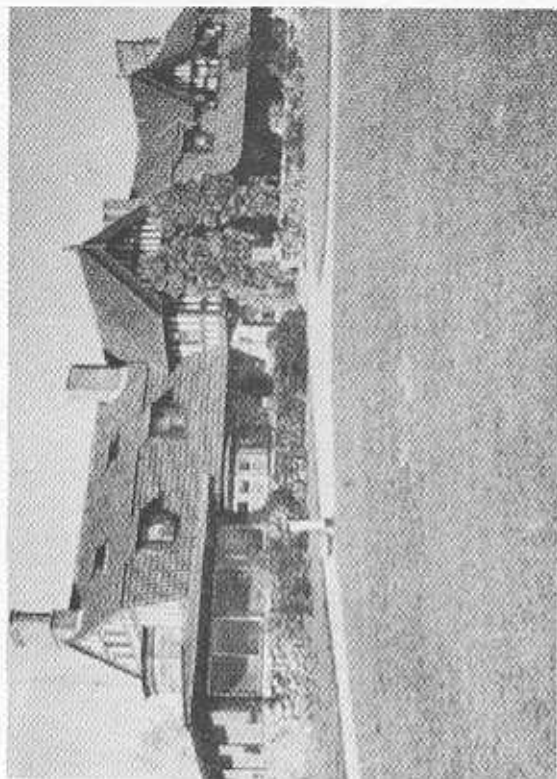


Kona Farm

A showplace in
Moultonborough, New Hampshire



by
Barbara Kelley

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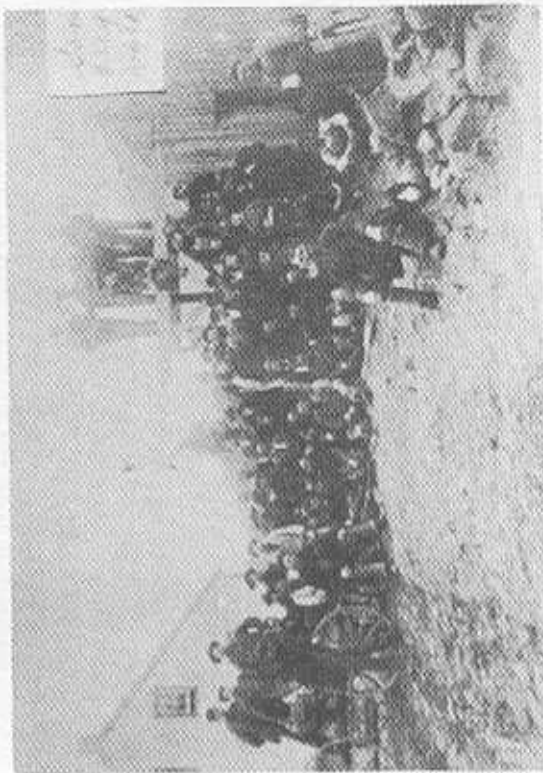
Those who contributed information were: Lillian (Mrs. George) Abagis, Lauris Avery, Clarence Bickford, Gladys (Mrs. Orion) Bickford, Mario Braggiotti, Gloria (Mrs. Ellsworth) Cotton, Betty (Mrs. John) Crowley, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Crowley and daughter, Erin, Alida Davis, Gloria (Mrs. Emlen) Braggiotti Etting, Reverend Frank Green, Virginia (Mrs. Edward) Haines, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hare, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hamke, Mr. and Mrs. James Harriman, Nancy (Mrs. Roger) Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kerner, Robert Lamprey, Isadore (Mrs. Lester) Lear, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Matlage, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Martin, Elizabeth (Mrs. Frank) McIntire, Nancy (Mrs. Ike) Meredith, Mrs. Ruth Feely Merrill, Fredricka (Mrs. Roger) Merriman, Dorothy Goodhue (Mrs. Harold) Morse, Mr. and Mrs. John Paddleford, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Plaisted, Mrs. Helen Lunt Poff, Mrs. Mabel Dearborn Potter, Ernestine (Mrs. Horace) Richardson, Ann Dumaresq Ryder, Dorothy (Mrs. Rupert) Simonds, Donna (Mrs. Shaw) Smith, Mary Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stevens, Adelle Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Van Doran, Beth Vinal, Walter Vonah, Mrs. Grace Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Whelan, and Theodora (Mrs. Earle) Woodman.

I especially want to express appreciation to Mrs. John Crowley who helped research deeds, gave many tours of the property, and allowed me to make copies from her scrapbook and pictures. Gary and Karen Van Doran entertained us for a weekend and helped research in the Boston Public Library. My husband, Garald, has spent many hours copying pictures and giving advice and deserves appreciation.

Introduction

In 1899, Herbert Dumaresq, part owner of the huge Jordan Marsh store in Boston, retired and started plans for a country home on the shores of beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee. His father-in-law, Eben Dyer Jordan, had died in 1895 and it seems that Herbert had plans to terminate an unhappy twenty-five-year marriage to Julia, Eben's daughter. Fishing trips to the Center Harbor and Moultonborough area had acquainted him with its beauties. He is quoted as saying, "The view is certainly unequaled in any part of the world I have ever traveled."

John Goodhue, of nearby Wolfeboro, whose father, Lewis Goodhue, owned a farm which became part of Kona Farm, supervised the building of a stately mansion on a high point on Moultonborough Neck. Fifty workmen were assembled from the Moultonborough/Wolfeboro area which is documented in this enlightening picture of the workmen gathered around the cape. A few women are here. Maybe they prepared meals for the men. John Goodhue, wearing his familiar yachting cap, can be seen in the crowd. The cape was the property of Ann and Elbridge Glines of Somerville, Massachusetts. (Several of the farms which became part of Kona



The workmen gathered beside the Glines' cape before starting work on the mansion.

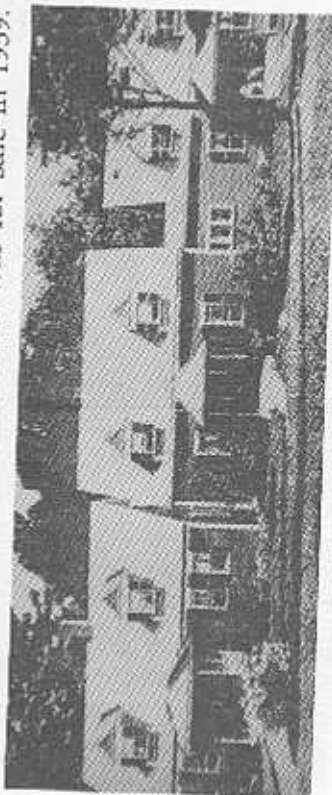
sachusetts. (Several of the farms which became part of Kona

were owned by Massachusetts residents.) The deed was passed to John Goodhue on September 5, 1899. Eight of the initial farms were purchased in John's name. Goodhue purchased the original farms because Herbert was concerned that Julia might get the property in the divorce settlement. The divorce was finalized shortly and the deeds were passed to Herbert on November 8, 1899. The purchase price of the Glines farm was \$2,500 and included eighty acres of land.

In the next ten years, Mr. Dumaresq had purchased all the one thousand one hundred eighty-six acres shown in the 1940 Perley map included in this account. In addition, he bought the sixty-seven acre Black Cat Island from the Boston and Maine Railroad in 1900, and in 1902, one hundred and thirty acres on Second Neck called Eagle Shores became part of Kona. This included Blueberry, Hull and Wallis Islands. The total land holdings for all of Kona were one thousand nine hundred and thirty-three acres.

John Goodhue had recently married Josephine Abbott, whose family lived a few miles away on Moultonborough Neck (the farm is now owned by Alan Davisson). The Goodhues moved into the Glines' cape which had been moved near to the location of what today is called the Carriage House. This cape became the center building of three clustered together. One was used as the home of the farm overseer; one was the home of the caretaker of the mansion; one was used by the Dumaresqs when they stayed in Moultonborough in the winter. (They had a home at 327 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, where they spent some of the winters.)

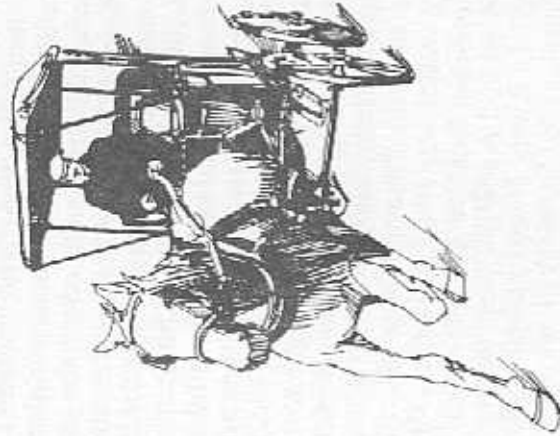
A picture of the three connected capes is found in a brochure printed at the time Kona was for sale in 1939.



Three attached capes which had been moved from farms bought by the Dumaresqs.

Today, two of the capes remain in the same spot. The middle one was moved to the shorefront and is the summer home of Helen M. Anderson. The Anderson cape was 120 years old when it was moved to provide space to build the mansion in 1900, according to "Looking Back" column in the *Meredith News*. Ellacoya, John and Josephine's oldest daughter, was born in this cape. The Goodhues loved the Indian legends. They were especially enchanted with the story of Kona and Ellacoya. Kona and Ellacoya were in love, but there was a problem: the two tribes were bitter enemies. Ellacoya convinced her father to permit the marriage. Following the wedding, as Kona and Ellacoya paddled off, the sun sparkled on the clear surface of the lake. Ahanton, the father said, "This is a good omen. From now on we shall call the lake 'Winnepesaukee, Smile of the Great Spirit.'" Thus came Winnepesaukee's name, though many changes have been made in the spelling through the years. The Goodhues not only named their daughter Ellacoya, but convinced Mr. Dumaresq to name his new farm Kona. (A sidelight to this story is a comment made by artist-pianist Walter Vonah who lives on nearby Lake Wakonda. He felt that the name Kona was incongruous with the Bavarian style of architecture.) Perhaps you are wondering when Frederika Dumaresq, who is the Mrs. Dumaresq local people remember, came into the picture. Herbert and Frederika were married on January 3, 1905. Frederika's family owned abutting property. She was 36 and Herbert was 53. The story of her family, the Slades, is told later in the narrative.

Dorothy Goodhue Morse, second daughter of John Goodhue's, has been the source of much information used in this account. She lives on Sewell Road in Wolfeboro beside the Goodhue-Hawkins Boatyard. Her father bought the boatyard site in his youth to have a landing spot for his first boat. He and his younger brother, Ed, had left Moultonboro when their farm buildings burned and had lived with May Hanson in Wolfeboro. She became known as "Aunt May" to the Goodhues and later provided a home for John and several of John's children when their mother died. Nat Goodhue, John's younger brother, started the Goodhue Hawkins Boatyard around 1915. Dorothy kept John's records and many pictures. She was in contact with the Dumaresqs until their deaths. She visited them shortly before Herbert died at 104 when they lived in an apartment at 388 Beacon Street in Boston.



Mr. and Mrs. Dumaresq

Many erroneous accounts are found in old news clippings and these are perpetuated in present-day stories and writings concerning Kona. As the author pursued the truth from deeds, vital statistics and interviews with persons who actually worked at Kona or who had parents who worked there, some of these fabrications become almost comical.

The story goes that Herbert Dumaresq, a penniless immigrant from France, married the spinster daughter of his employer, Eben Jordan. They were given property in Moultonborough as a wedding present. Nothing could be further from the truth. Herbert's ancestors settled in Boston around 1700 and, from all accounts, became a very prosperous family, much respected in Boston's society. When he married Julia, not Dorothy, in 1873, she was twenty-one years of age, hardly a spinster. When the first eight farms of Kona were purchased, Herbert didn't buy them in his own name so Julia couldn't acquire them in a divorce settlement. The wedding gift story couldn't be more absurd.

Why did such distorted tales grow? The only explanation given is that divorce was so rare and viewed with such disfavor that the Dumaresqs kept their life completely private.

Herbert had a son, Jordan, born in 1877 to Julia and Herbert Dumaresq. Herbert's occupation is listed as salesman on the birth certificate. Jordan's marriage is recorded at twenty-four years of age and his occupation is broker. His wife, Amy Gunther Scout, came from New York City. Frederika Merriman, niece of Frederika Dumaresq, tells that Jordan is buried in France. He died when thirty-nine years of age. Local people had never seen him. What a price Herbert must have paid!

Eben Jordan died in 1895, which may have freed Herbert to divorce Julia. The genealogy of the Jordan family furnished by Dorothy Simonds of Centre Harbor, who is a Jordan descendant, gives the story of Eben Jordan, a tremendously successful businessman. The Marshes left the company after fifty years. The dynamic Eben was almost single-handedly responsible for its success. A book furnished by Adele Taylor, Moultonborough librarian, called *Tales of the Observer*, copyrighted 1950, is the story of one hundred years of Jordan Marsh history. Herbert went to work for the company in 1867, when he was sixteen years of age and

stayed with them until he retired as a partner in 1900. *Tales of the Observer* doesn't mention Herbert. To find out why, we went to Lillian Abagis, who was personnel director at Jordan Marsh for over thirty years. She writes: "Strangely (or maybe not so strangely) references to the elusive Herbert have been assiduously expunged from all the histories of Jordan Marsh that ever came out of the public relations department. In those days, divorce was such a no-no that polite society closed their eyes to it and if the parties were socially prominent, even the newspapers (especially Boston) didn't mention it. Herb simply became a non-person!"

