

Silver Lake, Wilmington, Mass.

Remembering Silver Lake

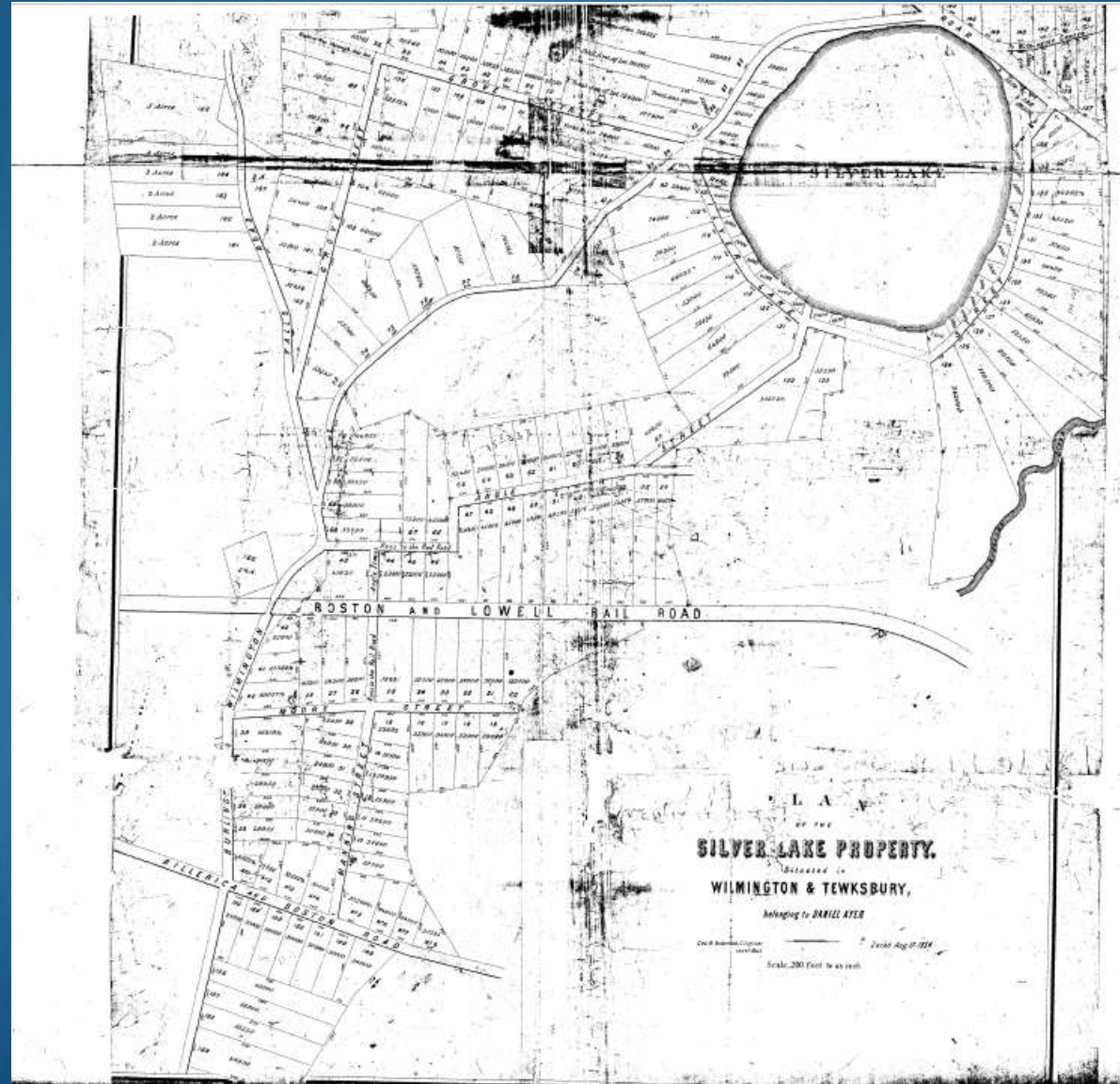
WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE...

