

History of Boy Scout Troop 37 Hyde Park New York

HISTORY  
BOY SCOUT TROOP 37  
Hyde Park, New York  
1917- 1966

Compiled -- March 1961, and March 1966  
Robert E. Moseley

## History of Boy Scout Troop 37 Hyde Park New York

Boy Scout Troop # 37  
Hyde Park, New York  
Summarized Troop History  
April 8, 1961-March 26, 1966

Troop 37 has continued its activity and service to boys of Hyde Park since the remainder of this history was compiled and written in 1961. Ernie Rack completed nearly seven years as Scoutmaster when he resigned at the end of March 1964. Bob Holtzman replaced Ernie and is currently carrying on this responsible job capably and well.

The Troop has grown rather steadily in size and now numbers thirty boys. Its advancement record has been truly remarkable over the last ten years with at least eight boys achieving the rank of Eagle - David Andros, Brian Gahrn (65), Jim Moseley (64), Tom Moseley(62), Emmett Murphy, Ernie Rack (62) Jim Rack (64), and Wayne Remond (59). In addition a great many other boys have moved far along the Scouting Trail by attaining Second Class, First Class, Star or Life Rank.

The camping record of the Troop has always been outstanding and accurate records kept over the past five years show an average of nine or ten a year. These have included trips to Cooperstown, Devils Tombstone, Woodland Valley, Camp Rotary (Rensselaer County), West Point as well as Camp Noot-eeming. There have also been cooperative camp-outs with Troop 101 of Schultsville at the latter camp site. The number of boys from the troop participating in these camp-outs has also increased with the average being around 60%.

The Troop carries on a very extensive program of other scouting activities. These include weekly meetings (September thru June), monthly swims at the Poughkeepsie YMCA, 3-4 Courts of Honor each year, a yearly Xmas party, a yearly Supper or Dinner as well as other events. A number of boys made the trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico during the summer of 1963 and Ernie Rack took another group last summer (1965).

The greatest change in the Troop has taken place in Adult Male cooperation and participation. Without this vital ingredient a troop just stumbles along fighting for existence. Ernie Rack and Tiny Luhmann literally held the troop together during the period 1958-60, with little or no help and few boys. This is a far cry from the present Troop with a Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster, ten Committeemen and thirty Scouts.

The Troop and those who have been associated with it can truly be proud of its achievements and of the fine experiences and excellent training it has made available to the youth of Hyde Park.

# History of Boy Scout Troop 37 Hyde Park New York

Roster Troop #37 March 26, 1966

Scoutmaster Robert Holtzman  
Assistant Scoutmaster Gene Crittenden  
Senior Patrol Leader James Rack  
Asst Senior Patrol Leader Gary Luhmann

## SCOUTS

Robert Bolitho (PL)  
Douglas Brownson  
Joseph Crittenden  
Michael Cunningham  
Harry Dembicki  
Richard Dowd  
William Dowd  
Joseph Eckelman  
Robert Fitzpatrick  
Barry Heady  
Patrick Hefferon  
Alan Herrmann  
Jeffrey Hirst (PL)  
Joseph Holzer

William Hunt  
Michael Keslin  
Mark Lashway  
Gregory Lindsley (PL)  
James Moseley  
George Norton  
Paul Oakley  
Rusty Patterson  
Leo Richard  
Pete Richard  
Jay Robinson  
David Tucker  
Roger Turek  
John Zamierowski (PL)

Institutional Representative - David Patterson

## TROOP COMMITTEE

John Zamierowski - Chairman

Douglas Brownson  
Robert Cunningham  
Richard Dowd  
Robert Keslin  
George Luhmann

Robert Moseley  
Warren Oakley  
Ernest Rack  
Irving Wittenberg

**P R O G R A M**

35th Anniversary Dinner  
BSA Hyde Park Troop 37

April 8, 1961

INVOCATION ..... Reverend Emmett B. Waite  
DINNER ..... Spaghetti and Meat Balls  
SONGFEST ..... Reverend Emmett B. Waite  
FEATS OF MAGIC ..... "The Schamberg's"  
AWARDS

Mothers Scout Pins - Ernest Rack, Scoutmaster

Presentation of 1961 Charter -  
Howard Small - Member O & E Committee  
to  
James Traudt - Institutional Representative  
Troop Member late 30's

Introduction of Former Members of Troop and other Guests

Speaker of the Evening - Robert L. Carr, Supervisor  
New York State Education Dept.

