

Apperson Correspondence - 1923

August 1923

Poem from Florence Christie (Apperson's new neighbor at Camp Chilhowie...)

I

Oh Chilhowie, dear Chilhowie
'tis mighty hard to part from Thee
You've won our hearts adoringly
And filled us with good memories.

II

Our appreciation in poetry done
Begins each day with the rising sun
And then continues on and on
'Tis thus we thank Thee, Apperson.

III

Hand in hand we say goodbye
Take one last look and heave a sigh
We carry with us in our eye
A picture marvelous 'till we die.

Florence K. Christie (Mrs. A. Kilgore Christie)

The Quarterdeck
Bolton Landing
Lake George, NY

August 7, 1923

Please excuse the mistakes and blurs as I had to copy this under difficulties.

Did you know that all Schenectady tries to picnic on the RANGERS' PROPERTY SAYING THAT Mr. Apperson has told them they can because it is all in the State Park now! That is what I heard Miss R. say yesterday. Let me know sometime who are the best speakers – i.e. – best informed and most reliable on the park.

No signature – probably Hilda Loines

August 17, 1923

Senator E. K. Rabenold
81 Broadway
New York City

Dear Senator:

Much pleased to hear from you. The information in your letter of the 15th is important news and the location of the road has probably been decided in the minds of certain people who have no conception of the physical characteristics of the mountains, and others who might make money out of such an enterprise. All legitimate purposes could be fully served by a road built over or near the present roadbed for through traffic north, and a branch scenic highway run south near Deer Leap, winding around on Five Mile Mountain Road.

Nevertheless, the Governor, who is to visit the lake next Thursday will, no doubt, be urged to carry out the Tongue Mountain project by the opposition and I do wish you could be with us at that time.

I am writing a letter to Mr. Colvin, Chairman of our committee, asking him to invite you to be a member of the party. The itinerary, I believe, provides a meeting with the Saratoga Park Committee in the morning, followed by a meeting at the Fort William Henry at Lake George in the afternoon at 3 o'clock, Thursday, August 23rd. It would not only be a great pleasure to see you again but a great help to have you with us, and, if possible, keep you after the meeting for a day or two at my camp on Lake George.

With best regards,

Cordially yours,

[JSA]

Addison B. Colvin
Glens Falls, New York

President Glens Falls Trust Company	President Colvin-Starbuck Company
Founder Glens Falls Publishing Company	President Manchester Lumber Company
President and General Manager Empire Real Estate and Theater Company	President Glens Falls Real Estate Company
President and Treasurer The Addison B. Colvin Company, Inc	President Colvin-Morehouse Real Estate Company
President Colvin Estate Company	Chairman Executive Committee First National Bank of Argyle, NY

August 17th, 1923

Hon. J.S. Apperson,
The Mohawk Club
Schenectady, NY

Dear Mr. Apperson: -

Thanks for your suggestion in letter of August 16th.

I had placed Mr. Bixby on my committee of entertainment before hearing from you.

Today Secretary Moses writes me about meeting of committee, of which I am chairman. The arrangement he has made conflicts with our programme here, which the Governor has approved, and I am advising him to change accordingly. You will no doubt hear from him later.

Thanks for your tender of assistance. Will call on you if there is anything you can do aside from attendance at meeting.

Sincerely,

A. B. Colvin

ABC (C)

George Foster Peabody
Saratoga Springs
New York

August 17, 1923

Dear Mr. Apperson,

Thank you for your letter of August 16th. You say "Crown Island." It is Triuna Island" – the old Three Brothers Island – where Mr. and Mrs. Trask lived, south of Bolton Bay.

I fear Governor Smith is under such pressure that it is doubtful whether he would be willing to take two days. I would like him to take the trip quietly, rather than in the midst of a crowd of officials.

I am,

Very truly yours,

George Foster Peabody

Mr. J. S. Apperson
Mohawk Club
Schenectady, NY

P.S.

I hear that Mr. Colvin is to surround him with a great company. Just the way not to find out how to do but it will make capital for the Park Scheme probably EWP

The New York State Association

An independent, non-partisan, state-wide civic organization for constructive legislation and responsible and economical government

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August 20, 1923

J.S. Apperson, Esq.
Mohawk Club
Schenectady, NY

Dear Mr. Apperson:-

Thank you for your invitation. It seems now that the Lake George visit will be on Friday and not on Thursday – Friday at 1:30 at the Fort William Henry Hotel. Senator Straus is going up and I am not yet sure of Senator Rabenold. Mr. Myers will also be there. Quite probably Senator Straus and Mr. Myers will be glad to take advantage of your invitation. Maybe Colonel Greene will join the,. Could you leave it open until Thursday? I might say that none of these people are interested in the various events which are planned between the Saratoga and Lake George visits – that is, they plan to drop out after the Saratoga visit and then rejoin the whole party at Lake George. I do not know how they could spend the intervening time better than at your camp.