Photo: Ernie Botte Collection

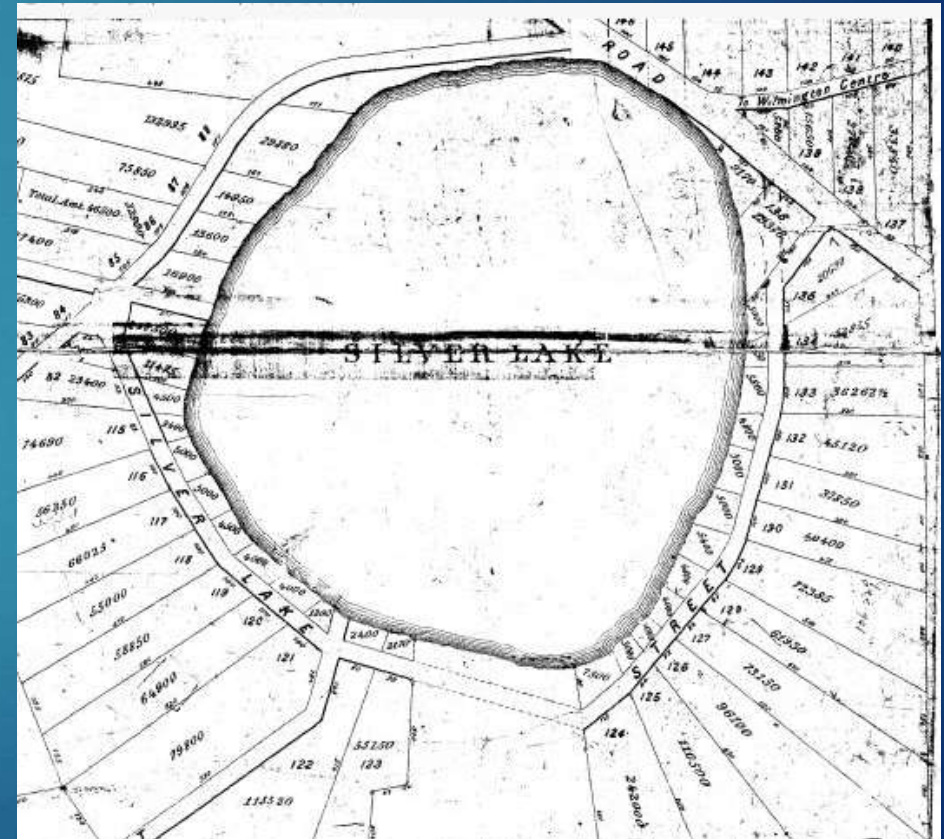
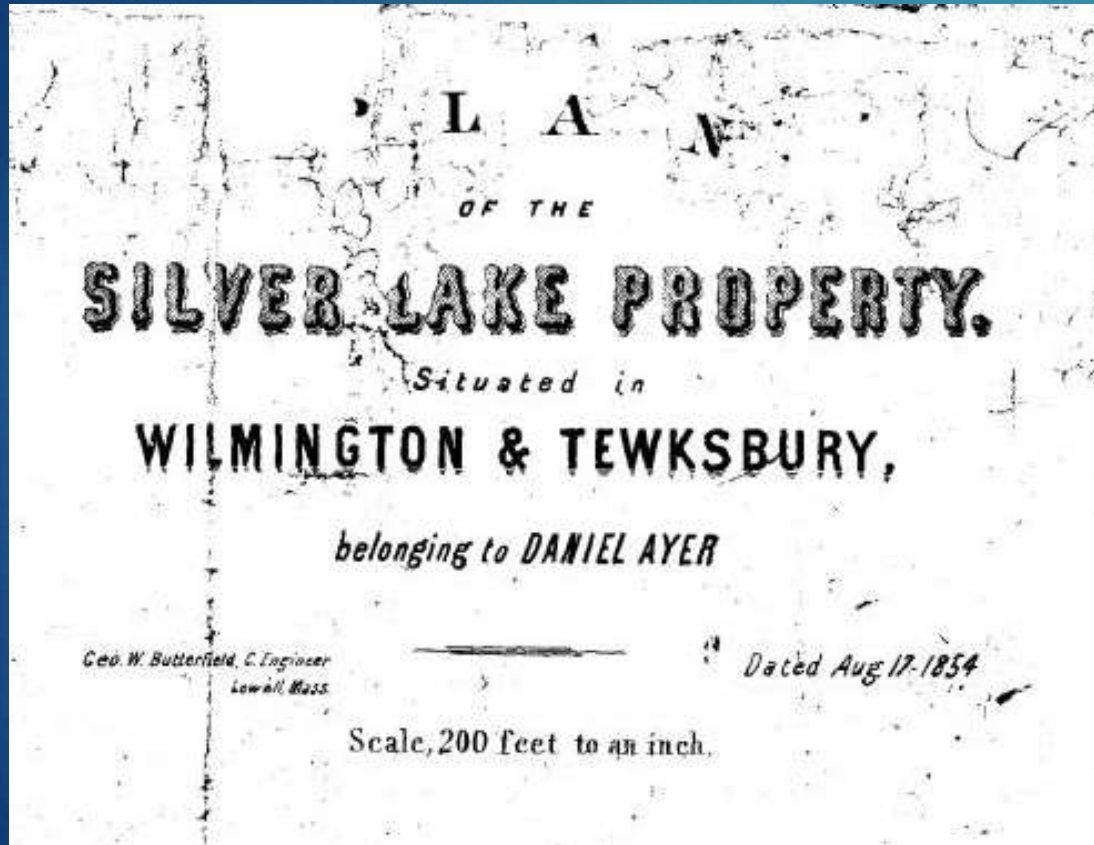


A Very Brief History...

