

Published Articles
of
The Jolly Clubhouse
1889-1914
at
Ossining, NY
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The Republican
3.28.1889

The New Boat House. It is now definitely settled that the Sing Sing Yacht Club will have a new boat house. The Trustees met on Monday evening and decided to build the structure. It will be located on the water front recently purchased by Commodore Ralph Brandreth, a short distance above the Upper Dock. The building will be 25x50 feet, two stories, and is to be ready by the opening of the season.

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The Republican
4.18.1889

Yacht Club Notice. The plans and specifications for the erection of the quarters for the Sing Sing Yacht Club have been placed in the hands of the builders, and as soon as the award is made work will be commenced. Rear Commodore Benjamin R Smith, who profitably spends his time as builder when he is not sailing the staunch Cora, has about completed building the dock¹ required for the erection of the edifice.

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The Republican
5.09.1889

Seven New Members. The Sing Sing Yacht Club is progressing with giant strides. At the meeting last Monday evening, seven gentlemen were elected to membership, and new members have been coming in rapidly at each meeting this Spring, the roll is growing into quite a formidable affair. The gentlemen who

joined the club last Monday are George A Brandreth, Schuyler Hamilton Jr., Joshua B Many, B B McAlpin, Herbert M Carpenter, George Hyatt and Fred M Fisher.

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The Republican
5.16.1889

River Ripples. --Rear Commodore Benjamin R Smith will have the vivacious Cora painted white this season.

--The Rear-Commodore Benjamin R Smith struck a pike pole into a spile on the club house on Tuesday and took an involuntary plunge bath in consequence. He happened to be trying to stop the Cora from running past the landing and didn't succeed as the sequel tells.

---Peter Clausen, a South Brooklyn blonde, who has heretofore sailed the seas, has been appointed Boat keeper by the Sing Sing Yacht Club. During his short term of duty Peter has won favor among the members by his practical and obliging ways and bids fair to fill the bill to perfection, thus showing that his selection is commendable.

---Contractor Smith is raising the Sing Sing Yacht Club quarters with a speed of the wind, only that element will find hard work to shake it. So rapid has been the progress the question of a grand opening on Decoration Day is already a surety. There will be music, fireworks and refreshments in the evening to top off the sports of the day, which, by the way, will be devoted to a race for the club pennant.

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The Republican
5.30.1889

The Sing Sing Yacht Club On the morrow, Thursday evening, the members of the Sing Sing Yacht Club expect to enjoy one prodigious day. Their expectations of joy are expected to be consummated through the opening regatta of the organization and the opening of the new club house in the evening. The former has been called for the hour of two in the afternoon, while the latter will take place in the evening at eight o'clock, should the winds pipe high or low.

¹ A pile supported platform, or pier, connected to the mainland by a piled walkway.

All the yachts of the club are in fighting trim, and have been thoroughly groomed for the battle in the way that yachts are prepared to meet each other. Money and muscle have gone hand in hand, one for the pot lead² and the other to rub it in, while more than one pair of weather eyes have been cast aloft to see that everything is tuned up to stand the strain of carrying everything in a smart breeze.

The event of the day, of course, will be the race for the club pennant, now held by the dusky Aller. This will be sailed for without time allowance over a course of two and a half miles to windward or leeward and return, to be sailed over twice within a limit of three hours. A silver water tankard will be given to the yacht winning on time allowance, the prize being offered by the Club. Messrs. Onyans & Kamp have offered a handsome plaque clock as a prize for the yachts under twenty feet, while another prize will be awarded in the sloop class.

Several other events are named for the day. There will be a medal for single scull working boats, and medals for a double scull race in the same kind of boat. A canoe paddling and a tub race will finish day's aquatic sports.

The reception will be held in the new club house at eight o'clock in the evening. There will be music and refreshments and a pyrotechnic display to celebrate the occasion.

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The Republican
6.06.1889

The Sing Sing Yacht Club. On Friday, October 14th 1887, a trio of Sing Singers found shelter in the lee of the plot house of the little steamer that was running in the place of the Nyack-Tarrytown ferryboat Tappan Zee, on its return trip from Nyack. They were William W Washburne, Charles Schade and Robert T Dennis, who were returning from a trip to Nyack where they had just put the yachts Lotta and Alice J in winter quarters. In the course of conversation

² A mixture of graphite and linseed oil applied to the hull.

the subject was broached of forming an aquatic organization in this village. Within two weeks what was the foundation of the Sing Sing Yacht Club was formed under the name of the Sing Sing Boat Club.

