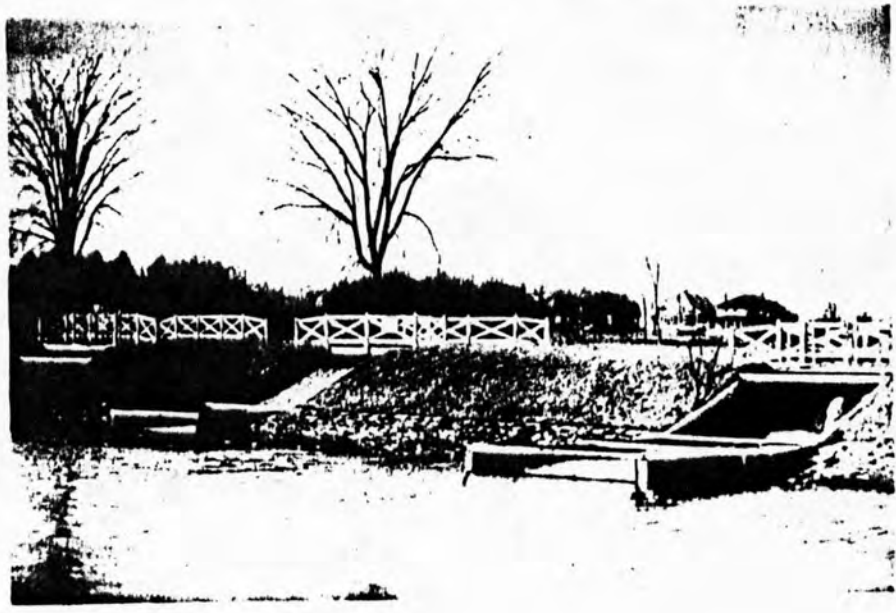


Argyle Park

ARGYLE LAKE with Falls



Taken Between 1910-1920

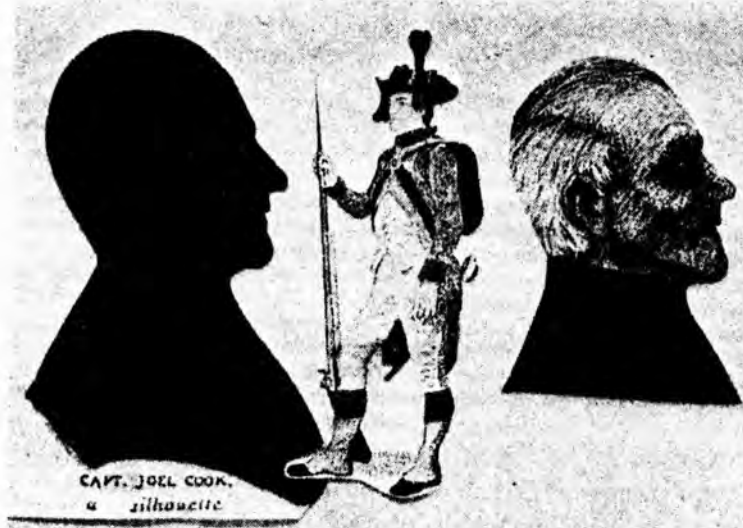


At Present - 1979

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Mystery of the Monument In Argyle Park

Argyle Park



BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

At a meeting of the Independence Day Celebration Advisory Committee, Chairman Bob Pasch announced that with the cooperation of the Mayor's office and village civic organizations, the Babylon Village Youth Project kids will present a July 4th Celebration again this year called "The Mystery of the Monument In the Park".

The Independence Day Celebration will be held at the Conklin House on Deer Park Avenue between 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. Sunday, July 2, 1989.

Just east of the Forest Falls of Argyle Park, flanked by tall pines there stands an imposing marble and granite commemorative stele, that nobody seems to

know much about. Below it's gabled top with bas-relief crossed sabres and above similar crossed muskets on its base, its message proclaims, "This Monument is erected to honor and perpetuate the memory of Capt. Joel Cook, a brave soldier who served in the American Army throughout the Revo- (Continued on Page 16)

Babylon History

/ Beem

6-22-89

V.F.

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monument Mystery (Continued from Page 1)

lutionary War and who also recruited and commanded a company in the War of 1812. Born at Wallingford, Conn. October 12, 1760 Died at Babylon, L.I. Dec. 8, 1851 His Patriotism, heroism and manly virtues merit emulation by the present and future generations."