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Troop Members

Ernest Rack, Jr. - Scoutmaster  
Clifford Rockefeller - Assistant Scoutmaster  
Neil Lynch - Junior Assistant Scoutmaster  
Patrick Murphy - Senior Patrol Leader

David Bennett  
James Berryann  
Charles Best  
Joseph Canale  
Michael Donegan  
Thomas Hill  
Gary Horrocks  
Richard Hubbard

William Hunt  
John Jeszu  
James Lawless (PL)  
Lawrence McNally  
Lawrence Mielich  
James Moseley  
Thomas Moseley (PL)  
Ernest Rack (PL)

James Rack  
Robin Rockefeller  
William Rockefeller  
Walter Simmons  
Thomas Waite  
Mark Petty  
Alan Wittenberg

35th Dinner - BSA Troop 37

April 8, 1961

GUESTS

Harold Behr	Member early 1930's
Chandler Bliss	Executive Great NW District
George I. Browne	Member early 1920's
George A. Darlington	County Council Executive since May 1943
Vincent Dickinson	Member early 1920's, Schenectady Pow-Wow
Robert Ditton	General Manager - The Townsman
Mapledoram Fink	Ass't. Scoutmaster 1916-17, Scoutmaster 1917-18
James Fross	Photographer - The Townsman
John W. Golden, Jr.	Member late 1930's - 1st Nat-Jamboree 1937
Harold Hermann, Sr.	Member 1917-20 -- Catskill Hike 1917
Charles Kane	Commander American Legion Post #1303
Webster Kipp	Area Commissioner
Cornelius Lynch	Scoutmaster 1956-57 -- Member Troop Committee
	Chairman Council Health & Safety Committee
Warren Oakley	Member 1936-42 -Ass't. Scoutmaster 1941-62
	Participant Parade 1937
	Cabin Building 1938
	Honor Guard 1939
Clyde Parker	Ass't. Scoutmaster & Committeeman late 1950's
Ronald Siewert	Member mid-1940's - Executive Taconic District
Howard Small	Member Council O & E Committee
James Traudt	Member late 1930's
	Institutional Representative Am. Legion Post
Henry Wicker	Hyde Park Youth Leader prior to 1920

35th Dinner - BSA Troop 37

April 8, 1961

Troop Committee Members 1961

Norman Bennett  
Philip Canale  
Thomas Hill  
Okay Lawless

George Luhmann  
Cornelius Lynch  
Robert Moseley (C)

Emmett Murphy  
Emmett Waite  
Lewis Welsh

## HISTORY

Boy Scout Troop 37 -- Hyde Park, New York

April 8, 1961

The following history of Troop 37 is based on the written and spoken words of many men of the community who belonged to the troop at one time. This necessitated the writing of at least 150 letters making numerous telephone calls and traveling various distances for personal conferences. Ten to twenty replies were received to the letters that were sent and many of the men that were contacted personally had much to contribute. The greatest amount of information was derived from those men who had been associated with the troop many, many years ago.

This history is not accurate in many details due to human error in remembering and connecting dates, names and places. Most of the dates mentioned prior to 1935 are approximate and it is certain that many important events have not been included. The greatest credence was given to affairs which were vivid in the minds of two or more participants. The listing of names which has been included at the end of the history cannot possibly be accurate. It seems certain that the names of troop members have been left out and that possibly names of non-troop members have been included. The bulk of this history will cover the period prior to 1935 with some attention being given to the period from 1936\_-1942. The names of scoutmasters only will be listed after this period. It is hoped that some ambitious individual will proceed to complete this enormous chore at some future date.

