

# ANOATOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



The Dock Before Sandy, Date Unknown



## Message From The President

When the Anokat Community Association was formed on October 2nd of 1945, planned communities were just taking hold. Then the “planning” disappeared and we just had subdivisions rising throughout the town. Fortunately, our neighborhood’s residents held tight to their core values and have consequently been able to enjoy the uniqueness and beauty of the waterfront for more than 60 years. The association and its members maintain a deep sensitivity to the delicate environment of Huntington Harbor and take every opportunity to protect and preserve its splendor for this and future generations.

We know you made a choice to purchase your home in this community as we all did. And we strive to make sure that you continue to enjoy all of the features and benefits of that choice for years to come. We are a community of neighbors who are active in the Huntington community when it comes to waterfront or harbor issues. We realize that residence in this exceptional location also brings a responsibility to protect it and keep informed about matters that may affect its future. But that is sometimes difficult to do with all the new rules and regulations.

Because of “Sandy” our beach, dock and landscaping have suffered. The new dock and fence repairs was the first step and I think it looks great. We still had erosion problems and we just added more curb to the roadway. I think this will stop any further erosion from the road. Based on the last torrential rain storm, it’s working. Now that the erosion from the road seems to be stopped, we will continue to make improvements to the beach area.

We will clean up the beach and the area between the fence and the road. We will add grass and bushes to the area between the road and the fence. I will send you email updates as the work progresses. I invite everyone to participate in future community plans and activities.

**Skip Wells, President Anokat Community Association , 2021**



## THE HISTORY OF ANOATOK

Since the early 1900's, Huntington and our neck of the harbor have witnessed many changes. Years back, the street we now know as Mill Dam Road was a dirt road often awash at high tide. The north side was the harbor and the south side, where all the ball fields are located today, was nothing more than a tidal basin with marshland and ponds that filled and emptied periodically. Only years later would the town fill in the area to create the ball fields and parking lots.

When you finally reached our Hill, you'd see a wide open area with some hardwoods and an apple orchard and at the very top of the hill with a majestic overlook. Over the Harbor stood the family residence of W. Wilton Wood family, owners of a large 88 acre parcel. Part of that acreage would become the Anoatok Community.

The Wood Family were long time residents of Huntington, settling here during the town's founding in 1653. In 1838, the millers, John and William Wood, acquired a grist mill at the end of the harbor where Surf Side Deli stands today. Shortly after, in 1840 they embarked on a new venture. A barge floated down to the end of the harbor to deliver 25 tons of coal and their Coal and Lumber business began and grew into one of the major business enterprises in the Town of Huntington. Legend has it that as a young man W. Wilton Wood did some serious sailing. He rounded the Horn to Frisco in a windjammer. Then tacked up to Alaska where he first heard the name A-Noe-Ah-Tock. The Eskimos had shown him a locale they called Wind-Swept-Hills and Anoatok was the name given to our wind swept hill. It must have made an impression on him for when he returned to Huntington he christened his new mansion on the Hill, Anoatok. The name stuck and was later taken by the forefathers of the Community for the plot of land they sub-divided for building.

In November of 1945 Byron Sammis, then president of West Shore Corp., filed a surveyor's map of Anoatok with the clerk at Riverhead. The map revealed 75 building "plats," or building lots that sold for between \$1500 and \$3500. In his article, How the Anoatok Community Came about!, Larry Roberts, a former neighbor, describes much of what occurred during the first few years of Our Community.

