

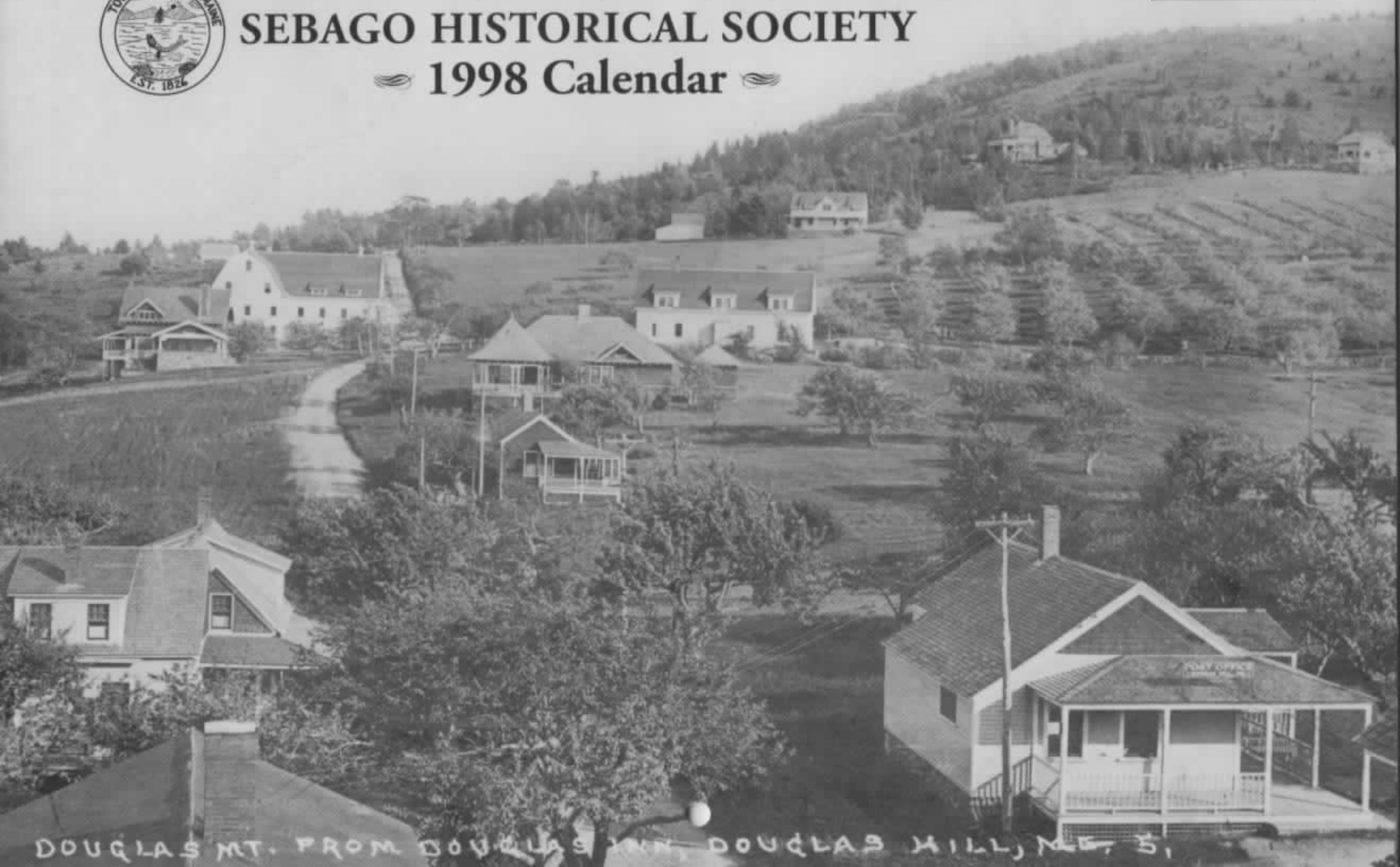
HOTELS OF SEBAGO

presented by



SEBAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1998 Calendar



DOUGLAS MT. FROM DOUGLAS INN, DOUGLAS HILL, ME. S.

Introduction

The Calendar Committee wishes to thank everyone who made this calendar possible.

