

George Hardy Remembers Family, Life In Lincolnville

by Beth Ladner

There is a small white house on Route 52, just around the corner from the old Youngtown Inn in Lincolnville. Like many other homes and buildings in town, this one was built by master carpenter George Hardy. It is in this modest house that George, 84, shared his life with his first wife, Ruth, for over 50 years, raised two children, and watched the community grow and change. George remarried two years ago, but he is surrounded by the company of family memories, old photographs and stories of his vivid youth.

A Boy From Lincolnville

"I was named after a judge from Massachusetts who used to summer here," George recalled. "His name was Judge George Kelley, and my parents thought George was a good name. In those days, a doctor charged \$2 for a house call to deliver a baby."

George's father, Fred Hardy, had eight brothers and sisters who were also raised in Lincolnville. The men of the family were farm workers at Camden's Sagamore Farm, located where Camden Hills State Park is now, on Route 1. "They used to milk 125 cows everyday by hand," George recalled. "My Uncle Si could milk three cows at once. Don't ask me how he managed that. I remember afternoons when we would roller skate across the barn floor. It was a busy place."

His father was also a carpenter, which allowed George to learn much of his trade. "My father helped lay the floors and build the spiral staircases at Norumbega," George recalled. "I remember when the owner decided he didn't like the floors that had already been laid, so he ordered new tiles and paid the men to tear up the old floor and replace it. My father

wasn't too happy, but he got paid."

Learning The Trade

By using the skills he learned from his father and grandfather, George began working as a carpenter himself. In 1925, after he graduated from high school, he built a cabin on Megunticook Lake, which his daughter, Eleanor, and his son, Kenneth, still use as a vacation spot with their families today.

"I helped build the schoolhouse in town," George boasted. "It cost \$52,000 to build the first time around."

As a retired telephone company

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This 1914 photo of the Hardy clan, of Lincolnville, was taken on the front lawn of the Sagamore Farm, now the site of today's Camden Hills State Park. Pictured (front row, l to r) are Robert Rolerson, George Hardy, Marion Hardy, Frank Rolerson Jr., Ellen Young, and Bradford Young; (second row) Carrie Hardy, Fred Hardy holding Evelyn Hardy, Robert and Carrie Hardy, Blanche Young, Winfield Young, holding Clyde Young, and Albert Young; (third row) Jennie Carver, Russell Carver, Frank Rolerson, Ina Rolerson Trainer, Harold (Si) Hardy, Bessie Hardy and Herbert Hardy; (fourth row) Carl Hardy and Hettie Hardy Payson.