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**STOUGHTON
FISH AND GAME
ASSOCIATION**

**TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
1921 - 1946**

STOUGHTON MASSACHUSETTS

*Gift of Mrs. Patrick (Marie) Sheehan
6/72*

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JANUARY 24, 1946
TOWN HALL
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Stoughton Fish and Game Association

ORGANIZED, JANUARY 24, 1921

INCORPORATED, MAY 21, 1934

"Organized for Better Hunting, Better Fishing, and Better Sportsmanship"



President Russell H. Robinson

Name and Purpose

This organization shall be known as the Stoughton Fish and Game Association, and its purpose shall be to promote the interests of legitimate sport with rod and gun, to enforce the laws for the protection and propagation of fish and game within the State, and to secure such further legislation in this direction as may be needed.

C. W. WELCH MEMORIAL FISH AND GAME PRESERVE

Incorporated April 25, 1939

A Brief History of the Stoughton Fish and Game Association

The Pilgrim Fathers who landed at Plymouth in this Old Bay State found an abundance of all species of fish and game throughout the forests and streams. Had this not been so, they undoubtedly, would not have been able to have withstood the hardships confronting them or have sustained their families with the necessities of life during the barren months of that first winter. Conservation of wild life was little thought of in those days. Game was plentiful and a man's family depended on the skill and prowess he exhibited with his flintlock musket. He was always battling the elements to survive.

Time passes and as each generation branched out penetrating and exploring deeper and deeper into the virgin wilderness, they also had to wrest their sustenance from the forests and streams about their settlements. The fight for survival by our pioneer ancestors has placed its mark on every succeeding generation, it is inbred into the blood of every man and woman to provide the necessities of life.

In due time we find the Commonwealth of Massachusetts criss-crossed in a pattern of trunk highways and winding country roads. As we view the situation today, we behold very few large tracts of land in this State. The cutting up of our wilderness into settlements soon brought the fish and game situation almost to extinction. Then the truth became apparent to men, that if they were to continue to hunt and fish they would also have to incorporate a conservation program to insure the propagation of wild life, or else witness the final extinction of various wild life.

This situation gave birth to our fish and game associations which started forming in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Their aim was to co-operate with the Department of Fisheries and Game in their program of conservation and assist in the enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pertaining to conservation. The members of the Stoughton Fish and Game Association can feel proud of the record they have established in the conservation of wild life in their immediate vicinity.

The first sporting organization in Stoughton was known as the Port Rosaway Gun Club founded June 16, 1879. William White, or Billy as he was better known to his friends, became their first president. A part of this membership re-organized as the Stoughton Gun Club on April 21, 1899. This club remained active up to 1910 when it went out of existence. Our local newspaper mentions another club known as the Rod and Reel which formed on June 10, 1898, and remained active

until World War I. On May 12, 1916, the Stoughton Rifle Club was formed and owing to lack of interest, was disbanded in 1918. We trace our origin back to these former sportsmen's clubs, members of the former clubs became charter members of the Stoughton Fish and Game Association when it was first formed.

To write the history of the association in so limited an amount of space, we shall only dwell upon what we feel to be the most interesting projects and accomplishments of our past twenty-five years. In the Fall of 1920, our President, Russell Robinson, received a letter from Mr. William Adams, the Director of Fisheries and Game, stating that it would aid the conservation work of the department if the various towns would form associations to co-operate with the department. Mr. Robinson spoke of this letter to a group of sportsmen while deer hunting on the Cape. It was decided to call a meeting in the Town Hall. At this meeting 37 sportsmen responded to the call and Mr. Ralph Mann was delegated to act as chairman to form a club. On January 24, 1921, the first regular meeting was held. Chairman Ralph Mann was instructed to appoint a nominating committee of three. Russell Robinson, James DeWolf and James Austin who were named retired from the room and then brought in the following names to be voted on as officers for the ensuing year: President, Ralph H. Mann; Vice-President, Hiram E. Belcher; Secretary, Walter E. Henry; Treasurer, Cleon F. Fobes. It was voted that the chairman be instructed to cast one ballot for the nominated officers. This is how our present Fish and Game Association came about, just one quarter of a century ago.

Our records show 94 sportsmen enrolled as Charter Members when the initial drive for members closed April 7, 1921.