A point of interest in introducing this Historical Society Calendar for 1998 on old hotels and boarding houses in Sebago: The theme of the graduating class of Potter Academy in 1925 was to "Boost Maine." One graduate, Merle Douglass, noted that there were possibly 500 hotels and unnumberable boarding houses in Maine. Now, 72 years later, his daughters in researching the number of hotels and boarding houses in Sebago, have come to the conclusion that most of them were in Sebago! —Lucretia Douglas

Smaller Boarding Houses

Anderson's Cabins were built in the 1940's in an area between Route 114 and Jim Shaw Hill Road in North Sebago. These were operated by Harold (Chub) and Marion Anderson and later sold to Robert Anderson (no relation.) The cabins operated until 1993, when they were purchased by the North Sebago Sebago Methodist Church to make way for a parking lot. Two cabins still remain.

Anderson's Summer Resort was located on the Anderson Cove Road in North Sebago. It was owned and operated by George and Fannie Anderson. This burned in 1917. Little is known about the operation of this resort, however one story remains...George Anderson Senior had two brothers. The three were separated at a young age, George remaining in North Sebago, one moving to Massachusetts and another to Connecticut. Years later a boarder from Massachusetts discovered that George was her long lost uncle. A house was rebuilt on the same site and is now the home of Kevin and Patricia Fahy.



fire...one in 1940 and another in 1947. Mr. and Mrs. Bachelder's third home is now owned by Harold Butler; he lives in one of the cottages. The other cottages were sold to Phil Farren and are now operating as Yankee Doodle Cabins.

Blackwood Cottages, formally called **Bachelder Cottages**, was operated by William and Gladys Bachelder. These cottages are located along Route 114 in North Sebago. The first property was purchased from Hant Bachelder in the 1920's and cottages were built in the 1940's. Two of the main houses were lost to

In North Sebago, on a hill overlooking Sebago Lake, is the Osborn Shaw farm which was later owned by Elmer and Dorothy Shaw. For many years they operated a boarding house called **Lakeview Farm**. It was well known for its delicious breakfasts and Sunday dinners which were served family style. The property is now owned by Grosvenor and Wendy Newcomb.



Laughing Loon Lodge was located in North Sebago and operated by Walter and Isabelle Paine during the years 1947-1961. The main house which housed the kitchen, dining room and gift shop was called Norbago. This is now the home of Elizabeth Sawyer. The cottages, along the shore of Sebago Lake were named Bluebird, Oriole, and Stillwaters. Guests were taken through advance reservations. These cottages still remain and are privately owned.



The Rosie Bachelder home in North Sebago was operated from 1910-1914 as a boarding house. It was run by her daughter-in-laws Irma and Mame Bachelder, and was the home of Percy and Irma Bachelder for many years. It is now owned by Nancy Anderson.

Hillside Farm was located in the Hillside section of Sebago. This was owned and operated by Howard and Lucy Irish. Boarders were taken in from the 1880's through the 1940's. Many of their boarders were boys who came from out of state, along with their athletic director. They remained there the entire summer. A rule of the house was NO LIQUOR. On one occasion this rule was not honored and the guests were told to leave the following morning. The farm was later owned by their son Harry Irish. It burned in 1974. Harry, age 102, presently lives on this sight.



Lakeside Cottage was operated by Joseph H. and Carrie Bachelder. He was better known as Uncle Hant. This was a very successful boarding business, taking in guests from many different states. This business operated during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Lakeside Cottage was located in North Sebago and is now the home of William and Yvonne Nason

Maylon Manor was operated by Harold and Muriel Butler in the late 1940's and early 1950's. The majority of guests came from the overflow of West Shore Hotel. Meals were served at the Manor. It was remembered by Mr. Butler that there were a few celebrities and musicians as guests. In 1996 the town purchased the property and the buildings were moved. It is presently the location of the Sebago Town Common.

The Nason's Camps were located along both sides of Route 114 in North Sebago. They were operated by Will and Evie Nason. These cottages were built over a period of several years. Many were two stories and all had fireplaces. The family story is that every time there was a new baby, another camp was built. There were nine children. Robert, one of Will and Evie's sons, lives in the Nason Homestead by Sebago Lake. Many of the cottages are owned privately.

