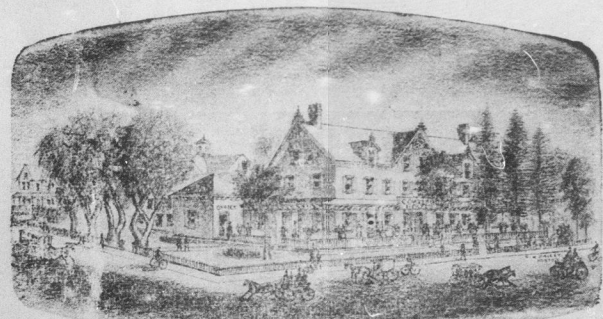


John M. Rogers, owner of the famous Prospect House on Ocean Avenue, was a big factor in making Bay Shore a popular resort. Wealthy persons who liked the hotel and its sociable, obliging host gained a favorable impression of the village, its fishing, boating, bathing and pretty streets. Many of these visitors built homes in the community. Commodore Rogers served on the school board and as Town Assessor.



Samuel Metcalf's garage at Main street and Fifth Avenue was one of the first in Bay Shore. Its proprietor opened a smaller place on Maple Avenue 30 years ago, but business increased to such an extent that he needed more space. The building shown above stood where the Bohack building is located now. Its upper floor was occupied by Mr. Metcalf and his family.

Captain Leander A. Jeffrey, well known yacht captain who sailed in America's cup races, held the speed record for sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, and sailed many parts of the world.



Original Cortland House as it appeared during the 19th century. This hotel, a farmhouse owned by Cortland Wicks, was moved up Fourth Avenue when a modern building replaced it in 1911.

Mowbray Patent From Queen Cave Ownership of Vast Area

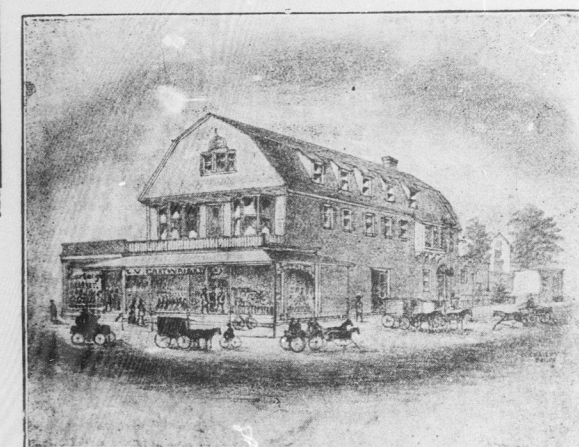
A patent from Queen Ann, British sovereign, granted to John Mowbray of Southampton in 1708 a large tract extending from Orowock Creek (Islip) to Apple Tree Neck near Sagtikos Manor, West Islip, and running half the distance across Long Island as far as (Middle) Country Road. The patent, written on sheepskin, has the seal of Lord Cornwallis attached to it with a strip of sheepskin. This document is on file at the Town Clerk's office. It was long preserved by descendants of the owner and donated to the public by Miss Mary Mowbray of Bay Shore several years ago.

Whereas our loving subject, John Mowbray, by his petition presented unto our court Edward VI. Countess, Capt. General and Governor . . . Province of New York and territories depending thereon in America, and Vice-Admiral of the same . . .

on the south side of Beginning, from the South Bay up Orowock Brook or River to the Country Road northward and from thence along the said Country Road westerly to the East Brook of Apple Tree Neck upon a south line and from thence along the South Bay to the mouth of the said Orowock Creek or River . . . together with all woods, underwood, timber, meadows, marshes, swamps, pools and ponds, waters, watersheds, rivers and streams of water brooks, fishing, fowl and hawking . . . mines and mineral standing, growing, lying or being or to be had upon or enjoyed within the bounds and limits aforesaid and all other profits, benefits, advantages . . .

