the lake can now be easily made by auto.

1915

St. Johnsville Enterprise, May 24, 1915: "Watt Manufacturing Plant Sold:" The plant of the W. D. Watt Manufacturing company on Helmer avenue was sold at auction yesterday by Sheriff Moon, to satisfy an execution obtained by the National Herkimer County bank of Little Falls. The property was bid in for the bank at \$2,500 by Judge Ward. The purchase includes the manufacturing plant and machinery, and the surrounding land. Formerly the factory was engaged in the manufacture of lumber products, but has been idle lately.

St Johnsville Enterprise, 1915: "Break in Dam Causes Heavy Loss": The section around Pine Lake, northeast of here and one of the feeders of the East Canada Creek, is sticking its head out of the water again, after a flood that lasted for a couple of days. The flood was due to the fact

that the dam gave way and rolled its waters over the nearby territory. A pile of logs 14 feet high held the water in the dam and when the logs tore loose the water tore loose also. It is stated that the dam was 75 feet wide where the break occurred. Six feet of water went over the main highway at the point of the trouble. The damage will be \$3,000. The East Creek Light & Power Company which owns the dam, will have repairs made at once.

[St Johnsville NY Enterprise 1915-1916 00564.pdf](#)

1920

The Canajoharie Courier, May 19, 1920: "Extensive Sale of Timber Land;" The Durey Land and Lumber company, of which Cyrus Durey of Green Lake is head, has sold to Julius Breckwoldt & Co. of Dolgeville, piano manufacturers and general lumber dealers, the standing timber on approximately 3,400 acres of land surrounding several of the northern lakes. This transaction is one of the largest involving property rights that has taken place in Fulton county in several years.

The sawmill, general store, cottage, and other buildings which are a part of the Durey Lumber camp at Green Lake have been leased by the Breckwoldt company. A large quantity of cut timber now at the mill is also included in the transaction, which goes into effect immediately and involves a money consideration of approximately \$200,000.

The land on which this timber stands is in the vicinity of Green, Nine Cornered, Otter, and Pine Lakes and comprises five lots which form a part of the 18,000 acres at one time in the possession of the Durey company. The 3,000 or more acres which figure in the present deal were sold to the state of New York in 1918 and 1919 for forest preserve lands, the Durey company reserving the right to cut and remove the timber on the same. These rights have been disposed of to the Breckwoldt company and continue in effect for four years before the expiration of the period for which they were granted by the state.

The Durey Land and Lumber Co. began the purchase of timber lands in the vicinity of the northern lakes about fifteen years ago, acquiring their first tract under the foreclosure of Alfred Dolge, who was at that time head of the Caroga Land and Lumber company. Later another large tract was purchased from Geo. H. Wheeler, the aggregate holdings of the Durey company at one time amounting to more than 18,000 acres.

Cottage lots along the lake fronts have been disposed of from time to time, while the biggest transfer was that made to the state within the past two years when approximately 3,400 acres were taken over.

The Durey company still has in its possession about 2,000 acres. Consisting principally of cottage lots and a clearing at Pine Lake. These lots are on Pine, Canada and West Lake and also include a number at Wheelerville.

The Durey camp is one of the largest in its section and at times employs as many as a hundred men. Julius Breckwoldt & Co. rank among the leading manufacturers of sounding boards and other pianoforte material and their latest acquisition will give them a supply of raw material...

1922

Gloversville Morning Herald, September 6, 1922: "Canada Lake Organization: Summer Residents Will Make Improvements and Protect Property:" Canada Lake Protective Association completed its organization at the camp of J. H. Reaney on Canada Lake Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The following cottage owners were present: John L. Russell, Anson D. King, John G. McDowell, Burton Snell, Wm. Cunningham, Frank Wands, John K. Adams, James A. Green, Edwin L. Sliter, William H. Faville, J. D. Frederikson, Harry Dawes, Ellery G. Willard, Lester A. Dorn, E. O. Hoffman, William Menge Jr., Walter Menge, Henry I. Patrie, I. J. McGuire, Oscar M. Shannon, A. B. Beekman, James S. Ireland, Paul Bransom, D.P. Webster, Leonard B. Moore, Alfred D. Dennison, J. H. Reaney, James M. Evans, Borden S. Veeder, Charles McKenzie, Arthur L. Granger, Edmund P. Rich, Wesley Maider, Clare V. Dwiggin, Richard M. Evans, Martin Kennedy, Clarence Aaron Smith, H. J. Sanders, Nathan H. Hawley.