On last Decoration Day the organization celebrated one era in its existence. That was the opening of the new club house, which is situated on the river front just above the Upper Dock, opposite Major Symonds' School³. There was some disappointment in the day, however. That was the abandonment of the regatta, which was called for two o'clock in the afternoon. Previous to that hour the murky atmosphere gave promise of a clearing and a breeze did not seem to exist. All of a sudden the cloud banks in the south began traveling up the river and the pent-up wind began to come. It arrived gently at first and then it came in chunks and sections varying from east to west, while it knocked up a terrific sea, sending the white caps of the mud colored billows in a rain of spray. After several of the boat had tried tussling with the elements under short sail, without much glory and a good deal of wetness, the race was declared off until Saturday, when another postponement was declared on account of the prevailing storm. The regatta is now announced for Friday afternoon at two o'clock.

A large number of guests were present at the formal opening of the club house in the evening. The house was gaily decorated with a large number of Japanese lanterns and the brilliant illumination of the electric lights with which the house is furnished shown through the windows to bid welcome to the coming guests. Rall's orchestra was there to please the ears and make every body's feet fretful until the floor was waxed and Caterer Sanford with his attendants were making active preparations for serving the refreshments, which were a bountiful supply of ice cream, cake and strawberries.

In the meanwhile, the guests were occupying camp chairs in front of the house witnessing a pyrotechnic display by Messrs Onyans & Kamp, who fired the "Ah!" producing pieces from the float in front of the house. After the glare of the red fire, the noise of the bomb and the last rocket stick had come down from up near the clouds, dancing commenced. The Corinthians told the ladies that this part of the programme was only a test of the strength of the building, and as the fair ones were anxious on this score the edifice was thoroughly tested and pronounced perfectly safe and a capital place to waltz or polka. It was well towards the witching hour when the big door of the boat house closed and the last of the happy participants in the opening of the Sing Sing Yacht Club started homeward.

Among those present were Commodore Ralph Brandreth and wife, Vice-Commodore W W Washburne and wife, Rear-Commodore Benjamin R Smith and wife, Treasurer Joseph Thompson and wife, Rev. J B Gibson, DD Rev A B Jennings, Dr. George J Fisher and wife, Dr. E B Many and wife, Mr. and Mrs. William C Kipp, Mr. and Mrs. James Bedell, Mr. and Mrs. I T James, Mr. and Mrs. W Clinton Mead, Mr. and Mrs. M F Rowe and Miss Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. William H Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. William Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Lot Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hall, Mr. and Mrs. William Brundage, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brundage, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Willi, Mr. and Mrs. J Herbert Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. B L Beattys, Mr. and Mrs. E S Pelham, Mr. and Mrs. William L Onyans, Mr. and Mrs. William L Hull, Mrs. O M Miller, Mrs. French and Miss Jennie French, Miss Sadie Washburn, Misses Carrie and Lizzie Gale, Miss Emilie Jones, Miss Laura Mezger, Miss Lou Havens and Miss Lydia Curtis of Hoboken, N.J.; Miss Ada Jones of Tarrytown; Miss Josephine E Taylor, Miss Lillie Gorton, Miss Anna Secor, Miss Mary Henderson of Westchester; Miss Lillian V C Sutton, , Misses Samstag, Miss Lillian Bell, Miss Eliza Stray, Miss Lillian Hull, Miss Lyons, the Misses Beattys, Miss Smith, Miss Perry, Miss Eleanore See, Miss Mayme Griffin,

Miss Bertha Acker, Miss Gertrude Foshay, Mr. Edwin Smith, Mr. H B Sanford, of Albany; Mr. Charles Washburn, Mr. Charles Schade, Mr. A Gorton, Mr. George F Secor, Mr. T R Hart of Hoboken, NJ; Mr. J Joseph Laurence of the Yonkers *Statesman* staff, Mr. Charles F Webber of Tarrytown; Mr. Edwin L Todd, Mr. Louis F Washburne, Mr. Alonzo Draper, Mr. H H Armstrong, Mr. George Hyatt, Mr. John Messeigh of New York, Dr J H Albee of Boston; Mr. Robert Lawrence, Mr. Ralph Stray, Mr. Morton Haddock of New York; Mr. Montgomery Lyons, Mr. Winfield S Smith, Mr. Ebenezer Fowler and others.