*Henry Mollenhauer bought the former J.A. Bennett Cottage on Hancock Pond. He built several summer cottages to rent and later sold to George and Anna Pickering. They added more cottages and operated under the name of **Pickerings Camps and Cottages** from 1955 until closing in 1987. The main house and cottages are now owned by private parties.*

Sebago Lake Camps were built in 1924 by Clarence and Ethel Nason Chute, and have been in continuous operation since. At the time Bob Nelson purchased the property in 1945 there were twelve cabins. In 1974 these were sold to his son and daughter-in-law. Ray and Fran Nelson added four more cabins. In 1996 their son Ray and his wife Cheryl purchased the property, making this the third generation of Nelsons to operate these cabins in North Sebago.



One of the oldest camp buildings on Sebago Lake built in 1892 by Ed Gilman, a famous old Maine Guide, sported a big sign "The Friendly Inn" —the scene of many friendly and convivial parties in the past, but hardly could be classed as an inn.

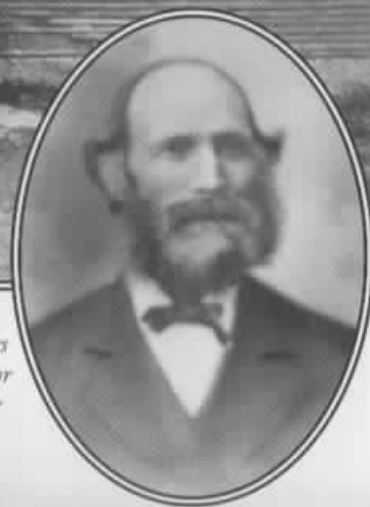
POINTS TO PONDER (answers found on ad pages)
Which business is still in operation after 73 continuous years?

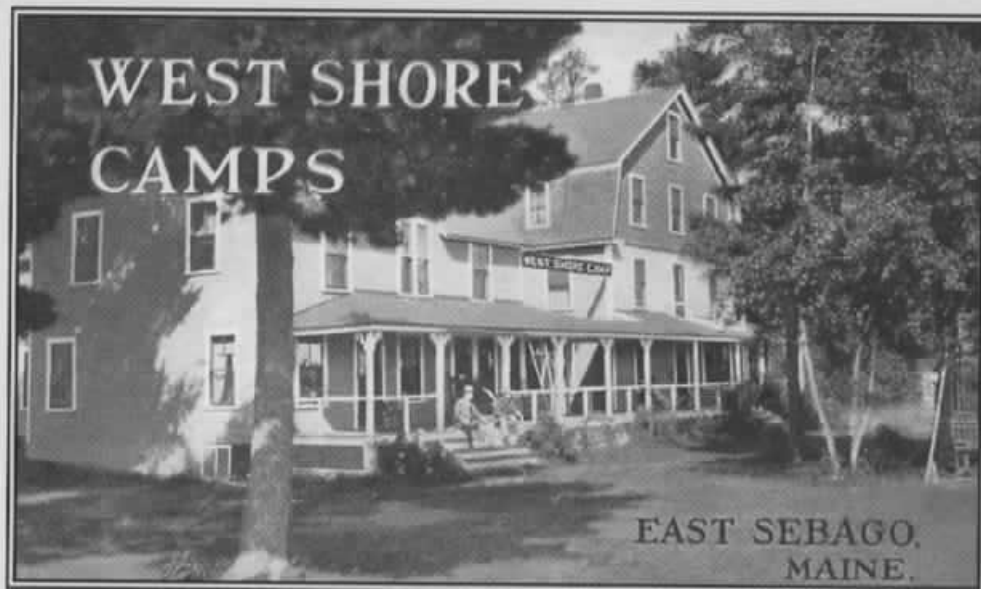
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The 1999 Sebago Historical Calendar will be on area post offices.



SEBAGO
HOUSE.
N. WIGHT.

The Sebago House was built in 1848 by Jeremiah Decker (photo on right.) It was the only known tavern in Sebago. There was an upstairs dance hall with a raised platform in the middle for the fiddlers, and a front room bar. Down cellar was a mysterious locked up room. The first proprietor was J. Rowe, then N. Wright. Arthur Dyer bought it from John MacDonald in 1865. He left it to his daughter Ada Dyer, and she, in turn left it to her niece, Leona Dyer Greene who lives there today. Picture taken in 1891. Left to Right: Ada Walker, M. Alice Dyer, Ada Dyer, Arthur Dyer, Sr., Alice Dyer, N. Edna Dyer, Cora Kelly, Emma Kelly, dog Fido, and Arthur E. Dyer.