Meet Daniel Ayer of Lowell!



Ayer's development proposal - A high density development



Sales by Auction.

BY DANIEL AYER,

OFFICE NO. 6 STATE STREET, 56 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON,
AND AYER'S NEW CITY LOWELL.

SILVER LAKE.

Extensive sale of Real Estate, including
Houses, Lands, &c. in the town of Wil-
mington, adjoining the Boston & Low-
ell Railroad.

This Tract of Land contains about TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY ACRES, in the centre of which is a beautiful lake of fresh water, fed by springs, and affords one of the most pleasant and delightful situations for a village that is to be found within the limits of the Commonwealth. The surface is diversified, and the soil of superior quality, and well adapted to the growth of all kinds of fruit, vegetables, &c., so that those having a small parcel of land in this place can be assured by devoting a little pains to have all the apples, pears, peaches, cherries, and all kinds of vegetables.

Silver Lake street is laid out around the lake, and the lots are situated upon each side of the street, so that all who buy on this street, will be bounded by the lake, thus affording them an opportunity of sailing upon the lake at any time. The water is pure and perfectly clear.

It is impossible to give an adequate description of this charming and romantic spot in as brief an advertisement as this, but can merely call the attention of the reader to it, feeling confident should they give the place a personal inspection they would be enchanted by the beauty of the lake and the surrounding scenery.

Silver Lake for Sale!

August 1854 from

The Boston Daily Atlas.

- ▶ **August 16** - ..some of the best land in Wilmington and Tewksbury...divided into about a dozen farms...very rich land for cultivation... Mr. Ayer's last sale
- ▶ **August 21** - Superior place for a hotel or boarding house!
- ▶ **August 23** - The greatest sale of the season...sold about half to good purchasers...everyone was delighted with the place
- ▶ **August 24** - This is the best opportunity for getting a splendid lot of land that will occur this season
- ▶ **August 26** - A grand opportunity to purchase beautiful building lots in Wilmington and Tewksbury, on what is known as the Silver Lake property.

The secret is out!

Silver Lake – Prime Vacation Spot!

BOSTON GLOBE - Thursday, May 27, 1889

REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE—Cheap, **Silver Lake**, house, stable and 30 acres of land bordering on **Silver Lake**, **Wilmington**, 15 miles out; near depot; grand chance to make money; overrun with boarders every year; land selling for house lots; price \$3400, \$500 down, balance \$200 a year. C. HOLT, 100 Court st. 3t* my26

FOR SALE—Cheap home, East Somerville; cov

BOSTON GLOBE – Saturday August 13, 1898

Summer Resorts

MASSACHUSETTS.

COTTAGE HOUSE, **Silver Lake, Wilmington**, Mass; reasonable terms. Send for circular.
dSu3t* au13

BOSTON GLOBE - Sunday, July 19, 1891

OUT AT SILVER LAKE

Charming Place Where Bostonians Seek Peaceful Rest.

WILMINGTON, Mass., July 18.—The summer residents at **Silver Lake** have arrived for the season, and again life has sprung up around the shores of this beautiful body of water.

BOSTON GLOBE – Sunday, March 21, 1909

Everett. dSu4t* mh18

TEACHERS of Boston and vicinity will find a pleasant place to spend their spring vacations at the Elms, **Silver Lake**, terms \$6 per week. MRS C. NEILSON, **Wilmington**, Mass.

BOSTON GLOBE – Tuesday, September 15, 1908



House Lots
\$9 CAMP SITES \$9
\$2 Down 50c Weekly
WILMINGTON TERRACE
At **Silver Lake** and Shawshen River
Free Excursion Every Day at 11:30 and Sundays at 12:30
From Track 16, North Station
Every lot is high and dry; all lots staked and numbered; fine neighborhood.
FRANK W. COUGHLIN
552-553 Old South Building, Boston.

BOSTON GLOBE – Sunday, September 27, 1908

P. O. Box 132, Cohasset, Mass.

\$13 SUMMER CAMP LOTS \$13

SILVER LAKE PARK, **Wilmington**, 3 mins from electrics, 12 from steam station, 6 from Silver lake, where you can boat, bathe and fish all day; the land is high, dry and covered with large shade trees, pine, oak and maple; clean, healthful place, an ideal spot for summer camp; get your family out of the city in hot weather; no restrictions; build what you like; easy terms, clear title, no taxes or interest; lots all staked and numbered; streets built, signs up; come see it; free excursion every day; Sunday at 12:30, from office, 89 Court st. **NICKERSON**.