Herbert was educated at Miles Military Boarding School, Brattleboro, Vermont. His obituary tells that he helped escort troops to the railroad station during the Civil War. Herbert must have been sent to the boarding school when his father died. He was ten when the Civil War started and fifteen when it ended.

At sixteen, he started working with Jordan Marsh as an office boy, reporting for work each morning at 6:30. He remained with the firm for thirty-three years, ending as a partner.

James Harriman, who worked at Kona Farm for four years, starting when he was 16, says Herbert was a nice-



Herbert Dumaesq in his late sixties.

looking man, very pleasant and the help were very fond of him. James later became Centre Harbor's barber for seventeen years and was an excellent source of information.

Frederika Merriman, Mrs. Dumaesq's niece and namesake, describes her uncle: "Conversation with him was not easy because of his deafness; nevertheless, he loved having visitors and just being a part of gatherings. He and Aunt Rika loved dogs and had a number of them at Kona over the years. They were a very devoted couple and my aunt took wonderful care of my uncle, spending herself unstintingly for him up to the time of his death."

Mrs. Merriman sent a brochure of an exhibit at the Boston Museum of Art. The cover of the brochure was a painting of



Painting of Herbert in younger years taken from a Boston Museum of Art brochure.

Mr. Dumaesq in younger days. It portrays a man of means. Typical of reports that he loved animals, a collie lies at his feet.

Herbert was quite deaf. Mrs. Merriman describes his hearing aid: "He had an old fashioned device consisting of a

mouthpiece connected by a tube to a piece he held in his ear. The mouthpiece was given to anyone who wished to speak to him and if one yelled he could hear." Even during World War I, when a family named Braggiotti came here from Italy and spent much time at Kona, Herbert was using the hearing trumpet. We have a section dedicated to the Braggiottis, who seemed to take the place of children of their own in the lives of the Dumaresqs at this time. A daughter, Gloria Braggiotti, wrote a book called *Born in a Crowd*, the name referring to her family, which consisted of eight children. One chapter, which is very enlightening, is devoted to life at Kona. She describes Herbert thus: "Uncle Herbert loved these outings (speed boat rides in a boat named Florence). Wearing knickers, sweater, bow tie and gray tweed cap, he cut a dashing figure as he manned the speedboat and whizzed us over the lake."

Herbert was a man of precision. Some people said you could set your watch by the time he started his daily walks, rain or shine. He carried an umbrella if rain threatened and sometimes walked back and forth on the porch that nearly surrounded the mansion. A dog always walked with him. Some said he walked five to eight miles a day when he was younger. The obituary told of his going for walks up to the age of 102, two years before he died. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dumaresq loved animals, as is evident in many pictures. One picture shows four dogs together. A Mrs. Donna Smith, whose family had a summer home on Black Cat Island, tells of watching activities at Kona through binoculars when she was a child. A dog always got in the car with the Dumaresqs whenever they went riding.

Clarence Bickford, who lives on Red Gate Lane in Meredith and who worked at Kona from 1929 to 1939, had the job of keeping a depression in a rock filled with water for the birds.

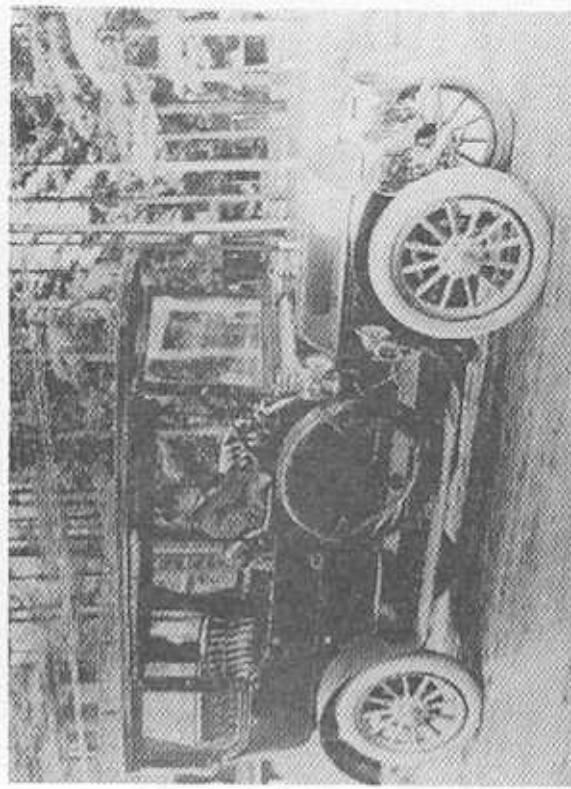
James Harriman told that a barber came once a month from Boston to cut Herbert's hair. Jesse Allen, Meredith barber, said that he went to Kona to cut Herbert's hair and Herbert insisted that he use his tools, but Mr. Allen didn't like them and would substitute his own when Herbert wasn't looking.

Jim Harriman relates a story of one of Herbert's fishing expeditions: The party had been fishing for several days on the St. Lawrence River. They had caught nothing and stopped to visit with some nuns at a little church nearby. After telling the nuns of their lack of success catching fish, the men were

promised a prayer for better luck the next day. Herbert assured the nuns that, if he caught a fish, he would pay off the \$500 mortgage on the church. Sure enough, he caught a fifty pound salmon, and, true to his word, returned to the church to pay the mortgage. That salmon was mounted and Gloria Braggiotti describes it in her story of Kona.

A story of the St. Bernard dog is related by Jim Harriman: During his stay at Kona, Herbert had to enter Laconia Hospital for an operation. The dog would neither eat nor drink with his master away and died before Herbert returned.

By 1929, when Clarence Bickford was at the farm, Herbert didn't operate the boats himself. He had "Brown" take him fishing. "Brown", as he was always called, was a man of many



"Bob" Brown who worked for the Dumaresqs for over forty years.

abilities: chauffeur, car repairman, Swallow pilot, carpenter, plumber. After World War I, he remodeled and restored the Swallow, which had been stored for the duration of the war. Mrs. Lester Lear, who had bought a lot on Eagle Shores from the Dumaresqs in 1937, says that if the Dumaresqs wanted Brown to handle a job he wasn't familiar with, they sent him to school to learn. Bob Brown worked for the Dumaresqs for over forty years.

Gloria Braggiotti mentions Aunt Rika's calling "Brown"

when the boys played a prank on her. She thought there were prowlers attacking the boys. Gloria said that Brown carried a gun after that.

Mrs. Lear tells that Brown always wore a hat. One day it fell off. To her surprise, he was bald except for one wisp of hair, which he wrapped around his head to show beneath the cap.

Bob Brown's daughter, Virginia Haines, was our first informant. On my first visit, she said, "The Dumaresqs were the kindest, warmest, most generous, considerate people I ever knew." Virginia's sister, Gloria Cotton, of Meredith told of many of her memories, too. Most of the pictures we've used were Virginia's. The Browns received many generous gifts from the Dumaresqs, but the thing that impressed her most was that they continued receiving small gifts, soap, combs, handkerchiefs all through the years.

Mrs. Dumaresq was a tall, stately lady. Gloria Braggiotti says: "Aunt Rika was a superior sort of Bostonian. She spoke with beautiful diction, held herself erect, and showed unbounded integrity and courage. Though she came from a family even larger than ours, she had been raised very strictly and found it difficult to accept our easy-going way of airing personal problems and our utter lack of prudery—she walked down to fetch us for lunch, looking as if she were on route to a garden tea, wearing a striped silk dress, white shoes and stockings, and a brimmed hat.

Aunt Rika's only failing was her utter gullibility. She believed anything we told her. 'You don't mean it!' she'd exclaim with astonishment, yet obviously eager for more of our fabricated nonsense. Her attitude naturally encouraged the boys to see how far they could go."

She had beautiful jewelry and wore hats with veils, even at the table. Probably the veils were to hide the blue veins which marred her face as she grew older, we were told.

This is Frederika Merriman's description: "Aunt Rika always wore her clothes with style and distinction and even when she was very simply dressed, she always looked like a 'Proper Bostonian'. She was very warmhearted and welcoming; one of her favorite greetings when we made an unexpected appearance was, 'I can't believe it!' and in the course of a visit she would often remark, 'How cozy!'"

Tales of the generosity of the Dumaresqs were related by almost everyone interviewed. Gladys Bickford told that when



Frederika Dumaresq at about fifty years of age.

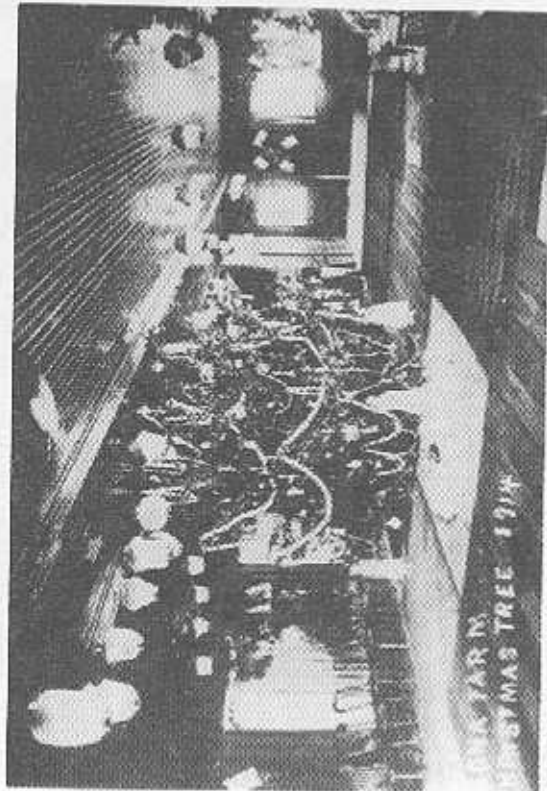
she was a telephone operator, the Dumaresqs gave each operator a five-dollar gold piece. The telephone operators and all the town officials of Centre Harbor were invited each year for a ride on the Swallow and a picnic at Kona. As you can imagine, this was a great treat.

The fountain in the Centre Harbor square was donated in 1907, two years after Herbert and Frederika were married. That story is told later.

Grace Weaver of Centre Harbor informs us the Anthonys, her neighbors, told stories of parties held at the homes of the many prosperous summer residents in the area. Families would travel miles in horse and carriage to attend. Kona Farm, which boasted a huge fireplace with a spit on which a whole "critter" could be roasted, was a favorite spot for those parties.

A large room was set aside in the stock barn (now called the carriage house) especially for social gatherings. The help (fifty at times) and their families were entertained here. When motion pictures came into being, the employees and neighbors were invited. Electricity was installed around 1920, Leonard Plaisted of Camp Winauke points out. The Christmas Party was very special to the children of the Kona "family". Mrs. Dumaresq went from door to door asking each

child what he or she wanted. Mabel Dearborn Potter said, "A teddy bear." "What else?" Mrs. Dumaresq inquired. "Nothing," said Mabel. "Then you shall have the best teddy bear money can buy." Mabel reports it was the most beautiful teddy she had ever seen. No wonder the Dumaresqs were so loved!



Large room in the stock barn used for parties for help and showing moving pictures.

Edith Dow Banfield, who attended the Middle Neck School, remembered the Dumaresqs offered a bicycle to the boy and girl who received the highest grades that year. Edith won the girl's bicycle. She called Mrs. Dumaresq "Lady Bountiful," Betty Crowley, who owns Kona Mansion today, tells us.

Mary Smith, who owns Camp Iroquois, cherishes two gorgeous eighteen-inch dolls with china heads, wooden arms and legs with joints, which Mrs. Dumaresq gave her mother as a child. They remain in the boxes in which they came, too precious to use.

Another project of the Dumaresqs was the repair of the Middle Neck School, which children whose parents worked at Kona, attended. The school remained open until World War II, Lauris Avery informs us. It was moved in 1987 to a location beside the Town House to become part of the Moultonborough Historical Society exhibit.

Near the Middle Neck School site on Kona land is a small pond where large deep pink pond lilies grow. These are not native lilies, but were brought here by the Dumaresqs, Dorothy Morse tells us. They are still a gorgeous sight. This land was bought by James Larkin recently and a large home is going up very near the location of the Ed Smith home which housed the Lakeview Post Office for many years. The Larkin house looks at one of Moultonborough's most beautiful views of the Sandwich Range, Ossipees and Mount Washington. "The pond may be dredged and stocked with fish," says Mr. Larkin.

The year 1915 was a sad one for the Goodhues, who were so close to Kona and to the Dumaresqs. Their charming mother, a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, died in childbirth. The Dumaresqs took over and made certain the eleven children had homes. The Goodhues had planned to name the baby Herbert Dumaresq Goodhue. Herbert wrote them a letter and requested they give him another name. His ancestry was too sacred to him, we assume.

