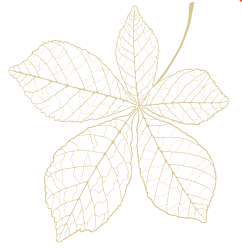




Peconic Bay SHOPPER

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FREE



NOVEMBER 2020





Peconic Bay SHOPPER

...preserving North Fork History

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On our cover...

CHARLIE HUBBARD

Many older North Forkers will remember the colorful Charlie Hubbard of Peconic. A jack-of-all-trades, he operated a sawmill, was a house mover and a goat herder among other things.

Photo by Peter Stevens, courtesy of Dan Horton.

Charlie was one of several "Town Characters" that Southold has seen over the years. We are hoping some of our readers may have memories or stories to share with us. Here's one that we remember:

Following a Southold High School Student Council election in 1966, the principal was announcing the vote count at an assembly. After giving the vote count for the candidates he announce that there was one write-in vote —for Charlie Hubbard at the ripe old age of 81.

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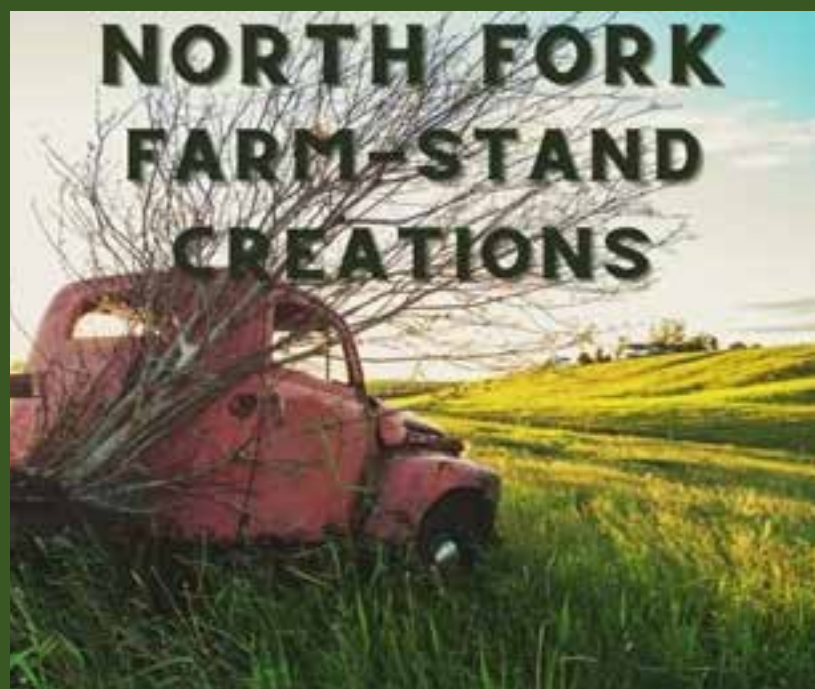
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The Glenwood Hotel Revisited

by Gerard Matovcik, Reference Librarian, Mattituck-Laurel Library



The Glenwood Hotel, c. 1910

We are revisiting the Glenwood Hotel because our research uncovered some additional information, albeit still limited, about the family who originally built the mansion about 1860. We will also touch on some years when John H. Zenzius was the proprietor of the Glenwood Hotel. We will conclude with an account of the Glenwood under the proprietorship of Louis Dohm Jr. and his family who purchased the residence in 1919 and continued to operate it not only as a hotel but also as a site for Mr. Dohm's plumbing business.

Brooklyn Comes to Mattituck

In 1844 the Long Island Railroad opened its first line on the North Fork running out to Greenport. Before long, affluent families from Brooklyn would be travelling out to the East End for a summer vacation or perhaps, for a very select few, to buy some property and build a summer home. One such select individual was Samuel Warren Sneden, who built what is believed to be the first mansion in Mattituck on Main Road just east of the Octagon House. This private residence would eventually become known as the Glenwood Hotel.

Samuel Warren Sneden was born in New York City in 1818, and after graduating from public school in 1835, he moved to Brooklyn where he began his business life in the building trade, continuing in it until 1860.