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET

WILMINGTON GARDENS.

1-Acre Farms

\$100

1-2 Acre Farms

\$50

Home Sites

\$19

Camp Sites

\$9



1-Acre Farms

\$100

1-2 Acre Farms

\$50

Home Sites

\$19

Camp Sites

\$9

\$2 to \$5 Down, 50c to \$1 Weekly
NO INTEREST. NO FORFEITURE.

The nearest farming and camping sites to Boston, only 30 minutes from North station, cheap fares, steam and electric service to Wilmington Gardens. All lots are high and dry, worth from \$50 to \$500. Our prices are wholesale and will last for a short time only. Buy a farm for profit and health. Buy a camp site in a grove of pine trees for pleasure and comfort. Buy at Wilmington Gardens, the best land proposition ever offered. Boulevard being constructed through this property now.

SILVER LAKE AND SHAWSHEEN RIVER

With 10 acres of beautiful water, a very popular resort, with hotel, dancing pavilion, boating, bathing, Shawsheen river flowing through fragrant pines, affording good fishing. Bungalows and houses built to order.

FREE EXCURSIONS EVERY DAY AND SUNDAY

Be at our offices any week day at 11 o'clock, or at the North station, track 16, at 11:30. Sundays at office at 12 o'clock, or at North station, track 16, at 12:30 and your fare to Wilmington Gardens and return will be paid.

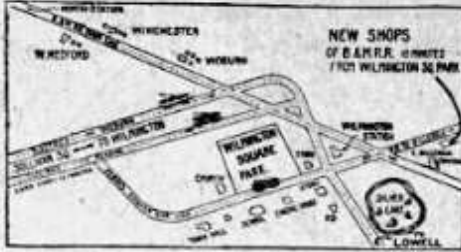
FRANK W. COUGHLIN,
552-553 OLD SOUTH BLDG, BOSTON.

THE REAL ES
PART OF THE TOWN OF
WILMINGTON
FOR SALE

If there is a better, safer real estate investment offered anywhere in or around Boston today, we don't know where it is.

If you have \$50, \$1000 or more you can invest here with the certainty that you cannot lose, and with the opportunity for remarkable gains. Prompt investors will reap the greatest harvest.

This land, covered with beautiful shade trees, was purchased many years ago by a few far-sighted men who have since died. They foresaw the tremendous growth of Boston and the possibilities of suburban town sites adjoining railroad stations with good train service. And now this property is ready for sale to the investor, the home-seeker—the man who wants a home of his own.



WILMINGTON SQUARE PARK

Consists of 98 acres, divided into full size lots and into 1/4, 1/2 and 1 acre

CHICKEN and FRUIT FARMS, BUNGALOW and HOME SITES at

\$9, \$19, \$29, \$39 and a Few Higher

Title Guaranteed by the Mass. Title Insurance Co. \$5 will secure any lot. Balance at your convenience. No taxes or interest.

Wilmington Square Park 30 minutes from Boston; 50 trains daily. Adjoins Wilmington Station, and 10 minutes' walk to Silver Lake. Two electric car lines from Sullivan

To Builders: Who'll Build These 20 Houses?

Needed today in Wilmington Square Park to house clerks, draftsmen and mechanics employed by the B. & M. Can be sold or rented as soon as completed. Apply to Manager.

Square and an extra car from No. Woburn pass property. Accepted streets, electric lights, telephone, etc. Church, Schools, Stores, Postoffice, Hose House, built on part of this or on adjoining property and only

Ten Minutes from the Boston & Maine New \$2,000,000 Repair Shops where over two thousand men will be employed, and therefore Wilmington Square Park is the most logical place to live in, being but ten minutes' ride to East Billerica Station, with 5c fare. Many millions of dollars will be spent on improvements here, and thousands of newcomers will have to be housed and fed, which spells OPPORTUNITY to those that can grasp it NOW.