Officers were elected as follows: President Richard M. Evans, Johnstown; vice president, Leonard B. Moore, Fort Plain; secretary, Alfred D. Dennison, Johnstown; treasurer, Eberly Hutchinson, Green Lake.

An executive committee for stocking the lake was also appointed. Its members: D. P. Webster, Eberly Hutchinson, Richard Evans, William Faville, Paul Bransom.

The general purposes of the association are the protection and improvement of property about the lake, enforcement of game and other laws and in general all things which will tend to the betterment of conditions on the Canada Lake.

Resolutions were adopted relating to encroachments of water level and consequent damages to property rights, and plans formulated for necessary action in that regard.

Many members who could not be present in person have signified their intention of joining. There are about 150 cottage owners on the several Canada Lake who will cooperate in this necessary movement.

The Canada Lakes are a natural wonderland singularly fortunate in situation and accessibility and noted for the fresh and unspoiled loveliness of its shores. Thousands of transient visitors sense partially the remarkable beauty of the spot which is best appreciated by those who know it thru all its varying moods and forms of beauty have grown to love this romantic Auskerada region as few sections of woodland are known and loved. This is partly due to the fact that until recent years no flooding of the shore line has caused a fringe of unsightly dead trees. The protection of shores and timber from erosion by high water and resulting disfigurement of shore line is one of the chief purposes of the association.

Little Falls Journal and Courier, September 26, 1922: "Wants to Increase Its Power: The Adirondack Power and Light Corporation Buying up Lands:" Recent activities of the Adirondack Power and Light Corporation in buying up parcels of land along the stream of water known as the Big Sprite, are construed as indicating that the company contemplates the construction of

storage dams in that section. The Big Sprite is the outlet of Canada Lake and empties into the East Canada Creek below Emmonsburg. The East Canada creek is the feeder of the Inghams Mills dam, where the power people have a big hydro-electric plant, which is now being added to. Building of storage dams along the Big Sprite would aid in regulating the flow of water into the dam and hence increase the efficiency of the power plant. It is known that the company wants to increase its power facilities and some time ago it negotiated with the city of Little Falls for water rights owned on Spruce creek by that municipality, but could not make a satisfactory deal. Spruce creek is another tributary to the East Canada.

Another phase of the question is the action of cottage owners on Canada Lake in forming what is known as the Canada Lakes Protective Association. Their principal purpose, it is understood, is to have an organization with which to fight the Adirondack Power Corporation in case that concern should undertake to raise the dam at the outlet of the lake and thereby raise the water along the shore line, as a storage plan. Some years ago Alfred Dolge owned much land in that section and established a flow line on the lake shore. Cottagers claim that flow line has already been reached, while the company is to undertake to make an opposite contention. Company surveyor have been at the lake recently, looking into this feature of the argument.

[Little Falls NY Journal Courier 1922-1923 Grayscale - 0301.pdf](#)

1923

The Morning Herald, July 5, 1923: "Power Plant Sprite Creek is Under Way –Adirondack Power and Light Corporation Builds New One—Good Horsepower – Stored Water of Canada Lake to be Be Used to Furnish Great Quantity of Electrical Voltage for District Served by Adirondack West of Amsterdam"

Stewart's Landing on Sprite Creek near the outlet of Canada Lake is the scene of a development enterprise by the Adirondack Power and Light Corporation that is expected by the middle of October to add approximately 6,000 horsepower of electric energy. Until a few years ago the stored water of Canada Lake were used at this point to furnish power for a saw mill belonging to the Durey Lumber Company. This mill was in disuse after the property was purchased by East Creek Light & Power Company, since consolidated with the Adirondack concern.

About five months ago, the present work was begun and has been actively pushed. The new dam, which is being built a short distance downstream from the old one, has a concrete core and an earth fill. The new generating plant will be constructed of tile and will have a 6,000 horsepower wheel and a 7,500 horsepower generating unit. It will be entirely automatic, requiring no operatives. The only attention it will require will be given by the caretaker of the district.