As we near the end of our story of Mr. and Mrs. Dumaresq, we feel obligated to our readers to touch on their finances. Dorothy Morse reports that Herbert received a substantial settlement (six million dollars, she believes) when he retired from Jordan Marsh. This apparently put him in the category of "capitalist," which is recorded in the record of his marriage to Frederika. Large farms such as Kona were prevalent in this period. Many were self-sufficient. Probably the only cash crop on Kona was lumber. Many mention that Herbert invested heavily in a silver mine in Mexico. Mario Braggiotti says it was named Elvarado. He believes Tom Plant of Castle in the Clouds fame invested in the same mine. The demise of the mine seemed to be public information in the area. Rumors exist that the mine was flooded. This was the decade in Mexico's history when the government seized property of foreign investors and nationalized them for the benefit of their own. This could have been what happened to the Dumaresqs' investments. (We can't help but believe that the stock market crash played some part in their financial difficulties.) A letter written by Mrs. Dumaresq in 1934, and saved by Dorothy Morse, confirms their dilemma. Mrs. Dumaresq is trying to sell the eight famous St. Cloud lamps (described in the section about the mansion) which lined the

driveway to the mansion. Frederika discloses the value of the lamps as \$25,000, but she reveals that they needed money so badly they will let them go singly for \$1,000 or \$7,500 for eight. The Napoleon desk (described in the Mansion section) also which is valued at \$25,000, they are offering for \$10,000.

Ruth Feely Merrill, sister of Frank Feely of Centre Harbor, was vacationing at Ferncroft in Wanalancet, New Hampshire, and visited Kona in 1932. She was with a friend, Amy Ferguson, whose father was a senator from Michigan. The Fergusons were guests of the Dumaresqs because the Dumaresqs were hoping to interest the Fergusons in buying five cottages and a boathouse for \$25,000. Mrs. Merrill described Mr. Dumaresq as a very quiet person while Mrs. Dumaresq did all the talking. The Dumaresqs had two Great Danes. One was spotted. She also remembered the St. Cloud lamps that lined the driveway. (These are described in the section on the Mansion). We wonder whether Ellacoya Goodhue Miller could have been the go-between in this effort to sell part of Kona. She lived in Detroit, Michigan, and was active in politics. Mrs. Miller was trying to find a buyer for the St. Cloud lamps and Napoleon desk. Ellacoya was Dorothy Goodhue Morse's sister and saved the letter discussing the sale prices.

In 1939, after the Dumaresqs were unsuccessful in selling Kona, three banks in Concord, N.H. took possession. Bob Lamprey, who did an in-depth study of the disposal of Kona buildings and land, informs us that the total selling price of the entire estate was \$75,000.

The Dumaresqs sold what furniture they could, stored the rest and returned to their home in Boston.

The Dumaresqs' losing the Kona property in this way saddened their many friends. However, Herbert was eighty-eight by this time and must have been ready to leave.

Mrs. Merriman remembers: "When the Yankee Division paraded in Boston after World War I, she had her house at 327 Commonwealth Avenue opened for the day and we all gathered there to catch the momentous event." Mrs. Merriman also tells, "In later years, they sold their Commonwealth Avenue house and lived in a very elegant and spacious apartment at 388 Beacon Street which, of course, included maid's quarters."

At the risk of being accused of prying we did study the settlement of the wills by the executor on file in Suffolk County Courthouse. After selling their property and expenses paid, there was no balance.

"The Pedigree of Dumaresq"

A "Pedigree of Dumaresq" may be found in the New Hampshire State Library. Herbert's father was a famous sea captain who was lost at sea on June 25, 1861. His mother, Margaretta and a sister, 15, drowned in the Kennebec River on September 4, 1855. Margaretta had borne seven children, of which Herbert was fifth in line. His oldest sister, Florence, was twelve when her mother died. Philip Dumaresq, Herbert's father, had an excellent education before he went to sea under his uncles, James and Thomas Handasyde Perkins. (Augustus Thomas Perkins, the author of *A Sketch of the Family of Dumaresq* to which are added *Reminiscences of James Dumaresq*, is the son of Thomas Handasyde Perkins.) This sketch of the family says that by the time Philip was twenty, he was the head of his profession and captain of his own ship. When he was forty years old, he retired with a handsome fortune and married Margaretta Dublois. After the death of his wife and daughter, he went back to sea. In 1861, he too was drowned in Long Island Sound. His body was found and buried in Forest Hills Cemetery. At ten years of age, Herbert became an orphan.

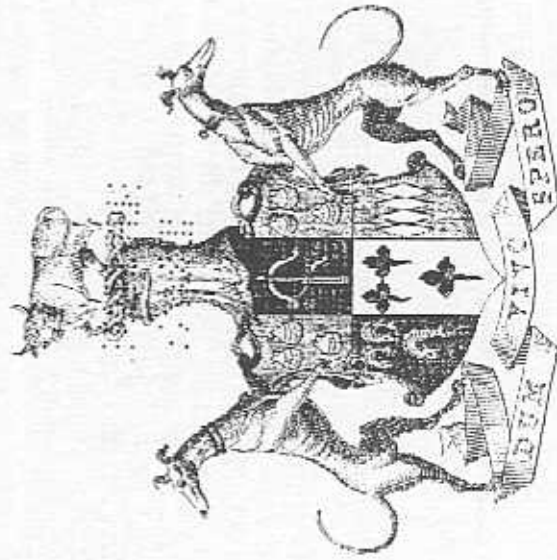
The Book *Proper Bostonians*, by Cleveland Amory, describes Captain Philip Dumaresq as a prince of sea captains. It tells of an incident of Captain Philip's taking Mrs. Joseph Coolidge of the Proper Bostonian family to sea. Pirates were bearing down on them and the captain asked, "Should we surrender or blow up the ship?" Mrs. Coolidge replied, "Blow up the ship," and went on deck to watch the race. The pirates, maybe realizing whose ship they were pursuing, gave up the race. Philip Dumaresq was known as extremely skilled in hand-ling his ships.

The first of Herbert's ancestors to come to America was another Philip, who lived on Summer Street in Boston in the early 1700s. His marriage is recorded on June 12, 1716 and his death in 1775. He was captain and owner of the "Young Eagle," of 30 guns. This was Herbert's great, great grandfather. This Philip came from the Island of Jersey.

The family tree is traced back to the year 1000. Jersey is the largest and southernmost of the Channel Islands which lie off the coast of Normandy in the English Channel. The islands belong to England, but most of the residents are French. Many of Herbert's ancestors were titled and held positions of leadership on the island.

James Dumaresq, Herbert's grandfather, owned a summer home on Swan Island in the Kennebec River, which he inherited from his mother, Rebecca Gardiner, daughter of Sylvester Gardiner, prominent in Maine's early history. Here Herbert's family spent their summers. This island is about 25 miles south of Augusta. It is now a state park managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries. It is called the Steve Powell Wildlife Management Area. Picnicking, camping, tours and nature programs take place there. A ferry for people operates between the island and the town of Richmond.

Probably the most illustrious of the family was on the Education Commission of Catherine, Empress of Russia. This was Daniel Dumaresq, a tall, ungainly scholar born on Jersey Island. He became a fellow at Exeter College, Oxford, and then rector of a village in Somerset. Catherine called him from the village and appointed him to her esteemed five-man Educational Commission. He recommended that Russia should have secondary schools in every province. Of him it was said, "Perhaps the conduct of no man came nearer to that of the primitive Christians than this venerable divine."



Crest of the family of Dumaresq.

The family crest which may be seen on a tile in the living room fireplace at Kona Mansion is topped by a bull standing on a helmet. The shield is divided into six sections, scallop shells in two of them, a crossbow in one, a fish in one, fleur-de-lis in one and diamonds in the remaining one. These are symbols of various families joined with the Dumaresqs in marriage. Two greyhounds, standing on hind legs, looking away from the shield have their front legs resting on the shield. The motto, "Dum Vivo Spiro" translated is "Where there's life there's hope." Herbert must have been proud of his ancestry to embed it in the fireplace of his mansion, and is probably responsible for filing the pedigree at the State Library.

A clipping from the December, 1948 *Boston Post*, which was saved by the mother of Mary Smith, who owns and operates Camp Iroquois, shows Herbert at the age of 98. He



Herbert Dumaresq at ninety-eight years of age on the occasion of the inaugural Pan Am Air Clipper flight from Boston to Bermuda.

is sitting beside a picture of his father, Philip. Pan American Airways was flying Herbert to Bermuda on the inaugural Air Clipper Flight from Boston to Bermuda. The flight took three hours and fifteen minutes. The airship was named "Bald Eagle," after one of Herbert's father's clipper ships.

Ann Dumaresq Ryder

Ann, who is co-owner of AD&M Marketing and Communications in Burlington, Vermont, came to Kona in 1984 and left a brief resumé of her family. Her parents, who live in Greenville, South Carolina, received a note on paper showing the Kona fountain with inscription, "Donated by Herbert Dumaresq" visible. Ann became interested because her grandfather, father, and brother are all named Herbert Dumaresq. One of the facts mentioned in her resumé was that an ancestor of hers was captain of the "Surprise" which ferried Robert Louis Stevenson to Samoa. Her family had in their possession books given to this captain and autographed by the famous author. Gloria Braggiotti's book *Born in a Crowd*, mentioned the motor boat of the Dumaresqs was named for Herbert's father's clipper ship, "Surprise." This prompted a call to Ann, which resulted in many interesting letters and visits in an effort to confirm the precise relationship between her family, which came from the Island of Guernsey, with Herbert's family which came from Jersey in the English Channel.

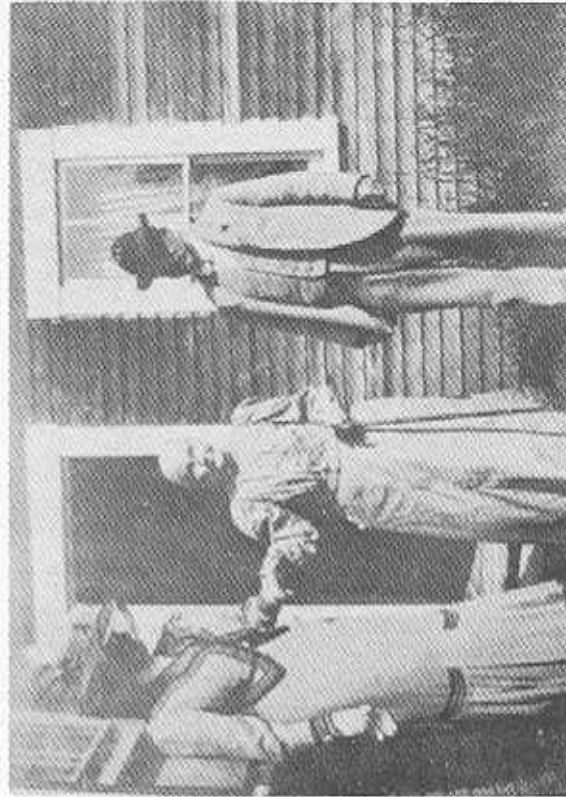
Ann knew that her great, great grandfather, Admiral Thomas Dumaresq was captain of the "Repulse", 64 guns and later appointed to the "Alfred", 74 guns. In the book, *Sketch of the Family of Dumaresq*, we learn that Herbert's Grandfather, James Dumaresq, served as a midshipman on the ship of his kinsman, Admiral Thomas Dumaresq. This was the "Alfred", 74 guns. In letters written by James and also by a brother Phillip, it was learned that they both stayed at this Admiral Thomas Dumaresq's home, called Pelham Place in England. Ann visited this Admiral Thomas Dumaresq's grave in Guernsey last summer when researching her background. Ann's grandfather, who came to America from Guernsey, would be Kona Herbert's contemporary. It isn't likely they were acquainted. They would have had a fascinating family history to relate if they had been in contact. Meeting a present-day Dumaresq as charming as Ann added much enjoyment to this research.





The Slades

Dr. Daniel Denison Slade, father of Frederika Dumaresq, was a prominent medical doctor in the Boston area. He was a graduate of Harvard Medical School and became a surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital. He practiced medicine in both Dublin, Ireland and Paris, France. He was an extremely popular speaker and lectured regularly at Harvard. He was warmhearted, sensitive, and much loved. He was prominent in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and was the author of several books and many medical, scientific, and historical articles. His wife, Mina Louise Slade, is seen in the picture with her daughter and her daughter's husband, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dumaresq, copied from the collection of Kona pictures in the possession of Mrs. Virginia Brown Haines.



Left to Right: Frederika Dumaresq, Mina Louise Slade, Frederika's mother, and Herbert Dumaresq.

Mrs. Slade met her husband when singing in the choir at King's Chapel in Boston. Frederika's oldest brother, Dennis, bought a farm which borders Squam Lake, on the Bean Road, not far from the Sandwich town line. Dennis left the property to his mother when he died. Later the Merrimans inherited

it. Their son and his wife live there now and the Merrimans have a home nearby on the shores of the lake.

Mrs. Merriman sent a Boston Museum of Art folder on the cover of which was a copy of a painting of Herbert Dumaesq in early years. The setting of the painting is a luxurious Victorian room with a Collie dog reclining on the floor beside him, the very essence of a "Proper Bostonian". This was on display at the Museum of Fine Arts at the time of a special exhibit called, "The Bostonians: Painters of an Elegant Age, 1870-1930".