Cordially yours,

Robert Moses, Secretary

August 22, 1923

Mr. W.K. Bixby

Bolton Landing

Lake George, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bixby:

The men referred to in the attached are in the best possible position to help us preserve the natural beauty of Lake George and I want very much to have you meet them and give them the benefit of your counsel.

Your talk before the Lake George Association made the situation so clear, I was somewhat surprised that any further discussion was thought necessary, but there still appears to be a number of people who are more susceptible to misinformation than they are to the truth, and whether it is worthwhile to continue our effort to inform them is quite a question of economics.

The resolution designed to sustain Hayden in his misbehavior, in claiming to represent the Lake George Association at the public hearing on the park bills and also commit the Association to that program, was characteristic, and I was glad you referred to it as muddying the water. I was disappointed and somewhat disgusted when I found it wasn't possible to have you as President, but, no doubt, you understood the situation better than I did.

I notice the trouble maker, Mr. Prindle, immediately made connections with the new president, and....

Hoping you will be able to add to the pleasure of my guests by a visit to my camp during their stay, I remain.

Cordially yours,

JSA

Arnold Whitman Knauth
Attorney at Law
49 Wall Street
New York City

August 24, 1923

J.S. Apperson, Esq.
General Electric Company
Schenectady, New York

Dear Mr. Apperson:

We seem to have a hard time in meeting. I missed you at the Loines' last Saturday because the telephone was broken, and again on Tuesday. I still hope to have the pleasure.

I checked up the Tongue Mountain assessments in Bolton, and find the following result:

Woodlots	\$34,200
Small shore lots	\$ 6,000
French Point	\$10,000

If the Commission applies its \$75,000, chiefly to the wood lots, it is rather obvious that they should succeed in making that sum cover a good half of the area inside the blue line. Have you any information yet as to the policy governing the expenditure, and the probable result of the buying?

And might I ask whether you know who owns and runs the Consumers Coal & Ice Co., and what the attitude of that company is?

I sketched a little map showing ownership and assessments; I suppose you have this information already, and would be glad to check my results against yours at a convenient opportunity.

I also had an interesting time on the A.M.C. trail to Placid, and on local tax and road questions. If you come to the City, and are interested, let us have a meal together and talk some of these local matters over.

Sincerely yours,

Arnold Knauth

August 29, 1923

Mrs. Stephen Loines
Bolton Landing
Lake George, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Loines:

I wish to thank you in behalf of our park committee for your very generous gift of the fifteen acres of land on the Tongue Mountain peninsula. The letter in which you announced this gift was turned over to the Conservation Commissioner who is the official agent of the state in this particular matter. Commissioner McDonald said that he would communicate with you immediately and send you the form which must be filled out and which must accompany the deed to the property. If you happen to have an abstract of the title, this will help also.

The Governor and others who were present at the luncheon at Lake George were very much pleased with your gift and that of Mr. Peabody. These gifts are particularly welcome because they help to give the program an auspicious start and to indicate that there is local support for the park and conservation measures which we have proposed for Lake George.

As to the condition which you mentioned, I do not think that it will be necessary to state this in the gift to the state because there is now a unanimous agreement on this subject. The highway and conservation commissioners conferred with the Governor and with our committee on this subject, with the Senator from the Lake George district and others. They are all agreed that the plan proposed by the highway commissioner, Colonel Greene, for a road over Tongue Mountain somewhere near the present, military road, should be carried out and that it is not practical to have a road around the front of Tongue Mountain and not desirable to have a bridge from your property across the creek at the end of Northwest Bay. Personally, I had previously thought that it might be desirable to have a road running in a little way over Tongue Mountain but running over state land. I can now see that this will not be desirable and that the road over the mountain will satisfy all purposes. At the top of Tongue Mountain where the road crosses, Colonel Greene suggests a scenic road about two miles long, running in a circle on the top of the mountain and affording very fine views. We also have in mind some foot paths on the top of the mountain, but this is a development that need not be considered until later on. Colonel Greene and I

spent the evening on Friday with Senator Ferris at his camp in Ticonderoga and the Senator now agrees to the program above mentioned and has abandoned all ideas of a road around the front of Tongue Mountain or a bridge crossing the creek. The Governor fully approves of the plan.

Thanking you again,

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Moses

Secretary

RM: F

THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION

*An independent, non-partisan, state-wide civic organization for constructive
legislation and responsible and economical government*

(Letterhead – names, etc.)

August, 1923 (?)

J.S. Apperson
Mohawk Club
Schenectady, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Apperson:

It has just occurred to me that it might be a good thing to take up with Mr. Bixby immediately, the question of the gift or purchase of some of the lands on Tongue Mountain. If you think it wise I think I can persuade the Governor to write Mr. Bixby a letter on this subject. Mr. Peabody has suggested some such course as this – that is, Mr. Peabody suggests that we get options on as much of the land as possible in the Tongue Mountain region and select for purchase what can be obtained reasonably. Of course, we do not want to interfere in any way with the immediate purchase in the tip end of Tongue Mountain or with the purchasing of Turtle Island. However, as to Mr. Bixby, it seems to me that we might get a substantial gift of land from him or that he might be willing to sell all of his land at a nominal price. You can readily see that it would be an enormous advantage to us to get a large tract very cheap, or part of it as a gift for nothing. If we could do that this year we would be in a wonderful position to go ahead next year and we should not have a record of having paid a very high price.