View in front of West Shore Camp



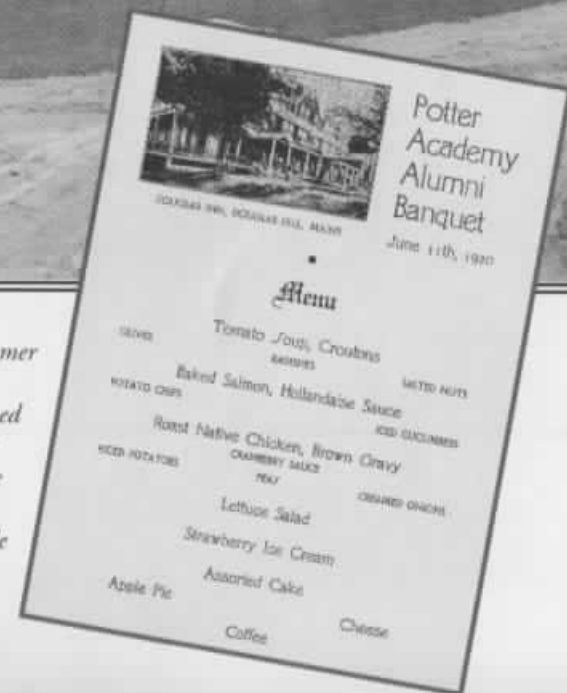
*Maine Guide Frank Sawyer(left),
Tom N. Willins, Jr.(boy) and Thomas N. Willins*

West Shore Hotel - With the coming of the automobile Anson L. Brackett (1854-1937) shut down his blacksmith shop in East Sebago and opened a camp for vacationers and fishermen on the West Shore of Sebago Lake with the help of his second wife Ann (Pet) Harmon Brackett. In 1922 he sold the camp to Frank and Ruby Kernan of Rhode Island, they named it the West Shore Hotel—also known, as Kernan's, it operated into the late 1960's. Now divided into two private summer homes; David and Jean Bailey of Buffalo, New York, and Michele Cummings of Portland, Maine.





Douglas Inn - In 1878 Stephen P. Douglas opened up his farm home to summer boarders. This house was located where the Jones Museum now stands and it burned August 30, 1928. In 1903 Stephen Douglas' son Edward S. Douglas built the renowned Douglas Inn, a short distance below his father's farmhouse and operated it for 25 years until it burned August 28 in a fire of suspicious origin. Ed, his wife Vesta Chadbourne Douglas, and daughter Helen barely escaped with their lives. Later Ed Douglas set out the Douglas Orchards. Vesta died in 1933. In 1943 Ed married a second time, Maude Hutchins, they both died in 1945. During the summer months water from a big reservoir on Decker Mt. was pumped through a large pipe by a big gasoline engine nearly a mile into a cistern on the side of Douglas Mountain.