"Who beyond these brief facts, was Joel Cook? Why was he chosen for this honor? By whom and when was the monument erected? These and other questions started Darrel Ford, the youth project director, and the kids investigating. After only a preliminary study the mysteries proliferated. Why was Cook selected for such a monument when he only resided in our village for a scant eighteen months at the end of a very long life, rather than such native sons as David Smith and a member of the Verity family who served in the American Revolution or Colonel Abraham Skinner, who served on Washington's staff and resided in Babylon Vil-

lage for eighteen years until his death in 1828?

The kids learned that a group of distinguished villagers met at the George Street home of Judge James B. Cooper on June 16, 1906, eighty-three years ago, to form the Joel Cook Monument Association. Among the founders of the association in addition to "Squire" Cooper, as he was affectionately known to Babylon Villagers was Dr. Edward Dodd, Charles A. DuBois, Miss Florence Cutting and many others who had known Captain Cook in their youth or childhood. The ninety year old veteran had sat with them and related tales of seeing Washington, "Mad"

Anthony Wayne, Lafayette and of his participation in the storming of the British citadel at Stony Point and of seven years of Revolutionary battles and campaigns, then later the desperate Indian battle at Tippecanoe, where he took the scalp of

one of Tecumseh's braves and received praise from the lips of General William Henry Harrison and of the battles of the War of 1812, his capture by the British and imprisonment in winter at Quebec and finally the pioneering days in Ohio. The old man showed them the scalp and his gold medal and became a vivid living link for the children of Babylon with the stirring events that led to the founding of our nation seventy-five years before. No wonder that these youth and children grown old decided to memorialize their hero and friend fifty-five years later. Planned events include a Living History Encampment of the Huntington Militia, an exhibit of material relating to Captain Joel Cook's career, a narrated pageant in which costumed youngsters will reenact the events of Cook's life and times and a procession, with patriotic music and floats, to the monument for a concluding ceremony and refreshments. During the

past year the youth project kids have gathered information about Captain Joel Cook and visited the sites of many significant chapters in his life, such as Wallingford, Conn., West Point, Stony Point, Valley Forge, Morristown, Yonkers and Hastings on Hudson. In the next two issues of the Beacon an account of these researchs will appear entitled, "The Life and Adventures of Captain Joel Cook" by Darrel Ford.

Chairman Pasch thanked the advisory committee for their willingness to help again, which he jokingly referred to as a "rounding up of the usual suspects". They include Dianne Gilmore, Joan Nilsen, Lyn Rohl, Midge Wormser, Skip Gardner and Frank Martino. They agreed that the event should be a community affair that will restore the celebration of Independence Day to its traditional, patriotic evocation of our common history.

BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY



What did Babylon Hero Captain Joel Cook look like? Unfortunately Cook died before the age of Photography and there is no known portrait. We do have a silhouette profile, which was a common way of preserving likenesses in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The subjects stood behind a screen on which their shadows were cast and skilled paper cutters scissored their profiles in black paper. Using the silhouette and the face of the aging man depicted in Long Island artist William Sidney Mount's 1850 painting, "California News" (Joel Cook came to live in Babylon the same year) artist Dylan Ford has drawn what he might have looked like.

Stony Brook

MEMORANDUM

To Maria Fiol
From Barbara Shupe *BS*
Subject Argyle Lake
Date April 27, 1983

Reference Department
Main Library
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York 11794
telephone: (516) 246-5977
April 27, 1983

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Argyle Park

On the earliest map we have, Argyle Lake is shown. I do not know whether it was a natural pond or a dammed up stream. Chances are it was dammed, since our earliest maps are 1835, yet settlers were in area since around 1660.

On newer maps, Argyle Lake is shown as Memorial Park, with name of Lake not appearing. The 1954 USGS quad map mistakenly labeled the Lake as Memorial Pond (Bay Shore West Quad).

A good source of information on the origins of the Lake might be Rufus Langhans, the Huntington Town Historian -- or consult the early Town records.

tion F

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Argyle Park

1888

LIVINGSTON AVE.

PARK

LONG ISLAND R.F.

Water Tower
Eng. Ho.
Laundry

THE ARGYLE

Foreman's House

Cottages
No. 172
No. 174

Cottages
No. 173

No. 174

No. 175

No. 176

No. 177

Cottages
No. 178

No. 179

No. 180

No. 181

No. 182

No. 183

No. 184

Boat House

BLYTHBURNE LAKE

Elbert Carll Est.

