

"Country Club"
Formal Opening Was Held Last Saturday Afternoon and Evening
A Description of the Club House and Its Location

"Saturday afternoon and evening (October 31, 1896) the formal opening of the Lockport Country Club was held at the club house, about a mile and quarter south of the city. In the afternoon, a reception to the invited guests was held, and in the evening the members gathered for an old-fashioned Hallow E'en. Almost all of the members drove out in the club carryall. The house and lawn were lighted with candles and Japanese lanterns and presented a very pretty appearance. In the house, ears of corn, pumpkins and apples were hung from the ceiling and placed on the mantel and shelves. In the large open fireplace a big log fire roared, over which corn was popped and chestnuts were roasted. The evening was passed in playing old-fashioned Hallow E'en games. Delicious refreshments were served. Great credit is due the entertainment committee and the women who so ably seconded them in their efforts.

A few words descriptive of the clubhouse may not come amiss. The house is an old log cabin, which was built about 60 years ago. On the lower floor are two rooms, in one of which is an open fireplace four feet wide. The ceiling is supported on heavy oak beams, which have been stained brown to correspond with the remainder of the woodwork. The walls are done in green and the ceiling between the beams in light blue. On the windows throughout the house are sash curtains of delft blue and widow curtains of net. The rooms are lighted by candles, which are placed in brackets on the walls. The upper floor is divided into three rooms, which are used for kitchen and dressing and locker rooms. This part of the building is not entirely completed yet. The grounds around the house comprise about three acres. In the spring, a tennis court and croquet grounds will be laid out.

The club started about two months ago with six charter members. The membership has increased since to nearly 40 and the membership committee are considering a number of other applications. The officers are Charles H. Cornes, president; Harold Helmer, secretary and Arthur S. Sellick, treasurer."

(NOTE: Charles H. Cornes was the Lockport City Engineer and Superintendent of Streets
Harold Helmer held a prominent position with the Niagara Paper Company and Arthur Sellick was the head of the advertising department at the Niagara Paper Company in Lockport. Later, Mr. Sellick became a Judge in Lockport)

Clint Starke's research revealed that the log cabin was located on Hamm Road, between Locust Street and Beattie Avenue. As Mr. Starke wrote in his history of 1999: "A local woman, Catherine (Kate) Smith McGonagall, now in her 85th year (in 1999) was born in the log cabin and recalls her mother telling her that the Country Club had previously occupied the building. She also remembers seeing the outline of the old tennis court and four or five holes on the 12 acres around the cabin."

The log cabin was torn down in 1965 for the building of a new home at 6402 Hamm Road.