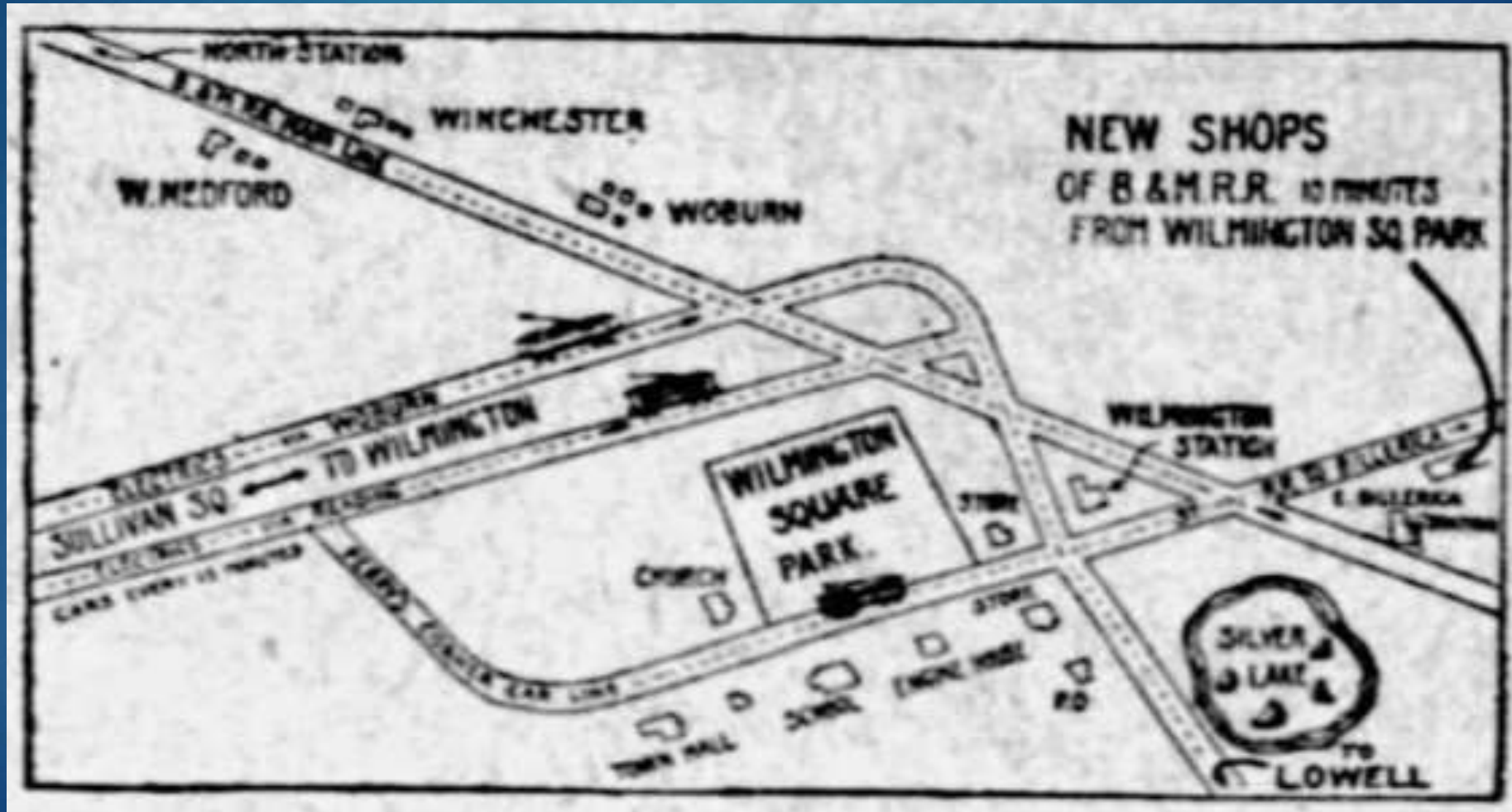
Free Excursion Today and Next Sunday, May 21ST
From Track 15, North Station, at 12:40 P. M.

IF YOU CAN'T COME TODAY, PLAN TO COME NEXT SUNDAY

Call or send for tickets or else secure them of agents in front of track 15. You want to be sure to see WILMINGTON SQUARE PARK. Free excursion also daily from office. Send for plans, tickets, etc.

A. A. BRAND 834 OLD SOUTH BLDG. **BOSTON**
 Tel. Main 3845-M
LIVE AGENTS WANTED

Silver Lake as it might have been! (c. 1911)



The birth of ice harvesting at Silver Lake!

LOWELL DAILY CITIZEN AND NEWS
Monday, November 23, 1874

REAL ESTATE MOVEMENTS. The following minutes are from the records and files of the Registry of Deeds for Northern Middlesex, for the past week:

Charles L. Guild to Charles H. Whipple, lot of land on Silver Lake, \$1200.

Charles H. Whipple to Henry M. Abbott, lot of land on Silver Lake, \$1200.

Henry M. Abbott to the **Union Ice** Company of Boston, the Silver Lake property, \$1200.

BOSTON GLOBE - Wednesday, February 13, 1878

News and Notes from Wilmington.

The **Union Ice** Company has begun cutting ice on Silver Lake. There were about 120 men and forty horses employed until recently, when, in consequence of the thaw, it was decided to discontinue cutting operations and wet down the pond.