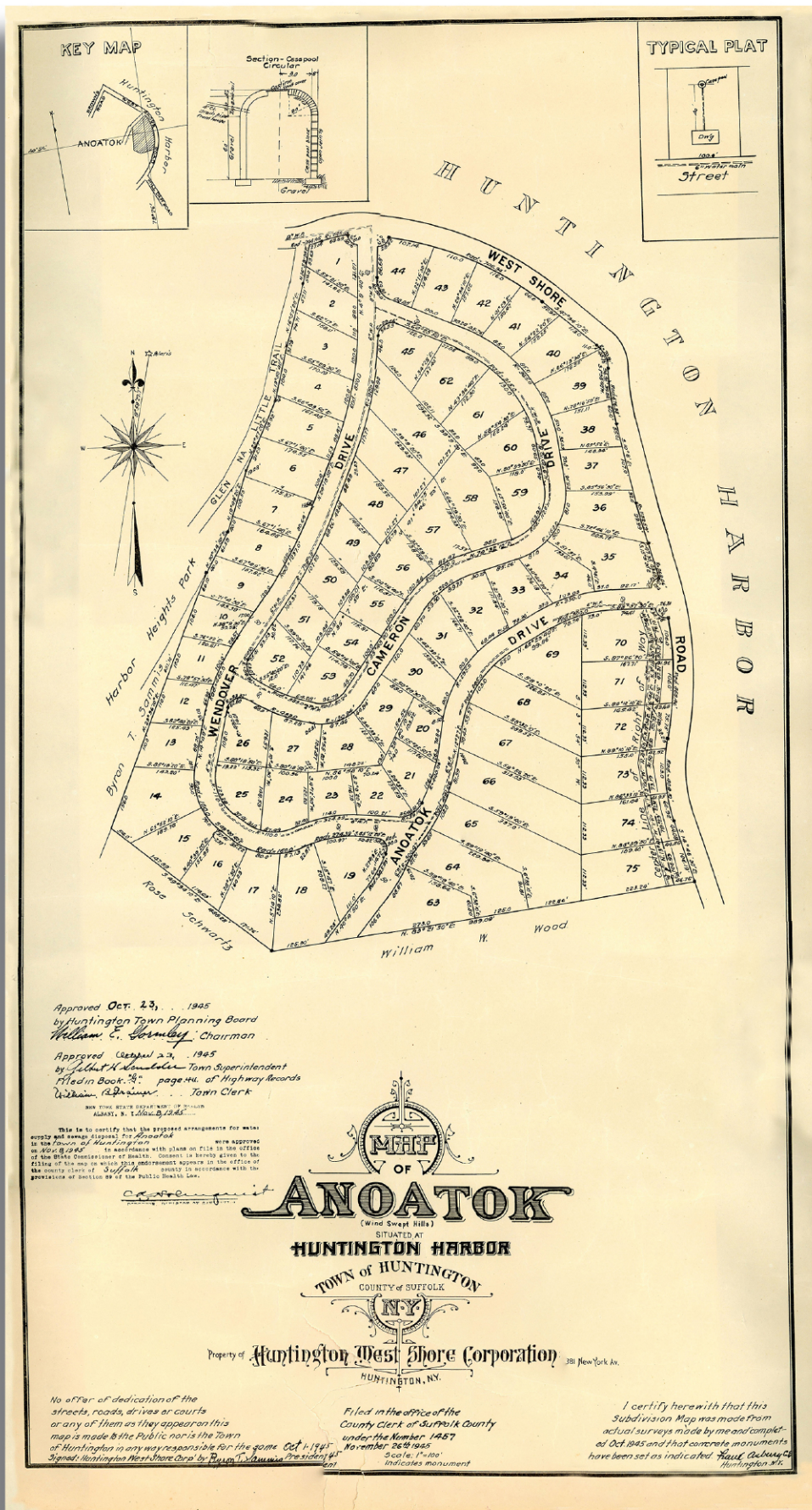
Among the earliest residents of the our area before the Community Association was founded were the Bensen brothers: Thorley, Gus and Arthur. They started to come here to their place on the southwest tip of the Anoatok property, top of the hill during their summers. They shared the hill with grazing sheep, cows, pheasants, and the occasional gray foxes, possums, raccoons and chipmunks. In 1928 they still saw W. Wilton Wood drive a horse carriage across his property with grand- and great-grand-kids loaded on board. Then in 1945 they witnessed surveyors clambering over the Hill and driving stakes into the ground, marking off the 75 building "plats" that would make up the Anoatok Community Association.