Frederika Dumaesq's sister, Elizabeth Burgess, built a large cottage near Kona which Ruth and Nancy Hanks recently sold. This property has one of the finest beaches on the lake. The Dumaesqs often used it for swimming. When Kona Farm was for sale, the Dumaesqs had a set of farm buildings moved from the field, called 40-Acre Field, behind the mansion, to the Burgess lot so that they would have a summer home on Lake Winnepesaukee when Kona was sold. Clarence Bickford of Meredith told how he helped move these buildings. A swath of trees had to be cut and the buildings were moved on rollers.

Braggiottis

This family of eight children came to American from Italy during World War I. Their mother, who was a Boston Chadwick, had died and the father, who was a close friend of Herbert Dumaesq, decided to bring up the children in the United States. Kona Farm welcomed them with open arms. Nothing was too good for this family. One daughter, Gloria Braggiotti Etting, wrote a book called *Born in a Crowd* which can be found in the Boston Public Library. One chapter of this book is titled "Kona", and reveals much information about life at Kona in the twenties. It says, "Kona Farm, the 3,000 acre (this is a bit large) estate of Mr. and Mrs. Dumaesq on Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire, came next to Italy in our hearts. To us children, this unspoiled wilderness was the land of the American Indian. When we canoed on the peaceful gray lake, with only the sound of water drops falling from the paddle, now and then interrupted by the crazy laughter of the loons, it was easy to picture their stealthy figures against the background of scented pines and lake. The water was steel gray, but close to its surface one could see clear to the bottom. From early morning till dusk we were canoeing, rowing, or putt-putting in the motor boat the Dumaesqs bought for my brothers. Uncle Herbert named it the "Surprise," after the famous Clipper ship captained by his father, Phillip Dumaesq. Papa and we children had standing invitations to visit at a moment's notice, and we went there as often as possible. Life at Kona was so healthy and the food so delectable and nourishing that we grew several inches and gained pounds." Quotes from this book will be found in other parts of this narrative.

Two of the Braggiotti boys spent most of their summers at Kona. Tracing down this family proved to be a bit of a problem until a note to Vice-President (now President) George Bush put us in touch with Francesca, whose late husband John Davis Lodge replaced Clair Boothe Luce in Congress, served as Ambassador to Spain in the 50's and later became Ambassador to Switzerland during the Reagan administration. A gracious letter from Francesca discloses her feelings for the Dumaesqs: "I am in receipt of your most interesting letter about our dear close friends Uncle Herbert and Aunt Rika Dumaesq. Kona Farm, the 'Swallow' and all the things you mention were all part of our youth in America!" Another

family member, Chadwick, was also a career diplomat. A telephone call to Mario filled in facts about Kona. Mario was the Braggiotti for whom Aunt Rika (Frederika) bought the Steinway. He was pursuing the career of pianist-composer. In 1923, he returned to Italy to further his vocation. He had made his sister's book into a musical. The silver mine that Herbert had invested in heavily was named Elvarado and plays an important part in the drama.

He especially remembers nostalgically the wholesome food: maple syrup, fresh corn, many kinds of berries, nuts, and apples. But he hadn't forgotten the mosquitoes—clouds of them.

Francesca was a dancer and performed in many Hollywood and English movies. Cleveland Amory tells in the book *Proper Bostonians* that John Davis Lodge was a first among Lodges to break with family tradition and become an actor.

Both the Nielsens and Crowleys tell of members of this prominent family returning in recent years to see what had happened to this "home away from home."

The Mansion

The entrance to the property in early years was the road to the carriage house today. Helen Poff of Centre Harbor, who is over ninety, came here when a child with her father in a horse and buggy to visit the overseer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Branford. To enter the estate, the horse and buggy passed over a bar which opened the gate. Betty McIntire, who keeps historical records of the area, writes in a report of the Moultonborough Historical Society tour of Moultonborough Neck that cars weren't allowed beyond the stock barn (carriage house). One either walked or was carried by the Kona carriages. Certainly when cars came into constant use one drove to the mansion. Eight nine-foot wrought iron and bronze lamps lined the driveway to the mansion. They were five feet wide at the top. These came from the Palace of St. Cloud in France. Herbert went himself to the ruins and bought these treasures. The palace burned in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian War. Marie Antoinette lived there at one time. Kings, queens, emperors and empresses walked beneath these ornate lanterns.

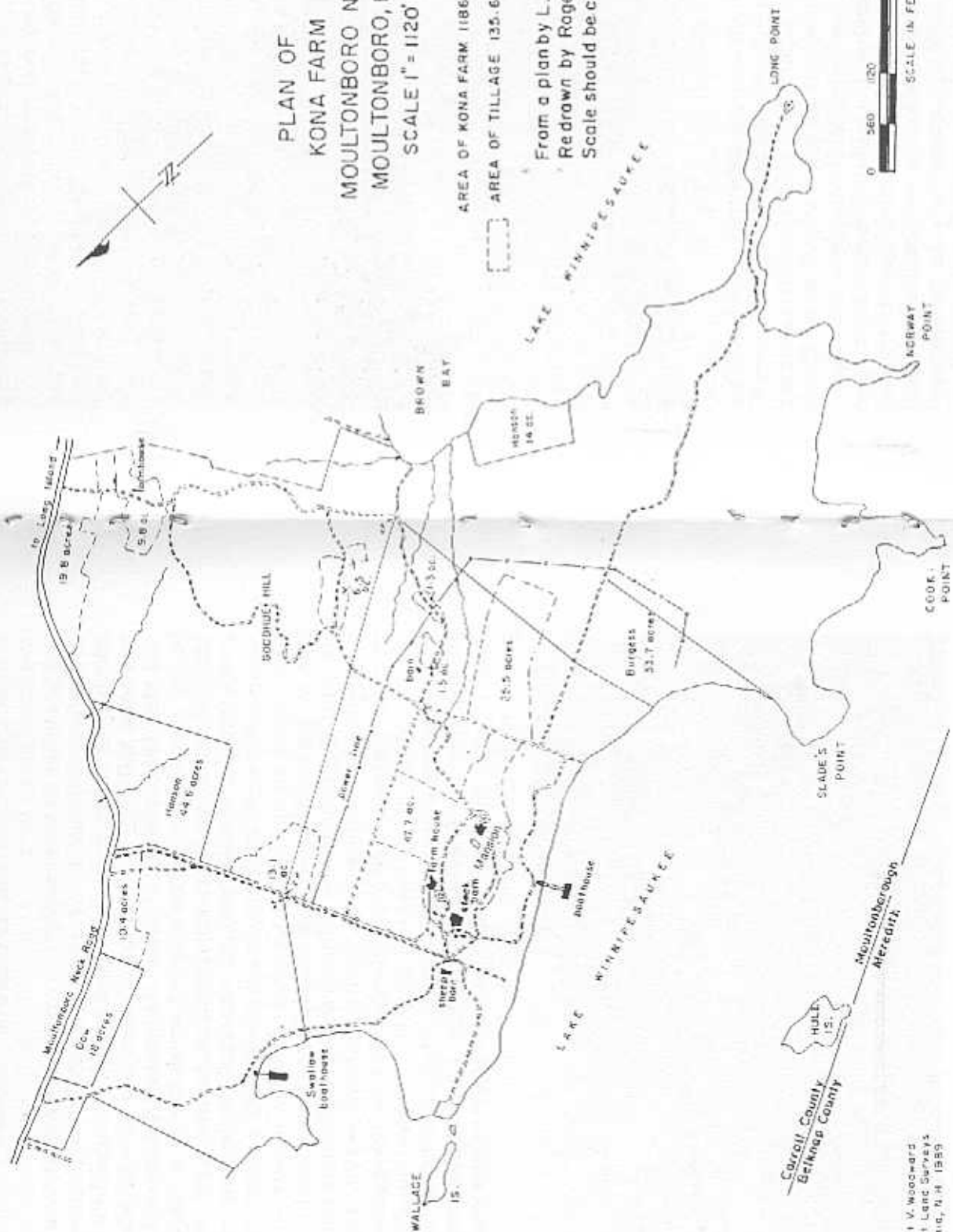


The mansion from the side that today faces the parking lot.

A hand-drawn diagram showing a line with a point labeled 'P' on it. A perpendicular line segment intersects the line at point 'P', forming a right angle. The line extends to the left and right of point 'P'.

AREA OF TILLAGE 135.6 ACRES.

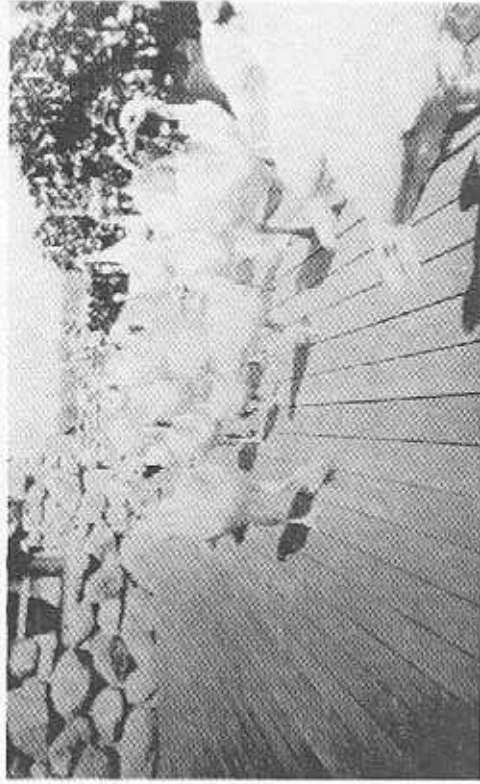
From a plan by L. K. Perley. 1-11-40
Redrawn by Roger Williams 1959
Scale should be considered as approx



Robert V. Woodward
Forest Land Surveys
Lagania, N.H. 1989

The following takes us back to the period when the Dumaresqs were in residence. The material in parentheses gives sources.

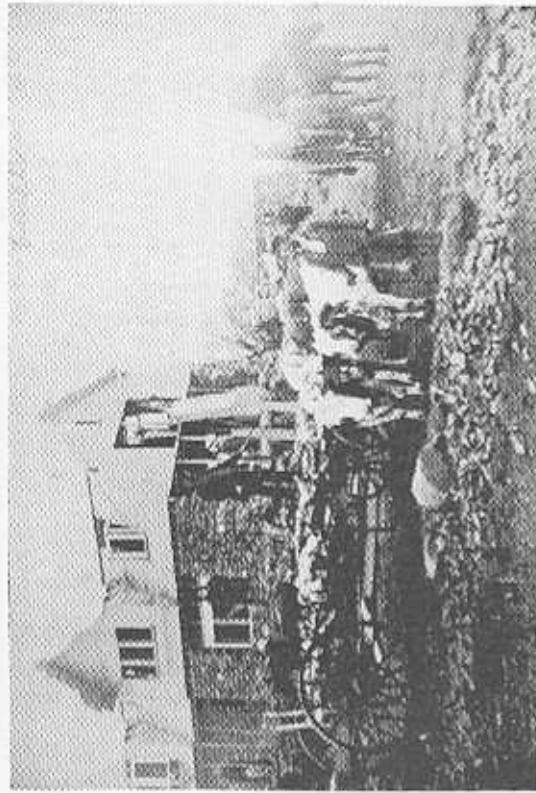
As we walked to the mansion from the stockbarn, we see the beautiful structure ahead of us. The first story is completely of fieldstone taken from area farms. The mansard roof which meets the stone is of red clay tiles. Second story windows peer through the tiles. The building is insulated with seaweed. The seven gables are sheathed with white boards and green overlays. Cedar posts with limbs protruding support the porches. Five beautiful chimneys serve eight fireplaces. Sheep graze around on the lawns. (White turkeys are seen on the porch in one picture.)



White Turkeys on porch of mansion.

(We have pictures showing construction in progress. The first picture is taken before the Glines cape is moved to a location near the stock barn. Fifty men from the Moultonborough/Wolfeboro area are gathered to start work. Three women are seen in the group, probably to serve meals. John Goodhue, who supervised the building, is standing near a post. He's wearing his familiar yachting cap. The other picture is taken after the stone work is done and the frame for the tiles is in progress. If we look carefully, we can see two yokes of oxen and four teams of horses. Dorothy Goodhue Morse, who preserved these pictures, found a receipt for twenty-two loads of lumber for Kona priced at seven dollars.)