Scouting had its official start in Hyde Park in 1916. However, the reports of many men seems to indicate that scouting in some form was in operation prior to that time. A number of men have talked of a hike to the old Fair Grounds at Washington Hollow. They slept in tents on the fair ground and stayed there for a few days. The date for this event has been located sometime between 1912-15. These men also state that they had scout uniforms of some type which they wore. There is little question that the county YMCA program was very active during that period, and it is hard to differentiate between the two organizations. The Hyde Park Association was the local unit which operated through the YMCA under the supervision of Henry Wicker. This was located in the old gym once a Baptist Church and now the Florence Walsh Factory. Camping activities took place at Millers' Pond between Lafayette and Stanfordville. The camp site located at this Pond served a dual purpose. For a portion of the summer it was Camp Dutchess for the YMCA and for the remainder of the summer was the original Camp Nootemung for the Boy Scouts. According to Mr. Wicker the first two county commissioners for scouting were W. Jordan and Ben Tremper.

The first official scouts in Hyde Park were formed as Troop 1 in 1916. Scouting in the United States had been in operation about six years at this time and local interest was aroused in the movement. Mr. Paul Redmond, of Red Hook, hired three men to act as scoutmasters in Hyde Park, Red Hook and Rhinebeck. Max A. von der Hayden was sent to Hyde Park to serve as scoutmaster at a salary of \$80 per month. Mapledoram Fink became the first assistant scoutmaster and the troop committee included Grant Dickinson, j. Sterling Bird, Edward P. Newton and Edward C. Reise. The troop was officially registered with the national office as Troop 1 of Hyde Park in March 1917. Mr. von der Hayden stayed one year, moved to Rhinebeck and was replaced by Mr. Fink. At the conclusion of another year, Mr. Fink left for military service and was replaced by Mr. Newton who served until 1921. Assistant Scoutmasters during this period included Sterling Dickinson, Allen Velie, Walter M. Pratt and Lee F. Taylor.

The troop was very active during this period of its history and a number of major events are recalled by the members. The two week hike through the Catskills in one event which is remembered by all. The group took the night boat from the Hyde Park dock and disembarked at Saugerties. The boys hauled a covered wagon which carried all of their equipment and supplies. The itinerary of the trip went roughly as follows: Quarryville-Haines Falls-Tannersville-Edgewood-Lanesville\_Chichester-Phoenicia-Mount Tremper-Shokan-Ashokan-West Hurley-Stony Hollow-Kingston Ferry-Hyde Park. Participants in the

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trip were Scoutmaster von der Hayden, Assistant Scoutmaster Allen Velie, Committeemen--Bird, G. Dickinson and Dr. Newton, scouts--James Bayles, Harold Conley, Arnold Dickinson, Louis Freer, Harold Lane, Calbert Lester, Harold Herrmann, Sr., Harold Lane, Calbert Lester, Everett Miller, Elting Oakley, Walter Paul and Roy Rider.

Events on the trip which are recalled include living for one or two days on dried prunes and bread and then having a feast of Goulash near Haines Falls. Beans also appeared to be a staple of diet but for some reason the cook neglected to add water and the beans became more like marbles. The long haul up the mountain to Tannersville was almost too much for the boys and finally the services of a farmer with a team of <?> was procured. This made the rest of the trip up the mountain a pleasure. It seems that the picture taken on the trip (by Sterling Bird) was adjacent to a trout stream near Tannersville or Palenville. The stream was so full of trout that bread on a hook was sufficient lure. This morning, the boys feasted on fried trout. The boys stayed nearly a day with the army troop stationed near the reservoir. They drilled with the soldiers and feasted on plenty of food for the day.

The first troop meeting place was known as The Wrens Nest. This is the little house on the East side of the Post Road across from the entrance to Kirchner Avenue. Mr. von der Hayden lived here during his tenure as scoutmaster. Some of the boys became irritated with Mr. von der Hayden at one time and used some rather violent means to express their displeasure. They tied shut the door of the Wrens Nest and then proceeded to throw giant fire crackers down the chimney. This caused considerable displeasure to the occupant and only after much pleading was he permitted to escape. It seems apparent that some rather dire punishment was administered after this episode.

