



The Natural Science Camp of Tichenor Point, Canandaigua Lake, New York 1890 – 1905

At the base of Foster Road on the west side of Canandaigua Lake in the Town of Canandaigua, Ontario County, New York, is Tichenor Point. Here Professor Albert Arey of the Rochester Free Academy and Mechanics Institute (now RIT) established a Natural Science Camp for boys in 1890. The camp grew to include about 150 boys living in tents and many famous Naturalists came to speak. In 1891 a month of camping for girls began. Campers came from New York City, Albany, Pittsburgh and Syracuse as well as local towns. Mrs. Arey is said to have made the tents. No textbooks were used. Campers learned geology, botany, entomology, taxidermy and photography, among many other topics. They also staged talent shows and had a competitive baseball team. It was said to be one of the first science camps in America. The camp moved to Keuka Lake in 1905 when descendants of the Tichenors put the land up for sale. The Rochester Boy Scouts Council held its first camp here on Tichenor Point in 1912. A YMCA camp, "Iola", was located briefly on the point in 1910. Centuries before, Tichenor Point, named for pioneers Isaac and Jemima Tichenor of Newark, New Jersey, was an important camp for Native Americans. At the turn of the century it was known locally as the location of a large sulfur spring. The property was subdivided and sold in 1921.

A new book by Ray Henry has been published and is available from Ontario County Historical Society or the author. The "Natural Science Camp on Tichenor Point" had its high times during the "Gay Nineties" and the turn of the century (20th that is). Claimed to be the first coed camp in the U.S., the story captures the entire time, the life style, the activities of this camp that is little known of today. Price is \$14.95 +tax.