

HISTORY OF CAMP ADDISONE BOYCE

For many years those affiliated with Girl Scouting in Rockland County worked for a camp that could be used the year around by our own Girl Scouts.

At first unorganized, our hopes and thoughts were at last coordinated through the untiring efforts in 1941 of Mrs. Royal F. Sengstacken of Suffern. As a direct result of her interest, the first substantial gift to Rockland County Girl Scouting was made by Alfred E. Clegg of Ramapo, who gave his estate known as Torne Brook Farm to the Council in February, 1942. However, because of the high cost of upkeep and its inadequacy for resident camping, the estate was reluctantly sold and the monies set aside in a permanent campsite fund and a committee was appointed to explore the purchase of a site.

In the meantime, girls camped overnight at "Rocky Ledges," at Upper Twin Lake. In 1946, Lake Kanawakee hosted a camping season for the council. During this time, districts throughout the council developed their own day camp programs at different sites, including Camp Tan-Kee Grace in Blauvelt. The Camp committee spent years trudging over hills and dales of the county in an effort to find an adequate site for the establishment of a permanent camp. The possibility of finding a location that would meet the high standards set by the Council grew increasingly slim.

However, there was one friend of Scouting who did not give up hope. Dr. Addisone Boyce visited every proposed site and tramped over each one. Through her encouragement and persistence the efforts of the committee continued and at last it found just what it had been looking for. Two hundred and sixty acres, along Mott Farm Road and high above Tomkins Cove, fed by three streams of water assuring a lake, and accessible by trails and wood roads met every requirement of the Council.

The site was purchased in 1948 with funds realized from the sale of Torne Brook. Dr. Boyce and Miss Grace Bullowa, her friend of long standing, made a donation of over \$70,000 in the name of the Alma M. Bullowa Memorial Foundation for development and improvement of the site. The site was dedicated on July 4, 1951, and named Camp Addisone Boyce in honor of Dr. Boyce, whose determination and generosity made the camp possible. Later Dr. Boyce and Miss Bullowa presented an infirmary to the camp, known as the Alma M. Bullowa Memorial infirmary.



Dr. Addisone Boyce

In 1961, the Council purchased 80 acres across from Camp Addisone Boyce on Mott Farm road – the Miller – Allen Tract. Although not utilized to its full potential, this land offers great opportunities not only for present use but future expansion, while protecting our lake water supply and helping to ward off encroachment on the natural beauty of our surroundings.

Our camp lies on a site that is rich in historic interest. On the Buckberg, a quarter mile south, George Washington spied out the movements of the British on the Hudson. Along the old road through Beech Bottom where now the Parkway runs, "Mad" Anthony Wayne marched south from West Point in 1779 to capture Stony Point and drive the British from the Highlands along the Hudson River.

In those days, and for a hundred years more, these woodlands were the center of the nation's richest iron industry. In every direction, old mine sites can be explored. Then there were many homes and hamlets along the network of old roads that run through our campsite. Today, many of these roads, grass-grown and narrow, can easily be traced for miles and are wonderful to explore.