AVE
H. H. Carll
J. Jones
W. E. Seward
E. Carll Est.
W. E. Seward
H. H. Carll
H. H. Carll
H. H. Carll

Bulger

J. Bulger Res.

SOUTH OYSTER BAY TURNPIKE

MAI

W. R. Foster

Res.
L. C. Lyman

Hutton

Brush
T. Mackey

E. Carll Est.

CARLL

Mrs. H. H. Carll
E. Carll Est.
H. H. Carll
H. H. Carll

H. H. Carll
H. H. Carll

Argyle Park

VILLAGE OF BABYLON
INCORPORATED 1893
153 WEST MAIN STREET
BABYLON, NEW YORK 11702

STEWART M. ALDRICH
Village Historian

15 December 1989

Phil S. Dixon
Assistant Director
Public Relations
Kansas City Royals
P.O. Box 419969
Kansas City, Missouri 64141

Dear Phil,

I apologize for taking so long to reply to your October 19th letter.

Enclosed is a photocopy of a portion of a large framed photograph of the Argyle Hotel. Since the photocopy was made with the photo behind glass in its frame it does not show the quality of the original which is quite good. According to the photographer I consulted it can be photographed and printed 5"x 7" with good Quality. The cost for one 5"x 7" black and white print will be \$ 40.00. It would take about a month to do. The photo is the property of the Village of Babylon Historical & Preservation Society and a check should be payable to them.

I also enclose photocopies of the following:

Part of an 1888 map showing the Argyle complex with the Hotel, Cottages, etc.. Blythburne lake is now Argyle Lake. South Oyster Bay Turnpike is now Babylon Village's West Main St. also known as Montauk Hwy., Rte 27A.

An article dated 31 Jan. 1989 I compiled which is a brief history of the Argyle Hotel.

Two items re: baseball at the Argyle which appeared in the South Side Signal (a Babylon Weekly, 1871-1920) on 22 Aug. & 10 Oct. 1885.

An article "Black Baseball History in Babylon Village" which appeared in the Beacon (a Babylon Weekly) on 19 Feb. 1987.

An article by Marilyn Milloy "Every One of Us could have made the Major Leagues" which appeared in Newsday 7 June 1989.

As you can see most of my information came from Art Rust, Jr's book and the "Official Encyclopedia of Baseball", 1951 edition. There may have been other items in local newspapers about the Argyle and Baseball, but searching for them is a tedious job and so far I have not tried.

You said you had photos of four members of the Argyle team. The Village of Babylon Historical & Preservation Society would, I am sure, like to have copies of them if it could be arranged.

Encl:

75 WOODSOME ROAD • BABYLON, NEW YORK 11702

Sincerely

Stewart M. Aldrich

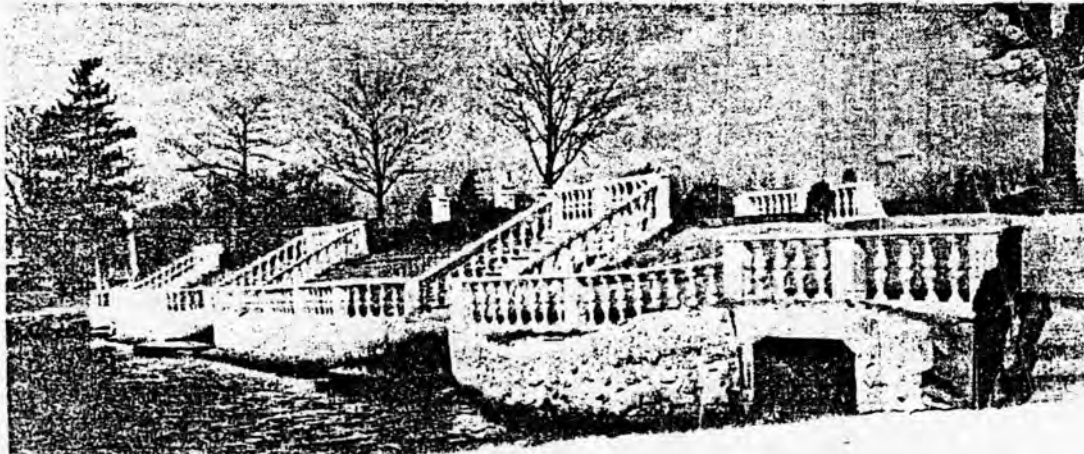
PROBLEM LINE.