Our Community has always shown a strong interest in boating, sailing and fishing, even clamming over the years. Our 1976 newsletter cites 28 vessels –yachts, sailboats, dinghies, rowboats, canoes–owned by residents. Many moored off of our dock or stacked on the dinghy rack. I am still trying to figure out the story of one neighbor, Ken Nicholson, an avid boater and boat builder, who framed a 35ft cabin cruiser in his basement. How on earth did that vessel make it out to see the light of day?Eaton's Neck was then as now a popular destination for family fishing and swimming. In those early years, the inlet out of the harbor was so narrow that it could be difficult to get through going against the tide. Often you had to go ashore to walk and pull the boat through the narrows. Much has changed thanks to dredging. Oddly enough, in the mid-40's a 65 foot whale found its way into the Harbor, but never found its way out again.

There had always been much commerce around the harbor, such as on the present site of West Shore Marina. Before the fancy yachts, oil barges would periodically tie up there, to offload mega-quantities of oil to fill up HUFECO's (Huntington Utilities') storage tanks. Even before that, barges with coal and lumbar would tie up there when it was owned by W. Wilton Wood.



Believe it or not: in '49 there were fewer than 50 boats moored in the Harbor, including the entire clamming fleet moored off of Nancy's Point. Supposedly, you could see Guy Lombardo speeding around the harbor. He lived in the big house opposite Gold Star Beach. The Bensen Brothers also mention seeing JP Morgan's yacht, Corsair, as well as Vanderbilt's yacht, cruising through Huntington Bay.



The Original Site Map dated Oct. 23, 1945



# WHO WE ARE

Throughout the years, the Anoatok Community held various social events, some just for kids, some just adults and others for the entire family and friends. Our biggest one was the 4th of July Party. It was usually held sometime around the 4th, depending on the high tide. It always began with a parade of the kids marching down the hill from the intersections of Wendover/Cameron down to the Beach. At that time there was much more sand. And even during high tide there were 5 to 8 feet of dry sand you could lie on. Volunteers grilled hot dogs and hamburgers in the huge concrete pipes near the ramp. The coals glowed throughout the entire morning and afternoon. Tables were overloaded with contributions from all the kitchens on the hill and ice buckets filled with soda and beer. Another staple of the summer season is the annual cocktail party for adults, often held in a resident's garden, overlooking the harbor or a pool. Neighbors had a chance to re-acquaint with each other and chat about local people and events. On the more energetic side was the Square Dance. I remember participating in one in the 80's the beginning of Sept, I believe it was. We got a permit from the Town, blocked off the top of Cameron and Wendover. We had a PA System blaring out square Dance music and Don Valentine's strong voice calling out the moves.

One cold Sunday eve, I even recall a tireless group caroling over the different houses of the community, and stopping in to warm our bones in front of a fireplace and drinking hot toddies, rum punches and eating holiday cookies.

Another nice event needing revival is the Welcoming Ladies' Tea. This was held occasionally every few years to greet and welcome new families.

All said, the Anoatok Community Association area has been and remains one of the Town of Huntington's more desirable areas. It offers easy access to the Town and the City some 40 miles away, a pleasant outdoor harborside environment, especially for fishermen, boaters, and sailors, a great place for kids and families to grow, even for retirees who enjoy proximity to the Big Apple and our natural ambience.



**Annual summer cocktail party late 1970's**



**Beach Party, late 1970's. Note how sandy our beach was!**



**The "Old Dock"**



**Annual Summer Party (2019)  
at the Punturieri's front lawn.**



# Anoatok Community Association History

By Larry Roberts (originally written around 1980)

How'd we happen to form a corporation, anyway? That was Byron Sammis' doing. A principal developer of the area, he let a few of us know that his corporation was prepared to assign us its authority to approve building plans to deed us a 400-foot shorefront and to contribute \$200 toward the cost of a chain-link fence. We jumped at the chance.