During 1918 the troop was very active in the selling of War Bonds and sold them to the sum of \$1200-\$1400. They pulled the Liberty Ball from Staatsburg to Poughkeepsie on its journey from Buffalo to New York City. The next meeting place was the old gym which was mentioned above. Many of the scouts recall drilling there under the direction of a Capt. Waterman of Poughkeepsie. Apparently, one hour of this and they were all Waterman of Poughkeepsie. Apparently, one hour of this and they were all ready to call it quits. The original Robin Hood ball park was located adjacent to Kirchner Avenue and here the boys camped and held an annual Field Day. It was at one of these Field Days that a Reverend Cooper lost his eyesight when a small cannon he was firing exploded in his face. Other troop campsites were near Dickinsons Mill on Mill Road and in Dolly Varden Woods.

One member of the troop recalls traveling across the river to Slab-sides, the home of the naturalist John Burroughs. He remembers many happy hours listening to the bearded naturalist who apparently loved to talk to and with children. Firestone, Edison and Henry Ford were there a number of times. The troop put on a minstrel show in approx\_imately 1920 before a capacity house. They participated in every parade held in the area. One of the remembered hikes was made to Mount Beacon. The Huyler Brothers gave the troop a cabin on their estate (now owned by L. B. Morris). Every Saturday, the boys would work on the cabin, cook and eat hot dogs and camp overnight. It is worthy of noting how many spoke of their excellent troop bugler -- Jum Bayles.

The activity of the troop appears to have been sporadic during the 1920's with frequent periods of lapse. Scoutmasters that were recalled from this time include: Charles Lent, Ralph Jones, Reverend Nostrand, Reverend Wilson and Mr. W. A. Saltford. The major event of this time was the trip by truck to a Pow-Wow in Schenectady. The truck belonged to the Saltfords and was driven by a James Frost. The boys camped there for a period of two-three days and nights. The troop made several hike and bike trips as far as Blue Stores and spent one week\_end camping at Bash Bish Falls. One hike was made to Rhinecliffe and then the return trip was made to Hyde Park by train. Many Pow-Wows were held in Poughkeepsie and the troop was always in attendance. Boy Scout Day at the Rhinebeck Fair was an occasion for overnight camping there plus a scouting exhibit. Camp Nooteming opened at its present location in the late 20's and the troop participated in plant\_ing many of the trees currently growing there. Jim Logan and Herb Saltford of this era are known to have made Life Scout.

The early 1930's saw the troop again reorganized and operating. Activities included hikes and camp-outs at Camp Nooteming, Camp Smithers and other places. One member recalls hiking from Nooteming to Millbrook. They played baseball in the afternoon and then camped on the ball field overnight. County activities were again held in Poughkeepsie and Harold Behr won the bugling championship at the Armory in 1932. Harold made Life Scout and Stockton Meade achieved either Star or Life. The next revival of the troop took place either late in 1936 or early in 1937. The local churches were the sponsors and the official chartering took place in early 1937. The succeeding five-six years were banner



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ones for the troop. The first National Jamboree was held in Washington, D. C. from June 30-- July 9, 1937, and the troop was represented by J. W. Golden, Jr. Brud says that he believes that he was the only Tenderfoot Scout in attendance at the Jamboree. On October 13, 1937, the troop won a silver cup for being the best troop in a parade held in Poughkeepsie. This parade was held in conjunction with a celebration commemorating the 250th Anniversary of Poughkeepsie. The parade was reviewed by President Roosevelt, Governor Lehman and other dignitaries.

The year 1938 saw the troop constructing its own cabin at Camp Nooteeming. The actual construction work was accomplished by the scouts with the help of parents, committeemen and other interested adults. Much of the material used in the cabin was donated by local citizenry. The cabin was named Twin Oaks and was the scene of many fine troop gatherings over the ensuing few years. It is with regret that it must be reported that the cabin is no longer in existence. A careless hunter started a fire which consumed the cabin sometime in the 1940's. Hiking, camping, community projects and individual advancement were among the many worthwhile activities of the troop during these years.