Maybe Mr. and Mrs. Dumaresq will forgive us if we enter

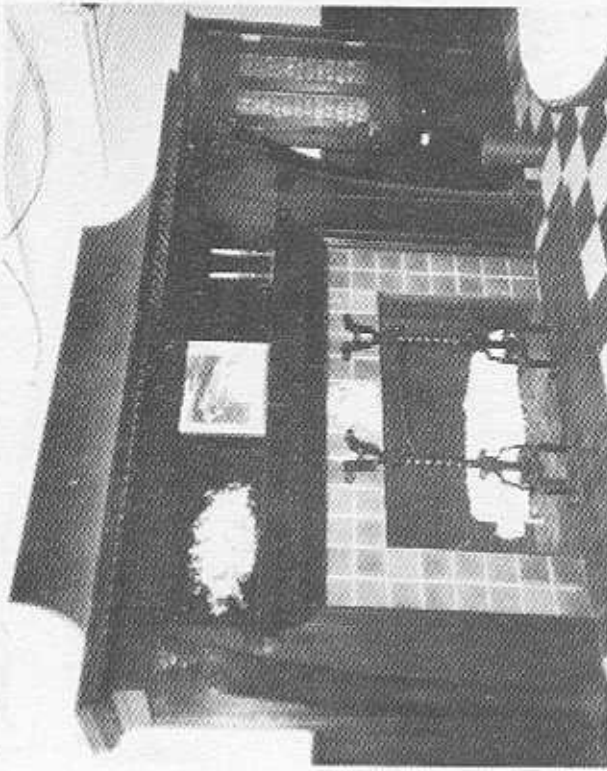


Work in progress on the mansion in 1900.

through the help's porch. The first room we come to is the dining-sitting room for the mansion help. This is a large comfortable place for the servants to relax. Evidence that the comfort of the help was considered is the cheery fireplace. As we pass through to the kitchen, we go by a double stairway. One goes to the four maid's rooms on the second floor; the other to the large basement where two monster furnaces furnished heat when needed. The large kitchen range, dated 1899, dominates this room. It takes huge logs and the heat becomes almost unbearable in the summer. (Clarence Bickford helped move this range to the stock barn. He said, "It must still be there. It was so heavy no one would move it." Sure enough it is Beth Vinal's pride and joy. Beth now owns the Carriage House and rents units to tourists.) We can imagine the servants rushing hither and yon. (Mable Potter tells that she remembers the maids were French. Her grandmother Avery made uniforms for them, so they came to her home to be fitted. Some of the uniforms were black with white collars, cuffs and aprons. In Betty McIntire's records, she spoke of Swedish maids. The book *Born in a Crowd* mentions a Swedish maid who was dismissed because her brothers told Aunt Frederika one brother, Stiano, was falling in love with the fifty-year-old Swedish maid, Elfie. This practical joke of the Braggiotti boys backfired because Mrs.

Dumaresq fired Elfie and "for once they were thoroughly ashamed.")

On our way to the family dining room, we pass through the butler's pantry. The shelves are stocked full of supplies to feed big crowds. We now enter the family dining room. Here a large dining-room table will seat sixteen. (Betty Crowley, the present owner, believes that this is the only piece of Dumaresq furniture left at the mansion.) This room has a tiled fireplace with a massive decorative mantle. Embedded in the tiles is a sailing ship, flying a mast flag with a large

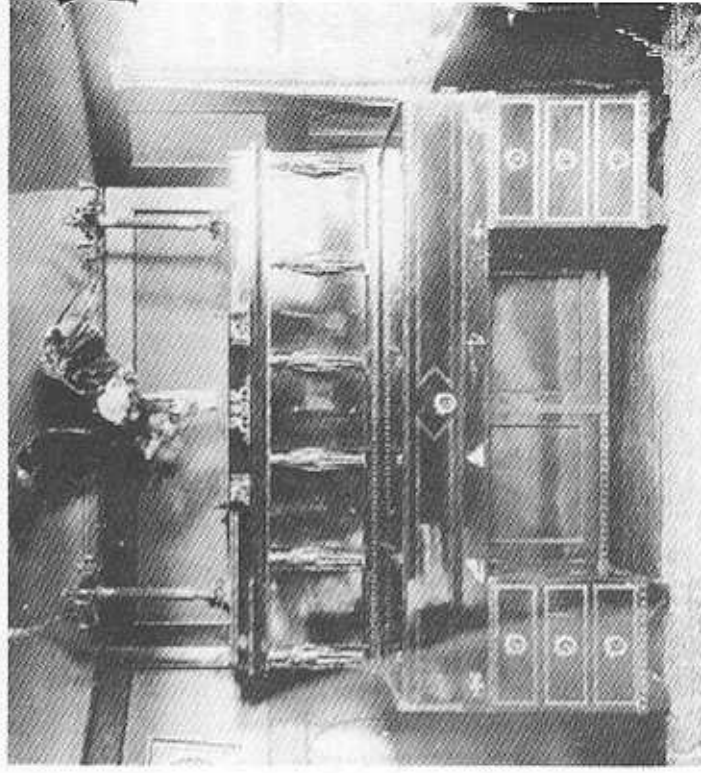


Dining room fireplace.

"D" visible. This is in memory of Herbert's father, the famous clipper ship captain who died at sea. This room and also the living room boast large bay windows with leaded glass. The ceilings above these windows are decorated with green, gold, and red paintings. The designs seem to be a combination of mythology, decorative leaves, flowers and shields used in early books and heraldry. The head of a man with what looks like ram's horns may be depicting a satyr of Greek mythology. (The Nielsens tell us the ceilings in all the downstairs rooms were painted thus and they covered them when they redecorated.)

A doorway leads from the dining room to a covered patio on which is displayed a huge Chinese gong set in a beautifully carved wooden frame. Herbert and the Braggiottis' father brought this from China on their trip around the world. (Dorothy Morse remembers hearing that this almost caused an international incident.) This gong called the family to meals and could be heard even out on the lake. (This patio is enclosed today and serves as a gift shop for the Crowleys.)

As we leave the dining room, we pass the interesting octagon room. This is an eight-sided room surrounded with panelling and a simple fireplace back-to-back with one in the



Napoleon desk.

entryway. Here the huge Napoleon desk has its home. Everyone who visits the Dumaresqs must hear the story of this masterpiece. A Count Henri de Frankenstein sold Herbert this large mahogany desk in 1905. (A copy of the letter written to Mr. Dumaresq telling the history of the desk, which was taken to Russia by the Emperor Napoleon during

the war of 1812, has been saved by Dorothy Morse.) After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, the desk remained in Russia. (Possibly the Countess Frankenstein named in the dedication picture seen in Gladys Bickford's Centre Harbor History is the wife of this gentleman.) Dorothy Morse's sister, Ellacoya, was involved in the sale of the desk for Mrs. Dumaresq in 1934. A letter also remains written by Mrs. Dumaresq setting the prices on the desk and the St. Cloud lamps. This information is found in the section "Mr. and Mrs. Dumaresq." The parquet floor in the octagon room is an elegant sight. (Theodora Woodman told of visiting the Dumaresqs around 1937 or 1938 and Frederika took her into the octagon room to show off the famous desk, so they apparently weren't successful in selling it.)

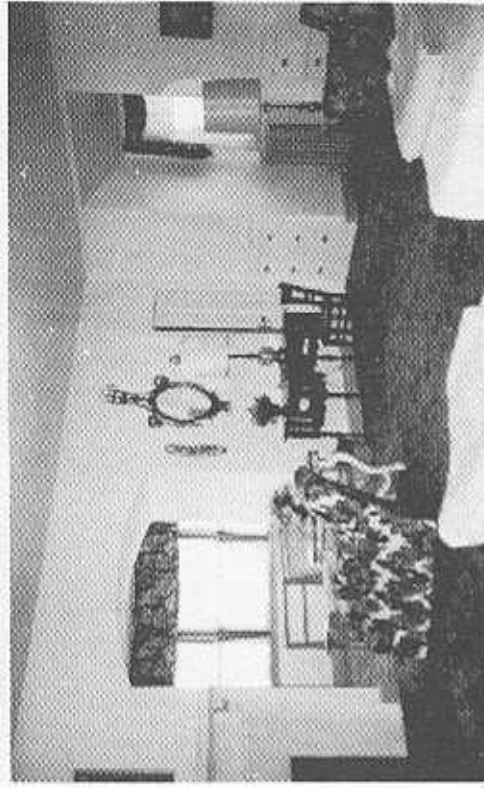
Gloria Braggiotti describes the living room: "The living room, with a fireplace accommodating large logs, was comfortable with Victorian chairs and chintz-covered sofas. The polished Steinway was bought especially for Mario." Cases that line the entrance hall are filled with beautiful French fashion dolls. A large picture window looks out on a panoramic view of the Belknap mountains, the lake, and the islands. (The Nielsens removed this window and glassed in the porch to use for a bar and dining room.) The arches, beamed ceiling and large fireplace give the room atmosphere. Stencils are used as borders around the woodwork. Don't forget to pay special notice to the Dumaresq crest, embedded in the tile fireplace. Herbert is especially proud of his prestigious family and rightly so.

The doorway facing the lake leads to a covered porch that surrounds most of the house. (The Nielsens removed this doorway and made bedrooms on this part of the porch.)

The porch on the northeast faces a field of 40 acres and is uncovered. The views from all the porches are exquisite in all directions. (Bob Woodward, *surveyor for the State Forestry Department, has a map he made in 1941 of this area. He has drawn three vistas which were strips facing mountain and lake views that were kept free of trees that obstructed vistas. This made it possible to see the Ossipees, the Sandwich Range and even Mount Washington in the distance on a clear day. No wonder Mr. Dumaresq said it was the most beautiful view he had ever seen in any part of the world.*)

The stairway to the second floor rises beside the front door. At the top of the stairwell, we find a beautifully-styled

large hall. All the lovely bedrooms lead off this hall. The large spacious master bedroom belong to Mrs. Dumaresq and has



Mrs. Dumaresq's bedroom.

a huge bay window, a fireplace, and a large Italian-tiled bathroom. Again the view of the lake, the islands and the mountains can not be surpassed. Beside this master bedroom is a very small room which is Herbert's. (Realizing that this home was planned when Herbert was divorced and single, we wonder whether the little room was planned for a valet.)

There are six other comfortable bedrooms on this floor. A little narrow staircase takes us to the attic. More windows—these are small ones—break through the tile roof to give light and air. Narrow tongue-and-grooved boards face the walls. No detail is overlooked in finishing any part of this home. (The Nielsens say there were two tremendous water tanks, dated 1904, in the attic which furnished water by gravity flow to this building during the Dumaresq's ownership. The Nielsens removed them.) We return to the front entrance.

This is the end of our tour. We'll say goodbye to the Dumaresqs and leave, even though we'd like to stay.

We have already stated that we know that Herbert was single when he planned these magnificent buildings. We happened to learn that Harry Carlson, who was the architect, also planned the Tom Lawson estate in Scituate, Massachusetts. Tom Lawson was a copper magnate who is famous for building the only seven-masted schooner in history. The Lawson buildings were similar to Kona. They have been

turned into condominiums and no longer show the original style, but the Lawson tower remains and could easily be part of Kona because of the style of architecture. Reports in local newspapers called this Tudor. We mentioned in the section called "Introduction" that Walter Vonah, a local artist-pianist believes the style to be Bavarian. We discussed this with Herbert and Virginia Matlage because Herbert is a native of Bavaria, and he confirms Mr. Vonah's insight. However, the style does seem to be taken from a type called Shingle Style, popular from 1880-1915. Features of Stick Style, popular in 1860-1880, and Queen Anne, 1875-1895, are also visible.

Much credit is due the Crowleys, Betty and John, and their son Kevin and his wife Dianne, for trying to keep much of the original ambience.

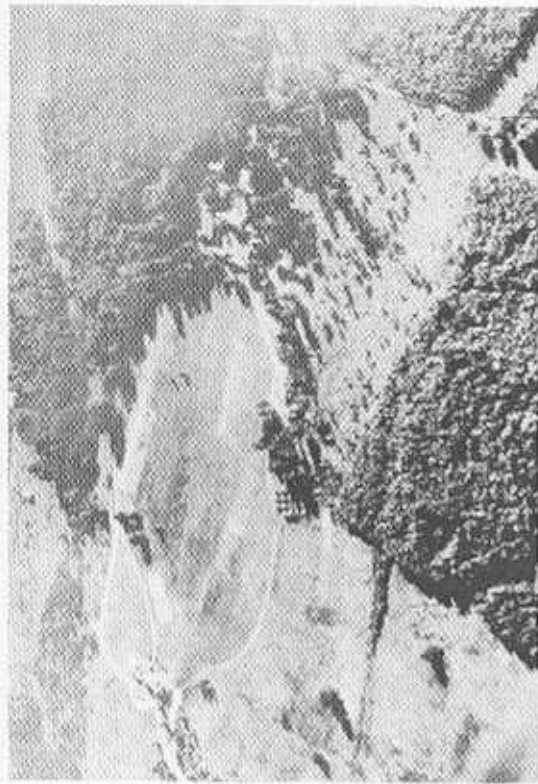
At the time the Dumaresqs were here, there was a modern little cottage located very near the mansion which was used for guests. The maids sometimes slept here when their rooms were too hot, Clarence Bickford said. This was bought by Ray Plummer and moved to Eagle Shores, very near the Black Cat Island Bridge, Gloria Brown Cotton tells us.

A farmhouse located in the forty-acre field behind the mansion was moved to the Burgess property which has the lovely beach, so the Dumaresqs could come to the lake after they left Kona. (Mrs. Burgess was Frederika's sister.) Clarence Bickford told of moving this house. They cut a swath of trees and pulled the building on rollers. It is the red set of buildings that sits behind the large Burgess house. This property was sold to developers by Nancy and Ruth Hanks, so the buildings may not be there long.