The new club house is a plain but commodious building, which has been substantially constructed by Contractor John Smith. It is seventy-five feet long by twenty-five in width, being two stories in height. The lower floor is devoted to locker room, and a general storage. On the upper floor is a large meeting room, boat-keeper's quarters and lady's toilet room. In front is a large piazza from which a splendid view of Tappan Zee may be obtained. The building is lighted by electricity, and will be fitted up neatly ere it is finished, the builders not having completed it as yet.

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The Republican
6.06.1889

Rough but Ready Etiquette. The average Upper Docker is nothing if not concise and original. On the evening of Decoration Day, when the invited guests were thinning out from the reception of the Sing Sing Yacht Club, two worthies who reside in that far famed locality, which is pitted against the universe for originality, made their debut at the door and pleaded that they wanted some cake and cream. They were pretty rocky from absorbing beer, but were allowed to go up stairs and partake of the plenty on the promise of good behavior. One of them found the stairs too steep to climb without a rest and as he tarried the other grasped him by the throat with one hand and shook his clenched fist in his face as he warned him: You blankety, blankety, blank, if you go raising any muss up here I'll break your blankety,

³ Now the Virum residences on Snowden Ave.

blankety, blank neck!" And they locked arms and went up stairs like two Sunday School scholars. It was a rough but effective lesson in etiquette, which thoroughly beats anything laid down in the rules of the "400".

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The Republican
5.08.1890

Sing Sing Yacht Club Notes. A special meeting will be held on Monday evening.

--Water is to be introduced into the clubhouse from the mains of the Sing Sing Water Works.

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The Republican
7.17.1890

Sing Sing Yacht Club Notes

--The float has been made more buoyant by placing ten kerosene barrels under it. Rear-Commodore Benjamin R Smith and Treasurer Joseph Thompson accomplished the feat, which was quite a source of speculation to the unscientific members. Several of these were so sanguine that a barrel could not be persuaded to go under the float that they came down bright and early on Monday morning expecting to see the Rear-Commodore and Treasurer lassoing barrels like cowboys and then trying to punch them under the float, much after the fashion that fractious cattle are run on board of cars. But they reckoned without foundation. The manner of doing the work was quite as easy as rolling off a string piece. The barrels were filled with water and then submerged and placed in position in a rack, after which they were pumped out and the bung driven in making them veritable air tanks.

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The Republican
8.14.1890

Sing Sing Yacht Club Notes.

--Painter Beattys is putting a new coat of paint on the club house. It is to be colored in buff with bottle green trimmings.

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The Republican
8.28.1890

Sing Sing Yacht Club Notes

--There was quite a large bevy of ladies at the club house on Wednesday, which is set aside as Ladies' Day. There was one disappointment to the fair visitors and that was because the piazza is shut off from use, as a new coat of paint has not thoroughly set as yet. This disappointment was quite allayed by inspecting the cosy quarters and taken in the grand views to be seen from the observation windows.

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The Republican
12.25.1890

The Yacht Club Shooting Gallery.

The members of the Sing Sing Yacht Club managed to make things lively in the spar room of the club house of an evening lately through the aid of a shooting gallery they have established to break up the monotony of time between seasons. A pool target, counting thirteen for a centre is shot at over a range of fifty feet. At this distance most of the marksmen can make a very creditable score, when it is taken into consideration that the center is hardly as large as a half a dollar. In the team shoot on Thursday evening last the following are the names and scores of Team No. 1: Washburne, 36; I Haff, 30; Valentine, 33; Jenks, 35 -- Total 134. Team No. 2 shot and scored as follows: Dennis, 36; Thompson 22; Pelham 35; Ostendorfer, 35-- Total 128. The Referee was Boatkeeper William Westcott and the Scorer Thomas Roberts. The same marksman named made an average of thirty-three points out of a possible thirty-nine during the course of the evening, the best shooting being done by Pelham who scored thirty-eight.

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The Democratic Republican
2.03.1894

Sing Sing Yacht Club. This club has grown so proficient upon the old billiard table they have at their clubhouse that they have decided to dispense with it and have purchased two new tables from the Brunswick and Balke Company, one for billiards, and the other for the game of pool. This club is

not asleep or dormant this winter, but are having a good social time.