The following figures are a compilation of game liberations over the past twenty-five years: Rabbits, 847; White Hare, 179; Raccoon, 8; Pheasant, 626; Quail, 18. The above figures are a part of the conservation program in the propagation of wild life, these were purchased and paid for by the association. Other programs were: planting of grape vines, building brush piles to shelter rabbits, sowing fields of grain for the birds, placing grain in shelters for the birds during the winter months, also placing alfalfa in feeders for the rabbits. Figures of liberations by the State Department of Fisheries and Game are not complete in all cases for there were times when some liberations have been made without members of the Fish and Game Committees being present. The following figures are taken from the records: Rabbits, 36; White Hare, 48; Pheasant, 579; Quail, 493; Trout, 15,750; Pond Fish, 21,420. A comparison of the above figures shows the Stoughton Fish and Game Association has co-operated 100% with the Department of Conservation.

In conjunction with the surrounding towns, our quota of \$42.00 was raised by popular subscription in 1922 to help purchase an auto for the District Game Warden.

Our records show that Crows were banded and a reward offered if band was returned to the association, also members were appointed to exterminate vermin such as weasels, etc. Many Fox hunts at the Preserve have started with the rising sun and before the hunt ended one or more foxes had been exterminated.

Annual Game suppers put on by the members were held for many years. Many enjoyable evenings will be remembered. Of course, all will deny it, but who ate the roast Crow served at one of these suppers?

To help the American Red Cross during the Flood Disaster of 1936, the Association sponsored an amateur show, donating the entire proceeds for relief to the stricken areas. Many contributions have been made to charitable organizations. We have and shall always be ready to help a worthy cause.

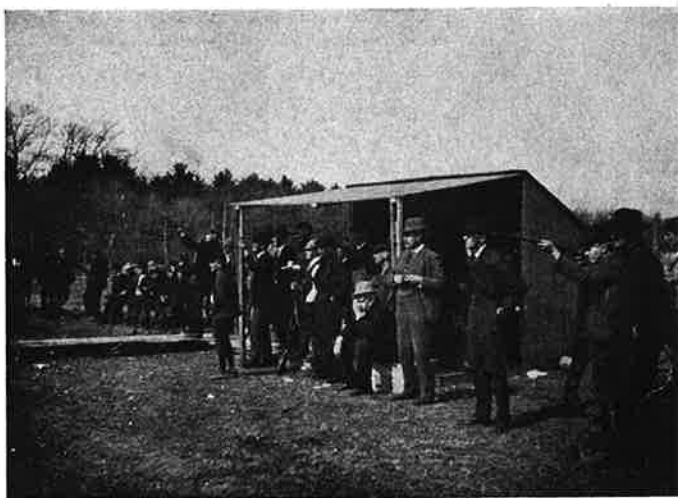
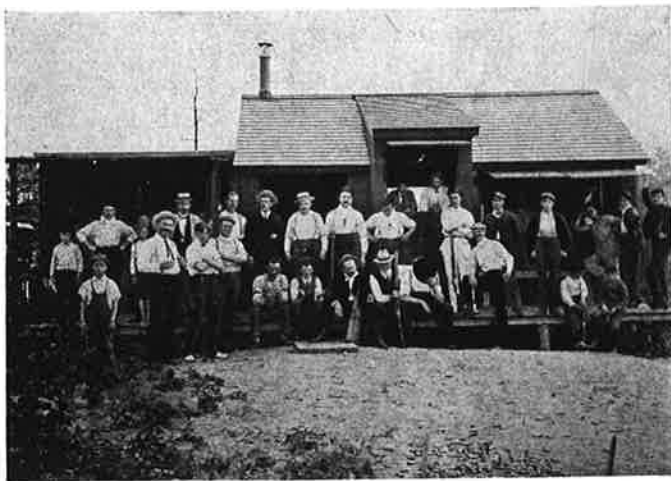
The Emblem as printed on the title page of this Program, was first used by the Stoughton Gun Club. The original design was drawn by F. Mortimer Lamb. This was redesigned by Francis W. Powers of Attleboro by adding the crossed rod and gun to the right and left of the Emblem and changing the wording to Stoughton Fish and Game Association.

The members of the Rosaway Rifle and Pistol Team, took this name in honor of the old Port Rosaway Gun Club of 1879. This group with a small amount of cash, but plenty of ambition, erected a range house to store their accessories. A verse on a following page explains how this was accomplished. Competitive shoots on the Rifle Range have brought some of the State's best shooters here to exhibit their skill. Turkeys for many a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner were won at our annual turkey shoots.

We have been associated with the Norfolk County League of Sportsmen since its origin. Many important legislative bills have been entered by this organization. The most important is the Commission Form of Government fathered by the organization and still pending in the Legislature. The Stoughton Fish and Game Association is 100% behind this bill as it will give the sportsmen of the Commonwealth an opportunity to regulate the appointment of their Director. Forty-four States have this Commission Form of Government. Massachusetts should keep up with the times and pass this form of administration.