During 1939, the King and Queen of England were visitors in Hyde Park. Troop 37 had the distinction of being Honor Guard for their Majesties when they attended services at St. James Church. On February 1, 1940, a Troop Circus was held at the Town Hall. The receipts from this Circus were to improve and equip the Twin Oaks Cabin at Camp Nooteeming. It is a pleasure to report that the affair was a rousing success and a considerable sum of money was raised.

The two scoutmasters who served the troop during the period 1937-1943 were Reverend George F. Wells and Mr. Edson L. Barlow. Both of these gentlemen are deceased. These two men were held in the highest regard by everyone with whom they came in contact. The troop is indeed most fortunate to have had two such fine men associated with its activities. The members of the troop (past and present) extend their regrets to the two families and express sincere appreciation in honor of their memory.

It is physically impossible to give credit to every individual who worked for and with the troop during this period. Mention should be made of Walter C. Forse who was County Scout Executive during the period 1929-1943. He has written and expressed his regret that he could not be present at the 35th Anniversary Dinner. He has also had many nice things to say about the troop and its fine record during the period he was associated with the council. He extends his best regards to all with whom he became acquainted during his tenure in the county. The troop itself grew by leaps and bounds during this period in helping to fill the needs of the boys in the community. Many men served in the troop in various capacities such as assistant scoutmaster, committeeman, counselor, etc. The thanks of everyone involved with the troop is extended to these men for giving so freely of their time and efforts.

World War II again saw troop members going into the armed forces of the country as their predecessors had done in World War I. A number of members of the troop gave their lives in this service. Those boys too young to enter service gave unstintingly of time and service in the home front war effort. They helped in the collecting of aluminum and other such drives. Camping, hiking and individual advancement also continued during this period.

Since the end of World War II, the need for scouting in the community has grown as the population has continued to increase. Additional troops were formed in the 1950's to meet this need. Troop 53 in East Park was first followed by Troops 73 and 41 of Hyde Park. Explorer Posts 69 and 53 were formed to help take care of the needs of older boys. Again many fine men came to the fore to help the troop with its various activities in the capacity of assistants, committeemen, counselors, etc. It is unfortunate that lack of time and space does not permit more detail concerning names, dates and places. Suffice it to say that the troop has been active and has continued to live up to the highest ideals of scouting.

The following is a list of scoutmasters of the troop (as near as can be ascertained) and their approximate terms of service.

Max von der Hayden	1917 - 1918
Mapeldoram Fink	1918-1920
Dr. Edward P. Newton	1920-1921
Charles Lent	1920s
Ralph Jones	1920s
Reverend Nostrand	1920s

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W. A. Saltford	1920s
Rev. Frank R. Wilson	1930s
James Spratt	1930s
Henry Tompkins	1930s
Reverend George F. Wells	1937-?
Edson L. Barlow	?-1943
Paul W Taylor	1944- 1947
Frederick Trani	1947- 1951
Kenneth Wager	1951- 1954
Carl Schneider	10/1954- 7/1956
Cornelius Lynch	7/1955 - 9/1957
Ernest Rack	9/1957 - 9/1964
Robert Holtzman	9/1964 - 1967
Eugene Crittenden	1966-1969
Bob DeFries	12/1969 - 1970
Bob Lambert	9/1970 - 9/1972
Doug Galbraeth	1994-1996
Jeff Mathews	1996-Present

Many thanks to each of you who sent or gave factual information which we have been able to use in the above.

First Eagle Scout from Troop 37: Donald Adams

## History of Boy Scout Troop 37 Hyde Park New York

### Troop Roster

The following Troop Rosters are not expected to be accurate as many of them are based on memory. It might be wise if you sent back additional names and facts to help keep the history and the rosters more accurate and up to date.

