

Memoirs from Eldred, New York, 1800–1950

Book 2

Echo Hill and Mountain Grove

Stories of Families and Boarding Houses in the Town of Highland, New York 1880–1920



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Stories of Families and Boarding Houses
in the Town of Highland, New York

1880-1920

Louise Elizabeth Smith

HALFWAY BROOK

SUMMER HOMES
AND RAMBLES
ALONG THE

ERIE

RAILWAY

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Dedicated To:

Mary Briggs Austin

Melva Austin Barney

Cynthia Leavenworth Bellinger

Other Austin and Leavenworth relatives who preserved family histories

*The many people of the Town of Highland
who have graciously shared their information and photos of the area,
thereby making it possible for this book to be written
to honor the memory of my Austin grandparents,
Charles Mortimer Austin and Jennie Louisa Leavenworth*

To Everything There is a Season

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.—*Ecclesiastes 3:1–14*

Chapter 3

Picturesque Highlands

Boarding Houses of Highland, 1880s

Shohola, Pennsylvania, on the banks of the Delaware, 1,000 feet above the sea, is the station from which a picturesque portion of Sullivan County, in the vicinity of Eldred—among the Sullivan highlands and lakes—is reached by an enjoyable drive of five miles.

Nine mountain lakes reached easily, the farthest being six miles distant. Hagan, Hagai, Big, Montgomery, Sand, and York, in Sullivan County are all stocked with bass and pickerel.—Summer Homes and Rambles on the Picturesque Erie, N.Y., L.E. & W.R.R., May, 1886.



The railroad bridge across Shohola Creek.
Photo: Jack E. Boucher; Library of Congress:
HAER PA.52-SHOH.1-1.

Summer visitors to Sullivan County's picturesque Town of Highland arrived at the Shohola Railway Station, across the Delaware River and opposite Barryville.

The New York, Erie and Western Railroad Company (which became Erie Railroad in 1895) published booklets in the 1880s encouraging vacationers, sportsmen, and New York City businessmen with their families, to travel their railroad to locations along the Delaware River, in New York and Pennsylvania.

The Delaware Highlands

Homes and hotels along the Delaware River were featured in the *Delaware Highlands* Section of the Erie Railroad's brochures which described the places as: *a romantic village; the finest mountain scenery of the Delaware Valley; picturesque mountain scenery; ponds and streams, ravines and glens in profusion; picturesque in the extreme; or provides delightful rambles.*

Highland's summer homes were mainly in one of four places: close

to a group of ponds on its east side; near a cluster of lakes and ponds on the west side; near the center of Eldred; or near Barryville on the Delaware River.

To the east of Eldred were Hagan, Sand, Round, and Haggai (Loch Ada) Ponds; some of them bordered on or were in Lumberland. We'll visit that area later in this chapter.

Washington, Montgomery and Little (Bodine) Lakes, and Beaver Brook Mill and Schumacher Ponds were close to Yulan on the west side of Highland near the Town of Tusten.

Washington Lake (perhaps the Big Lake referred to in the Erie brochure), was the larger lake shaped like a fish. Beers 1870 map shows the Gallaghers east of the lake, the Tether and Owen families near the southern tip of the tail, and the West family to the west, near Beaver Brook Mill Pond.

Montgomery Lake, south of Washington Lake, was a natural pond fed by ice cold springs. It was 50 feet deep, full of bass, and ran into Little Pond.



Schumacher's Pond near Yulan, New York, was a section of Beaver Brook that Mr. Schumacher dammed up. Postcard courtesy of Kevin Marrinan.

Little Pond, or Bodine Lake, was a natural lake which Justin Bodine stocked with pickerel, bass, perch, and other fish.

A story is told that during the winters in the late 1800s, the men would place a small pine tree in Bodine Lake and make bets as to what day the tree would fall through the ice.

Beaver Brook flowed from the Town of Tusten on the west of Highland into the long, thin Beaver Brook Mill Pond. Beaver Brook Bridge was nearby.

Beaver Brook flowed out of the Mill Pond, headed south running through Schumacher Pond, and ended southeast of York Pond between Minisink Ford and Barryville where it spilled into the Delaware River.

Schumacher Pond was a section of Beaver Brook that Mr. Schumacher dammed up. One story said that at one time there was coal on Schumacher Pond Road. It was hand dug from pits 20 to 30 feet deep.