Power House Downstream

The head of water at the dam is 18[?] feet and below the dam the creek describes a semi-circle with a rapid current. The engineers have taken advantage of this to secure added- fall by locating the power house a considerable distance downstream from the dam and at a level 430 feet below it. The pipe line 20,000 feet long connects the dam with the generating station, this pipe line being the chord of the arc described by the stream. It may be pictures as an bow and the pipe line as the string. This pipeline is one of the most interesting features of the development, for it has an inside diameter of 66 inches and for 17,000 feet of the distance is made of wood carried above

ground on cradles made of wood treated to resist decay. These cradles rest on sills also made of treated wood. The line, while not having a uniform grade has no dips, so that it may be emptied by gravity. The remaining 3,000 feet of the pipe is of steel and will be four feet underground or below the frost line of the north country.

At the juncture of the wood and steel pipe there is being erected a surge tank 250 feet high embodying the most modern engineering features. The function of this tank is to act as a cushion for the enormous force of the water. It is difficult for the layman to realize the force of a mass of water five and a half feet in diameter moving at the rate of from 10 to 15 feet a second, but its compressibility is little less than the mass of steel. When the generating plant is shut down the surge tank will ease this terrific impact when a sudden call for power causes the generator to resume it will prevent the formation of a vacuum which would cause the pipe to collapse. The surge tank will be sheathed with

(continued on Page Two.

[Gloversville NY Morning Herald 1923 Grayscale - 1958.pdf](#)

The Fort Plain Standard, August 23, 1923: "Here's a HowdyDo: Local Folks Figure in Caroga Town Assessment Quiz:" Tuesday's Utica Press: Although this officially is "grievance day" when taxpayers of the town of Caroga, Fulton county, may protest to the assessors if they believe the assessors value their property more highly than the owners thereof, fairly large chunks of grief were visible to the naked eye in the vicinity of Pine Lake Monday. Officials of the Adirondack Power & Light Corporation were downcast at first appearance; then mildly incensed.

The assessors seemed to be in the frame of mind of the doughboy, seated at a bridgehead looking across the Rhine at the scenes of the former Kaiser's greatness, when he was willing to tell the worked he "was sitting pretty." Or like the fellow when the phrase was current, who remarked about an anxious customer: "Let hm worry. Let him worry—a lot—an build a house on it."

Just a word about the setting for this hearing which preceded "grievance day." It took place at the home of Ernest Durey, chairman of the board. He lives on the road to Piseco lake, a little past the slightly spot where the Green Lake postoffice nestles in the shadow of Kane mountain on the shore of beautiful Canada Lake. The outlook from the room where the men gathered shortly after 10 o'clock was as lovely as anything that could be depicted on artist's canvas. On the floor was a black bear skin rug. Paneled wood, the walls had a frieze of birchbark that was as "woody" as a view through a grove of birches at sundown.

First on the scene were Darwin P. Webster and Edward Morey, the other two assessors. Next came J.D. Cairns of St. Johnsville, manager in that district for the Adirondack Power & Light Corporation, and Elmer J. West of Glens Falls, vice president of the company. Armed with a portfolio of papers and a roll of government maps, as well as a friendly smile, they were ready for action when the hearing began. Discussion ranged first around the proper designation of the company. At some place in the record it appeared as the "Light & Power Corporation."

That had to be changed. "Power comes first, you know," was the comment. "Have to have the power before you can have the light. It's Adirondack Power & Light Corporation." So having settled that point, Mr. West spread out his papers. Mr. Webster adjusted his cigar, which he had

not lighted, apparently because he did not want to be bothered by the necessity for keeping it going. Mr. Durey smiled benignly. Mr. Cairns poked down the tobacco in his pipe and the session began.

Mr. Morey occupied the chair in the corner and maintained the utmost composure. Asked about it later when the conversation became rather copious, he emulated President Coolidge's wise old owl, with the remark the he'd noticed that if he kept quiet he was likely to learn something.

Mr. Durey intimated that any desiring to be hear could proceed and Mr. West glanced inquiringly toward Mr. Webster as though he would like to know what it was all about.

