

## Long Point – From Mills to Resorts

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*C1906 – Dus-kew-rera Club at Long Point*

George A. Rogers built the Rogers and Hill mill on the north side of White Lake at Long Point in the spring of 1855. The first board was sawed in the new mill on July 4, 1855. On October 11, 1855, George Rogers sold the mill to Samuel D. Luscombe and Robert W. Pierce. Rogers then built another mill on the south side of White Lake in 1857, which had a succession of owners through the years eventually becoming the site of the former Lakeside Inn.

George A. Rogers reportedly died when he fell overboard in White Lake just off Long Point and drown in 1857.

In 1871 the Long Point mill of Luscombe and Pierce mill was purchased by I. M. & B. F. Weston. It was later operated by J. W. Norton, Major Green & Weston, and Hafer & Weston.

In February 1887 it was announced that I. M. Weston had sold the Long Point sawmill to W. S. Smith of Cheboygan, who planned to move the mill to that place and operate it. The mill was one of the oldest on the lake and had been steadily in operation since 1855.

The Long Point property was purchased in August 1889 by a syndicate which consisted of Frank, Fred and Louis Hanchett and Harry Mills of Chicago, Capt. P. D. Campbell and James H. Williams of Whitehall, and W. A. Whitman, C. L. King, George E. Gardiner, L. G. Ripley, and George R. Hancock of Montague.

The site was the finest on the shore of White Lake for a summer resort and within 20 minutes row of the Mouth. There were 160 acres of wooded and cleared land, and 2,970 feet of water frontage, with a first-class dock. Men worked on clearing and cleaning the land and fixing the old buildings into cottages for occupancy next year. A large hotel was planned for construction as well as a boathouse where row, sailing and sculling boats could be rented. The name selected for the area was "Nahant Beach". Nahant is Indian for "the point" or "almost an island."

According to a map from 1900, it appears that the property was divided into 14 section that contained anywhere from 6 to 12 lots. They had streets and avenues laid out and which were named for several of the investors: Williams, Gardiner, King, Osmun and Robinson streets and Ripley and Hanchett Avenues.

In January 1896 it was announced that J. H. Williams sold his interest in Nahant Beach, better known as Long Point, to Charles Hegge. His plans included building a large hotel and beautifying the grounds. A reported price of \$3,000 was paid for the property.

In November 1896, it was reported that Mr. C. S. Ford, a Chicago real estate agent who had sold much White Lake property, came to the area with Edwin S. Gilbert. Gilbert was considered to have considerable wealth and was willing to spend a large sum on improvements to the area. This was the beginning of the Pine Beach Hotel, also known as The Pines. In June 1897, Gilbert completed a large pavilion on the lakefront.

July 9, 1898, it was reported in the local newspaper that the Hegge Resort at Long Point has been crowded with guests and that a number have been refused accommodation. This indicates that this is one of the most popular hostelrys on the lake.

In February 1902, J. H. Williams sold his lot at Nahant Beach to W. J. Baxter for \$200.

One of the most important real estate transfers occurred in White River township and was recorded at the Register of Deeds office in July 1902. Edwin S. Gilbert of Montague sold to John A. Kruse, trustee of the Busk Rura Club of Chicago, about 66 acres of what was known as Long Point for the sum of \$10,000. It is intended to erect a handsome and spacious club building near the hotel, lay out a fine golf course, construct a substantial dock and improve the premises. It is said that between \$40,000 and \$50,000 will be spent. The new owners have plenty of money and will make the point one of the most attractive private resorts in the area. This was the beginning of the Dus-kew-rera Club.

From 1902 to 1906 the White Lake Yacht Club used the Duskewrera Club as their headquarters, until they obtained property on the south side of White Lake and built their own facilities.

Articles of Association for the Duskewrera Club were filed in July 1905 with the following stockholders: C. E. Yerkes and A. L. DeWar of Evanston, IL, Edwin Haynes of Minneapolis, John A. Kruse and S. C. St. Clair of Chicago. The club had their own launch named the Juliet, which allowed them to take their guests on excursions of White Lake and Lake Michigan.

The launch Juliet was built in 1889 in West Bay City, MI, by F. W. Wheeler & Co. George F. Williams was the master carpenter on the 70-foot long wooden hulled excursion vessel. It was originally owned by W. R. Owen of the Delta Transportation Co. in Escanaba. By May 1903 the Juliet was owned by John A. Kruse of White Lake and was used as a ferry for the Duskewrera Club. The captain was James Goldring and the crew of three consisted of Engineer, Frank Coleman; Steward, Charles Flannigan, and Linesman, Fred Upton. The Juliet was finally abandoned in December 1912.

In June 1912, it was reported that William Bruce had leased the Duskewrera Club Inn, better known to residents as Long Point, and would open it to the public as a summer resort. It appears that it was still in business in 1928 but was now called Long Point Club and Cottages. George E. Olsen was its proprietor at the time. The place could accommodate 75 guests.

By 1921 some of the Long Point property came into the ownership of Frederick J. Lobell and his wife Julia. He was a lawyer from Chicago, and they had a son Charles. They built the large summer home that which was described in the local paper in July 1921. "While there are a number of larger and more pretentious cottages on the lake, none will compare with the elaborate and costly interior finishes and

decorations. It is truly a work of art and the last word in the work of a skilled craftsman. The designer and artificer was Mr. Carl Joelson of Chicago. The panel work on the walls and ceilings is beautifully designed and of the most delicate and highly finished nature. The interior of the cottage is done in white enamel throughout and presents a most charming appearance. The kitchen, of course, is a model on with a handsome tile floor and every convenience known to modern science. The lawn and flower-gardens, the work of the landscape gardener, are in keeping with the artistic arrangement of the surroundings and it would be difficult indeed to find a more inviting summer retreat in Michigan." Frederick Lobell died in 1939 but not before selling the property to the Antrim family sometime during the late 1930s.

On July 26, 1934, it was reported that Charles Ohrenberger was being kept busy these days placing and conditioning fine over-night cottages on his resort property at Long Point known as Camp Ohrenberger. The cottages were moved from Lakewood. As Fox Lake had dried up, the Lakewood Association had no further use for 20 little houses, so they have disposed of them.

In the mid-1950s the E. I. deNemours DuPont Company purchased some property in the Long Point area. A pump house was built on the water's edge by the company, which they used to draw water from White Lake for the production of various chemical products that they made. By June 1959, nine suits were brought against DuPont for fumes and gases which caused paint to peel off houses and family members and guests to become ill. Adjustments were made by the company to remedy the situation. The plant eventually closed in 1995 but still owns some 1,300 acres and about 3,000 feet of White Lake frontage.

The John Rybik family had purchased the former Lobell property around 1957 and saved the boathouse from destruction from the high water and ice. They also built the adjacent motel-style housekeeping units and began operating the White Sands Resort in 1957.

By 1972 the Jack Darrow family were the owners of the White Sands property and continued to own it until the late 1990s.

Bob Kimble also operated the Long Point Cottages from 1982 until he put them up for sale in 1987 to move on to other ventures.

Walt Bridges became the owner of the Long Point Resort around 1999.

The Vogels from Rockford purchased the White Sands property in 1999 and extensively renovated the main house and lodging building, carefully preserving the architectural integrity of the buildings.

In 2002 the Dermody family from Grand Rapids became the owners of the property.

Around 2013-14 the motel-style units at White Sands were removed. The property was later divided and sold.

Now most of the Long Point area contains private residences.