

Drowned Villages in CNY

When we Tramps embark on a hike or paddle, we often visit a pond or lake. Sometimes these bodies of water are naturally occurring, but sometimes they are man-made. In the 19th and 20th centuries many dams were built and reservoirs created in Upstate New York to direct water for useful purposes. In the process, towns and villages, some settled for many years, were flooded and soon covered by newly-formed lakes.



The Village of Delta, a few miles north of Rome, was settled along the bank of the Mohawk River in 1792. It eventually had saw and grist mills, blacksmith shops, a Post Office, schools, churches, and a cemetery. But due to the Erie Canal's increasing need for water, a dam across the river was started in 1908 and completed in 1912. The remains of the Village of Delta were totally submerged by 1916.

In the Kuyahoorra Valley, along the West Canada Creek, the small community of Northwood was settled in the 1800's. Again to supply more water to the Erie Canal and also to the City of Utica, a dam was constructed above the town of Hinckley.

It was completed in 1915 and Northwood was flooded soon after.

There are many other drowned villages in New York State, and today, as we gaze out over certain lakes, we may not be aware of what lies beneath their beautiful surfaces.

**Photo is the former Empire Hotel which was saved from the village of Delta flooding and moved to the town of Western where it still stands today and is known as Liberty Hall.*

Submitted by George Fogg