By Anita Richterman

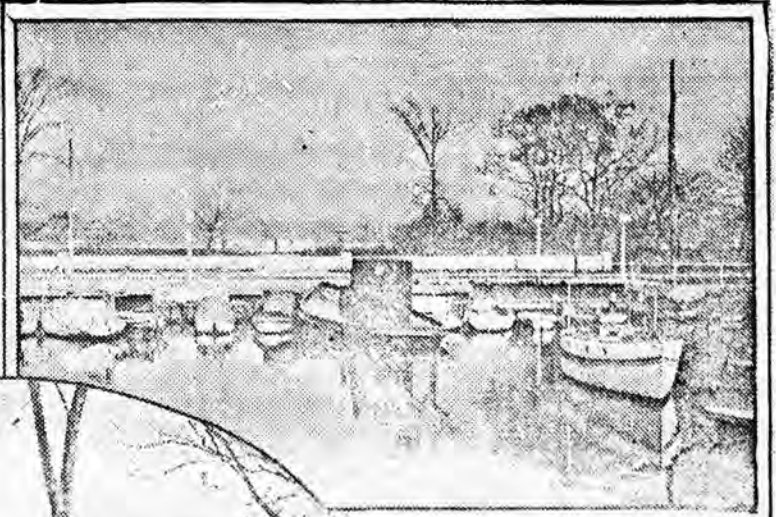
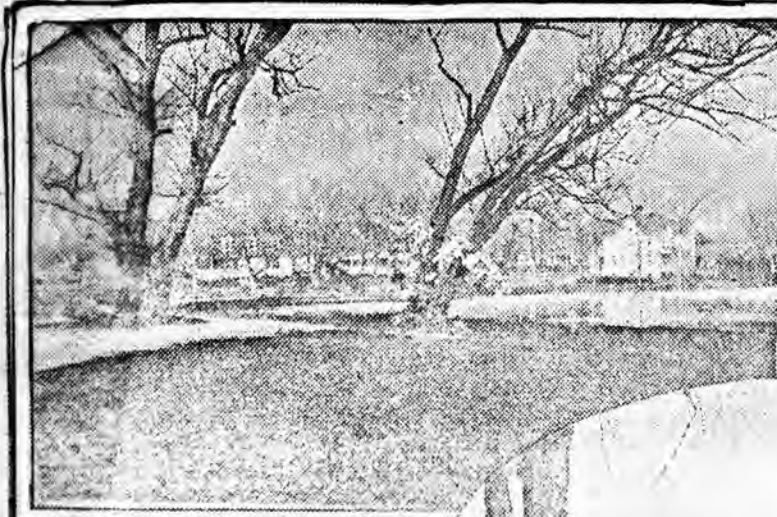
Q. Could you tell me about Argyle Park in Babylon? When were the railings and waterfall built? Also, is the lake at the park fresh or salt water?
—F. M., South Farmingdale

A. J. Stanley Foster, a philanthropist who lived in the village, had an architect design the flume, falls, and balustrade, which were all patterned after a similar design in Florida. It was completed in the latter part of the 1920s and before Foster died, he left instructions to the village that the design of the falls and concrete balustrade surrounding them were not to be disturbed. This created difficulties because storms and the passing of time had damaged the balustrades. Village officials finally ordered them removed and new forms were made duplicating the old, then were put back in place. The water in the lake is fresh but the water in the basin does have some salinity because its outlet is in Great South Bay (the falls go from the lake down to the basin and then into Carlls River). The lake is a fairly large one, measuring about 5 or 6 acres although it is only about 3 feet deep. During the summer months, the park (which is in the center of Babylon Village, between routes 109 and 231 on Montauk Highway), is frequently the scene of wedding ceremonies, and bridal picture-taking sessions occur four or five times a day almost every Saturday and Sunday.

~~Argyle~~
Argyle



Beautiful Argyle Lakes, Princely Gift to Babylon By an Anonymous Donor, To Be Made a Public Park



1. View of Large Lake Looking North.

(Special to The Eagle.)

Babylon, L. I., Dec. 10—With the recent announcement that a donor, whose name was not made public, planned to give the famous Argyle Lakes and surrounding parcels of land to the Village of Babylon, the dream of citizens of this community or two generations gives promise of being realized.

The lakes are on the western edge of the village and are visible from the many trains that pass through the village on the Long Island Railroad. The newly concreted Montauk Highway cuts squarely through the proposed village park, separating the Yacht Basin, with its opening into the bay, from the upper lakes.