Then came the name. The majority favored something like "dock association" or "anchorage." A vocal minority took a "beach club" stance. The "community association" was a compromise between those who regarded the water from a father or big boy viewpoint for boating and those who saw it from the mother or little kid position for bathing. At every meeting for several years the question was how much time, energy, and money should be wasted on sand, etc., instead of being sanely invested in float and dock improvements. In the beginning there was no beach—only the margin each winter's storms drove up against eroded old car-and-a-half wide West Shore Road. The sand we did bring in would wash away every year.

But when the County took over and widened the road, the two culverts at the foot of Wendover Drive helped conserve the sand. The jetty did its bit as did the concrete curbing. And finally there were beach umbrellas and lockers with a shiny new key for each family—just in time for our first gala July 4th party with a parade from the top of the hill for all the kids including those in baby carriages.

And fate provided that there should reside on Cameron Drive not only a dedicated designer of docks and floats but the contractor who built our Wall Street Firehouse—Ken Nicholson, the engineer, and Harvey Vom Lehn, the first home building plans committee chairman. And that's how it was with the beach, the fence, the dock and the rest back in the days when the development beyond Wendover was part apple orchard and part farmland.

Then came Dick Parkinson. Years before Anoatok was even a dream in Byron Sammis' mind, Dick hunted on the hill for rabbits and pheasant. Exhausted he would rest under the shade of a big tree just about 600 feet up from the water. What a spot, he used to think, perfect for a home some day. And that's just where he built and lived for 31 years.

Over the following years he built 17 more houses both on Cameron and Wendover.

For the record his houses on Wendover bear the numbers 11, 17, 22, 23, 24, 32, 34, 40, 43, 47, and 62, on Cameron 9, 15, 38, 43, 52, and 53. Most of these houses, however, have sloughed their skins, and sprouted some additions here and there. 8 Community volunteers would set up the dock in the spring. That old wooden bridge was exceptionally difficult to put in place. Often some hapless volunteer would involuntarily take a dip.

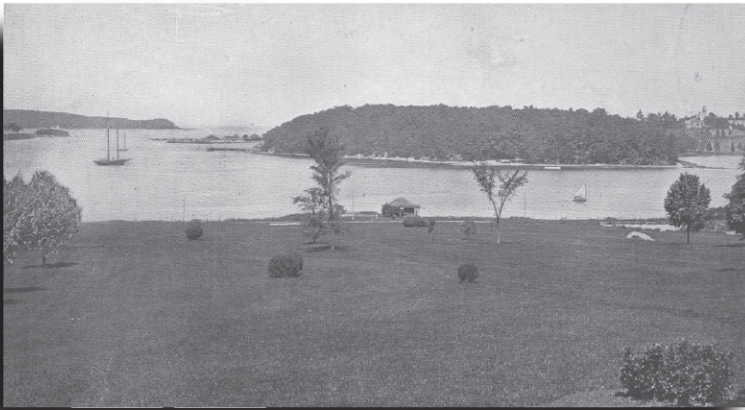
In those days, our handful of mailboxes was lined up at the foot of the hill. On more than one wintry day I carried my son with the mail. He got tired. So did I. Often we couldn't get down there, even if we were ambitious enough to try. That first winter here, back in '47 stands out in my mind. We had moved to the hill Thanksgiving Day. A few days later it started to snow and kept up all winter into the following spring. I was free-lancing then and had time to shovel every day. I had shoveled snow as a kid in Boston to make movie money, but I really learned how to from Gus and Thorley Benson. They kept the road clear its full width between Wendover and the gate to their property. I observed they never tossed a shovel impetuously into the air, but carried each shovelful carefully to one side of the road, and stacked it. Sometimes when it seemed more efficient they cut the snow into blocks first. They were always pleasant, always serious and always wore the same work outfit—Navy-blue knitted headgear and pea jackets.



