

CONGDON CREEK SHOREFRONT PRESERVE

“BURNS, HALSEY, SCUDDER PRESERVE”



Property Description

The property was purchased in a bargain sale from Peter & Elizabeth Scudder in February 2018. This .97-acre property located at 46 Congdon Road is adjacent and abuts the south of SI Town public landing and Town owned dock at the end of Congdon Road. It includes considerable frontage on Congdon's Creek. Acquisition allows this shorefront parcel to be preserved from waterfront development and to be left as open space for recreational public enjoyment. The acquisition preserves the natural habitat along Congdon Creek shoreline as well as preservation of aquifer recharge.

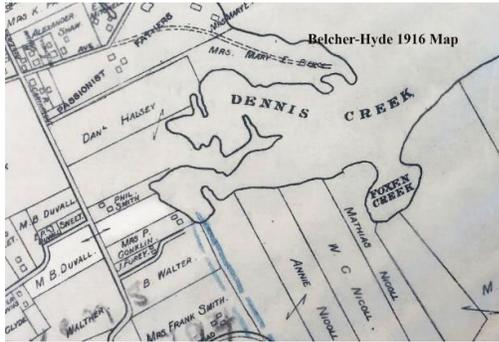
Access

Access is off Congdon Road. An area along the shore was cleared for public use and enjoyment of the water view, and a bench was installed for seating. There is a wooden storage rack for kayak storage. All kayaks must have Town permits.

History/ Prior Owners

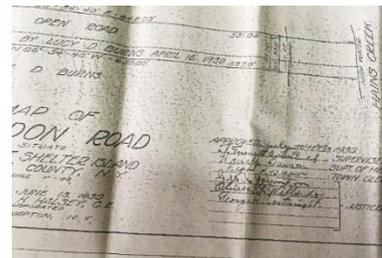
According to Sanwald's "Shelter Island Colonial and Native American Graves Protection Policy Map" the head of Congdon Creek, in the area of the preserved land, was represented as a location where evidence of "kitchen buildup" from Indigenous people's settlements were found. During colonial times it was part of the George Havens estate. It passed to his son, Henry P. Havens. According to multiple maps the property was connected to the property east of Cartwright Road down to what was then known as Dennis Creek.

According to research conducted by Wendy Murdock and Jack Murrin in 2010, in 1845, 26 acres were sold to Lewis Bennett of East Hampton, a whaling captain. His daughter was marrying into the Congdon family living on the same road. The Bennetts lived there until 1870. Elizabeth Bennett Congdon inherited the property and married Marcus B. Duvall.



On the 1916 map M. B. Duvall owns acreage on both the west and east side of Cartwright Road. In 1921, Duvall left the house and property on the west side of the road (known as Camp Shelter Island) to the Brooklyn Bureau of Community Services. The five acres on the east side of Cartwright remained in the Duvall family. Stanley Duvall, a wealthy farmer from Orient, purchased the property and gave it to his sister, Lucy Duvall Burns. The property subsequently passed to Elizabeth B. Halsey (known as Elizabeth B. Brady) and Elizabeth Halsey Scudder. Sections of the five acres were sold off for housing until only the one-acre parcel remained.

In 1930, Lucy D. Burnes sold 16.5 feet of her property to the Town for the extension of Congdon Road to “Haines Creek,” also known as Dennis Creek or Congdon Creek. The boat ramp by Congdon Creek dock is part of this extension.



Peter and Elizabeth Halsey property to Peter’s aunt, Peter and his aunt were close. famous surgeon, Dr. John the family’s missionary work summer residence as part of Heights, Aunt DV, as she was round home here on Shelter aunt passed away before she Scudders were able to reclaim was to preserve the land in Elizabeth’s family who came



Scudder, at one point, sold the Dorothy Vaugh Scudder. She was married to the Scudder who was known for in India. Although they had a the Scudder Cottages in the called, wanted to build a year-Island. Unfortunately, the could build the house and the the land in 1981. Their desire memory of the generations of before her.

Stories

Congdon Creek has had many names: Known today and in 1889 as Congdon Creek— named, after the Congdon family, possibly Elizabeth Congdon, who owned most of the property in the area in the late 1800s. It has also been documented as Dennis Creek & Haines Creek.

Dennis Creek: Ralph Duvall's account of Shelter Island in 1870 may give us some insight into the name:

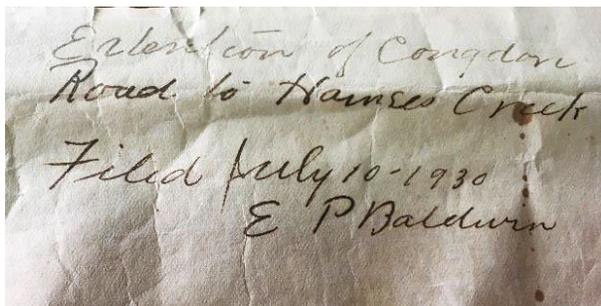


"Just outside of the Nicoll estate, near an arm of Coecles Harbor, was a group of four houses. Only one of them is standing at the present time, the house is now occupied by Mrs. Phebe Conklin. This was then the home of Darius Dennis, a seafaring man. Mr. Dennis had a son by the name of William S. Dennis, who, from the time that he was a small boy, was well known for his cleverness in sailing a boat. In time, Captain Dennis became one of the most skillful skippers of sailing yachts in the country, and his name was known far and wide in yachting circles." (Duvall, Ralph, Shelter Island in 1870, 1928)

It was also referred to as Dennis Creek in the Halsey (Brady)/Scudder deed from 1979:

RUNNING THENCE along the southerly side of Congdon Road, south 86 degrees 34 minutes 40 seconds east, 293 feet to the westerly side of Dennis Creek;

THENCE along the westerly side of Dennis Creek on a course having a tie line bearing south 3 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds east, 140.16 feet to the northerly side of land now or formerly of Brady;



Haines Creek: Recorded on a survey from 1930, the creek is documented as Haines Creek. Often bodies of water took the name of those living on its shore. We are unsure, but a "Miss Haynes" is recorded as a homeowner by the creek on the 1870 Nelson Map. D. Denise is also on the map but in a different location than on the Bateman 1889 map above.