For the benefit of those who have not had a similar chance to examine the assessment rolls of the town of Caroga, it may be recorded that the A. P. & L. Co. –sounds like a chain store, but it isn't – uses Canada Lake, Green Lake, West Lake, Lily Lake, Irving Pond, Pine Lake and Nine Cornered lake as storage reservoirs for water used in its hydro-electric plants.

Last year the board assessed the property lying in the town at \$45,0000 –this covering the “flowage rights” so called. It developed at the hearing that there is considerable difference of opinion as to what “flowage rights” are anyway.

Well, the company paid the tax on that assessment last year, according to the statements made Monday. This year the assessors figured the company was taking a lot of water out of that town and ought to pay taxes on their flowage rights. That was a new one to Mr. West apparently. He didn't know whether it covered land or water “easements.”

Mr. Webster seemed to be pretty sure the board knew what it covered for he asked Mr. West if the company knew how many cubic feet of water it drew from Canada Lake annually. He didn't and turned to Mr. Cairns, who stared at the end of his pipe for a moment, gazed at the ceiling another and finally said he didn't either.

“Well how about Irving Pond?” No information on that point.

Then Mr. West began asking questions. “Does your board assess leases?” he inquired mildly of Mr. Webster.

“This board isn't under examination,” snapped Mr. Webster.

“I know it isn't; neither are we,” replied Mr. West.

“Yes –I know that too,” was Mr. West's rejoinder. “You come up here today and want this hearing when you know if you come tomorrow you'd be under oath and we could question you,” came back Mr. Webster.

“You needn't yell at me. I can hear you perfectly,” was Mr. West's comment.

“Oh excuse me: sometimes I’m a little of hard of hearing and maybe I talk too loud,” said Mr. Webster, quite unruffled.

Mr. West shuffled his papers around apparently feeling that this line wasn’t getting anywhere and tried another tack.

“What have we been doing up here? There must be something wrong and I’d like to what it is. Our company isn’t in the habit of antagonizing people. What’s the matter, anyhow?”

“Why, I’ll tell you Mr. West,” said Mr. Webster. “Folks around here are sick of having your company come up here and act as though you were the special agents of God Almighty. That’s all.”

“Now Mr. Webster *** “ expostulated Mr. West. But Mr. Webster chewed his cigar and maintained a large silence.

Mr. West went on to say that his company has business in some 101 or 102 tax districts and this was the only instance where it had had any such experience.”

“Are you taxed for flowage rights in any other district?” was the next question from the assessors.

Mr. West said in the town of Hadley, Saratoga county, the company is assessed \$5,000 for an old power site, and \$1,000 he thought in the town of Oppenheim. There followed a lot of bickerings on “flowage rights,” “water rights,” “river rights,” and various other rights –and lefts—which got no where but which turned the clock past 11.

“Well, there, there’s nothing we can do about this,” said Mr. West finally as he began to slip his papers into his brief case, and the assessors allowed that as far they were concerned, they were willing to stand pat. Mr. West said afterward that his company will contest the assessment so it looks like plenty of material for argument while folks are waiting for the mail a Green Lake Post Office.

A.D. Sheffield of Fort Plain and E. W. Ehman of Gloversville, representing the Fulton County Gas & Electric company, appeared to ask about the increase of their assessment from \$9,000 to \$15,000 but did not have any argument. Their rights involve the water of Caroga lake, which is kept at a fairly constant level through the summer the residents say. They said later that no objection to the increase would be filed.

The disagreement between the assessors and the Adirondack Power & Light Corporation over their rights –flowage, river, or water, as the case may be—parallels the growing resentment which has been developing among the owners of cottage property, notably along the shores of Canada Lake since the water level began to vary greatly a few years ago. Last year the Canada Lake Protective Association was formed, representing the owners of shore front property.

The assessors and the officials Monday were no farther apart than high and low water in Canada Lake and that is what makes all the talk so far as the cottagers are concerned. They say the water line goes up and down as much as the waist line in women's fashions. The company claims a right to water up to a certain "red line," which is supposed to be five or six feet above mean low water. Which means what's left when everything possible has been drained out of the lake. Just where that line come no one seems to know definitely definitely, although surveyors have been working this summer to determine the levels.