Blind Pond was less than 2

miles northwest of Washington Lake. Blind Pond Brook flowed out of the pond through or near the Clark and Sergeant properties, then slowed down as it went through Beaver Swamp, not far from the Leavenworth homestead.

Beaver Swamp

Many of the names of the area's landmarks had "beaver" in them because they were so prevalent.

As far as I know, Beaver Swamp has been here long before



Beaver Brook Bridge in Yulan, New York. Photo courtesy of Kevin Marrinan.

Families who Lived near Blind Pond Brook, 1880s

Several of the families we met in *The Mill on Halfway Brook*, lived in the northwest area of the Town of Highland, close to Blind Pond Brook.

In 1880 George and William Bunce, bachelor farmers and the last of the Bunce family in the area, still lived northeast of Blind Pond. George died in 1885, and that is all that is known of the Bunce family in Eldred.

The Ed Wilson family lived south of the Bunce brothers. Charles Wilson had or would have a sawmill. He married Christina Mills in 1886. William H. Wilson would also marry a local girl and have Wilson's Store.

You may remember Wilmot and Mary Van Auken Clark who lived just southeast of Blind Pond, and west of the Wilson family. Descendants of their sons Irvin and George Clark are part of this story.

Irvin and Laura Austin Clark had 3 sons: Ellsworth, Elbert, and Robert.

George and Harriet Clark had 9 children. Four of them are a part of this story: Martin Dominick Clark, George Malcome Clark, Clarissa Clark, and Ella Clark.

Martin Dominick and Mary Costello Clark's son George James Clark was born in New York City in 1885. He would fight in WWI.

George Malcome and Elizabeth Hoatson Clark's daughter Georgia would be a teacher in Eldred.

Clarissa Clark would marry Frank Roberts Sergeant. Their daughter would marry a son of Sherman S. Leavenworth. Ella Clark and her second husband Myron Howe would move to Massachusetts, where she would later care for her niece.

Some descendants of Rev. Isaac Sergeant (who had started what became the Congregational Church in Eldred) lived on the southwest side of Blind Pond Brook.

In 1880 Alvah and Phebe Owen Sergeant's sons Morgan and Alvah T. were still at home with them. Their son Frank R. Sergeant boarded with



The Charles Eldred Kyte Family in Rock Island County, Illinois, in 1892. Left to right: Charles Eldred, Lena Leota, Charles Colony, John Felix, and Sarah Viola Crouch Kyte. Photo courtesy of Barbara Wilkinson.

his sister Jane Livingston's family.

Alvah Sergeant had been a deacon in the Congregational Church for 13 years. Alvah's parents Ethel and Lettie Gardner Sergeant lived next door to them. Ethel and Lettie's children: Isaac Sergeant, 46, a carpenter and Caroline Sergeant, 27, a dressmaker; and grandson James W. Sergeant, lived with them in 1880.

The homestead of Rev. Felix Kyte (pastor of the Eldred Congregational Church from 1832–1878) was near Blind Pond Brook, but closer to Clark Road. Felix's widow Eliza Greiger Kyte lived with her son William, his second wife Mary Alice Whitney, and their young children, Herbert, Mary Alice, and Felix J. Kyte. Aida Austin talks about Mary A. Kyte (Wormuth) in her 1940 Diary, in Book 3 of this series.

Felix and Eliza Kyte's son, Charles Eldred Kyte (most likely named after Charles C.P. Eldred), and his wife Sarah Crouch lived in Illinois.

They had a son Charles Colony Kyte. Charles Eldred Kyte had been slightly wounded in the Civil War. He and his friend Corporal John Colony had made a pact to name one of their children after each other. John D. Colony had named one of his sons, Charles Kyte Colony. ✍️



Waterwheel on Kyte property near Blind Pond Brook. Photo courtesy of Chuck Myers.

Erie Train Stations Near the Delaware River

Excursion tickets were valid for continuous passage either going or returning on the date of issue or anytime within the next 30 days.

Package tickets of 10, 20, or 25 were good for either direction until used.

Commutation tickets were valid for continuous passage between the stations named on the tickets, if the train stopped at said station. The limit was 60 rides between the stations during the month named on the ticket. *LA*



Trains brought vacationers from New York City to scenic locations near the Delaware River. Photo from the Defeo Collection, courtesy of Kevin Marrinan.