Mr. Henry Buck lost a valuable horse recently. It is supposed that death resulted from internal hemorrhage.

At a citizens' caucus held at the Town Hall, Monday evening, the following were nominated candidates for the several town officers to be elected at the regular annual meeting: Selectmen, Edward A. Carter, N. Bradley Fames, Otis C. Buck; Town Treasurer, Cyrus L. Carter; School Committee, the Rev. Daniel P. Noyes.

Union Ice House (before 1944)



The Union Ice house complex stood where the town beach is today. The superintendent's office is the small gabled structure between the two ramps.

(Courtesy photo)

From Wilmington Town Crier, February 22, 2017

Silver Lake
“Glee Club”
c. 1900

Boston Post
Photo contest
August 30, 1900



SILVER LAKE IMPROMPTU GLEE CLUB,
Photo by L. Herbert Bigelow, Silver Lake, Wilmington, Mass.



Silver Lake Boating
Early 20th Century

From Adele Passmore
collection



Silver Lake baseball team c. 1908

Wilmington Town Crier
July 31, 1958

PICKED BY WILMINGTON SELECTMEN
And Nothing "Scantier" Will Get By

D
 PAGE.

Town Fathers Qualify as Experts
 When Put to the Test in
 Modesty Crisis.

THIS BATHING GIRL'S O. K.

THIS bathing girl, and gentleman, is the official bathing suit of Silver Lake.

The Wilmington Selectmen have advised that the suit is the best of its kind, and that it is the only one that is not too tight, and that it is the only one that is not too loose.

The suit is made of a light-colored material, and is made in a simple, practical style. It is made in a way that it will be comfortable to wear, and it will be easy to wash.

The Wilmington Selectmen have also advised that the suit is the best of its kind, and that it is the only one that is not too tight, and that it is the only one that is not too loose.

If you're curious about these facts, go to Wilmington, look up the Selectmen, and ask them for the facts. They'll be glad to tell you.

"Dressily dressed," was the first order issued by the Selectmen. "What does 'dressily' mean?" pondered the Editor. So he sent a reporter, with an assortment of pictures representing bathing suits of different styles.

The Selectmen were to pick the one they considered most suitable.

As it was in their order, they picked the suit that is shown here.

Herbert C. Brown, Edward Nelson, James and Arthur Brown are the three Selectmen. It isn't often an in-shore town has to cope with the bathing suit



problem. We could understand it, at the time, the Selectmen. But down in Silver Lake, the town fathers are busy with the investigations to make the bathing suit.

Bathing at Silver Lake—except parties from Sonoma and Western and other towns and cities near-by, that they in general that caused the Selectmen to act. These bathing suits to wear—last year, that was going to result in a bathing suit.

Chief Walter Hill of the police force, has detailed Albert Brown and William Foster to make the Selectmen's bathing suit. They will carry this picture, and use it as a test of any suit that is worn. If the suit doesn't meet the test, it's not O. K.

If you go bathing in Silver Lake, be sure and observe this picture, with your bathing suit. That's the way to be safe.

Proper Behavior at Silver Lake 1913 - 1918

TOWN MEETING

Record of Proceedings of Annual Town Meeting

March 4, 1918

Article 18. Motion made by Mr. D. B. Purbeck that the Board of Selectmen be instructed to prohibit bathing on Sundays at Silver Lake. It was voted in the affirmative.

Boston Globe – December 12, 1913

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1913.

SILVER LAKE CLUB TO GIVE A DANCE

Somerville Bachelors' Organization Plans Novelties
And Favors for Ladies.



NATHAN J. BROWNS,
Secretary of Committee.



ROBERT H. WELLS,
Floor Director.



KENNETH C. RINGER,
Chairman of Committee.

OFFICIALS OF DANCING PARTY OF SILVER LAKE CLUB.

Dancing at Silver Lake

The Somerville **Silver Lake** Club, an organization of young men of Somerville, who spend the Summer months at **Silver Lake** in **Wilmington**, and distinguish themselves by observing to the strict letter a rule that all of the household duties performed in the camps they occupy shall be attended to by themselves, will hold a dancing party in Anthonie Academy next Tuesday evening.

More Dancing at Silver Lake!

The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) • 05 Aug 1940, Mon

BOSTON GLOBE - Monday, August 24, 1925

PRIZE DANCE CONTEST OF SILVER LAKE MEN'S CLUB

WILMINGTON, Aug 24—The annual dance of the Silver Lake Men's Club will be held at Thompson's Grove here tonight. The event this year will benefit the building fund of the association. They have purchased the four acres of land on the site of the old **Union Ice** Company's ice house, which at the present time is being used for an automobile parking space, and contemplate the erection of a large modern clubhouse, with attractive grounds and facilities for sports.