But the cottagers all claim to know that whereas a boathouse may be a perfectly good boathouse in the spring, in the summer it could make a good place for storing dynamite or anything else that has to be kept dry. Boats are taken out on skids or moored at trestles built out into the lake. There is a variation of between four and give feet in the water level during the summer, they say, and that's what makes them smile sweetly when they hear about the assessors argument with the company. They say they wouldn't mind whether the water was high or low, if it stayed put somewhere. But when they leave the lake for a few days and come back to find the boat aground and the boathouse looking as high as a lighthouse, they rise with one voice and inquire "How come?" So it looks as though the assessors may have started something, although Mr. West's last words were that his company wants to be fair in the matter and would as pleased as the cottagers to know what their rights are.

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1943

Johnstown Leader-Republican, October 6, 1943: "State Seeks to Recover Title to 3.26 Acres of Land from Several Property Owners at Canada Lake: Defendants Claim the Land Under Water and Not Included in Deed:" The action brought by the People of the State of New York in en effort to recover 3.26 acres along the lake front was moved to trial this morning before Supreme Court Justice Daniel F. Imrie of Johnstown. The state contends ownership of the land under a deed granted by the Durey Land & Lumber and filed December 31, 1918.

The present owners are setting up the defense the land was under water and a swamp until reclaimed and that the state did not accept under the old deed any land which was under water at the time.

Several Are Defendants

The case of the state is being presented by J. Taylor, deputy attorney general. The law firm of Dennison & Pulsifer appears for the defendant Viola Gage, while attorneys G.G.W. Green and F. Law Comstock represent Virtus R. and Katherine G. Folmsbee. Attorney A. D. Dennison also appears for the defendants Guy Durey and Ernest L. Luff as executors of the last will and testament of Cyrus Durey, also for Arthur Unger. Katherine Gage is represented by County Judge T. Cuthall Calderwood....

Part of 10,000 Acre Tract

In opening the case, Attorney Taylor set forth the state purchased 10,000 acres of land from the lumber and land company and that the lots sold to the present owners were not under water, therefore were part of the transaction in 1918. He set forth a road ran through part of the land at

the time the deed passed hands and was not under water, also that a building was located on part of the land fronting on the lake.

Attorney Dennison briefly outlined the case for the defense. He set forth the land in question was under water at the time the deed was given by the land and lumber company. He asserted the evidence will be introduced to show all of the land in question was under the water mark as fixed by Federal and State maps in years gone by. He pointed out the level of the lake can be raised and lowered by the New York Power & Light Corporation through control of a dam.

Worth Only \$13 to State

The defense Attorney Dennison contends will show there are only 3.26 acres of land involved and that the injury to the state through the loss of it in the original purchased would be about \$4 an acre or \$13.04. He stressed the fact the present owners have expended thousands of dollars in filling in the land to make it habitable. He also stressed the fact that on tax maps it was recognized by the state as owned by the individuals named as defendants.

William H. Roberts of Albany, land clerk and title custodian, was the first witness to be called. He testified as to the originality of the deed introduced, which was given the land and lumber company to the state in 1918.

Admits Some Water

Albert H. King of Albany, forest engineer and land surveyor, occupied the stand when the court took a recess for the noon hour. He testified as to measurements he made in the vicinity in 1941 and a map he made later. He was being cross examined as to certain lines on the map, when he admitted that before the new highway was constructed, high water from Green Lake could flow over the land owned by the defendants.....

Gloversville Leader Republican, October 7, 1943: "Witnesses Swear Land in Suit Was Inundated: Hutchinson and Durey Say Land State Seeks was All Under Water:" Evidence dating back to years prior to 1918, and since that time, to show land along the shore of Green Bay on Canada Lake was under water was introduced today in the ejectment action brought by the State of New York against various land owners at the lake. The case opened yesterday before Supreme Court Justice Daniel F. Imrie of Johnstown. The case of the plaintiff was brought to a close late yesterday afternoon and the defense was being presented today.

The defendant land owners include Viola Gage, Virtus R. and Katherine G. Folmsbee, Katherine A. Gage, Arthur Unger, also Guy Durey and Ernest L. Luff as executors of the estate of the late Cyrus Durey.