Mr. Charles W. Welch will always be remembered for graciously offering all the facilities of his 220-acre farm to the Association for many years to train their dogs and run their Annual Field Trials and

SPORTSMEN OF THE OLD STOUGHTON GUN CLUB
FOUNDED 1899



Clam Bake. On the death of Mr. Welch the Association formed a new Corporation known as The C. W. Welch Memorial Fish and Game Preserve and purchased the property from his widow. Bonds of \$10.00 denominations were issued and sold, in blocks of one to ten, to the members. The Preserve is a piece of God's country. Within its borders we find two trout brooks, a ten-acre pond, fields to plant grain and 175 acres of woodland in its natural rolling and rocky formation to provide cover for the wild life. We have built rifle and skeet ranges, refreshment stands, and outside tables for clam bakes. There is a large barn to store equipment, a gravel pit from which we derive a source of income which is used to develop the property. At the annual Field Trials the program consisted of Coon, Beagle, Fox and Bird dog hunts and trials; Dog shows, Rifle, Pistol, Skeet, Trap, and Lucky Target shoots. There were treasure hunts for the children, soft ball and many other attractions run by members of the Association. The most popular event of the day would be the Clam Bake in real Old New England style.

A tract of land bordering on the pond has been set aside for the use of the Boy Scouts in their outdoor activities.

To help speed the Victory which is now won, we purchased \$2,450.00 of WAR BONDS when the Nation needed the cash most to supply the Services with fighting materials.

When the United States entered World War II, the facilities of the Preserve were extended to Captain Joseph M. Duggan, commanding the 6th Company, 25th Infantry, Massachusetts State Guard. The men of the Company received valuable training at the Rifle Range and the woodland provided excellent territory on which to hold manoeuvres.

The success of the past twenty-five years, is due to the loyal support the members have given their Officers in all the various projects conducted. Space alone prevents printing the names of all who contributed so much to this success. Among us we have a member deserving particular mention in this History. For twenty years Leo R. Green as Secretary has faithfully carried out all the duties of his office without missing one meeting. Please accept our thanks, Leo; you have established a record to feel proud of.

As one scans the Records, one cannot help but recognize a true spirit of sportsmanship prevalent over the past years by many members who have departed. Their accomplishments are recorded within the pages of our records; they will always be remembered by the living members for their zeal and service to the Association. Their courage and steadfastness of purpose shall always inspire us to carry on our program of conservation.

G. T. W.

1940 MUZZLE-LOADING SHOOT



Walter Henry
President 1924-1930

James Lehan

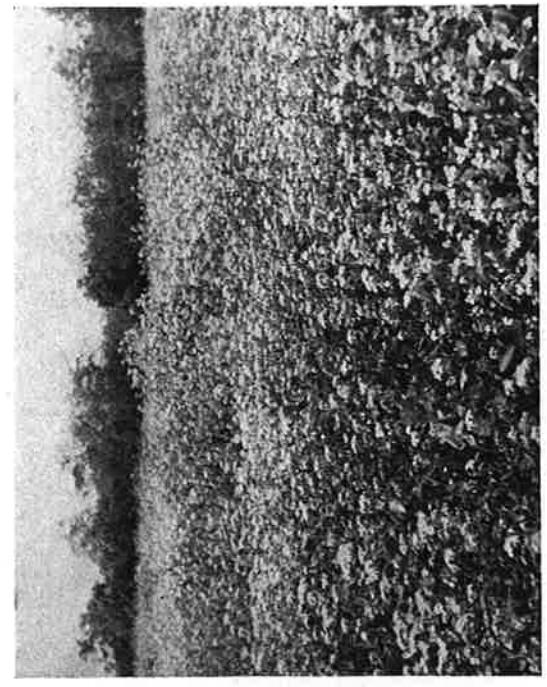
Clarence W. Jones



Preserve Entrance from Washington Street



Stoughton Fish & Game Club, September 10, 1939
Tenth Annual Clambake, Stoughton, Massachusetts



The Grain Field in Blossom



The Winter Trail at the Preserve

Program

OPENING SONG: "God Bless America" Entire Assembly
Reuben L. Willis, Pianist

INVOCATION:

REV. JOHN BRADNER,
Pastor, Trinity Episcopal Church

BANQUET

WELCOME:

RUSSELL H. ROBINSON,
President, Stoughton Fish & Game Association

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

FRED C. PHILLIPS,
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

GREETINGS, TOWN OF STOUGHTON:

FRANCIS R. ATKINSON,
Town Manager, Stoughton

RETROSPECTIVE MESSAGES:

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Ralph H. Mann	1921
Albert M. Keyes	1922-1923
*Walter E. Henry	1924-1930
Fred C. Phillips	1931-1937
Joseph M. Duggan	1938-1943

*Deceased.