Lakecroft Inn



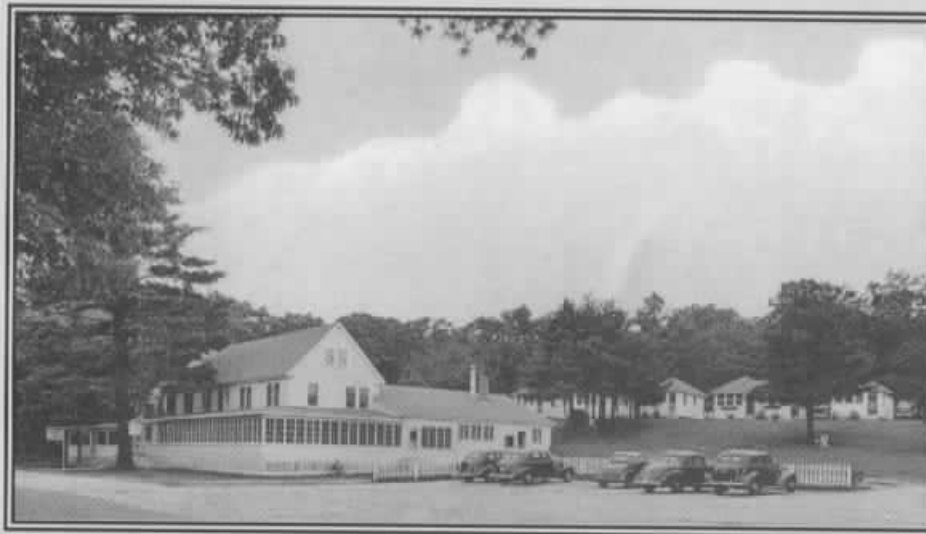
Frank and Ethel Goodwin



Mabel Washburn, Ola Burnell and George Mullen—July 1920

The Lakecroft Inn was operated during the early 1900's by Charles and Mabel Washburn. In 1921 Charles Washburn went to Texas and never came back. Mabel Washburn sold the lodge to the late Frank and Ethel Goodwin in the mid 1930's. It no longer operates as a lodge but will feature Sunday Brunch under the management of their grandson Richard Merritt, in 1997.

Goodwin's Inn





Twin Lake House

Charles Hunt and his wife Annie Douglas Hunt owned and operated the Twin Lake House from the year they were married, 1905 until her death in 1933. Many guests came by train—they came to Hiram Station, or Bridgton Junction, then took the narrow gauge train to Twin Lake Station on Barker Pond and rode in a wagon up the hill to Twin Lake House. Later they came by car. Twin Lake House burned in August, 1940. Then it was owned by B. F. Harrington of Wellesley, Mass. The fire started in the barn. The old Twin Lake Station now forms part of Kenneth and Dorothy Douglas' shop, and his home is built on the spot where the Twin Lake House stood.



The Blake House was located in the center of East Sebago, behind LaGrove Sanborn's store and post office. It was owned and operated by Henry Blake and his wife Jennie White Blake and did a thriving business during the early 1900's. They had so many boarders that they built several small camps across the road by the tennis court and more by the barn. Henry died suddenly in the late 1920's and Jennie continued to operate it for sometime afterwards. It is now the private home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kolezynski.

The Beeches is located in the Long Beach section of Sebago. It was started in 1930 by K.C. Helmold. In its early years the main lodge featured a dining room with all home cooked food. The cabins offered the best of beds, fireplaces and hot showers. Entertainment consisted of swimming from a beautiful beach, boating, fishing, ping pong, shuffleboard, horseshoes and a ten mile trek through the woods behind the cabins. The Beeches was sold to Lionel and Nancy Trudeau, then in 1975 it was purchased by Ed and Carole Woodman. The main lodge burned in 1979. A new building was built and operated as a pub, later being remodeled into a restaurant. Steve and Sharon Bernier purchased the property in 1995. The cabins and restaurant are still in operation. ➤





The Williams Cottage on Douglas Hill

The home of Azariah Boody Chadbourne and his wife Nellie Ellen Wakefield Goodman and their children: Abbie m. James F. Williams, Edna m. Ralph MacDonald, and Vesta m. Edward Stephen Douglas. The home was given to Abbie on the death of her father in 1897. Abbie married James F. Williams in 1898. Several additions were made to the original house.

The house burned in 1923. James Williams built a home on this site in 1927. It is now the home of Herbert and Gladys Lehmann. (Chadbourne Genealogy, 1994)

Chadbourne Cottage on Douglas Hill

Nathan and Mary Douglass Chadbourne opened their home "The Mountain View House" later called "The Chadbourne Cottage," to summer boarders in 1877. It is believed to be the first boarding home for summer visitors on Douglas Hill. In the mid 1880's their son, James and his wife Edith Douglas Chadbourne, returned to Douglas Hill to help his parents run the farm and the boarding house.

The structure was struck by lightning in June, 1953 and was completely destroyed. The home of James and Bonnie Snow, great grandson of Nathan Chadbourne, now stands on this site.