A feature of tonight's affair will be a prize dancing contest for the championship of Silver Lake, **Wilmington** and the surrounding towns.

Michael Barry, chairman; John Fitzgerald, treasurer, and Louise Berube, secretary, are at the head of the committee, which comprises every member of the society.

Charlestown Night at **Silver Lake**

The annual dance and reunion of Charlestown residents who vacation at Silver Lake, **Wilmington**, will be held Wednesday evening, Aug. 14, at Thompson's Grove, Wilmington.

Besides dancing and entertainment, beauty contests will be held to choose "Miss Charlestown" and "Miss **Silver Lake**" for 1940. Frederick R. Sullivan, sheriff of Suffolk County, has donated a cup which will be presented by him to the winner of the "Miss Charlestown" contest. Atty. Gen. Paul A. Dever will present his cup to the winner of the "Miss **Silver Lake**" contest. Congressman Thomas A. Flaherty will present his cup to the winner of the jitterbug contest.

Patrick J. Byrne is chairman, assisted by John F. Regan, John Madigan, Joseph Cunningham, Herbert Peterson, Albert F. Sears, Peter Donovan, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Robert L. Lee, John Crowley, Joe Griffith, Ralph Shea, Buddy Barry, John Walsh, Bernard Tague, Ralph Smith, Charles F. O'Brien, Eugene Sullivan, Harold Lee, John Hanlon, Thomas Birmingham.

Dancing - For a Cause Fundraising for Church at Silver Lake

THE BOSTON GLOBE—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1920

SILVER LAKE VACATIONISTS PLAN TO ERECT BUILDING

The residents of East Boston who Summer at Silver Lake, Tewksbury, will hold a whist party, reception and dance next Monday evening in the hall of the East Boston Catholic Literary Association.

The proceeds will be donated to the



Mrs. C. J. Harrington, Mrs. J. J. Sullivan.

Silver Lake Catholic Association for the erection of a building for church services and social affairs. An entertainment is also being arranged.

The committee in charge comprises Mrs. C. J. Harrington, chairman; Mrs. J.

BOSTON POST, MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1920

Vacationists to Fund Party for Church Fund

To provide a fund for the erection of a church at Silver Lake, Tewksbury, the Cambridge vacationists, who spent the summer months at that resort, will hold a dancing and whist party Wednesday night at St. Mary's Hall, on Prospect street, Cambridge. The summer residents of Greater Boston determined last summer to build a church at Tewksbury, and it is expected that the chapel will be ready for use by next June. Over 35 whist prizes have been donated by the vacationists. Among those active in the work of raising the fund are: F. W. McGrath, Charles W. Marshall and Miss Gertrude Knight.

Wilmington Annual Report 1924

Silver Lake Needs A School!

Report of the Special Committee on School Accommodations
To the Citizens:

In conclusion we recommend, under Article 22, of the Annual Town Warrant of 1924, that a Building Committee of five be appointed to select a site for a school building in the Silver Lake district, and that they prepare, or have prepared, plans and costs of a two room schoolhouse, and also of a four room schoolhouse, and submit a report accordingly to a future Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS T. McMAHON
CARL PETTINGILL
WALTER H. CURRIER
EDWARD NEILSON
MARY G. DALY

Four years later of negotiating later, portable classrooms arrive

REPORT OF WILMINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR 1929

During the summer of 1929, to meet this increase, two new portable schoolhouses were purchased and erected: one on Lowell Street, near Perry's Corner, which has been named the "Maple Meadow School", and another near Grove Street at Silver Lake, called the "Silver Lake School". These are two room buildings with hot-air heaters and modern toilet facilities. They were ready for use in less than a week after the beginning of the autumn school term. They have been very satisfactory and are well located to serve their respective neighborhoods.

In 1939 - Silver Lake School!

(renamed Mildred Rogers School in 1944)