Why don't you go to Mr. Bixby, as a member of our committee, and talk to him about this, telling him, also, that Mr. Peabody made the suggestion and that the Governor is very much interested in the matter.

You have no doubt received the letter which I wrote to the Secretary of the Lake George Association. I received a note from him this morning regretting that I could not attend the meeting and saying "will appreciate a letter ** regarding the incorporation of Lake George in the Adirondack preserve." Of course, my letter is not upon this specific point, because there is no such question to write about. You ought to make this perfectly clear to the Lake George people, namely: that Lake George is already in the forest preserve counties, that the state owns the

land in the Lake George region already, that there is nothing to prevent the purchase of additional land when funds are available, and that such additional land is just as much a part of the forest preserve and just as much subject to the provisions of Art. VII Section 7 of the Constitution as the land in the Forest Preserve counties within the blue line. There is, therefore, no question whatever about the incorporation of Lake George in the Adirondack Preserve. Practically the only effect which the extension of the blue line would have would be to make clear the fact that it was within the proposed purchase area contemplated by the 1916 bond issue (which is practically exhausted) and to make any lumbering or other restrictions which applied within the present blue line apply also to the Lake George district. Theoretically, the blue line represents the area within which future purchases are to be made but practically this means almost nothing, because the state already owns lands between the blue line, and Lake George which are a part of the forest preserve and could buy adjacent property at any time.

I might add that so far as our Association is concerned there is no likelihood that we will do anything about the blue line bill next year. We can get along perfectly well with our programs without it, although, of course, the sensible thing to do is to give the blue line a real meaning by including within it all the territory contemplated for future purposes. If the blue line stands as indefinitely as it does now it is going to become more and more of a joke and will be more and more ignored in making purchases in the forest preserve counties.

Cordially yours,

Robert Moses

The Crow's Nest

Bolton Landing, N. Y.

Editor of the Post-Star, Glens Falls, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

It is easy to be seen that you did not have a representative at the meeting of the Lake George Association on Friday, or you could never have used the desuete, innocuous article that appeared in your Saturday columns to portray what took place there. It was, as it were, a portrait with the features completely wiped out.

It is unfortunate that there was not a Court stenographer present. I for one would like to have a copy of the proceedings. Is it too late for you to give the local public a fair and accurate account of what actually took place instead of such a collection of meaningless nothings as "Several different opinions were expressed by various members of the association," and "All phases of the question of ownership of land before and after any possible benefits**** was brought up," and last but not least obtuse space filler: "just what land may be bought by the state and what was meant by the Tongue Mountain tract were questions asked, and explained by chart."

Why not, dear Mr. Editor, simply have summed up the whole affair: "A good time was had by all." Then there would have been more room for a nice little murder story, or whatever constructive trifles the newspaper of to-day likes to fill its columns with,

Seriously, was there no NEWS VALUE in giving the original reverse resolution to the one finally passed? A resolution read in a rush before two thirds of the attendants of the meeting had arrived; and read by a Mr. Hayden who went on record, (stenographer's) at the Albany hearing on the Park Bill, as being one of the men who "made Lake George" when it was the wilderness I wish to God it was now." ...His exact words. Is it not news to tell that so fine a philanthropist Mr. Bixby stated that he would resign from the Association if any such resolution should be passed at that meeting? That a man of the bigheartedness and fine caliber of George Foster Peabody stood up after all the pygmies had expressed their limited little views on their desire to "keep their land for and to themselves" and with no thought or sign of a "holier than thou:

attitude, gently rebuked self-interest and held out the standard of a larger vision of the greatest good to the greatest number.

It should be news value, too, to hear that so much poison gas had been used by the enemies of the state and of state-ownership that two more distinguished guests and speakers of the meeting were subjected to both discourtesy and insult by a majority of this gathering of otherwise well-bred people. There was heckling, on one occasion hissing, and an indescribably rude interruption by an early-Victorian dame who objected to the campers bathing in the nude.”

The significant thing to a shrewd observer was the fact that these tactics were all on one side, as were also the giving of the lie on three separate occasions by misinformed though possible well-meaning people, including young Mr. Knapp, who appears to take the whole effort of the conservation of Lake George as a personal attack upon himself.

The fact that even such a poor attempt at a resolution favoring conservation should have been passed at that meeting and the air even partially cleared of poison gas and propaganda, is proof indeed that :they that be for us are more than they that be against us,” and that in spite of the paid agents of our opponents still actively using German methods, so extensively employed during the wax by the Bureau of Enemy Psychology, if you are on the side of Right: “No weapon that is formed against you can prosper.”

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Loines

September 2nd, 1923