Miles from New York City

Callicoon, New York	136	Lordville, New York	153-1/2
Cochecton, New York	130-3/4	Middletown, New York	67
Deposit, New York	177	Narrowsburg, New York	122-1/4
Goshen, New York	59-3/4	Parkers Glen, Pennsylvania	102-1/4
Hancock, New York	163-3/4	Paterson, New Jersey	16-3/4
Hankins, New York	143	Pond Eddy, Pennsylvania	99
Hawley, Pennsylvania	127	Port Jervis, New York	88-1/4
Honesdale, Pennsylvania	136	Shohola, Pennsylvania	107
Lackwaxen, Pennsylvania	111	Sparrowbush, New York	90-3/4
Long Eddy, New York	146-3/4	Tuxedo, New York	38-1/2



Erie Depot and Hotel Oakland in Narrowsburg, New York. Postcard courtesy of Mary Briggs Austin.

white men ever settled here. I know this because where Goldie Leavenworth's house is now, there was an old house there before. They dug down 7 feet for the foundation and found fresh beaver wood preserved in the muck.

It would have made an ideal location for the lumber company to set up a mill—which they did behind the Leavenworth homestead. Besides, it also made it convenient to float logs as was often done back in those times.

Much of this existing Beaver Dam is made of stone, which probably means that at one point man had a hand in it—meaning repairing it. The beavers were trapped out many times. They had to find their own way downstream and to the dam.
—Norman Bohs.

The Leavenworth Homestead

It is not known when the Leavenworth homestead became a boarding house called Echo Hill Farm House. Perhaps because it was a smaller home, it was advertised more by word of mouth.

Echo Hill Farm House, once a bunkhouse for lumberjacks near the sawmill on Blind Pond Brook, was where Sherman Buckley and his wife Charlotte Ingram lived.

By 1880 there was a two-story house which seems to have been attached to the original one-story cabin. In 1880 Libby Owen (*photo p. 447*) was listed as a servant.

Buckley had farmed some 250 acres of land for about 30 years, and still used the sawmill powered by Blind Pond Brook.

Two of the four trees which had been planted during the Civil War for the Leavenworth sons—Hezekiah, Atwell, Sherman S. and John—had been growing close to 20 years. Atwell and Hezekiah

had died near the end of the war, and two of the trees had been cut down.

Sherman S., John E., and Harriet Palmer were the only three of Buckley and Charlotte Leavenworth's nine children still living.

Henry and Harriet Palmer

Henry and Harriet Palmer and their 3 children lived in Port Jervis in 1880. Henry ran a wood yard; Harry clerked in the grocery store; Edith taught school (as had Harriet at one time); and James, the youngest, attended school.

Sherman and Maria Leavenworth

Sherman S. Leavenworth and his wife Maria Myers had lived with Buckley and Charlotte probably since their marriage in December 1874. At the beginning of 1882, Sherman and Maria had 3 children: Anna Mae, 6, Truman Ellis, 3, and my grandmother, Jennie Louisa, almost 2.

John Ellis Leavenworth

In 1867 at age 16, John Ellis Leavenworth had left Eldred (called Halfway Brook Village at the time).

I believe that I read that John Leavenworth wanted to enlist as a flag bearer in the war, but was rejected as too young. My impression is that he did not serve

and that he was exhorted in the letters to stay home and get the spring crops in.—Gerald Koenig.

John served in the Army of the West with Custer after the Civil War, according to his great-nephew, Robert C. Austin. John then mined in Colorado.

Charlotte Leavenworth Dies

The first week of June 1882, Charlotte Ingram Leavenworth died. Perhaps her son John returned from mining in Colorado for her funeral.

James Garfield Leavenworth Born

Sherman and Maria Myers Leavenworth's son James Garfield Leavenworth was born June 22, 1882. Garfield, as he came to be called, would grow to be at least 6 foot 6 inches tall. Most likely the new little one was named for the president who had died in 1881.

John Leavenworth Marries Anna Amelia Bradley

In August 1882 John E. Leavenworth married the girl next door, Anna Amelia Bradley, at Barryville. Rev. M.S. Lambert was the preacher.

Hazel Leavenworth, my mother, said he came back to Eldred to marry with a lot of gold from his mining activities.—Gerald Koenig.



John Ellis Leavenworth, son of Sherman B. and Charlotte Leavenworth. Photo courtesy of his grandson, Gerald Koenig.