Dyke Mountain Farm - Oliver D. Dike started a summer hotel in his large Dyke Mountain Farm in the late 1800's. He was assisted by his daughter Grace, who inherited the farm at his death in 1905. She changed the name to "Dyke" Mountain Farm, built up a big business with 175 steady boarders. (photo: Miss Grace, upper right, and some "able girls") They raised most of their meat and vegetables. Guests also stayed in the annex, a guest house across the road. Oliver's brother Kimball J. Dike lived in a farm house below the inn, later home of Clara Dike. A letter from Edna (Mrs. Fred) Hartford (both worked at the inn) lists some of the local people who worked there: Sam and Israel Chessey, Edson Brown, Charlotte Chase, Etta Riley, Maude Hutchins, Mildred Pendexter and Lindora Lewis to name a few. Dyke Mountain Farm burned September 11, 1927, cause believed to be spontaneous combustion from hay. Estimated loss was \$50,000. In 1934 Theodore Johnson of Deering High School formed a ski club, then purchased Clara Dike's house for headquarters and also used the log cabin for sleeping. Later the property was purchased by D. Kilton Andrews (photo: Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, 1970) and is now owned by his daughter Martha and her husband Dr. Robert (Bob) Timothy, they have remodeled it into their retirement home.



Sunset Villa - was located in the Hillside section of Sebago. The house was purchased by Lewis (Archie) and Maude Dolloff around 1900 and remodeled for use as a boarding house. Meals consisted of home grown vegetables and the orchard hosted twenty six varieties of apples. The traditional 4th of July meal served was baked salmon from Sebago Lake, new grown peas, mashed potato and watermelon. In August of 1909, boarders had to be sent home early, as daughter Marion was born. Maude died in 1926 and Archie resided there until his death in 1948. The house was later torn down and a cottage built over the old cellar. This is now owned by Brian Grady.

Elm Cottage - was built on the Ridge Road, now called the Hancock Pond Road, in 1817 by Captain Babb. It was remodeled several times and later operated as a boarding house by James Calvin Babb. A guest house was later built across the road, this being called Idlewhile. The guests mostly came by narrow gauge to the West Sebago Station at Hancock Pond. Here they were picked up by horse and carriage.

Board and room at this time was \$6.00 per week. Idlewhile was torn down, but Elm Cottage still remains and is owned by Joanne Chessey. ➤





Ward's Hotel - was located in North Sebago on the Anderson Road, where Frank Russo's home is today. Albion King Paris Ward (photo at right) and his wife Sophronia Dyer Libby operated the hotel until her death in 1883. The story is that Mr. Ward had severe depression after the death of his wife and burned down the hotel. He was a son of George Ward, the first settler in North Sebago, who came from Scarboro in 1838. A.K.P. Ward married a second time, Mrs. Sadie Treadwell, and died in 1908.



Dorothy and Virial Good, 1997

Fitt's House

Mr. and Mrs. Fitt's ran the Fitt's House at Long Beach. They were the parents of Eda (Mrs. Leon Brown.) In 1947 Vinal and Dorothy Good bought the former boarding house and have made it their home for 50 years. Mr. Good was Speaker of the House in the Maine Legislature for many years and is one of Sebago's distinguished lawyers. ➤





Sokokis Castle - on Sanborns Point often referred to as Lone Pine Point was the home of the Half Past Six club, a group of business men and sportsmen from Portland. Here it was—so it is said—that Spider Island changed ownership in a poker game. Here, too, the entire Boston Red Sox ball team came and had their dinner at Mabel Washburn's Lakecroft Inn. They requested Boston baked beans and homemade pie. It is now the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred O. MacFee, Jr.



Photo at left shows Sokokis Castle as it appears today.

The Round Table Lodge - formerly the Liberty Camp located in North Sebago was operated for many years by Clarence and Etta Burnell. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Sloan. ➤





Douglas Inn Annex

The Douglas Inn Annex opened June 22, 1930 under the management of Orville B. Denison of Massachusetts, the former Livermore Cottage escaped the fire that destroyed the original Douglas Inn in 1928 formed the base of the annex. A kitchen and dining room were added as well as a new lobby and gigantic stone fireplace. Many local people worked at the annex until it was demolished in the '50's.