Paying therefore yearly and every year from henceforth forever unto us, our heirs upon the feast day of the birth of Our Lord, God, commonly called Xmas, the rent or sum of ten shillings current money of New York, provided always and these presents are upon his condition that if no improvement be already had or made upon the said land . . . the said John Mowbray, his heirs and assigns . . . shall within the time and space of two years following make and after the said hereof make improvement . . .

Dated 19th day, October, in 7th year of our reign and Anno Domini 1708. (Signature of Queen Ann.)



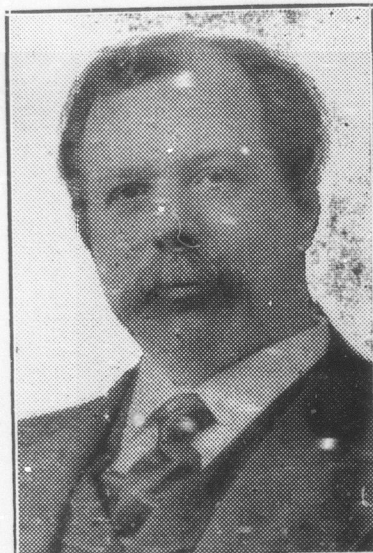
Grocery, fruit and meat store of Lorraine V. Cartwright (later Wesselhoff's and Retzner's), on Main street at South Park Avenue. Mr. Cartwright had seven wagons—equipped with hard rubber tires, to make deliveries. His family resided upstairs in the 50's.



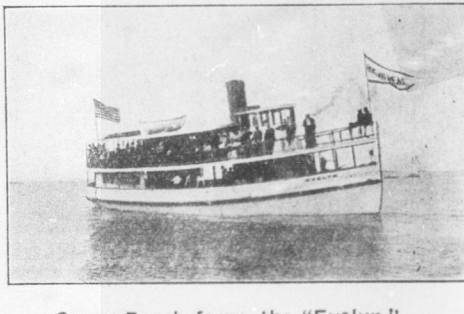
Sagtikos Manor, West Bay Shore, visited by George Washington.



Joseph Wehn's barber shop in east end of Carle Opera House, 1934.



Dr. Edwin S. Moore, Coroner for many years, Commissioner of the school district, orator at local gatherings, and civic leader.



Ocean Beach ferry, the "Evelyn," about 1912.

Town's Growth Lagged During Early Career

Long before the people of Mechanicville considered their settlement important enough to have a name, the foundations were being laid for communities in various parts of Islip Town. So, as a prologue to the drama on succeeding pages, we offer a brief survey of events in the distant past.

Although today Islip Town lands all the rest of Suffolk County in population and assessed valuation, it lagged behind other parts of Long Island during the first century or more of "white man's rule." Great Sagtikos Bay was a generous source of wealth then, as well as now. The land contained immense trees, towering over pretty little brooks fed by springs at many different places. Yet, with all these inducements to homesteaders, the township attracted few settlers.

Property in Few Hands

Vast parcels of land belonged to a few persons. Chief among the freeholders—of whom there were only 31 altogether as late as 1710—was William Nicoll, son of Matthias Nicoll who had been New York's Mayor, a Supreme Court Justice, and secretary to the Governor of New York Province. After inheriting from his father an estate at Plandome, Queens, William Nicoll took a fancy to the country-side near East Islip and occupied "Deer Range Farm," now Hockney State Park. He purchased from the Indians about 60 square miles of territory extending from Orowock River, Islip, East to Blue Point and from Great South Bay north to Old Country road in the middle of Long Island. Three residents up to 1888 gave him all this area, as well as islands between the mainland, the inlet, and Great South Bay.