John and Amelia seem to have returned to Colorado. In May 1883 their daughter Florence was born.

The Bradley Family of Eldred

The Bradley family of Eldred lived between Washington Lake and the Leavenworths. They had access to the lake from the northeast.

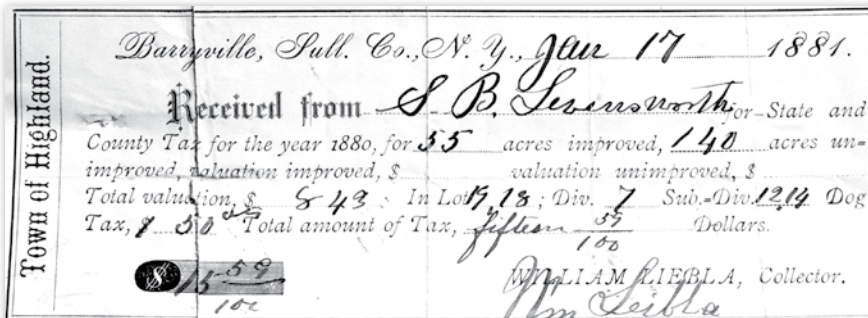
Letters indicate that Isaac M. Bradley had built a house for his family during the Civil War.

Isaac M. and Joanna Brown Bradley, and their 7 children: Amelia, Viola, Mary Francis, Isaac N., Lottie, Atwell, and little Norah, play a part in this story.

Isaac M. Bradley, a farmer, had 70 acres of land in 1880. (He was listed with 368 acres in 1875).

Isaac M. Bradley's father Isaac Bradley from Connecticut, had died in 1873. Isaac Bradley Sr. had lived in what was then Lumberland, from 1840.

Mary Bradley and John Bradley
Mary Larkin Bradley, wife of Isaac Bradley Sr., and mother of Isaac



Sherman B. Leavenworth's receipt for \$15.59 for taxes paid to the Town of Highland on 195 acres of land in 1880. Courtesy of Cynthia Leavenworth Bellinger.



Washington Lake, Yulan, New York. Beers 1870 map shows the Gallaghers located east of the lake and the Tether and Owen families near the southern tip of the tail. Postcard courtesy of Kevin Marrinan.

M. Bradley, had died in 1846. Four years later Isaac Sr. had married Charlotte Perry.

Isaac Sr. and Charlotte had a son, John Perry Bradley, half brother to Isaac M. Bradley.

In 1883 Charlotte Perry Bradley, a widow of 10 years, and her son John Bradley lived in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. Both John and Charlotte Bradley wrote to Isaac M. and his wife Joanna, from Massachusetts, in 1883.

J. Bradley and C. Bradley, West Brookfield, Mass., to Isaac and Joanna Bradley, Eldred May 13, 1883

1881 New York, Erie and Western Railroad: Mountain Resorts

The New York and Erie Railroad originated in 1832, became the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad in 1878, and the Erie Railroad in 1895.

The Shawangunk Mountains cross the state of New York in a north eastward direction through the counties of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster. They are a continuation of the Blue Mountains of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The main line of the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad begins the ascent of the Shawangunks 65 miles from New York, and crosses them at Otisville, at an elevation of 1,500 feet above tide...

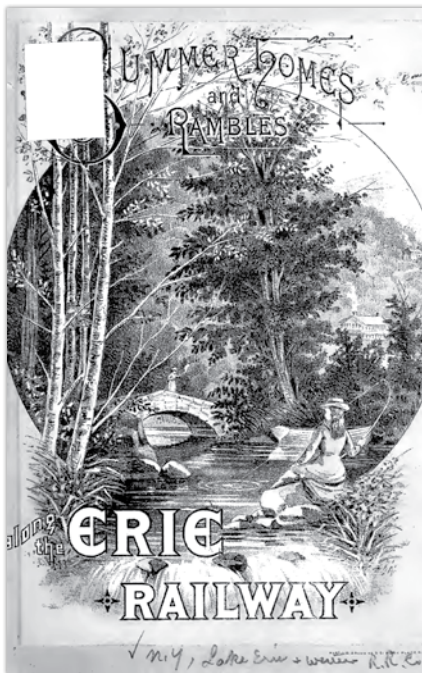
Shohola, with its wonderful streams and glen; Lackawaxen, girded about by hills and mirrored in the broad Delaware; Narrowsburg, with its picturesque old bridge and unfathomable eddy in the river; Cohecton, Callicoon, Hancock, and Deposit; all crowded by the high mountains of the Upper Delaware Valley, offers rare attractions to the lover of the wild and rugged in nature and of true life among the mountains.