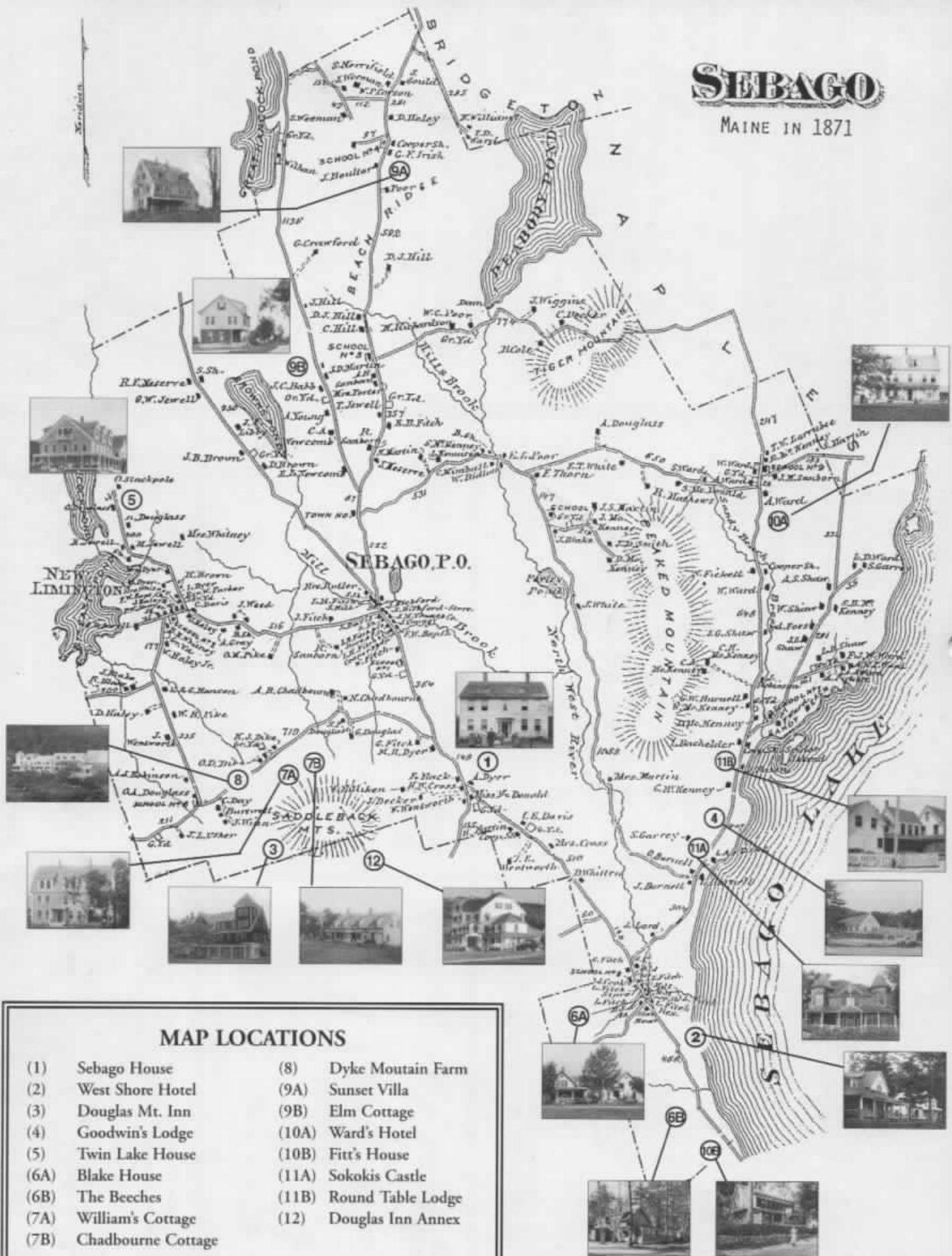
Staff Photo: those known, left to right, Lucretia Decker, Bessie Cushman and Edna Pendexter; far right, Cressie Pendexter Pratt.



Phot at right: Louise Snow Cummings, 1946

SEBAGO

MAINE IN 1871



MAP LOCATIONS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Sebago House | (8) Dyke Mountain Farm |
| (2) West Shore Hotel | (9A) Sunset Villa |
| (3) Douglas Mt. Inn | (9B) Elm Cottage |
| (4) Goodwin's Lodge | (10A) Ward's Hotel |
| (5) Twin Lake House | (10B) Fitt's House |
| (6A) Blake House | (11A) Sokokis Castle |
| (6B) The Beeches | (11B) Round Table Lodge |
| (7A) William's Cottage | (12) Douglas Inn Annex |
| (7B) Chadbourne Cottage | |