We have no record of when Sneden's Mattituck mansion was constructed (a Title Search goes back only to 1874), but it could have been built as early as 1860 when he retired from the building trade. According to the 1870 Census, taken on June 8th, Sneden was with his family and servants in their residence in Mattituck: he and his wife Mary Jane, their daughters Mary L. "Dolly" (age fifteen) and Emma L. (eleven), and their son Warren C. (nine); Patrick Farrell, a laborer, and Bridget Cunningham, a domestic servant. (Sneden's first wife Sarah had died at age twenty-eight; together they had had three daughters: Sarah, Anna, and Laura.)

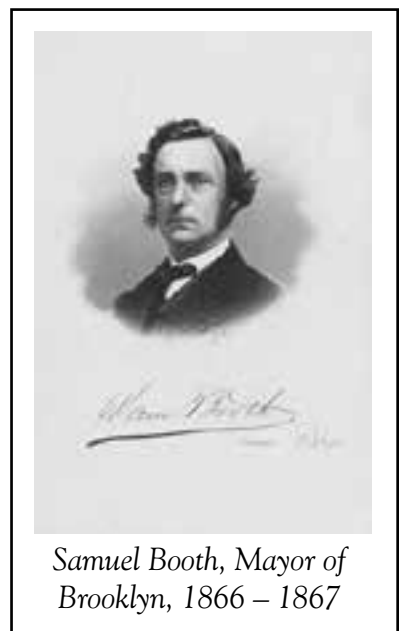
We surmise that the Mattituck mansion was primarily Samuel W. Sneden's summer residence because, as frequent notices in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* indicate, Sneden was fully engaged at the time in the economic and political life of the borough of Brooklyn. Sneden's ancestors were Dutch. His father Richard, a mariner, had been baptized in the Dutch Reform Church in Tappan, New York, one of the early settlements in New Netherlands. Samuel Sneden was one of the founders of the Society of Old Brooklynites (to be a member one had to have lived in Brooklyn for at least twenty-five years),

and was for many years a trustee of the Brooklyn Institute.

Sneden and his family lived in a beautiful brownstone near Prospect Park at 131 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. For many years he was a director for the Fireman's Trust Insurance Company of Brooklyn. In 1858, he had the honor of being the first Democrat elected in twenty years from Brooklyn's Fourth Ward to serve as Supervisor, defeating the Republican candidate, Samuel Booth. (Booth would later be elected Mayor of Brooklyn in 1866.) From 1882 to 1893 Sneden was President of the Metropolitan Savings Bank of New York. At the time of his death (February 5, 1895), he was a Director of the Nassau Gas Light Company and of the Long Island Safe Deposit Company of Brooklyn.

Samuel Warren Sneden's "Aristocratic Private Residence" in Mattituck

Because the historical evidence is so limited we do not know why Sneden and his family left Mattituck in the early 1870's. Fortunately, we do have a reporter from the *Traveler* (January 23, 1920) whose amaranthine image of the young Mary L. "Dolly" Sneden compelled him to publish the following announcement:



Samuel Booth, Mayor of Brooklyn, 1866 – 1867

We know many of our village people will learn with sorrow of the death, from cerebral hemorrhage, of Mrs. "Dolly" (Mary L.) Higgins, nee Sneden,

at her Brooklyn home, 167 Park Place, on Monday of this week. Her charming young girlhood was spent here at the place known as the Greenwood Hotel, but fifty years ago a stately, aristocratic private residence, where with her family many delightful social functions were held. Mrs. Higgins was a fine character, one of the best types of refined, cultured womanhood, and a true friend. She leaves a daughter, Josephine, a son, Warren, also a sister, Mrs. Lizette Lambert. She was also an aunt of Mrs. Ruth L. W. Satterly. Her interment will be in her family plot in Greenwood Cemetary. She was sixty-three years of age.

The above announcement indicating that Mary L. Sneden spent "her charming young girlhood" in Mattituck does suggest that the family was living, at least during the summers, in their Mattituck mansion as early as 1860, when Mary would have been about five years old.