Andrew Gibb received a grant in 1682, covering part of Islip village. Gibb was clerk of Queens County and town clerk of Brookhaven. John Mowbray, a tailor and school teacher in Southampton, came here about 1685. He purchased eastern Bay Shore from the Indians, while more was bought from Olaf and Stephen Van Cortlandt in 1705. Three years later Queen Ann gave him a patent to land bounded by Orowock River in Islip to the Old Country road (central L. I.) thence to a point north of Apple Tree Neck near Sagtikos Manor in West Bay Shore, and south to the bay. He established a homestead near "Aweska Brook."

Meanwhile in Sayville, about 1786, the Commissioners sold to Jeremiah Terry half of a certain neck on which he lived. Terry bought other property, which now probably comprises the village of Sayville.

Similar grants were made in West Islip. It is evident from these patents that nearly all the township belonged to a few owners except a small portion in the north which no one seemed to want. Mowbray sold portions of his extensive real estate, but most of the others held on to their property for a long time.

Fishing Chief Industry
When settlements finally started, they sprang up at various coves along the waterfront. Even today, by glancing at a map, the reader will observe that communities are located where the best harbors exist. A helpful influence in the growth of Bay Shore has been its numerous creeks, which furnish ideal mooring places for boats. In early years, when almost every able bodied man "followed the bay" for a livelihood, this feature was very important.

Earliest recognition of the township was made in 1710 by an act of the colonial government entitled "An act to enable the precincts of Islip in the County of Suffolk to elect two assessors, a collector, constable and supervisor." Boundaries were defined from the westernmost limits of the lands of Thomas Willet (Sunparks Creek) to the easternmost part of the lands of William Nicoll, near Bluepoint.

Pigs Had Freedom Anywhere
In 1753, and again in 1807, regulations were prescribed under which swine might run at large. These were re-enacted at each town meeting annually for many years. Town meetings had slight importance until after 1800. Their chief work, even up to 1820, was attempting to keep "farmers" from fishing in the bay and in creeks so that actual roads to the might derive benefit from fishing and clamming. Penalties were not limited to outsiders alone. In 1765 a resolution declared: "It is also concluded upon by the majority . . . that if any one of the inhabitants of the precincts of Islip shall give leave to any farmer to fish in the bay or also in the creek, he shall forfeit the sum of 10 shillings to the overseers of the poor."

In 1815 it was voted that any person not a resident of the town must not catch or carry elsewhere any clams, under a penalty of \$10 for every offense. The same punishment was prescribed for taking away any fowl.

Wood-Chopping Once Flourished
Oak and pine forests, which seem to have covered the town in primitive times, afforded revenue for the settlers and work for the people. When the timber was cut down, however, it was not replaced. As the supply of wood gave out this employment ceased, and the mills which had been built to cut the timber into staves, became idle. Ground on which huge trees stood was later covered with brushwood.

Early Roads Led to Meadows
Beach and meadow grass remained "in commonage" as food for cattle. However, the grass on Cap Tree Island was hired out, rents in the year 1820 amounting to \$136.24, and two years later \$245.87. Some of the oldest highways, such as Commack road and Wingham-passage road in Islip were right-of-way to the meadows.

Even as late as the 80's town meetings took place once a year, that any one wishing to express his opinions on governmental matters could do so. Often the attendance tallied as many as 400 persons. The annual elections were conducted on the same day.

Bay Shore Industries—A Condensed Outline

1700-Present. Fish, shellfish.
1700-Present. Building and repairing of boats.
1720-1800. Live stock (chiefly pigs).
1720-1800. Farming.
1750-1800. Cloth-making.
1750-1800. Beach grass for cattle.
1800-1800. Wood-chopping.
? 1-1800. Grain mill.
? 1-1900. Boats carrying freight.
1860-1865. Sorghum raising (for molasses factory).
1855-Present. Party boats.
? 1-1908. Oyster industry.
1807-1932. Leather watch fob and greeting card factory.
1915-1918. Movie production.
1916-1917. Naval Air Base during war.
1876-Present. Summer residents.
1890-Present. Shopping center.
1896-Present. Telephone central office.
1905-Present. Ferryboat service to the beaches.

