

Letter

To the Editor:

The August 27 *Falmouth Enterprise* printed a history of MBL Beach, Woods Hole, beginning with the sale of two beach lots in 1928 by a member of the Fay family to Edward Meigs and to Oliver Strong, who subsequently gave them to the Laboratory, which has since maintained them as a community bathing beach. I do not argue with any of this, but I know that the history of Stony Beach as a community bathing place goes back way before 1928, and I am curious whether any Sprintsail readers from personal memory or other sources could tell us more.

For starters, I enclose a sketchmap of Woods Hole dated 1925 which shows Stony labeled Bathing beach and depicts the substantial bathhouse which was destroyed by the 1938 hurricane. I remember as a small child running back and forth the length of the interior corridor, and for a long time could show you just where on the beach the concrete steps still stood. Olive Beverly, when I asked her, said there were 50 or 60 changing booths, and her family rented number 25. She also said that in addition to the concrete steps at the end of the building there was a wooden ramp from the middle leading down over the sand directly into the water.

My grandparents in 1900 built what is now called Veeder House, at 25 Albatross St., and raised 4 children there. I never thought to ask where they went swimming, but I am sure it was not in the Eel Pond or Great Harbor. Skip Crowell, whose grandparents had a house with beach frontage on Great Harbor, tells me that the sewer pipe from the Breakwater Hotel ran down into Great Harbor between his grandparents' house and the Yacht Club.

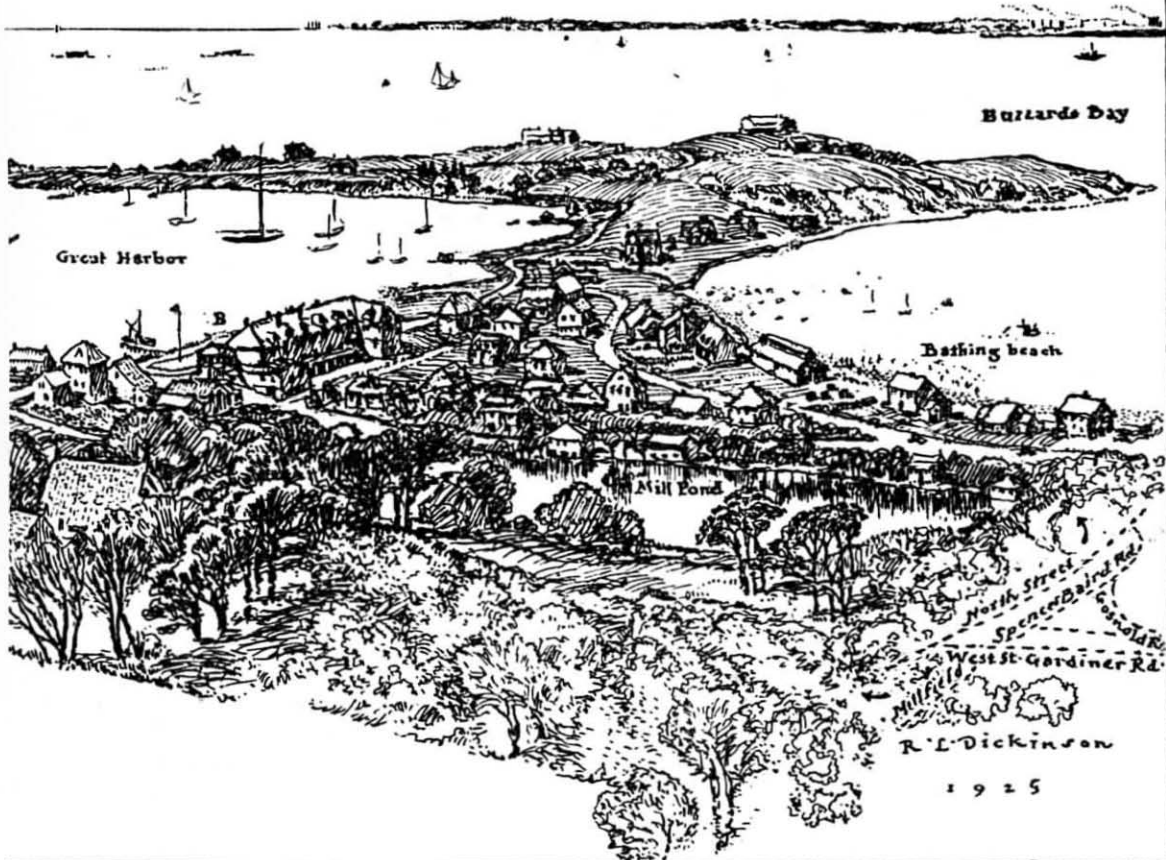
My questions are: When was the bathhouse built? Was it another gift like many others from Joseph Storey Fay to the community? Or was it built by the Breakwater Hotel to accommodate their guests? (In my childhood the more formal name for Stony was Breakwater Beach.)

All I know for sure is that 1928 was not the beginning of the story. Does anyone out there know more?

Sincerely,

Marjorie Moore
Winchester, MA

(WEST) Little Weepeckers : Smith Neck : Dumpling : Nonquit :: Route to Canal : Boston : New Bedford
 Direction : Hea & chickens lightship Buzzards Bay Penzance Point \ up the Bay & scenticut Point



laboratories : lightship and speed boats : B, long building is The Breakwater (Hotel)
 & laboratories : Base ball ground : this side Mill Pond : C.R.C. Roman Catholic Church

Portion of a sketchmap of Woods Hole, 1925, courtesy Marjorie Moore and Woods Hole Historical Collection.