Ruth L. W. Satterly's grave, Cutchogue Cemetery

Mrs. Ruth Larton Wintringham Satterly, the niece of Mary L. "Dolly" Sneden mentioned in the announcement above, had been born in Brooklyn in 1872 but lived in Mattituck from 1912 until she passed away in her home on Mattituck Creek in 1947. An article published in *The New York Press*, on Friday, May 7, 1909 (p.1), reported that Ruth had inherited a large estate from her grandfather Sidney Wintringham, a wine merchant on Broad Street, Manhattan.



The Samuel Warren Sneden family plot in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. Mary L. Sneden's stone is the small stone in the bottom right foreground marked "MLS"



NOVEMBER

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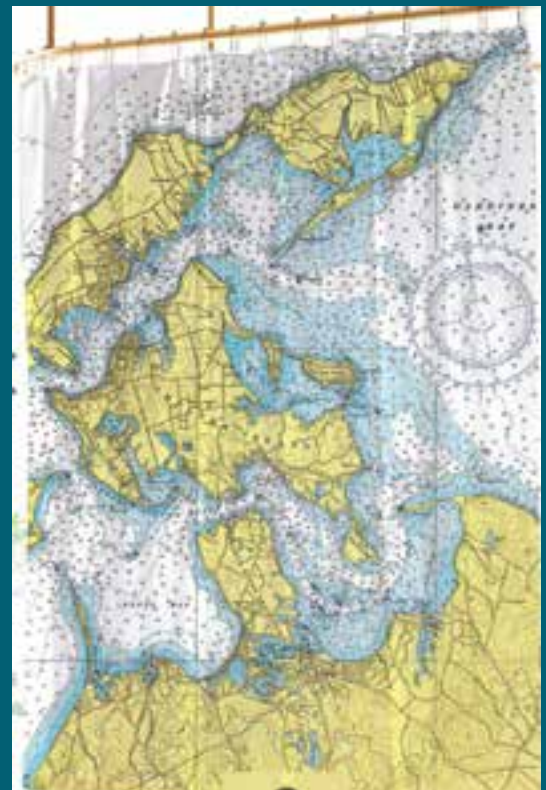
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The Glenwood Hotel

The Snedens left Mattituck sometime in the early 1870's, and in 1874, the property was sold for \$20,000 to a business man from New York. The property passed through several hands until it was purchased by Jacob A. Brown, a renowned horse dealer from Cutchogue, for \$6,000. According to the *Riverhead News* (February 6, 1892), in 1892, Brown converted the building into a hotel with a café in the basement. Two years later a kitchen was added and a room for servants. In 1904 three rooms and a bath were added onto the hotel. Although the hotel accommodated guests year-round, its primary clientele were summer boarders. According to an advertisement in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, April 23, 1905, the hotel, under the management of John P. Zenzius, had "new sanitary plumbing; running water" and could accommodate 40 guests.

❖ Hotel Glenwood ❖

On the main highway, midway between Riverhead and Greenport, is located the Hotel Glenwood, Mr. J. P. Zenzius, proprietor, 83 miles from New York, and ample accommodations for tourists – electric light, gas, running water and steam heat. Immediately adjoining is a first-class garage, whose charges are moderate. The hotel is open the year around. Dining room delightfully situated on main floor. Auto parties desiring to remain overnight will find the appointments complete in every detail. The Glenwood Hotel during the past three years has been the favorite stopping place of touring parties to Greenport, Orient, and Shelter Island.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Sept. 8, 1910

“HOTEL GLENWOOD”
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The County Review. July 26, 1912

Guests at the Glenwood, 1910 – 1911

Who were the guests at the Glenwood at the turn of the century? No hotel ledgers survive, and even if they had, it would be nearly impossible to attach any history to the names of so many visitors who came primarily from Brooklyn and Manhattan. However, if we examine the slender historical record in old newspapers, we might distinguish a few names we can identify if only a limited way. For example, *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, which often included a column with lists of visitors to various resorts in Mattituck, published this column on July 19, 1911:

LONG ISLAND RESORTS

MATTITUCK IS POPULAR

As Usual, Many Brooklyn People Are There for the Summer.