President Calvin Coolidge was offered Kona for a summer vacation site. Mrs. Coolidge was a Goodhue, a cousin of John Goodhue's father. The Coolidges told the owners it wasn't big enough for their needs, but it was the most beautiful spot they had ever seen. (This information came from "Looking Back" column in the *Meredith News* on June 15, 1927.)

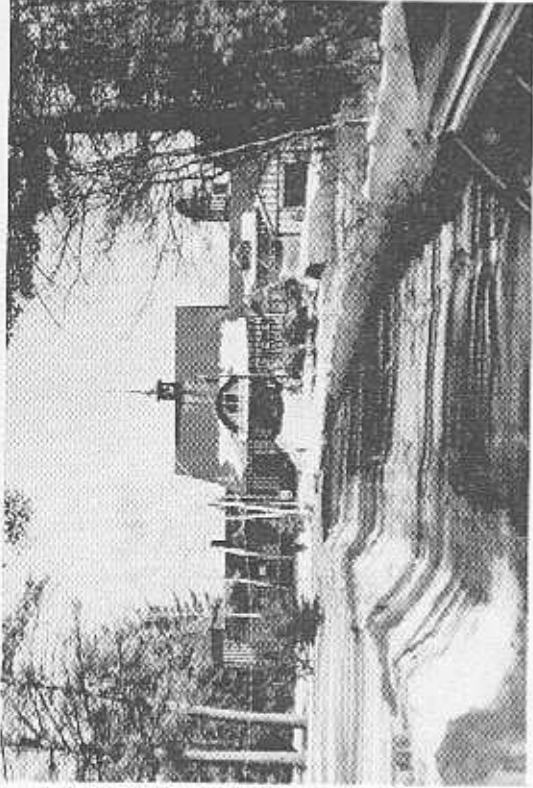
Farm Buildings

Aerial pictures of Kona Farm show the mansion sitting majestically on top of a hill (680 feet above sea level, according to a Lewis Perley map in 1940). Circled at the base of the hill, on the lake side, are the farm buildings.



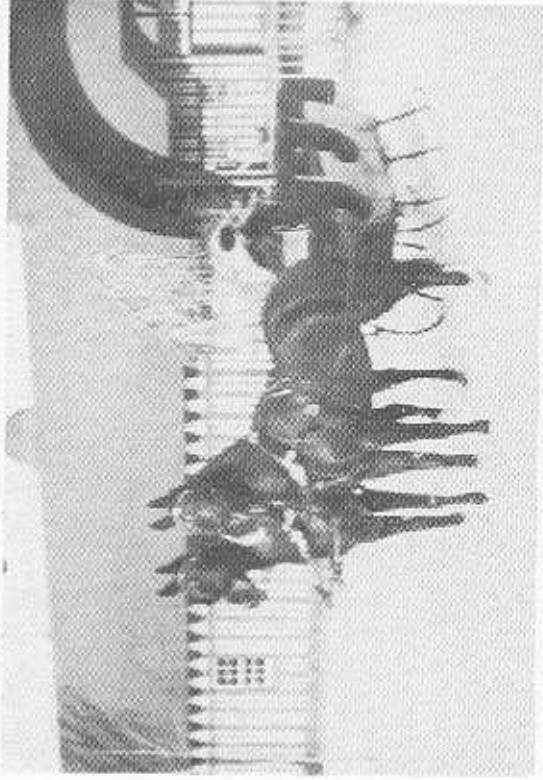
*Aerial view of Kona Farm.
The mansion is on the left. The stockbarn
which surrounds a yard for animals is on the right.*

The stockbarn is a large structure built on all four sides of a 120 foot by 65 foot barnyard. This is a very picturesque set of buildings. Many changes have been made to make it into a motel, but basically the original exterior is preserved. A ramp led to a large barn door facing Kona Farm Road. To the right of the door were the nine horse stalls and tack room. To the left were the twelve cow stanchions. Opposite the front doorway was another exactly like it which led into the barnyard on the side facing the mansion. On the lake side of the barnyard was a six-sided tapered tower with a dome-shaped roof. This contained the tank that held water to supply the entire estate. On the side of the building away from the lake was another tower of eight sides and of slightly different design to balance the water tower. The overlay on this building is especially decorative. A cupola with ball decoration on the weathervane displays a clock. A ladder



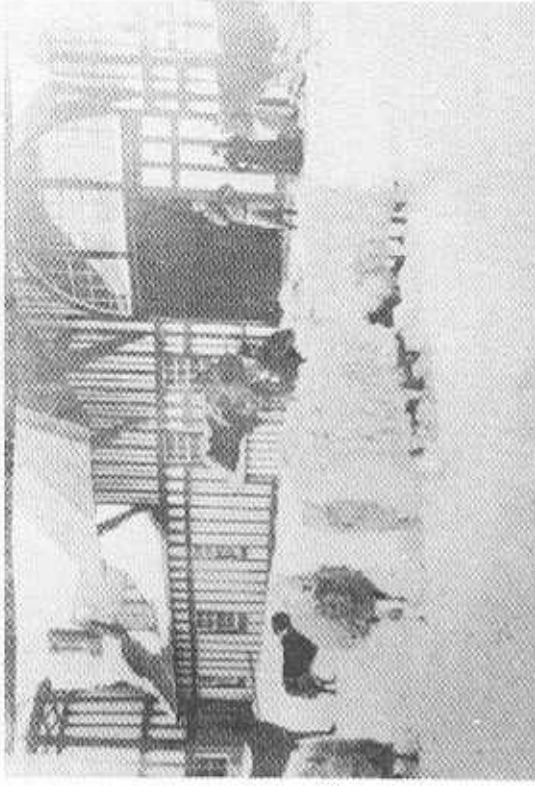
*Kona farm Road runs parallel to the right side of the picture.
The icelhouse and Kona boathouse show at the top.*

inside the barn led to the clock mechanism because it had to be wound by hand. When the clock struck, it could be heard across the lake, the Lears tell. Two other cupolas decorate the



*Horses and sleigh in front of the
archway to the barnyard.*

wings. One has a dove-cote for birds. The side of the building facing the mansion had a beautiful archway supported on an eight-foot stone foundation. The gable of this arch also has a dove-cote. Many pictures show sheep and cows in the yard.



*Animals in the barnyard.
The water tower is at the left.*

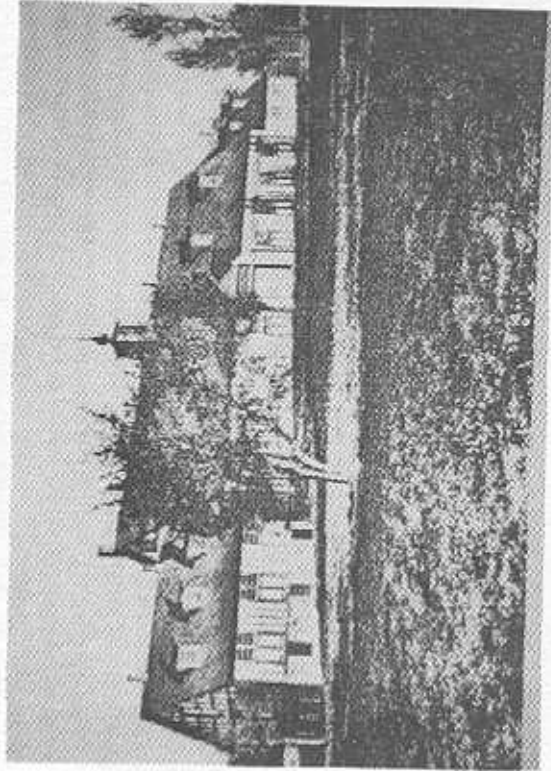
Probably few farm animals lived in such luxurious quarters. The wing of the building nearest the lake was made into a large room for parties and a movie theatre of one hundred seats. We have a picture of this room taken at Christmas time 1914. The side of the building opposite the water tower was the entrance which the farm help used. Here was an office with wood stove where they could get warm. Rooms were found along this wing for farm help who stayed overnight.

On the left side of the stockbarn was a building used for a blacksmith shop and carriage house in the twenties and thirties. It may have been used to store hay and the carriages kept in the stockbarn at one time—thus the name Carriage House for the stockbarn. But everyone we talked to remembers that this building, which is owned by Thomas Kinney, was the home of the beautiful collection of carriages which Mr. Dumaresq had acquired through the years. They were a sight to behold, beautifully preserved. A large door on the back of the second story of the house was reached by a ramp

to push the carriages to their storage place. Tina Borrin, who owned this house at one time, says there are rails along the walls to protect the carriages. Clarence Bickford helped build the blacksmith shop inside this building sometime between 1929 and 1939.

Another building behind this was used to store tools. Nearer the mansion, on the same side of the stockbarn, were three capes tied together and dormers added to blend with the whole complex. These capes came from different farms incorporated into Kona, and served as an overseer's house, the home of the caretaker of the mansion and a home for the Dumaresqs in the winter when they weren't in Boston. The two outside capes remain in the same location. The middle one was moved to the lakefront.

On the other side of the stockbarn nearer Kona Farm Road was a large henhouse. This is the building that became the Hockflyer Ski Lodge. It has the dormer windows, as do most of the structures. An addition was put on the back for repair shop and garages. This building was divided into seventeen rooms for the members of the ski club. The garage repair shop became a fireplace lounge. Beth Vinal, who owns the Carriage House, recently purchased this and plans to restore it to become part of her complex.



*The large sheep barn.
The small part on the left is all that remains.*

Across Kona Farm Road from these buildings was a huge sheep barn. A picture of this is included. This was another attractive structure with dormer windows. Under the nine-paned windows were pretty hinged and bolted doors to let the sheep into the barnyard. A cupola with ball decoration adds to its beauty. A chimney is seen, so the barn was probably heated when the lambs were young. The central part of the building was much larger than the two ends. This section was broken into pens for lambing. Only the left portion of this building remains today. It has been transformed into a cute cottage, but the old doors used by the sheep are still intact. At one time, pigs were kept in this building, but in later years they were kept under the carriage house. Some people mention that pheasants were protected in this sheep barn. The entire floor of this building was concrete and remains in place today.

All buildings had white siding with green overlays, except the three capes, which were painted red. It is a credit to the architect and carpenters that most of these buildings were built well enough to turn into living quarters.

Not far from the Kona Boathouse is a stone building which was the pump house. Even this has great detail and charming beauty. James Harriman told us that the pump was submerged deep enough that it didn't freeze. Water for the entire estate was pumped to the tower in the stockbarn yard. Spring water for drinking was obtained at a spring not too distant on the shore between Kona Boathouse and the Colby Road, which is a rangeway leading to the lake. James Harriman told of hitching horses and sleigh to go to the Neck Road to pick up the mail and back to the spring for drinking water. (They had a Ford beachwagon to get the mail and do errands when the roads were passable.) Horses were boarded in the winter for John Edwards, who rented saddle horses to camps.

Erin Crowley, Dianne and Kevin's nine-year-old daughter, tells us there is a cemetery for the farm dogs behind the carriage house. A few stones have names engraved. We look for Rex because that was the name of the 250-pound St. Bernard who died pining for Herbert while he was hospitalized. Mabel Potter told that Rex came to the little schoolhouse near Green's Corner with the workmen who brought logs to saw at John Smith's sawmill. The children would take turns riding on his back.

We have a picture of a great dane, two collies, and a New-

foundland together. So dogs were a great part of Kona life. Mrs. Lester Lear and her daughter, Nancy Meredith, of Sandwich, visited the estate to buy ice and became good friends of the Brown family who were caretakers after 1939. Nancy was the recipient of a stuffed fox left behind at the Kona Boathouse. She must have been a real favorite because she also received a spinning wheel. The family was given a fishing house to store their ice. The fishhouse was sided and painted in the stickboating-style of Kona architecture.

Mabel Potter described a coachman who wore a uniform with brass buttons. He was small but very important looking. His family was some distance away and he often talked of his twins. He drove a horse hitched to a democrat wagon with two seats, a very impressive sight for a child.

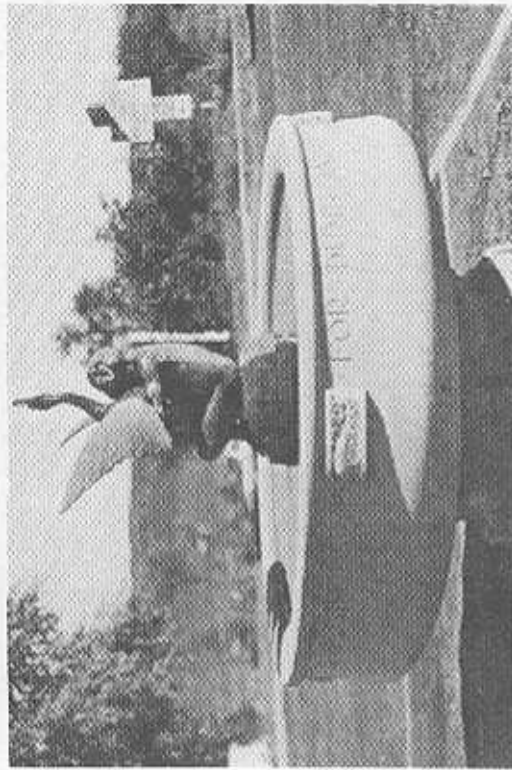
The men described the wonderful vegetable garden in the field where the golf course is today. Roses grew along the fence near the garden. Jim Harriman says he never saw such beautiful roses. One man did all the gardening. Each farmhand had his separate jobs.