Occasionally, we'd call the Highway Department to remind them that there was a family living on top of the Hill (us). And when they could, they'd send a small bulldozer. The snow was too formidable for a plough on a Jeep. All winter Wendover was impassable. That same winter the harbor was frozen solid and no tanker could get in to Huntington Utilities' pier. Finally, a tug with a special prow cut a lane through and towed an oil barge in.

The erosion was bad from time to time in various spots and more than one car went off the road into the harbor. The only case I personally know of, though, was that of a former neighbor (better not mention names here) returning late at night from an Anokat Association restaurant affair. He drove his wife into the drink across from the HUFSCO oil tanks. Some lovers' lane couple parked behind the Halesite firehouse saw the car's headlights taking the plunge, raced across Mill Dam and rescued them. Fortunately, it was ebb tide. Nobody would think of trying to drive across Mill Dam at night when the tide was high. It was really a rural-type roadway with a marshy low-tide aroma.

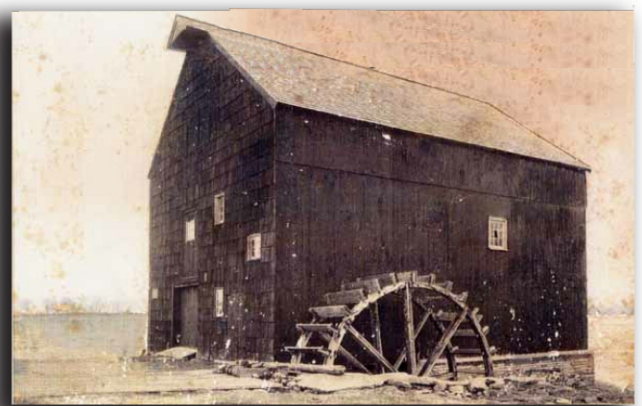
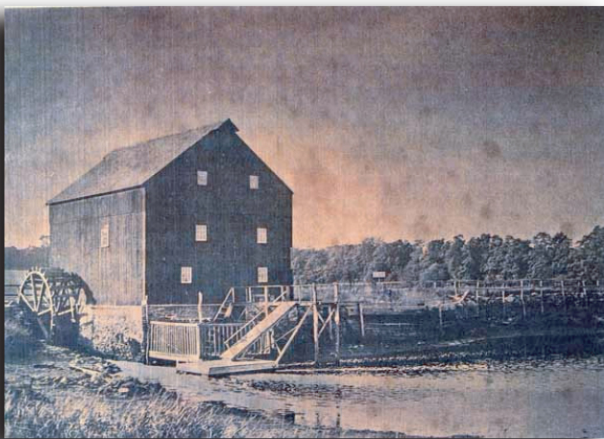
Much has changed over the years, true. Every thing has become a bit more populated. There's more traffic in town, especially on weekends. More people running in and out of the shops, lying on the beaches, fishing and boating. But all in all, the beauty of the area remains the same. What brought the "early pioneers" to Anokat is still with us for all to see and enjoy.



Late 19th century view from hill of Gold Star Beach looking out the Harbor toward the Lighthouse  
Photo: Courtesy of Huntington Public