The Glen on the Shohola Creek,

at Shohola, is a remarkable collection of natural curiosities discovered in 1876...

From Shohola by stage, several resorts in the western Sullivan County

mountains are reached, Highland Lake being the most popular. It is seven miles from the Erie Railroad station.—Summer Excursion Routes, N.Y., L.E. & W.R.R., 1881, p. 90.



1883 Cover of New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad's Summer Homes and Rambles.



1881 Cover of New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad's Summer Excursion Routes.

Dear Brother and Sister,

I have had considerable work through the winter and I am working now for one of the neighbors for 13 dollars a month. I am to work about 7 months.

Isaac, what do you find to busy yourself about these times? Have you begun to plan yet or is it cold weather there yet and a backward Spring?

How are your folks? Are the girls to home yet? Have you heard anything from Mary and her husband? We sent a letter to Amelia; have not heard from her yet. If you write to her, tell her that we would like to hear from her.

John P. Bradley

Sunday morning, May 20, 1883
Dear Son and Daughter,

John commenced this letter last Sunday and I will try and finish it today if I can. My health is very poor and I never expect to be any better. I have a cancer and it grows quite fast.

We calculated to go to see you last fall. John had got all ready to go and I was almost ready and in less than a week before we were ready to start, I was taken sick. I did not write you about it for I thought perhaps we might go yet. I have given up all hopes of going unless something should turn up in my favor.

Isaac, I want you and Joanna to come if you possibly can and if Joanna can't come, I want you to come if you can. Your children are old enough to leave. You can't think how I want to see you.

My brother John lives in the Village. Write and tell me what day you will come and what train you will come on and John will meet you there.

I think the fare from New York is 4 dollars and 3 cents. It seems

Delaware Highlands Boarding Houses from 1882

These listings appeared in the 1882 and 1883 Erie Railway publications.

Shohola, 108 miles from New York, is beautifully located among the mountains, overlooking the Delaware. It is in the heart of the famous hunting and fishing regions of Pike and Sullivan Counties.

Isaac M. Bradley

6 miles from Shohola. Carriage, single passenger, \$2; family \$3. Accommodates 18; 11 rooms; 1 in room \$8; 2 \$7 each; \$1.25 per day. Center of trout, perch, and pickerel fishing. Boats free. Deer, bear, partridge, rabbit, woodcock, wild pigeon shooting. Deer hounds and setters furnished. \$2 per day. Croquet ground. Meet parties at Shohola when notified. Headquarters for sportsmen. Fresh vegetables, milk, eggs, and butter. Guides obtained.

Myers, Mills & Co.

7 miles from Shohola. Conveyance, 75 cents for one; 50 cents. 2 or more; trunks, 25 cents. Accommodates 30; 5 single rooms; 12 double; \$6 to \$8; \$12 to \$16; \$1.25 per day. Discount for season. Lake in front of house; 5 others within one mile. 2 boats free; others 25 cents a day.

Little Pond Cottage, J. Bodine

4 miles from Shohola. Accommodates 15; 10 rooms, double piazzas all around; \$8 per week; \$1.50 per day. Pond in front of house; 2 other ponds near. Boats and fishing free. Conveyance \$1 per person from Depot. French cooking. Fresh vegetables, milk, eggs, etc.

Source: Abbott, John N., Mountain Lake and Cataract; Summer Homes and Rambles Along the Erie Railway; New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company, Hopcraft & Co., N.Y., 1882, pp. 53 to 55; and 1883, pp. 26, 27. ↗

as if I can't give up but what I must see you. I hope you can both come. Write soon. I shall expect you.

*From your Mother,
Charlotte Bradley*

Charlotte Perry Bradley died in September 1883.

Town of Highland Boarding Houses

Boarding Houses in the Town of Highland first appeared in Erie Railway's 1882 Brochure.

Bradley Farm

Isaac M. Bradley, Proprietor

In 1880 the Colwell (possibly Colville) family of 4 boarded with

the Bradleys in 1880. (Lottie Bradley would later marry Charles Colville.)

The Bradley House, on what is now Airport Road, was first advertised in the Erie Railway's 1882 *Mountain Lake and Cataract* booklet. The Bradley Farm continued to be advertised by the Railway Brochures throughout the 1880s.