#### Prior to 1916

Fred Andros  
W. W. Brundage  
Walter Crispell  
William Herrmann  
E.K. Jordan  
Norman Lane

Sam Lane  
Harvey Masten  
Raymond Miller  
Dr. E. P. Newton  
Albert Paul

Frank Plog  
Dennis Pollard  
Arlington Skinner  
John Vail  
James Van Wagner

#### 1916-1921

Anthony Andros  
Rockey Andros  
James Bayles  
Sterling Bird (C)  
Harold Clay  
Harold Conley  
Vincent Devine  
Grant Dickinson (C)  
Otis Dickinson  
Mapledoram Fink (ASM, SM)  
Louis Freer  
Adrian Gilbert  
Fred Gilbert  
William Halpin  
Humphrey Hedgecock  
Harold Herrmann, Sr.  
Ralph Herrmann, Sr.  
Stonewall Jackson

Douglas Kimlin  
Harold Lane  
Edgar Lasher  
Calbert Lester  
Everett Miller  
Dr. E. P. Newton (ASM, SM)  
Walter Paul  
Edward C. Reise (C)  
Roy Rider  
James Roosevelt  
Jim Rose  
Mearl Rose  
Albert Terpening  
Ray Todd  
Randolph Traudt  
Max von der Hayden (SM)  
H. Chester Williamson  
Sterling Worden

#### 1920's

George I. Browne  
Haddock Clay  
Thomas Conley  
Rexford Devereaux  
Vincent Dickinson  
James Edgar  
Howard Gilbert  
Adam Hilliker  
Ralph Jones (SM)  
Thomas Keane

Walter Knott  
Romeyn Lane  
Charles Lent (SM)  
James Logan  
Floyd Mason  
Nelson Milspaugh  
Richard Nostrand  
Elting Oakley  
Gordon Post  
George Reeves

Earl Rose  
Arthur Saltford (C)  
Herbert Saltford  
Donald Sheldon  
Fred Sievers  
Ray Smith  
William Schryver  
Donald Todd  
Donald van de Water  
Howard Velie

#### Early 1930's

Harold Behr  
Donald Bradley  
Arch Curnan  
Start Dolfinger  
Harold Farley  
Oliver Goring

A1 Haug  
George Haug  
Harry Johannesen  
William Keeley  
Harold Kipp  
Ronald Lester

Stockton Mead  
Francis Sherow  
James Spratt (SM)  
Henry Tompkins (SM)  
Rev. Frank R. Wilson  
(SM)

#### 1937-1942

Raymond Allen  
John Avazian  
Earl Baker

Leslie Green  
Harold Hansen  
Elmon Haug

Warren Oakley  
Russell Olson  
Daniel O'Neil

## History of Boy Scout Troop 37 Hyde Park New York

Bruce Berrian  
Charles Berrian  
Donald Berrian  
Harold Berrian  
Ernest Bevin  
Richard Brock  
Marvin Brophy  
Harvey Brower  
Milton Brower  
Douglas Crapser Jr.  
Albert Creeden  
William Creeden  
David Croft  
Albert Curnan  
John Curtiss  
John Cusamano  
Earnest Devins  
Leonard Draise  
Donald Eastwood  
Robert Eastwood  
Earnest Glenn  
John Golden  
Elting Gray

Richard Haug  
Harold Herrmann Jr.  
Ralph Herrmann Jr.  
H.T. Hogeboom  
John Hover  
Newton Hover  
Wesley Hover  
Albert Ingoglia  
Ralph Johnson  
George Jones  
Charles Kaminski  
Robert Keller  
William Kelly  
John Koscis  
Arthur Lane  
Edmond Lane  
Frank Lane  
Harold Lasher  
Edward Leadbitter  
Ronald Lester  
Joseph Mackin  
Allen Macy  
Ralph Morris

James Overfield  
Kenneth Paul  
Donald Pendell  
William Pendell  
John Prentice  
Wallace Richter  
Dean Schuster  
James Spratt  
Donald Stine  
Wayne Sunderland Jr.  
Truman Tabor  
Paul Taylor Jr.  
Henry Tompkins  
Dean Tooker  
Frederick Traudt Jr.  
James Traudt  
Gerald Upright  
James Van Wagner Jr.  
Charles Washburne  
Allen Wells Jr.  
Alexander Wilson  
Frank Wilson  
William Wood