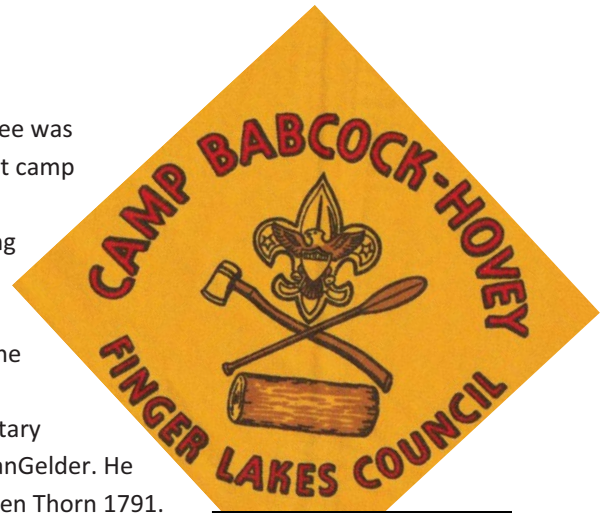


Camp History

In the winter of 1935-36, a Finger Lakes Council Camp Committee was formed to find a replacement for Camp Tarion and other distant camp facilities in the Adirondacks. They Located 147 acres under tax foreclosure near Gilbert Station in Ovid, Seneca County. Starting in 1937, many troops camped at Babcock-Hovey, working on many of the areas that would be needed for the first summer camp season. The bulk of the main Camp area was deeded to the Finger Lakes Council, BSA on February 24, 1939. Prior to the acquisition by Finger Lakes Council, the Land was originally Military Tract #7 which was given to Revolutionary War soldier Jacob VanGelder. He never occupied the land, and the land was transferred to Stephen Thorn 1791. The Land was transferred shortly thereafter to Jacob Smith. It remained in the smith Family until 1859. It was then sold to Stephen V.R. Johnson and Lawrence VanDusen, whose descendants are believed to be the last owners, prior to Brition Babcock and Harry Hovey combining their resources to purchase the land for the Scouts.



The crossed paddle and axe are the camp logo. The Raccoon is the camp Mascot.

The land is also rich in Indian heritage. The Seneca Indians were frequent inhabitants of this region. They were prominent during the Sullivan Campaign and the Iroquois Confederacy.

A Small parcel of land was also purchased in 1939 to connect the main Camp Babcock-Hovey area with the Willard-Lodi Highway. This was purchased from the Cole family of Ovid for the very reasonable price of \$1.00.

The southern part of the camp, compromising the camporee field, six campsites, and Pederson Lodge, was once property of the state of New York. Willard State Hospital had used it as farm land for many years, but the state deemed it surplus farm land and it was acquired by the Finger Lakes Council in 1962 in three parcels. Assembly Bill 4421, the law that allowed the acquisitions of these parcels, as introduced by Assemblyman Theodore Day of Interlaken and State Senator Dutton Peterson of Odessa, and was signed into law by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. This Purchase increased the camp to its present size, and also gave the camp another right of way for entrance.



From the Roof of the Dining Hall looking over the parade field

One of the first Developments of Camp Babcock-Hovey was the main camp road. This was completed on April 28, 1939. The Road was eight feet wide and had several "Turn outs" where two vehicles could pass. The cost was \$500. This gave the dining hall contractor, Neils Iverson, access to begin work. The dining hall was completed by the Camp Babcock Hovey Dedication, at a costof \$5,865.40. It includes a beautiful stone fireplace, which was a gift of Mr. Iverson

Camp Babcock Hovey was officially dedicated on June 16, 1939, at ceremonies conducted on the parade field. Attended by over 1,000 Scouts and 5,000 guests, it boasted 44 troops competing in first aid, pioneering, and athletic contest. State Supreme Court Justice Nathan Lapham conducted the festivities. As "Old Glory" was raised on the flag pole, a gift of the Businessmen's Association of Ovid, it became Official. Camp Babcock-Hovey's long birth process was complete.

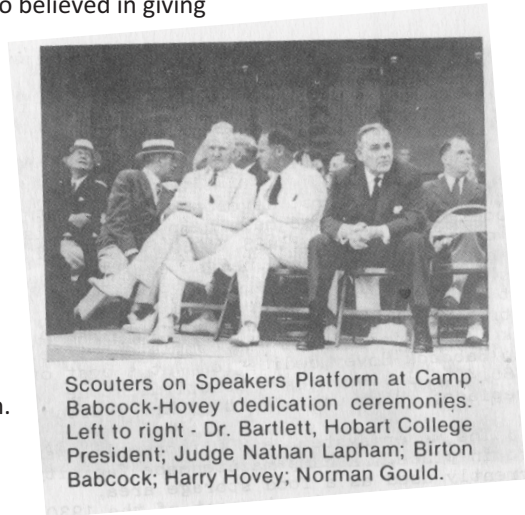
[More Infromation Online at www.BHalum.org](http://www.BHalum.org)

Birton E. Babcock

Birton E. Babcock was born on May 20, 1870, in Clyde, Ohio. He left home as a young man with \$25 in his pocket to attend Wooster College in Wooster, Ohio, graduating in 1894 and attended Lane Theological Seminary in 1898. He moved to the Finger Lakes area in 1901, with his wife, the former Edna Charlotte Wilder, and purchased a sauerkraut factory for \$4,000 (\$1,000 down). From his humble beginning, he built a sauerkraut empire known as Empire State Pickling Company, a million dollar business that produced one third of the nation's kraut.

He was a well-known civic leader, in the Ontario area, who believed in giving back to the community some of the blessings bestowed upon him. Besides our Boy Scout Camp, he had donated a dormitory to Wooster College, was a regular generous donor to the Phelps Presbyterian Church, the Geneva Girl Scout council, the Community Chest and Clifton Springs Hospital (Sanitarium). He served also as chairman of the board at Clifton Springs Sanitarium. He was an elder of his church as well as a trustee at Wooster College.

Mr. Babcock had four children, all of whom passed away at an early age. His wife died about a month after camp dedication. Mr. Babcock died April 7, 1941, at his office, of heart failure.



Scouters on Speakers Platform at Camp Babcock-Hovey dedication ceremonies. Left to right - Dr. Bartlett, Hobart College President; Judge Nathan Lapham; Birton Babcock; Harry Hovey; Norman Gould.

Harry E. Hovey

Harry E. Hovey, of Geneva, was born on Warsaw, New York on January 4, 1881, the son of Wilbur H. and Eva Arnold Hovey. He attended school in Warsaw and at age 17 he enlisted in the army. He served in the Spanish-American War in the Philippines.



Mr. Hovey opened his first grocery store in Warsaw in 1901, investing \$450 after his return from the service. His first store in Geneva was opened in 1915. From this beginning, the Market Basket chain of grocery and other stores grew to well over 100 retail outlets. Mr. Hovey married the former Carrie Smith of Cortland in 1907, and had six children, three sons and three daughters, many of whom were involved in their father's business.

Mr. Hovey was very involved in civic affairs. He was a board member of the Salvation Army, and officer of Rotary International, upstate chairman of the USO, and a trustee of Hobart and William Smith colleges. He was also a regular contributor to the Community Chest and a member of the North Presbyterian Church of Geneva. In scouting, Mr. Hovey was the co-founder of our camp. He also

received the Silver Beaver Award for his service to youth. Mr. Hovey died on November 2, 1953 at his main Street home in Geneva.