Descriptions of Kona tell of fifteen miles of roads. These were roads to the various homes the Dumaesqs bought. Clarence Bickford said it was his job to keep the bushes cleared from the roadsides. They would often see deer, rabbits, foxes and other animals.

The Ed Smith house, which was the Lakeview Post Office near the entrance to Kona Farm Road, was torn down and the lumber used to make corduroy roads where it was swampy, especially near Swallow Boathouse. A road near the sheepbarn led to Kona Boathouse. Part of this may be the present Kona Bay Road.

Clarence Bickford told of cutting ice. They stored it in another stone building on the far side of Kona Boathouse. This icehouse has been transformed into a beautiful home owned by Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Germain. The docks had to be kept open to prevent damage, so ice was cut continuously. Ice cut in Swallow Cove was stored in the freight house. (The story of this is related under Boats and Boathouses.)

Kona Fountain



The Kona Fountain.

The Centre Harbor fountain, which is on the National Register of Historic Sites, is the memorial which has perpetuated the name of Dumaesq since it was placed there in 1907 and will for years to come, we hope. A picture of the fountain dedication remains and was used as the centerfold of the 1982 Centre Harbor Town Report. At that time Mrs. Roger (Nancy) Kelley did some research for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the fountain. She tells that a *Laconia Democrat* article said that the bowl was cut from a granite block, which weighed ten tons, by Samuel Crook of Lincoln, Massachusetts. An Indian boy, named Kona, struggling with a goose from whose mouth the water flows, is sitting in the bowl. James Harriman relates that it was brought to Meredith by train and a team of oxen hauled it to Centre Harbor. Nancy found that this event received mention in other papers of the time. The *Boston Globe* commented that they were eager to know the meaning of the statue. It facetiously suggested that it was symbolic of the old prohibition laws offering only water instead of strong drink. (In 1907, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League were active. Before the Civil War, several states had prohibition laws.)

Samuel Crook studied for three years under Augustus St. Gaudens, the famous sculptor who lived in Cornish, New

Hampshire, from 1885 to 1907. Dorothy Goodhue Morse remembers that a door knocker made by Augustus St. Guadens graced the front door of the Kona Mansion when the Dumaresqs owned it.

Frederika Merriman informs us, "Uncle Herbert had the St. Gaudens door knocker, representing the head of an Indian with the name 'Kona' below, mounted on a block of mahogany. He kept it in his study in his Beacon Street apartment. It is in my possession now."

Gladys Bickford, Centre Harbor historian, reports that the Dumaresq family came to the dedication of the fountain in the beautiful steamer, the "Swallow." The Centre Harbor school children and townspeople were at the docks to greet them and the Centre Harbor band escorted them to the fountain. A booklet giving the complete program is on file at the Nichols Memorial Library in Centre Harbor. Some of the school children recited a poem written for the occasion. The speech by the Reverend John Thorpe, pastor of the Congregational Church, is included and gives many instances of using fountains throughout the world. He mentions fountains in the Bible, in market squares in England and Europe.

An enlarged copy of the dedication picture may be found on page 63 of the *Centre Harbor History* written by Gladys Bickford. The caption points out the Dumaresqs, Margaret Slade, Mrs. Dumaresq's sister, and a Countess of Frankenstein and her daughter, who were visiting at Kona Farm. Probably she was the wife of Count Henri de Frankenstein, who sold the Napoleon desk to Mr. Dumaresq in 1905. (Information about the desk is found in the Mansion section of this booklet.)

A study committee was formed in 1988 to consider moving the fountain to a safer spot because it was believed that heavier traffic was a threat to its safety. A vote was taken at the 1989 Centre Harbor town meeting and a decision was made to raise, add a recirculating water system and illuminate the fountain in the present location.

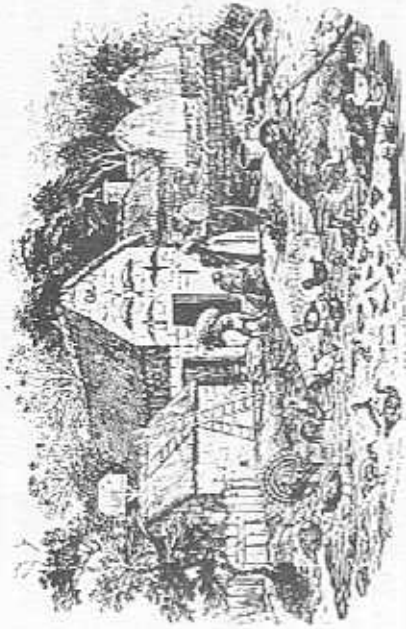
Kona Wildlife Preserve

In 1953, the State of New Hampshire had purchased 315 acres of Kona land from Richard Jackson. On a 1940 survey map drawn by Lewis Perley of Laconia, this acreage had a road circling an area called Goodhue Hill. A branch of this road leads to the lake at Brawn Bay. This old road, which the Dumaresqs used for rides and walks through the woods, is still being enjoyed by nature-lovers and hikers today.

In 1962, Governor Wesley Powell and his Director of Parks, Russell Toby, presented a plan to the legislature to open up the property to the public for boating, swimming and camping. This met strong opposition from Moultonborough. In December, about 30 Moultonborough residents, including summer landowners and the Board of Selectmen attended a meeting of the governor and council to protest plans for expansion of the park. A petition signed by over 400 residents and a letter from the selectmen were presented. In essence, the sentiment was that the Moultonborough Neck Road couldn't handle such an influx of traffic and the town would suffer loss in lower evaluation in the surrounding property.

In the 1969 session of the legislature, Dorothy Davis, Moultonborough's representative, succeeded in getting a bill passed which established the Kona Wildlife Area on 315 acres of land near Brawn Bay in Moultonborough Neck. This bill released a commitment of \$1,000,000 to enlarge the area for a state park. It is under the management of the State Fish and Game Commission and will be preserved in its natural state, open for the enjoyment of nature-lovers.

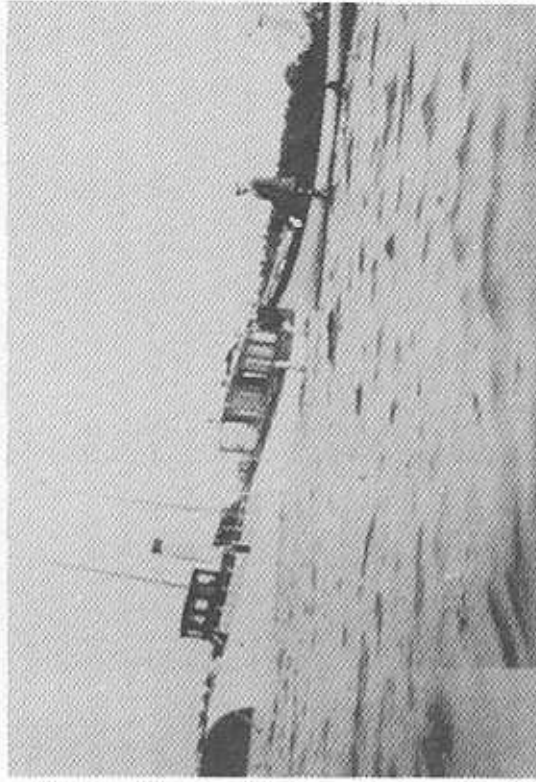




Boats and Boathouses

Would you believe that one family would find use for a steam yacht, two other steam boats, a speedboat, a motorboat, rowboats and canoes? According to Gloria Braggiott's *Born in a Crowd*, this is the sum total of Dumaresq's "fleet" after World War I.

Herbert came by his love of the water naturally. His family genealogy shows that almost all his ancestors made their livelihood at sea.



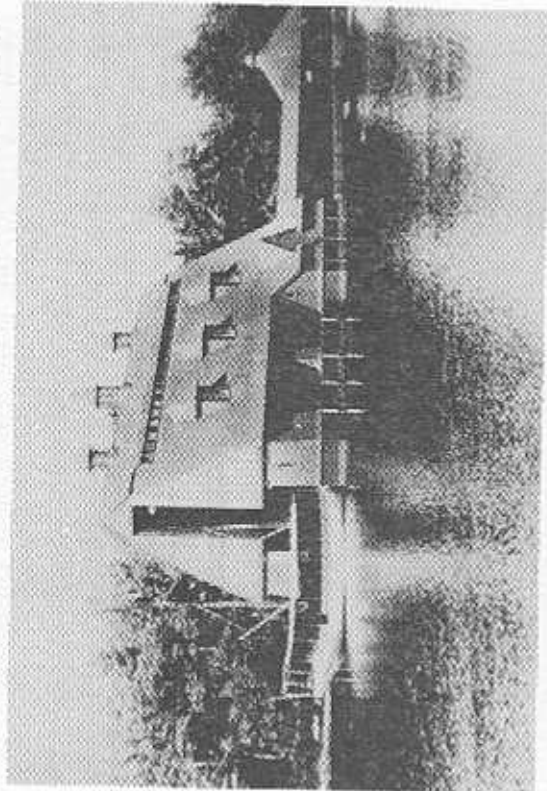
From Left to Right: The "Swallow", "Kona", and "Ellacoya".

We have one picture of Herbert with all three of his steamboats together: the steam yacht "Swallow", "Kona" and "Ellacoya". To house all these beauties required three boathouses—all works of art. Two of them exist today. The Swallow boathouse is part of the Windward Harbor development complex; it's on the National Register of Historic Sites. If you haven't seen it, you're missing something. We look across the bay from our kitchen window and see it in all its splendor (thanks to Peter Hare's meticulous attention) in all changes of weather. It's a sight to behold, especially with the fog lifting on early summer days.

The boathouse is considered a feat of engineering skill. When raising the "Swallow" from the water by means of jacks, the strain on the structure was tremendous. It is not

supported on stone cribbing as some, but built similar to churches with heavy spires. Huge oak beams brought in from Canada supported the structure.

Frances and Ernest Stevens supplied us with the interesting picture taken as the "Swallow" is being maneuvered into



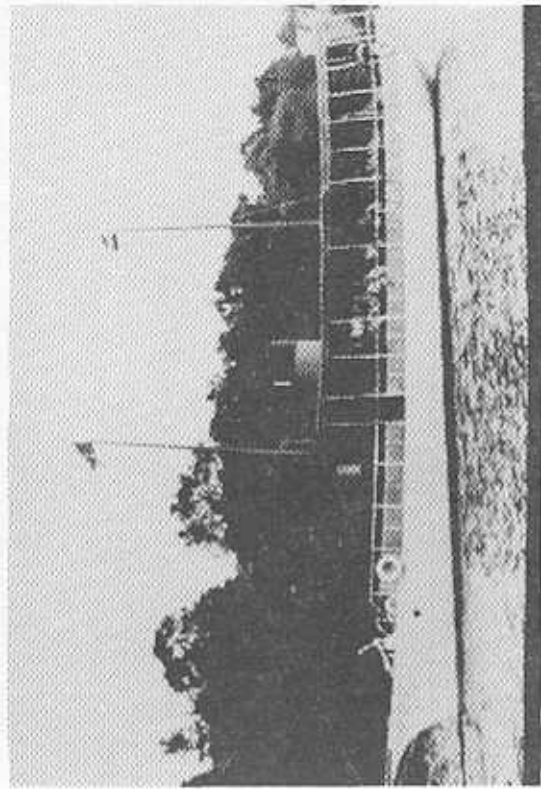
The "Swallow" and the Swallow boathouse.

its stall. The projection near the covered walkway is the coal-loading dock. Beside the two platforms for loading passengers visible, there are three on the far side of the building. One should paddle or row around the building to appreciate the massive structure and intricate carpentry. Six dormer windows, three cupolas and clerestory windows to let in light in the upper story add to its balance and beauty. This unusual design was improvised to eliminate the work of taking the mast down when the "Swallow" was entering the building. In later years, a superstructure was added to the "Swallow" to protect the passengers. The masts remained even though the structure prevented the use of sails.

Kevin Murphy of Weathersfield, Connecticut, who is working on a book, *Turn of the Century Boathouses of America*, asked to use a picture of the "Swallow" boathouse for his coverpiece.

James Harriman says he painted this boathouse when the lake was frozen. He tied three ladders together to reach the peak.

An article in the *Laconia Evening Citizen* on June 18, 1947, tells the story of the "Swallow." The information was given by John Goodhue in person when he was 80 years old. "Captain Goodhue bought the steam yacht 'Swallow' in 1893 in Boston, sailed it to Portsmouth, loaded it on a flatcar and



The "Swallow".

shipped it to Alton Bay, where it was launched. After operating it for several years as a passenger boat, he sold it to Herbert Dumaresq. The "Swallow" was the flagship of the Boston Yacht Club.