Mattituck, L. I., July 19 – As usual, many Brooklynites have selected this pretty place as their summer vacation spot, and are finding that they made a wise selection. Here they have the combined advantages of county life by the salt sea waves, beautiful drives, shady nooks, and the charming social life of an up-to-date village. . . .

Glenwood House – Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Carrington and daughters, H. Coen, Brooklyn; Mr. & Mrs. E. Michel and daughter, T. E. Barter, Mrs. Mary Cox, Miss Gussie Duerr, Manhattan.

At the start of this list for the Glenwood is the family of Raymond Carrington. What we do know from other newspaper evidence is that Raymond Carrington had a brother, John Worthington Carrington, who had resided with him in Brooklyn for a period before John moved to Peconic, Long Island. We surmise that Raymond Carrington and his family were visiting his brother John who perhaps was suffering from an illness because John would pass away four months later in Peconic at the age of sixty-eight. This is all we can conclude from the inadequate evidence we have.

We do have the more extensive story of Matilda Habermann (née Soontag) (*Back Over the Years*, Vol. 6, p. 300) who stayed at the Hotel Glenwood for about a week in 1910 when she was ten years old. Matilde's father, Joseph Soontag, owned a barber shop on Franklin Street, Brooklyn, near the East River, when he had seen an ad in a New York newspaper, placed there by Perry Butler, offering a house on Pacific Street and a barber shop on Love Lane (which was Mr. Butler's business) for sale. Mr. Soontag decided to purchase the house and barber business immediately because their family doctor had recommended that a move to the country would be beneficial to Matilde's poor health. The sale was consummated so quickly that Mr. Butler had not yet vacated his house.

Matilda and her family arrived in Mattituck on the night of October 1, 1910, and Jack Zenzius, the son of Mr. John H. Zenzius, met the family at the train and brought them over to the hotel. The next morning, October 2nd, Matilda remembers standing in the bedroom that they had on the second floor at the front of the Glenwood, and staring out the window at the pouring rain. Matilda had always wanted to roller skate so badly when she lived in the

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city. Her mother said, “No, when we get to the country you can have roller skates.” But here she was looking out of the window at mud. There weren’t even sidewalks in Mattituck in 1910.

Mr. Soontag would very soon become one of Mattituck’s beloved barbers, renowned for his checkerboard on a table in the back of the shop where patrons congregated for tournaments.

The End of an Era

As one could imagine, the era of innumerable summer boarders arriving by train from the city was beginning to end in 1919 when more people were traveling by car and purchasing their own summer cottages. Probably sensing this cultural shift, John H. Zenzius, in January of 1917, held an auction to prepare for the sale of the Glenwood. The items listed for sale recall the hotel’s fine history of serving summer visitors from the city: a piano, an organ, 2 National cash registers, a large roll-top desk, 2 Morris chairs, 3 large dining tables, 12 small dining and kitchen tables, a lawn swing, a settee, and so on. The auction also offered items from the stables in back, including wagons, harnesses, and farm machinery.



The Glenwood Lodge, c. 1930, under the proprietorship of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Dohm.

The Dohm Family Assumes Ownership

In May of 1919, Louis Dohm Jr. (1888-1966), a local plumber, purchased the Glenwood Hotel. His wife Esther (1898-1966) had worked at the hotel under the former proprietor. At that time, the Dohms renamed the locale the Glenwood Lodge.

The Dohms intended to maintain the building as a hotel with guests living on the second floor, while the Dohm family would reside on the third floor. On the main floor, in the front of the building, was a large dining room and a full main living room. In the back were a kitchen and a sitting room with a five-panel, floor-to-ceiling bay window, and another, modest, room which Mr. Dohm would use for plumbing supplies. Louis ran the plumbing business while Esther managed the hotel. (In an interesting note on child-birth practices at the time, Esther would give birth to her four children at home in the Glenwood.)