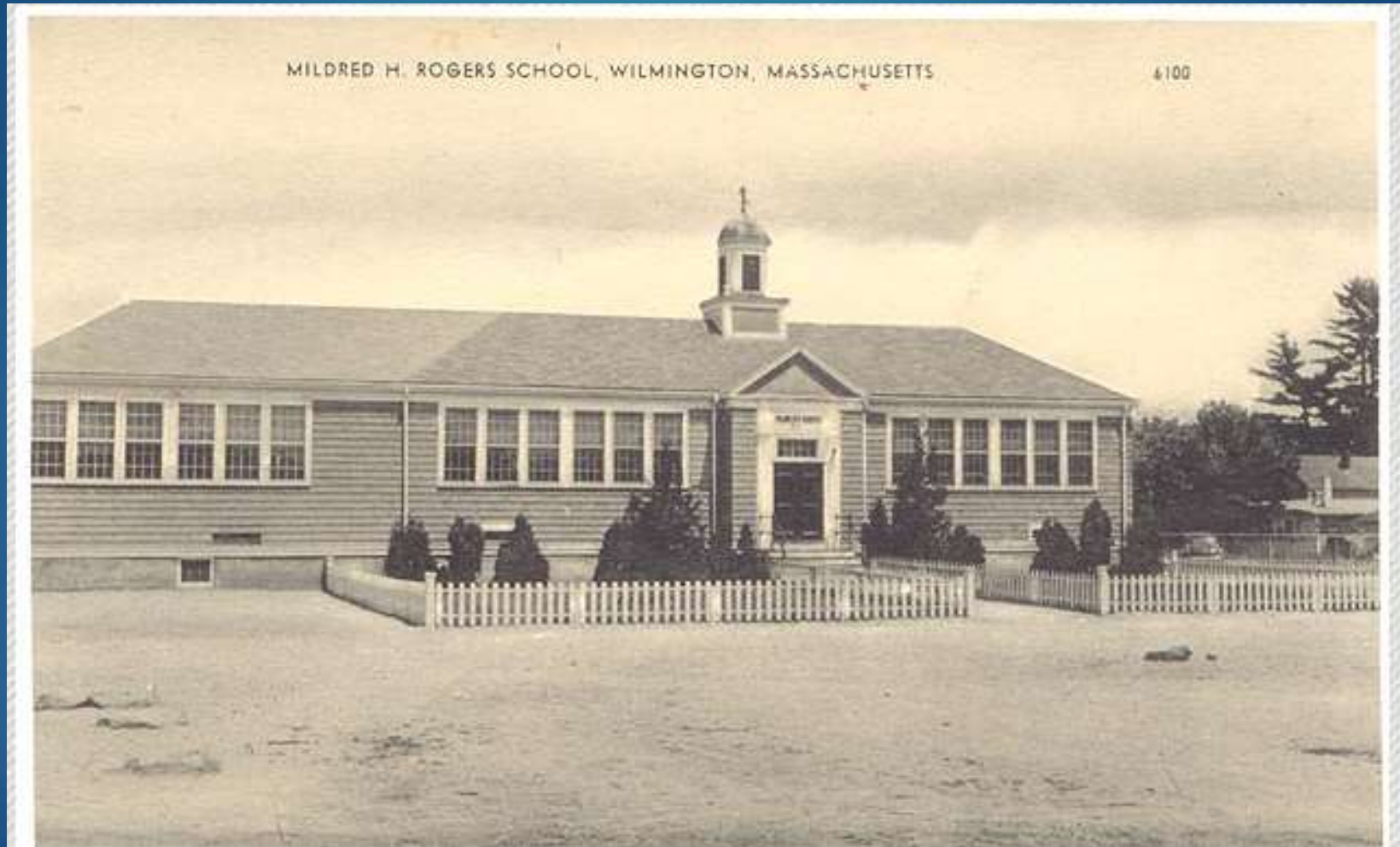


Photo: Ernie Botte Collection

TOWN PARK WILMINGTON

A week ago this property was offered for sale, this year, for the first time on a larger scale. Previously lots were sold here in a small way and practically every lot owner built on it. Today, there are 26 modest homes here occupied by satisfied owners.

This proves conclusively that this property is well situated and practical as a home site for the average man.

TOWN PARK, north of Boston, is the only available large tract of land almost adjoining the railroad station within 33 minutes ride of Boston by train or auto.

TOWN PARK is located in the very center of the town, only 5 minutes walk to the shopping center and theatre and handy to schools, churches, etc., and also to **Silver Lake**, a popular resort for outdoor life.

LOTS are selling **NOW** at only **\$39 to \$59**
with Convenient Terms

Come out today, tomorrow or any day and pick out your lot now while the picking is good and prices are low and plan to build at your leisure or hold it as an investment.

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS CHANCE!
Agent on the property every afternoon and all day Sundays

A. A. BRAND
551 OLD SO. BLDG.
BOSTON

Direction to TOWN PARK. -Take Burlington Ave. to Harris St.

Silver Lake still selling real estate!

Boston Globe
June 13, 1941

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS CHANCE!
Agent on the property every afternoon and all day Sundays

A. A. BRAND
551 OLD SO. BLDG.
BOSTON

Direction to TOWN PARK. -Take Burlington Ave. to Harris St.



These are things I can learn from research. But I don't know about Tattersalls, Jack's Lunch, all the different beaches, Thompson's Grove, Black Kat, and all the memories of the people who live or have lived there. And that's what we are all really here to remember.