Edward Blackstone, in his book *Farwell Old Mount Washington*, declared, "The trimmest and most picturesque steam yacht ever to decorate the waters of Lake Winnepesaukee was 'Swallow'."

The lines of the hull were very similar to a clipper ship. It was finished in highly-polished mahogany. A large brass rail surrounded the deck. (James Harriman said it was his duty to polish the rail.) There were two masts and a wheelhouse in the bow for the captain. A large smokestack is seen in earlier pictures. Peter Hare says the bank offered it to his father for \$100 with the boathouse. Mr. Hare had it checked out and was told that the boiler was badly rusted, so he turned the offer down. However, fifteen acres of land did come with the boathouse.

The Hares tell that "Brown," who was their caretaker as well as caring for the estate, told them the "Swallow" was once housed in a building which was later called the freight house on a nearby beach. There is a marine railway (still there today) leading to the shore on which the "Swallow" was pulled to its berth. Later the freight house was used to store coal and ice. The Lears remember it well, for they came across from Eagle Shores to buy ice. Mrs. Lear has a picture of this building with a vista behind, which was cleared to get a view of the mountains from the mansion.

In the early days of Kona, visitors often came by train to The Weirs. Here the Dumaresqs had their own dock to pick up passengers and take them across the lake. James Harri-man said the steam was always kept up and ready to go. The "Swallow" was taken from the water in winter by means of jacks. It took three men to turn the jacks. The captain and steward wore uniforms. The steward served cocktails and made certain the guests were comfortable.

Mario Braggiotti informs us that Brown rebuilt the "Swallow" after World War I. It had been put up during the war. (At some time it was changed from steam to gasoline motor. The masts were also removed.)

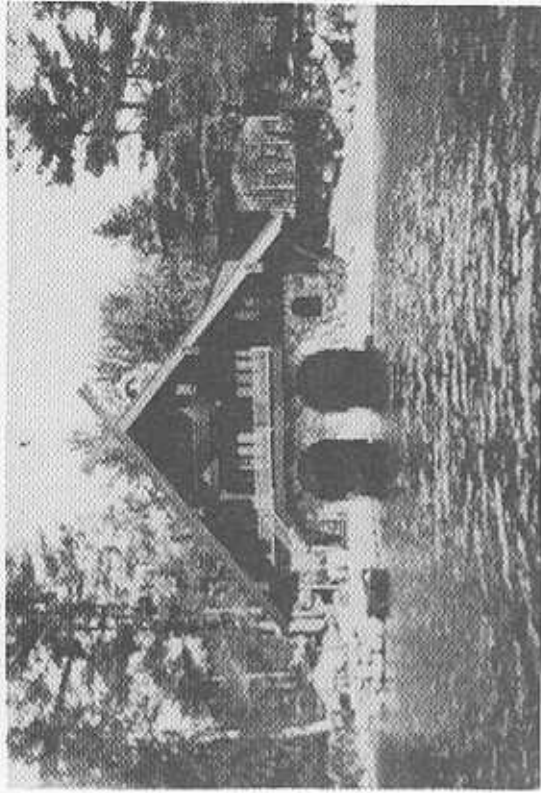
John Goodhue bought the "Swallow" back after World War II. Many people tell of taking trips on the boat. Leonard Plaisted, who works at Camp Winauke, said a treat for the campers in the summer was a ride on the "Swallow." It docked at Black Island a few feet away because it was too shallow at the Winauke dock.

Kenneth Haley, who lives near Stonedam Island, tells that he rode on the "Swallow" when a small boy and was very impressed with its beauty. He was with a church group from the Braintree, Massachusetts, Congregational Church and John Goodhue took them from the Goodhue boatyard to Keniston Island in Wolfeboro Harbor.

David Thompson, a steamboat enthusiast from Moultonborough, brought the "Swallow" here from Wolfeboro with the intention of restoring it. Time and neglect had taken its toll and it became an impossible task. The only part of the "Swallow" that remains is the lifeboat, the wheelhouse and steam engine.

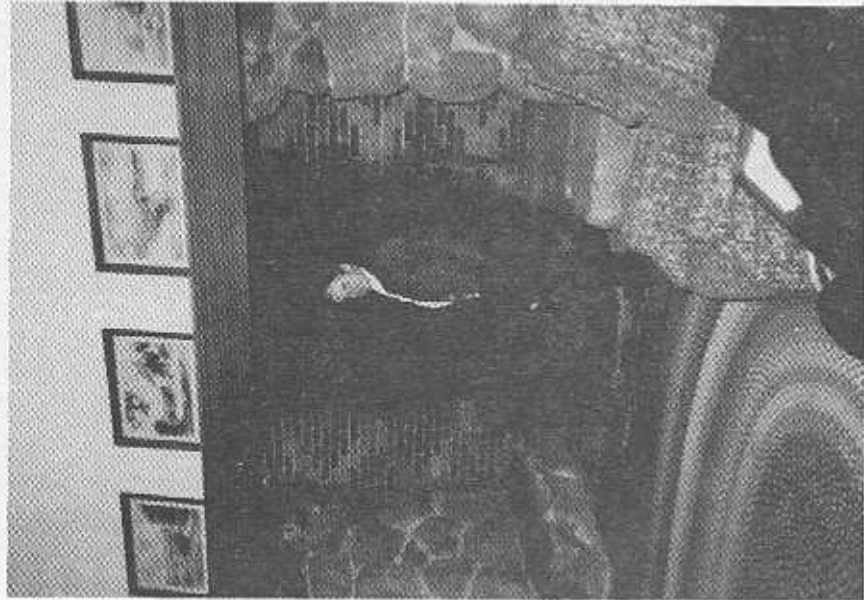
The other boathouse that we see today is not too far from the mansion. An article in the *Meredith News* in 1927 describes this building: "From the house we went down over

the hill, following a path, to the big boathouse, with the pier running out many feet into the water. This too is built with



Early picture of Kona boathouse before a long dock was added to reach another large boathouse.

the lower part of stone. One enters an immense room, with a stone fireplace taking up one whole end of the building. This fireplace is seven feet high, and at either end are stone seats so that one may sit directly in the fireplace. Over this are stuffed animals, a porcupine, a fox, and a loon. In the center of the big room is a billiard table. From the room one goes into the boathouse itself, where three boats are tied up. Along the sides are rooms for swimmers to change." It seems strange that the author of this article didn't mention another large boathouse at the end of the dock. It must have been there in 1927. It was built to house the steamboats "Kona" and "Ellacoya." We have one picture of this building. It was a large square building with seven windows on each side. The four sides of a rather steep roof merged in a point with a cupola similar to the one on the carriage house. Each side of the roof had two dormer windows which made it consistent with other Kona buildings. A platform on the end was used to load and unload passengers. A covered walkway joined this building with the Kona boathouse. The Lears, who lived across the lake, said that the two boats were untied during the hurricane of 1938 and the "Florence" was lost. The



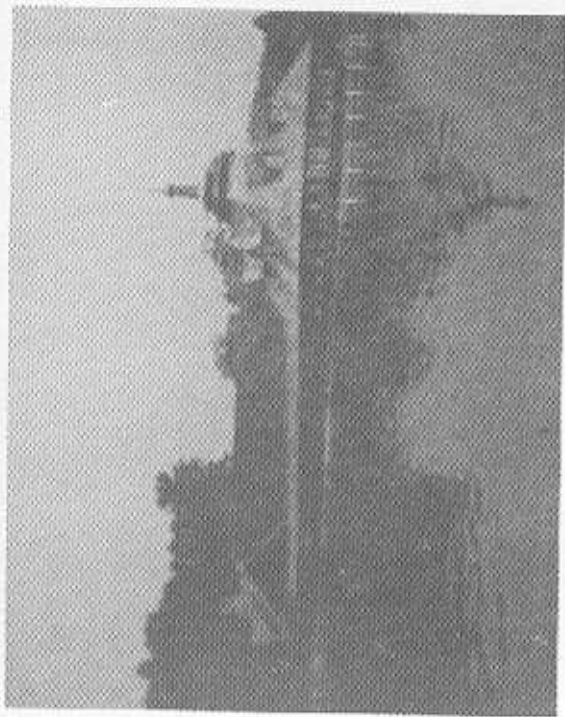
The huge fireplace inside Kona boathouse.

"Florence" was the speedboat which Gloria Braggiotti says they used for aquaplaning. Mr. Dumaresq had a sister named Florence, who at the age of fifteen, drowned with her mother in the Kennebec River in Maine.

The covered walkway was badly damaged, but they believed the boathouse survived. We have been unable to learn what did happen to it.

A motorboat named "Surprise," after the famous clipper ship which Herbert's father captained, is the only craft unmentioned. This played an especially important part in our research because it was the link that introduced us to Ann Dumaresq of Winooski, Vermont. This story is found in another section.

Our beautiful lake brought Herbert to Moultonborough. When he came, he had this section almost to himself. Those days are gone forever. We can at least fantasize what their life was like and be grateful that we can have some part of it.



The boathouse used to house the "Kona" and "Ellacoya".

After the Dumaresqs

The first buyer of Kona after the three Concord, New Hampshire banks took over was Edward Whiting of Quincy, Massachusetts, Vice President of Lolly Shipyard. He bought 300 acres in 1943. Virginia Lewison, who has a summer home on part of Kona property, was performing at the Gilford Playhouse at the time. The cast, which included Cliff Robertson, were invited to Kona for a party. Ginny remembers the expensive horses which she was privileged to ride. This purchase had six restrictions which were to hold for twenty years. (The Dumaresqs may have influenced the banks to try to keep Kona pristine.) One restriction was that no structure could be built unless it was in keeping with the quality of the neighborhood. Any part sold must contain 40,000 square feet, unless on the shore, which must have 200 feet of frontage. These restrictions may have slowed development.

Peter Hare, who developed Windward Shores, points out that Ethel Mayal bought twenty-nine acres, with three hundred feet of lake front and the Osgood Farm buildings, in 1939 to run Camp Forestdale. In 1942, Peter Hare's father, Dudley Hare, took over the property and ran a boys' camp called Windward, renting the Swallow boathouse and the Kona tennis courts. He closed to join the Navy and moved to California with his family. The banks found a buyer who wanted to have the entire Kona estate and offered to sell a camp in Roberts Cove in Alton in exchange for the Mayal property. Mr. Hare agreed, but the deal fell through and because Mr. Hare had been so cooperative, they reached an agreement that the Hares would become owners of Swallow boathouse and fifteen more acres of land for \$2,000. All of this transpired while Dudley was in the Navy in California.

Randy and Betty Foote bought the property with three hundred acres from Edward and Esther Whiting in 1950. From their advertising brochure, we learn that there were three housekeeping cottages. The lodge, as they called the mansion, was available for large parties. The Dumaresq dining room was used for a cocktail lounge. The diners sat in the Dumaresq living room. Kona stables, spacious and outstanding buildings, housed spirited and quiet horses, with fifteen miles of trails for rides. Kona Yacht Club (Kona boathouse) was available for special parties, banquets and dances.



The story goes that Mr. and Mrs. Richbert Houser, hotel owners from Washington state, came to eat at the Lodge (Mansion) and were so impressed with the beauty of the place that they bought it on the spot. After Mr. Hauser died, Mrs. Hauser ran an antique business in the stock barn (now called Carriage House). She sold to Peter and Norma Nielsen in 1961 and moved to Cook Point to a home she furnished with beautiful antiques. While she was away, a generator caught fire and burned her home and antiques. She then moved to Sands of Brookhurst just over the Centre Harbor line in Meredith. Her neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kerner, describe her as a real lady.

At the time the Dumaresqs were here, there was a modern little cottage located very near the mansion, which was used for guests. The maids sometimes slept here when their rooms were too hot. Clarence Bickford informs us. This was bought by Ray Plummer and moved to Eagle Shores, very near Black Cat Island Bridge, Gloria Cotton says.

Peter Nielsen, who was a builder, refurbished the mansion. The living room picture window was removed, making way for an opening to the porch. It was glassed in, a cocktail bar and dance floor installed. A large mural of the lake and mountain view by Peter's father, Fernand, decorates one wall. Paintings throughout the mansion are his work. A new road was built leading to the mansion from Jacobs Road. A 3-par golf course was built. When Kona, Inc. (two families including the Crowleys) bought the mansion and one hundred thirty acres, the Niensens moved into an apartment they had built on the second floor of the Carriage House. The large barn doorway, which was the entrance from the barnyard in the rear of the building, was replaced with a balcony and stairs to the apartment. A second balcony decorates the front of the building. A garage was added, protruding from the horsebarn. The entire ground floor was cut into rooms which were rented to Belknap College students. The present owner, Beth Vinal, has made the rooms into housekeeping units and rents to tourists.

That brings us to the present owners, John and Betty Crowley, who operate the golf course, rent rooms, and serve meals. In 1987, they bought back the Kona boathouse, which had been remodeled into a beautiful home. Their son Kevin, who trained in hotel management at the University of New Hampshire, manages the business. Weddings are a big specialty. Their first party in the spring and last in the fall is usually a big wedding. Many more transpire in between. Wouldn't the Dumaresqs be pleased to have so many enjoy this survivor of an age of elegance?

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