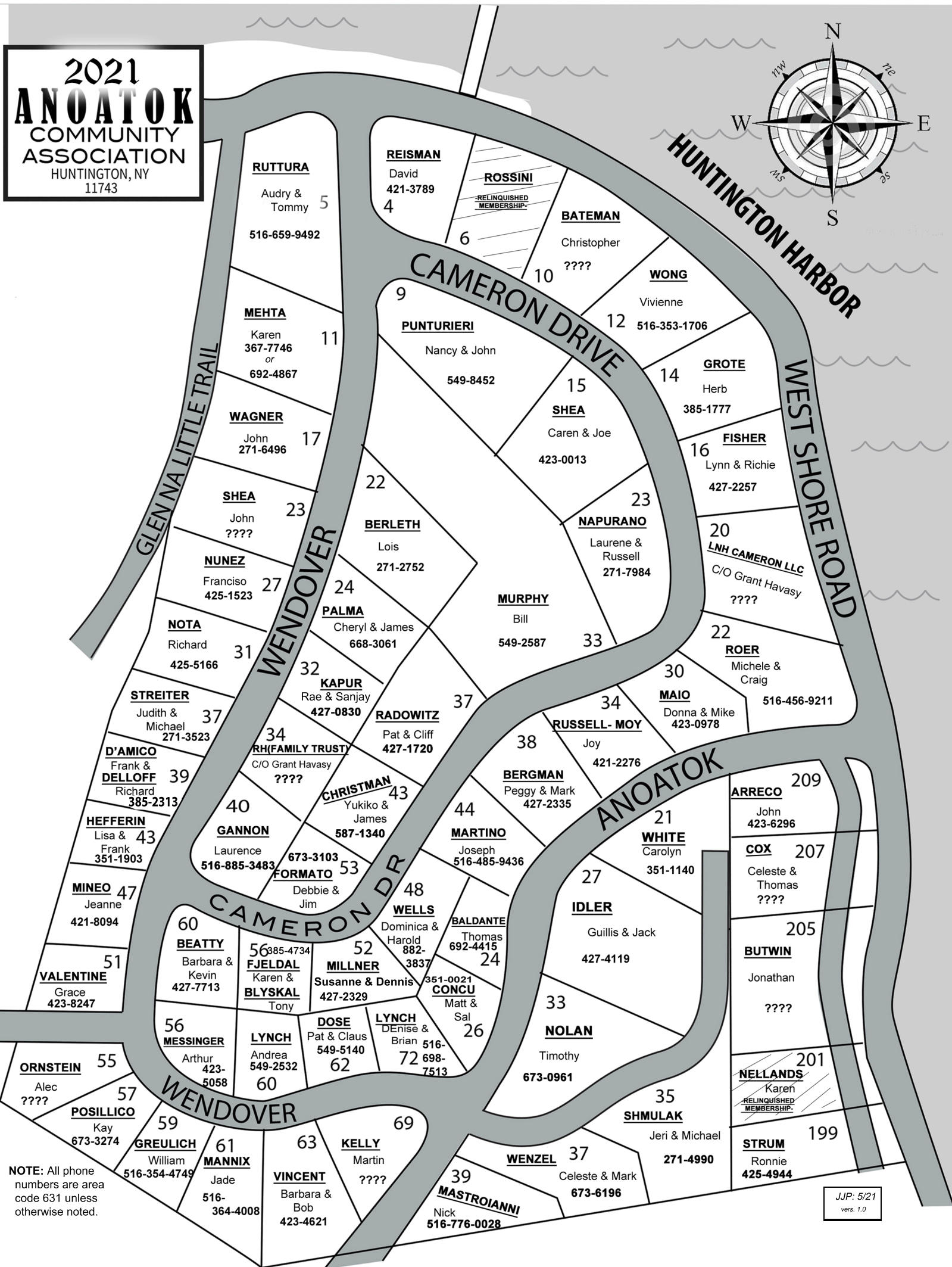
Mill Dam Rd. looking west, late 1800's.  
Courtesy: Huntington Public Library



Lefferts Tide Mill, Huntington Harbor, Southdown Road, Huntington, Suffolk County, NY



**2021**  
**ANOATOK**  
 COMMUNITY  
 ASSOCIATION  
 HUNTINGTON, NY  
 11743



NOTE: All phone numbers are area code 631 unless otherwise noted.