Isaac and Joanna's son Isaac N. Bradley would marry Jessie Tether, the daughter of Joseph and Anne Barber Tether, who lived south of the Bradleys.

Washington Lake House

Joseph Tether, Proprietor

Joseph Tether had 220 acres on



Justin and Adele Bodine owned Little Pond Cottage on Bodean (Bodine) Pond/Lake, northeast of Yulan. Postcard courtesy of Helen Hensel Oset.

the east side of Washington Lake. Starting in 1885, Joseph and Anne advertised their new farmhouse and its large airy rooms near the tail of Washington Lake, in the newspaper and Erie Railroad's *Summer Homes and Rambles*.

Joseph Tether advertised good hunting and fishing for sportsmen in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* in the fall of 1888.

Joseph Tether and Anne Barber had both been born in England. Joseph had arrived from England with his parents Edward and Elizabeth Peet Tether, in 1850. The Tethers settled in Highland around 1860, and are shown on the 1870 map just south of Washington Lake. In 1880 Mary Kerr, the school teacher, boarded with Joseph and Anne Tether.

Descendants of Edward and Elizabeth Tether's children: Marianne Whitney, Elizabeth Owen, and Joseph W. Tether play a part in this story.

William and Marianne Tether Whitney's daughter Mary Alice Whitney married William Kyte, son of Rev. Felix and Eliza Greiger Kyte. William and Mary Alice's daughter Mary Kyte (Wormuth) would be a friend to Aida Austin.

Robert and Elizabeth Tether Owen lived south of the Tether family. Their children Mabel Louise, William, and Frank are

part of this story.

Mabel L. Owen would marry Edwin Van Schoick Myers. They would be parents of my aunt Gladys Myers Austin. William Owen would marry Phoebe Middaugh. They would have a lovely 4-story boarding house called Oakdene. Their daughter Pearl would marry Fred Defeo Sr. Frank Owen would also have a boarding house.

Little Pond Cottage J. Bodine, Proprietor

East of the Owen family was Little Pond (Bodean/Bodine Pond), where Justin and Adele Bodine lived. Their Little Pond Cottage started in 1880 as a small farm boarding house for 12 guests.

Twin Lake Farm, J.P. Gallagher, Proprietor, and Highland Farm, S. Gallagher, Proprietor

Montgomery Lake was a bit northeast of Little Pond. Twin Lake Farm seems to have been on Eldred-Yulan Road, northeast of Montgomery Lake. Both Gallagher homes were advertised in the 1886 Erie Booklet.

Spring House, Barryville George Layman, Proprietor

George Layman's Spring House in Barryville was advertised in the 1885 Erie Railway booklet.

George Layman had been listed in the Erie Brochures of 1882 and 1883 as proprietor of the Shohola House in Shohola, Pennsylvania.

In 1885 Mr. Layman ran the Spring House across the Delaware River in Barryville, New York. The Spring House was originally built around 1850 and was first a farmhouse. Gardner Forgerson (in 1845) sold the property to Hiram Quick, who built a home, barn, and well on the land. Hiram added 4 more lots for a total of about 3 acres.


Threatening his Rescuers

There was an interesting news item in the June 1886 edition of the *The New York Times*.

George Layman, proprietor of a large summer boarding house at Barryville, Sullivan County, tied a rope around his neck, to which was attached a large stone, on Wednesday, and then waded out into the Delaware River to drown himself. His movements were observed, and he was dragged ashore.

This greatly incensed Layman, and seizing a large stone, he threatened to kill anyone who interfered with him. His menaces were so alarming that the crowd fell back, and he then plunged into the river again.

Finally, the man was rescued and taken home. Layman has been acting irrationally of late, and is believed to be insane. He has no business or domestic troubles so far as ascertained.—The New York Times, June 4, 1886.

Later it would be learned that Mr. Layman suffered many years from Bright's disease. Perhaps Mr. Layman was experiencing severe pain in the event reported in the June 1886 news article. 

The premises was beautifully located, the land smooth and well shaped; but Hiram possessed neither the requisite taste nor money for its improvement. He became involved, conveyed the property to N.B. Johnston and removed to Virginia where he died.—Johnston, p. 352.