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Carriage barn in rear of Peppridge property on Montgomery Avenue. A bridge formerly connected Mowbray and Montgomery avenues near this point.

Life in Village Was Much Simpler Years Ago

Figs, cow yards and a woodpile made up an important part of every household. It was customary to all quantities of pork, which together with cabbage, potatoes and other vegetables furnished a supply of food during the winter. As almost every family had a garden, the markets handled very few fresh vegetables.

Fish from the bay or trout ponds also formed part of the food supply. Youthful anglers used to earn money by catching trout in the upper mill pond (now East Union street) or elsewhere and selling it to the Dominio House at a fixed price per "catch."

The farmhouses along Main street had their cow yards close to the road so that the men folks might chat with passers-by as they worked at the woodpile, usually near the front fence.

Indians were still quite numerous in the middle of the 19th century, the Chippewas and Green families being outstanding examples.

VARIOUS FAMILIES HAD OWN BURIAL GROUNDS

Before Oakwood Cemetery was founded in 1883 by the Oakwood Cemetery Association, a non-profit corporation, many different burial grounds existed. Among them were a graveyard of the Smith and Garret families on Fifth Avenue a short distance south of Buland's Riding Academy; a fairly large burial ground north of Main street near what is now North Bay Shore Avenue known as the Methodist Cemetery; the Hubbard family graveyard on Union street, east of Third Avenue; and another north-west of the Mowbray (later Clock, now Challops) property on Montauk Highway, a short distance eastward from Awika Avenue.

The Cemetery Association officers are Lucius K. Redington, president; J. Preston Smith, vice-president; George C. White, secretary; Robert J. Bartlett, treasurer; and Harry M. Brewster, member of the Board of Trustees.

HOMES ON BEACH AID LOCAL TRADE

The earliest ferryboats linking Bay Shore with the beach ran to and from Fire Island lighthouse. A hotel was conducted by D. S. Sammis where the State Park is located today.

Point of Woods drew summer residents before the other resorts achieved popularity, and in 1900 was already a thriving settlement for people wealthy enough to summer there.

Ocean Beach, developed largely through the efforts of John A. Wilbur, came into its own later. This resort, enjoying ferryboat service to Bay Shore, has achieved the largest population of any settlement reached by way of this village. Saltair was opened as a summer colony in 1911 by the Fire Island Beach Development Corporation. It has developed into a model community, with excellent village government and ideal facilities for families eager to find a place where they can escape the turmoil of city life. Like all the other beach resorts it has ferry connections with Bay Shore.

Selah Clock, who with Josiah Robbins was a pioneer in subdividing land on Fire Island Beach and has probably done more than any one else to place home sites there at the disposal of average families, has recently added Fair Harbor to the list of popular resorts. Within a very few years about 100 houses have been erected. A post office, store service, firehouse and ferryboat schedule are already available.

Islip Town Population Shows Amazing Growth

Year	Residents
1845	2,098
1855	3,282
1880	6,490
1890	11,073
1900	12,545
1905	15,721
1910	18,546
1920	28,709
1925	28,849
1930	32,194

Lindley Murray Lived At Sagtikos Manor During Revolution

Sagtikos Manor on Montauk Highway, West Bay Shore, has become famous as one of the places visited by President George Washington while traveling through Long Island. It was the homestead of the Thompson family for many years afterward.

The stately old mansion has another claim to distinction—in literary circles. During the Revolutionary War it sheltered Lindley Murray, American author of the English grammar which was considered a guidebook for writers in the nineteenth century. Murray stayed at Sagtikos Manor as a guest of Judge Isaac Thompson.

When George Washington journeyed through Long Island, he remained for one night at Sagtikos Manor. He had a traveling escort of two gentlemen on horseback, also a coach with four horses, followed by Washington's cook and the cook's wife in an old-fashioned chaise, drawn by one horse, with the culinary utensils suspended from the axle.

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