MEMORIAL:

To Our Departed Members
The assembly will rise and stand one minute in silence

GREETINGS:

WILLIAM W. OLLENDORFF
Past President, Norfolk County League of Sportsmen

GREETINGS:

STATE CONSERVATION OFFICERS

Forrest S. Clark
Robert F. Clifford
Willis E. Chase
Stephen D. Martin

MESSAGE:

J. ARTHUR KITSON,
Chief Culturist, Department of Fisheries and Game

ORRIN C. BOURNE,
Supervisor, Permits and Claims, Department of Fisheries and Game

JAMES S. POWER,
Director, Department of Fisheries and Game

ARCHIBALD K. SLOPER,
Commissioner of Conservation

GREETINGS:

WILLIAM C. ADAMS,
Director, Conservation Department, State of New York

GREETINGS:

JOHN C. WEBSTER, JR.
Representative, 5th Norfolk District

NEWLAND H. HOLMES,
Senator, Norfolk-Plymouth District

GREETINGS:

JOSEPH W. MARTIN, JR.,
United States Representative, 14th District, Massachusetts

GREETINGS:

ROBERT F. BRADFORD,
Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MAURICE M. TOBIN,
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

BENEDICTION:

REV. FR. WILLIAM W. GUNN,
Pastor, Immaculate Conception Church

CLOSING SONG: The National Anthem Entire Assembly



The Trout Pool



The Pond

PRESENT OFFICERS



Back Row: R. P. Swan, J. M. J. Hurley, G. W. Hill, G. T. Winroth, J. M. Duggan, F. A. Arthur, J. Lehan, J. H. Robinson, R. Batchelder, B. W. Drake.
Front Row: L. R. Green, Secretary, R. H. Robinson, President, R. F. Winroth, Vice President, A. H. Dykeman, Treasurer.

PAST PRESIDENTS' GROUP



Ralph H. Mann Albert M. Keyes Fred C. Phillips Joseph M. Duggan

Our Home on the Range

This building of ours is now complete
Here she stands without a leak
This all began one summer day
When the ground was broken by Robert Pray
The boss, of course, was Dick Winroth
Brother Gus too, bossed long and loud
Of these two boys, we feel quite proud.

We shoveled and dug, and we dug and shoveled
And much to our surprise, everything leveled
Thanks to Savini and Wigmore too
We loaded the gravel till our faces were blue.

On work of this kind one thing can't be missed
And that, of course, is a casualty list
A white collar worker, Gilcher by name
Thought he could shovel without getting lame
He's now learned his lesson, and knows it quite well
For a few loosened ribs sure can hurt like hell.

The cement was all laid on a Sunday morn
In fact this work started just after dawn
The water was hauled by our good friend Bob Pray
Who drove forward and backwards most of the day
He bellowed in song with a tune without sense
Goes something like this "What a bar of Candy for five cents."

The plans are now drawn by Architect Dick
So up to the barn for some studding to pick
We pulled out some boards which mostly were cracked
So back to the range where they were heartily whacked
Oscar, Howard, Bill, Freddie, Walter and Joe
All grabbed a hammer and things began to go.

In the late of the evening when we looked our worst
Up came the truck from Chateau Thirst.
A welcome sight this truck to see
Many thanks Joe, we'll give you a key!

The roof is now ready for a shingling job
But sad to relate, not a carpenter in the mob
We needed some help, and that mighty quick
Then up showed two friends Kimtis and Frederick
With the help of some others, how those two did work
Not once did they stop, nor once did they shirk
The roof is a beauty, which we all now esteem
Many thanks good friends from the Rosaway Team!

The side-boarding's now done much to our delight
Even though finished by lantern light
Up came the boys with paint pots and brushes too
To get on the stain before morning dew
The windows are set and the door hangs just right
One thing we'll sure have and that's plenty of light.

We hope all our labors have not been in vain
For here we can come in sunshine or rain
This house was not built with a selfish aim
But 'is open to all of the Fish and Game
They helped us along when our cash was low
We now doff our hats and give thanks for the dough.

This building here shows what can be done
By fellows who'll work and have some fun
Our labors are over, we can rest for a change
Feeling quite proud of our Home On The Range.
Albert A. Gilcher, 1940.



Our Home on the Range