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Democratic Register
8.06.1898

--The Sing Sing Yacht Club has leased the second floor of the Foshay block, entrance on Spring street, for a club room, to which they will remove their billiard and pool tables. This will be much more convenient for the members when they wish to manipulate the spheres. It is said the club will have a naphtha yacht race on Labor Day.

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The Democratic Register
7.18.1903

Yacht Club Improvements. Every thing is booming up at the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club these days. Peter Smith is rebuilding the cribbing, a new boardwalk has been laid from Water street to the club house, and an extension has been added to the north side of the building, which will contain four bath houses.

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The Democratic Register
7.18.1903

To Sell Yacht Club House. Mrs. Ralph Brandreth has been authorized to sell the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club house, which belongs to her husband, on the finding of the referee, Counselor Benjamin Fagan, who was appointed by the Supreme Court to file a report on same. It was merely a matter of form, the members can purchase and acquire proper title to their handsome club house.

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The Democratic Register
5.06.1905

Jack Tars Have Another Smoker. The Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club gave a smoker at their clubhouse last (Friday) night, after the business session of the regular monthly meeting. It was a fine affair and was well attended by members of the club and invited guests. Add. Hoyt the celebrated monologist, supported by a competent company, furnished the principal and best part of the entertainment. Refreshments, pipes

and tobacco completed the programme for a season of good-fellowship.

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The Democratic Register
9.09.1905

Yachtsmen Entertain Lady Friends. The Regatta Committee of the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club furnished a delightful entertainment at the club house in honor of the ladies who graced the occasion with their presence the afternoon of Labor Day.

The pretty little club house was tastefully decorated with the national colors, yachting ensigns, and signal flags. Before the appointed time set for beginning the programme an orchestra seated on the front porch rendered a number of selections. After this a splendid programme was carried out in the locker room. Between the musical selections, Thomas Dobson, a professional humorist from New York, furnished songs and monologues.

The water sports following were especially enjoyable. And while waiting for this part of the entertainment "Ted" Sherwood gave a clever exhibition of speeding and maneuvering with the motor boat "Ardis", owned by Roger M Haddock, which has recently been equipped with an eighteen-horse power Leighton motor.

The competitors in the aquatic aggregation had been secured by "Cal" Wagner, and were Duncan Matheson, Edwin Oliver, William Coleman and Harold and Albert Smith.

The tub race was won by Matheson, who received five dollars as his prize; Oliver was second and received one dollar. This furnished great amusement, as a tub is about the most eccentric craft one can embark in.

The greased pole furnished thrilling sport. It extended out over the water for about fifteen feet, and at its end was an envelope containing a two dollar-and-a-half gold piece, which became the property of the one walking out and securing it. Oliver fell astride of the pole and plunged into the water. He

was somewhat stunned, but recovered soon after being taken home. Coleman finally got the money after a number of duckings.

In the swimming race Coleman won, with Harold Smith second. The distance was one hundred yards and the first and second men got two dollars and one dollar, respectively. The tandem canoe race was won by George F Secor and William E Barlow, the distance being a quarter of a mile. Louis H Soule and William M Carpenter were second. The other competitors were Harry M Carpenter and Albert R Genet. These old timers in the canoeing line were not so speedy as of yore, but made fair time, nevertheless.

Refreshments were served by Hoffman, and consisted of ice cream, lemonade and cake.

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Democratic Register
9.07.1910

Yacht Club Receives Fine Gift. The library of the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club was augmented at the regular monthly meeting last (Friday) evening, by the addition of ninety-three volumes, which were presented to the organization by Rand, McNally & Co. The books run the gamut from light reading to works of referenced upon subjects uppermost to the yachting contingent. In several instances the volumes are of the edition de luxe persuasion, the printing and binding being done in the highest style of perfection known to the art preservative and craftsmanship of the binders.

While the gentleman would not say so, the gift came mainly through the instrumentality of Jesse L Gorrell, the manager of the local plant of the great publishing house. Mr. Gorrell is a member of the club, and in looking over the literature in the library, the idea stuck him of asking the official higher up to make a presentation to the club of some of the works published by the corporation. To this suggestion came the hearty response recorded.