Hutchinson on Stand

The state in 1918 purchased 10,000 acres of land from the Durey Land & Lumber company for \$4 per acre and contends the land along the lake front was included. The defense sets up the contention the land along the lake was not included because it sets forth in the deed the state did not include in the deal any land under water.

Former Assemblyman Eberly Hutchinson of Green Lake was the initial witness to be called on the stand this morning. He related that he worked with the late Burt Z. Kasson in rebuilding the town highway across the land. He testified it was necessary to rip out an old corduroy road built across the swamp there, also that there was water over the land just west of the highway, as well as to the east of it.

The witness told of water lines established by Mr. Kasson back in 1914. He said the high water level was 1553.38 and on the day they were working in August, 1914 the water level was 1541.35 and the highest level of the road was established at 1544.30. He told how the water flowed up to the highway and over the land east of the road.

Durey Substantiates

Guy Durey was the next witness. He told how a house was located on a small piece of ground just west of the highway below the highway bridge and that it had been occupied for years prior to the sale of the land to the state. He said the house was built there in 1912 and was occupied for a number of years by William Hunter, who worked in the mill and on the highway. He told how the land to the east of the highway near Green Lake was covered with water the greater part of the year and was swampy at other times.

Jacob Unger, 78, of Caroga Lake, was another witness called. He related how his son, Arthur Unger, purchased a piece of ground on Green Lake which was under water and it took about 300 yards of dirt to fill it. He testified it was largely muck and some holes were so deep it took from two to three loads to fill them. Arthur Unger told substantially the same story as his father.

Mrs. Viola Gage, sister of the late Cyrus Durey, was also called as a witness. She related how she took up her residence at the lake in 1918 and went to live in the house near Green Lake a short time afterwards. She told how her brother turned over to her the land now being sought by the state. She insisted it was all under water and worthless at the time she came in control of it, but by filling it in with gravel and dirt new lots were created.

She was still on the stand when court adjourned for the noon recess.

Gloversville and Johnstown Morning Herald, January 9, 1947: "Justice Reserves Decision on Motions in Land Action:" The plaintiff's case in the action brought by the State of New York against several defendants to recover possession of lands at Canada Lake, was rested yesterday afternoon at 3:40 in Supreme Court, after which Justice Willard L. Best reserved decision on motions to dismiss the complaint which were made by defense counsel.

The actions, listed, 1,2,3,4, and 5 on the preferred calendar, are being retried before Justice Best and a jury. In a previous trial, the jurors brought in verdicts of no cause of action. The verdict was ordered set aside when the State carried an appeal to a higher court and a new trial was ordered....

1965

Gloversville Leader-Herald, September 28, 1965: "Canada Lakes Unit Approves Buying of 6-Acre Tract of Land for Dam Construction:" Purchase of a 6-acre tract of land at the outlet of Lily Lake for the construction of a dam to maintain the level of the lakes in the area was authorized Saturday night at a special meeting of the directors of the Canada Lakes Protective Association.

The land was once deeded by the late Cyrus Durey to the former Adirondack Light and Power Corporation who specified in the deed it was to be used only for the purpose of a dam, according to information disclosed at the meeting at the Wheelerville School.

It was reported that at one time a dirt and rock fill dam at the outlet was given the name of the "Indian Dam." According to legend, it was reported, the dam was started by Indians in the area.

The motion to purchase the land was made by Jerry Theisen, junior president of the association, and was unanimously adopted after some discussion.

John Ryan and William Bates both of Gloversville who worked with Theisen since August on the water ways committee, explained the work done to date and the possibility for a dam at the lake outlet which would maintain the level of Canada, Green, and Lily Lakes.

It was noted that through the purchase of the land, the association can eventually construct a 4-foot dam about 1,300 feet long which would maintain the level of the lakes. The association, it was explained, then would not have to depend on the Stewart Landing 40-foot dam to maintain the water level.

A second motion was adopted by the directors requesting the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation that in the eventual sale of the land from the Sprite Creek powerhouse to Lily Lake and including the Stewart Landing Dam, that provision be made in the deed that the Canada Lake water level be maintained.

The resolution asks that from May 15 to Sept. 15 each year, that a maximum of 1545 and a low of 1,541 be maintained and an average of 1543 feet above sea level as the best for the summer season.....