Quite sadly, Napoleon (N.B.) Johnston committed suicide in August 1884. His son John W. Johnston (nephew of the author of *Reminiscences*) had become the owner of the property in 1880. Young J.W. Johnston built a new house, but failed in business.

George Layman then became the owner of the property which became the Spring House in Barryville—only a 5 minute walk from Shohola, across the Barryville-Shohola Bridge.

The Spring House was made larger and offered guests:

...an excellent waterfront, well-shaded lawns, and everything conducive to health and comfort.—Johnston, p. 352.

Lake View Farm House Edward Prange, Barryville

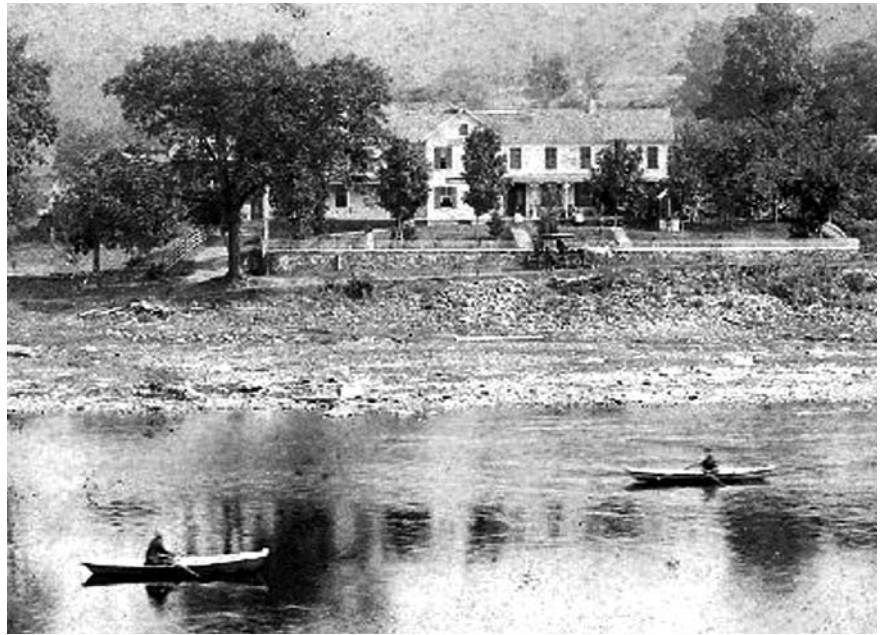
Edward Prange's Lake View Farm House mentioned in the 1886 *Summer Homes and Rambles*, would later belong to Alfred Kaese.

Laurel Valley House Charles Hickok, Proprietor

Charles Hickok had a home two miles north of Barryville. Quite possibly Charles was a descendant of Justus and Mary Wells Hickok. Justus was an uncle of Mary Ann Eldred Austin.

Other Barryville Boarding Houses

Between 1886 and 1889, several



Spring House was owned by George Layman. "An excellent waterfront, well-shaded lawns, and everything conducive to health and comfort." Photo courtesy of Kathy Datys.

Barryville houses were added to the Erie Railway's list of places to stay in the Delaware Highlands: D.H. Heyen, D.W. Bogert, W.W. Cortright's River View House, Mrs. Charles Frace, and Charles Racine's West Shore Cottage.

Near Hagan Pond/Highland Lake

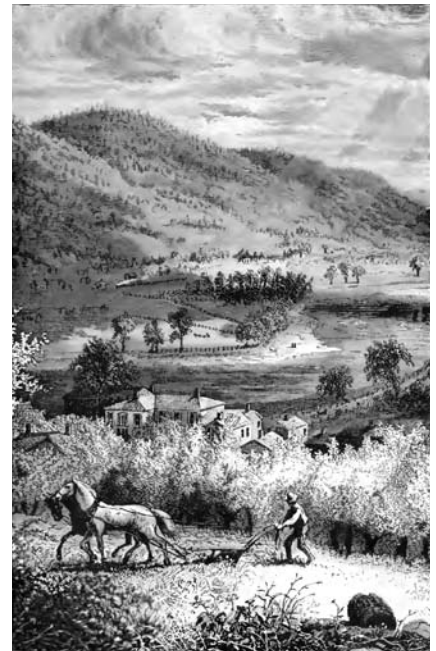
The boarding houses of Jane Ann Myers and Dr. DeVenoge mentioned in the 1880s railroad brochures, were the only two located on the east side of the Town of Highland.