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Democratic Register
4.12.1913

To Build Addition to Yacht Club Building. The Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club held a regular monthly meeting Friday night of last week at the clubhouse, and Commodore Harry M Carpenter presided.

Various matters of business were disposed of and it was decided to erect an addition on the east end of the building to afford additional accommodation for the canoe enthusiasts in the organization.

Following the business meeting refreshments were served by Papino and the usual social session was enjoyed.

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Ossining Daily Citizen
1.14.1914

The Shattemuc Clubhouse Totally Destroyed by Fire. The largest fire in the series which began last Friday evening occurred this morning just after nine o'clock when the clubhouse of the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club was totally destroyed. The cause of the fire is not definitely fixed but it is supposed to have resulted from a flaw in one the heating pipes.

Peter Clausen, the steward, was on the second floor and smelled smoke. He hurried down the stairs and found the smoke pouring from a locker. He burst open the door and there was an immediate flash of flame. Without a moment delay he turned in an alarm and the firemen were on their way to the clubhouse a few minutes later.

Pending their arrival Mr. Clausen and others managed to save five canoes housed in the building for the winter.

The building was a frame structure and was in a most exposed position, and the result was that it burned with great rapidity. Lines of hose were stretched from the nearby hydrants and were carried under the railroad tracks. Streams were poured onto the building from every available point in the vain hope of saving a portion of the building.

There was no gasoline in the large tank, but a can containing a small amount exploded with a loud report after the fire had been burning for about an hour and this caused a great many of the spectators to move back in anticipation of another explosions. About 9.30 o'clock the roof of the building fell in, causing the sparks to shoot to a great height, and shortly after nothing remained of the cozy clubhouse but a heap of smoldering ruins.

The cold was intense but the firemen did not flinch for a moment in the performance of their duty. They feel extremely grateful to Superintendent W C Yerks of the Broadway Mission and Mrs. Daubeney Brandreth for furnishing an abundance of steaming coffee while the fire was in progress.

Commodore Harry M Carpenter fixes the loss on the building in the neighborhood of \$15,000. The amount of insurance carried is \$9,000. There was also in the lockers clothing, fishing tackle and other property of the members, also about fifteen canoes, tents, sleeping bags, etc, stored in the building upon which there was but little insurance. Besides this there were a number of silver trophies, pennants and other things the loss of which can not be estimated in dollars.

It was announced that the clubhouse will be rebuilt just as soon as plans can be drawn.

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1.14.1914

Fire Destroys Shattemuc Yacht Club.

Monday morning a fire, which is thought to have started from one of the heater pipes, started in the clubhouse of the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club, and the handsome building was totally

destroyed. It was one of the finest equipped clubhouses along the river.

The fire was discovered by the club steward and caretaker Peter Clausen, and he traced it to one of the lockers. He tuned in an alarm but when the firemen arrived in a very short time after, the entire structure was enveloped in flames. Mr. Clausen and others managed to save 5 canoes before they were driven back by the intense heat. Lines of hose were attached to the nearby hydrants and run under the railroad tracks but not even a part of the house, which was entirely of wood, could be saved. During the height of the fire some gasoline in a can exploded with a loud report and this at once gave rise to the rumor that the big tank, which is used for supplying the motor boats during the summer months, was full of the inflammable liquid and some of the spectators who had been crowding close to the burning building retreated to a safe distance. As a matter of fact the large tank was empty.

After the fire had been burning for some time the cupola collapse and shortly after the roof caved in and before noontime nothing remained but a mass of smoldering ruins. The spectacle attracted hundreds of spectators.

Commodore Harry M Carpenter said the clubhouse would be rebuilt. It is estimated the loss on the building and furniture at about \$15,000. The total amount of insurance on the structure was \$9,000.

The personal losses upon which there was but little insurance it is estimated will reach \$5,000. These consist of fifteen canoes, fishing tackle, articles of clothing, tents and sleeping bags, and the club loses silver trophies and picture, which cannot be replaced at any price, as well as a piano, pool and billiard tables and other valuable furnishings.

The cold during the fire caused great suffering among the firemen and they felt extremely grateful to Mrs. Daubeney Brandreth and Superintendent W C Yerks of the Broadway Mission for

supplying them with delicious hot coffee.

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The above clippings were transcribed from the original newspapers, which reside at the Ossining Historical Society in Ossining, New York