A notice in the local paper of 1915 indicated Louis Dohm had started in the plumbing business as a partner with James Wood Wickham: “Wickham & Dohm are installing steam heat in Harold Reeve’s new house on Suffolk Avenue” (*Mattituck Library Gildersleeve Scrapbook*, p.19.). Besides his successful plumbing business, Louis Dohm became engaged in local and community interests. He was the past president of the Eastern Long Island Master Plumbers Association, a former member of the Junior Order of American Mechanics and the Mattituck Chamber of Commerce, and he was active in Civil Defense. He was the oldest active member of the Mattituck Fire Department at the time of his death in 1966, having served more than sixty-five years.

Rumors of a “Speak Easy” in the Glenwood during Prohibition

Over the years the fanciful notion that there was a speak-easy in the basement of the Glenwood during Prohibition (1919 – 1933) became the matter of popular folklore. The fact that there was a bar in the basement probably supported the notion; however, the evidence as well as the testimony of the Dohm descendants contradicts the claim.

In 1892, when horse dealer Jacob Brown purchased the residence and had it converted into a hotel, he hired the builder “Boss Gildersleeve” to finish off the basement “with hard wood, an entrance way ... and other preparations made for establishing a first class café.” (*Suffolk Times*, Mattituck Column, February 6, 1892). At some point, one of the proprietors of the hotel built a bar in this finished basement. But before one conjectures about a “speak easy” in our humble hamlet, one has to remember the historical context. Before the turn of the century, our local churches expected “full and Enthusiastic attendance” at sessions convened by the rallying cry, “Come, good people, one and all/ Rally to the Temperance call” (*Mattituck Historical Society Scrapbook*, p. 5).

In 1917, under the guidance of Reverend Abraham Lincoln Shear, pastor of the Mattituck Presbyterian Church, the town voted on the “Local Option” and decided to make Mattituck a “dry” town, banning the sale of intoxicating liquor. An advertisement in the *County Review* (Riverhead, N.Y., September 28, 1917, p. 4) confirms this to be the case for the Hotel Glenwood where “temperance drinks” are served:

Announcement

HOTEL GLENWOOD MATTITUCK, N.Y.

On and after October the fifth the management will conduct a restaurant in connection with the hotel. Oysters, clams, and other foods will be served to order. Parties wanting special dinners should order ahead. Regular meals as usual. Pool and Billiard tables; cigars and all temperance drinks constantly on hand. Give us a trial. We will do our best to please.

JOHN H. ZENZIUS

The County Review, Sept. 28, 1917



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Lauren Brigham, the daughter-in-law of Walter L. Dohm, affirms that temperance was, indeed, the virtue practiced at The Glenwood where the “Twenties” were never “Roaring.” Her father-in-law told her that his mother, Esther S. Dohm, was a “God-fearing, teatotaling woman.”

Walter Dohm worked in the plumbing trade with his father out of the Glenwood, continuing after his father’s death in 1966 until his retirement in 1994. Available around the clock, Walter was known for reliable service and quality work. His charges were reasonable, and he did not charge widows with children or the church.



L to R: Louis Dohm, Ester (née Bauer) Dohm, Walter Dohm, Mary Louise Dohm, Lillian Long, William Long.



Louis Dohm’s plumbing truck and Timothy J. Brigham behind the mower, c. 1958.



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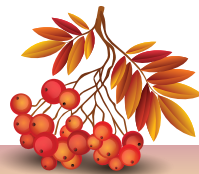


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The Demise and Rebirth of the Glenwood

Walter Dohm also served his community as a member of the Mattituck Fire Department for over sixty years (Fire Chief in '63 and '64) and served on the Mattituck School Board for twenty-five years (the high school was built during his tenure). He participated in a number of civic events such as a local March of Dimes campaign and P.T.A. fundraisers. His wife, Mary Louise Dohm, was employed as a legal secretary by the Mattituck law firm of Wickham, Wickham, and Bressler, and she was at one time one of the directors of the Mattituck Community Fund.

Walter and his wife lived on Pike Street while Walter continued to operate the plumbing business out of the Glenwood. The enormous Glenwood building proved too difficult to maintain and fell into disrepair after Walter's retirement in 1994. Fortunately, in 2000, the attorney, Bill Goggins, purchased the historical building and meticulously restored it for its present use as a professional building with various offices.



Walter L. Dohm and Mary Louise Dohm.



The Glenwood building, 2020.

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