Myers, Mills & Co.

Jane Ann Myers

The 1882 *Mountain Lake and Cataract* included the Myers, Mills & Co. near Hagan Pond. The Myers family were country neighbors of the Austin family and relatives of the Leavenworths on the west side of Eldred. Jane Ann Van Pelt Webb Myers was the mother of Maria Myers Leavenworth and grandmother of Jennie Louisa Leavenworth.

Jane Ann Myers ran the Myers



Hancock, New York, view of the Delaware from the 1881 Erie Railway Brochure.

boarding house near Collins and Hagan Pond Roads. Her son Gus Myers, and other son George W.T. Myers and his wife Martha Mills helped.

Jane Ann Myers's home had been built in the early 1850s. By 1880 there seems to be two houses

Myers, Mills & Co.



Jane Ann Myers Boarding House. Photo courtesy of Stuart and Geraldine Mills Russell.

Jane Ann Myers, Gus Myers, and George W.T. and Martha Mills Myers lived northwest of the Proctor Property in Lumberland.

Sometime in 1881 Charles E. Proctor wrote about the walk he took from Black Lake (about 9 miles north of Eldred) to several locations in the Town of Highland. Charles Proctor mentioned that he stayed and ate at the home of Mrs. Myers (my great-great-grandmother Jane Ann Van Pelt Webb Myers).

[We'll be] in the neighborhood for a day or two. We will get the best accommodations to be had at Highland Lake.

To reach which we turn to the left and after passing through the village and across the brook which once was famous for its trout, we ascend for the next two miles in the road to the left.

When having reached the summit, we suddenly come upon Hagan or Highland Lake, securely hemmed in by beautifully wooded hills. This splendid body of water is almost 1-1/2 miles long and 1/2 wide and almost 1,400 feet altitude.

Here fine fishing is to be had and good boats can be obtained from Mrs. Myers whose comfortably situated house is on the right and facing the lake. Here it is our intention to put up during our stay...

To the left of the house we are well prepared to partake of the excellent repast set before us.

—Charles Edward Proctor. 



Jane Ann Van Pelt Myers on the right. Photo courtesy of Cynthia Leavenworth Bellinger.

with a laundry area and summer kitchen between the two.

Jane Ann Myers and her son Augustus (Gus) lived in one house. George Washington Taylor Myers and his wife Martha Mills lived in the other.

George W.T. and Martha Mills Myers had two sons, Charles and Martin D. Myers. Soon George and Martha would build a huge, beautiful boarding house on Highland Lake.

Jane Ann Myers's other daughter Lottie Myers Darling and her husband Charles Darling had three daughters: Agnes, Ida, and Edith Darling. They lived north of Binghamton, New York.

L. DeVenoge, M.D., Eldred

Southeast of Hagan Pond was Round Pond where Dr. Leon, his wife Catherine, and daughter Mary lived on over 1,000 acres. They had three servants and a boarder, in 1880. Their boarding house was featured in the 1889 *Picturesque Erie Summer Homes*.

Alexander Mills Family Boarding House

Alexander Mills's boarding house was north of Hagan Pond's little finger. The Mills Boarding House, built in 1850 (with additions), was not listed in the Erie Brochures. But at some point the Mills home became a boarding house.

Alexander Mills, a carpenter, and his wife Margaret Gillies' five children, Martha, Margaret, Mary, George, and Christina Mills, play a part in this story.

James Boyd Family Boarding House

James and Margaret Mills Boyd had six children. James and Margaret would have a boarding house before 1900. Three of the Boyd descendants, Bertha, Isabelle,

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Note: When a last name had varied spellings, one version was used to be consistent.

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Echo Hill and Mountain Grove

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About the Author

After 30 years of teaching, Louise Elizabeth Smith now spends her time researching and writing family history from the vast amount of letters, postcards, and photos that family and friends have graciously shared.

Echo Hill and Mountain Grove is the fourth book published with the help of her husband, Gary, who designed the covers and interiors. Louise and Gary reside in Cave Creek, Arizona.

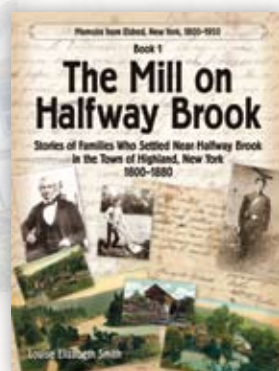
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