JJP: 5/21  
 vers. 1.0

**RUTTURA**  
 Audry & Tommy 5  
 516-659-9492

**REISMAN**  
 David  
 421-3789  
 4

**ROSSINI**  
 RELINQUISHED MEMBERSHIP  
 6

**BATEMAN**  
 Christopher  
 ????

**WONG**  
 Vivienne  
 516-353-1706  
 12

**MEHTA**  
 Karen  
 367-7746  
 or  
 692-4867  
 11

**PUNTURIERI**  
 Nancy & John  
 549-8452  
 9

**GROTE**  
 Herb  
 385-1777  
 14

**WAGNER**  
 John  
 271-6496  
 17

**SHEA**  
 Caren & Joe  
 423-0013  
 15

**FISHER**  
 Lynn & Richie  
 427-2257  
 16

**SHEA**  
 John  
 ????

**BERLETH**  
 Lois  
 271-2752  
 22

**NAPURANO**  
 Laurene & Russell  
 271-7984  
 23

**NUNEZ**  
 Franciso  
 425-1523  
 27

**PALMA**  
 Cheryl & James  
 668-3061  
 24

**MURPHY**  
 Bill  
 549-2587  
 33

**LNH CAMERON LLC**  
 C/O Grant Havasy  
 ????

**NOTA**  
 Richard  
 425-5166  
 31

**KAPUR**  
 Rae & Sanjay  
 427-0830  
 32

**ROER**  
 Michele & Craig  
 516-456-9211  
 22

**STREITER**  
 Judith & Michael  
 271-3523  
 37

**RADOWITZ**  
 Pat & Cliff  
 427-1720  
 37

**RUSSELL-MOY**  
 Joy  
 421-2276  
 34

**D'AMICO**  
 Frank & Richard  
 385-2313  
 39

**RH(FAMILY TRUST)**  
 C/O Grant Havasy  
 ????

**CHRISTMAN**  
 Yukiko & James  
 587-1340  
 43

**BERGMAN**  
 Peggy & Mark  
 427-2335  
 38

**ARRECO** 209  
 John  
 423-6296

**HEFFERIN**  
 Lisa & Frank  
 351-1903  
 43

**GANNON**  
 Laurence  
 516-885-3483  
 40

**FORMATO** 53  
 Debbie & Jim

**MARTINO**  
 Joseph  
 516-485-9436  
 44

**WHITE** 21  
 Carolyn  
 351-1140

**COX** 207  
 Celeste & Thomas  
 ????

**MINEO** 47  
 Jeanne  
 421-8094

**WELLS** 48  
 Dominica & Harold  
 882-3837

**MILLNER** 52  
 Susanne & Dennis  
 427-2329

**BALDANTE** 24  
 Thomas  
 692-4415

**IDLER**  
 Guillis & Jack  
 427-4119  
 27

**BUTWIN** 205  
 Jonathan  
 ????

**VALENTINE** 51  
 Grace  
 423-8247

**BEATTY**  
 Barbara & Kevin  
 427-7713  
 60

**FJELDAL** 56  
 385-4734  
 Karen & BLYSKAL  
 Tony

**CONCU** 26  
 Matt & Sal  
 351-0021

**NOLAN**  
 Timothy  
 673-0961  
 33

**NELLANDS** 201  
 Karen  
 RELINQUISHED MEMBERSHIP

**ORNSTEIN** 55  
 Alec  
 ????

**MESSINGER** 56  
 Arthur  
 423-5058

**LYNCH** 60  
 Andrea  
 549-2532

**DOSE** 62  
 Pat & Claus  
 549-5140

**LYNCH** 72  
 Denise & Brian  
 516-698-7513

**SHMULAK** 35  
 Jeri & Michael  
 271-4990

**STRUM** 199  
 Ronnie  
 425-4944

**POSILLICO** 57  
 Kay  
 673-3274

**GREULICH** 59  
 William  
 516-354-4749

**MANNIX** 61  
 Jade  
 516-364-4008

**VINCENT**  
 Barbara & Bob  
 423-4621  
 63

**KELLY** 69  
 Martin  
 ????

**MASTROIANNI**  
 Nick  
 516-776-0028  
 39

**WENZEL** 37  
 Celeste & Mark  
 673-6196