The upper lakes already are landscaped, being a part of Argyle Park proper, which has been developed by private capital into a choice, restricted residence section. Bits of woodland terraces and sloping banks have been placed by landscape experts, and form a setting for the clear fresh water basins that are unsurpassed. The gift to the village will include several of these small groves and a few feet of land entirely around the lakes. In the middle of the larger of the three lakes is a small island that can be made especially attractive by raising and sodding.

South of the Montauk Highway, the gift includes the Yacht Basin, a few feet lower than the lakes, opening into the bay. The water from the lakes is fed into the Yacht Basin through a spill-way that itself is a beauty spot, and which can be made, should it be so decided, to operate dynamos to supply lights for the entire park. This could be done, experts say, without marring the beauty of the spill-way.

The Yacht Basin offers a landing place for small craft. Some two acres of land go with the gift here. It is this parcel that offers the greatest opportunity for future development. At little expense small shelters, landing places, a bit of beach and trees would make it ideal for summer watering parties. It will be the only landing place owned by the village. The basin has a water frontage of about 600 feet.

Site of Historic Mill.

Call's River, a small stream that

drains the lake, was dammed more than a hundred years ago. Power from the dam first was used to operate an old grist mill, and a narrow sand road, now the Montauk Highway, passed by the old landmark. In 1859 the grist mill made way for a paper mill, operated by Sherman Tweedy, who came to Long Island a young man, with his trade of paper making already learned. Mr. Tweedy, now past 80 years of age but hale and hearty, built up a prosperous business between the firing of the first gun of the Civil War at Fort Sumter and the surrender of Lee.

The paper mill depended upon straw, raised on Long Island, for its raw product, and with the cutting up of farms into smaller tracts and their change to more intensive methods, straw ceased to be a sufficiently important by-product to justify the farmers in hauling it to the mill. Mr. Tweedy disposed of the factory. Cardboard and coarser grades of paper were the principal product of the mill.

Austin Corbin, railroad builder and capitalist, with a vision a quarter of a century ahead of his time, bought the surrounding property, and launched, with other similar projects on Long Island, a hotel and watering place development. English and Scotch capital was interested, the Duke of Argyle being one of the investors. A large hotel was erected and the lakes were made a part of a landscape scheme that still justifies the dream of beauty that was its builder's. The hotel prospered for a while. In spite of its then tremendous prices, \$2 a day and up, New Yorkers

and Brooklynites flocked out to Babylon for the summer. It became the "chic" thing in better society to spend the summer "at the Argyle." The big four-story hotel was filled with society leaders. The undertaking was a part of the Southside Railroad development and the land was purchased from E. B. Litchfield. When the project, along with others including the railroad, went on financial rocks, Mr. Litchfield was a heavy loser, it is said.

Developed By William Ziegler.

William Ziegler, president of the Royal Baking Powder Company, then purchased the property and developed it as a restricted residential section, which still retains the name of Argyle Park. Many prominent families live in the beautiful homes, and well paved streets bearing English and Scotch names perpetuate the British founders. Among them are Montrose, Dundee, Cameron, Argyle, Douglas, Caledonia and Stuart aves.

This beautiful section borders on the lakes which are to be given to the village. In fact, it is the attractive background formed by the well kept lawns, dignified English type houses and shady groves that gives the lakes the greater part of their unusual charm.

The gift is made without "strings." It has been stated. The only provision that will be contained in the deed of the property to the village will be that it remain perpetually a park or amusement place for the village, and that the landing place never be used for commercial purposes. The upper lakes offer an excellent place for skating in the winter.

A proposition to purchase for \$75,000

3. The Yacht Basin.

600 the lakes and land included proposed gift was defeated by village voters in March, 1920, by of 198 to 74. The village has been conservative about bond itself, and in view of the fact the necessity for roads was forcing of about \$120,000 on the village, refused to add to the burden in an almost unanimous hope the lakes some day could be bought village. The price asked by the estate was thought to be low.

The name of the donor will never be made public, Mr. Robbins, who acted in the matter the giver, has declared. Mr. Robbins appeared at a recent meeting of village board and announced a public-spirited citizen" was resign a check for the amount of asked for the property by the estate if the board would accept lakes for the village. The board immediately accepted. Mr. Robbins that it was probable that the would be transferred to the direct from the present owner donor's name not appearing record