

Greece History by Alan Mueller

“Music in the air for over 130 Summers at Ontario Beach Park”

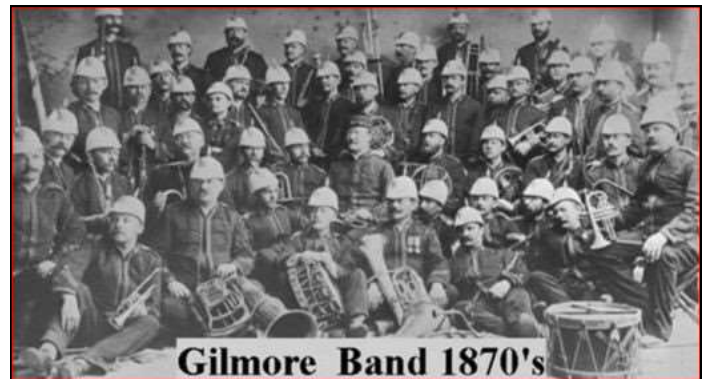
This 2016 summer season of Wegman's Concerts by the Shore has concert goers hearing such varied groups as: The Dady Brothers Grand Band, The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, The Greece Jazz Band and the Skycoasters, with more to come.

Looking back through newspaper files, post cards and photos of the last century and earlier, it is quite evident that music has always had an important part of each summer season at Ontario Beach. It all began in the late 1870s with the opening of the Spencer House. Soon after followed the upscale Bartholomay Cottage Hotel and Pavilion. The amusement park dominated in the early 1900s. The closing of the amusement park in 1919 and many gradual transformations later, has made the park into a city-county park, as it is today. The popular music mixed with light classics dominated the early years. Solo artists usually were featured along with the orchestra. The programs of yore, like those of today, mirrored the tastes of the average public of the day. Ethnic orchestras from many nationalities were popular, as well as soloists or trios of string instruments. Several lady orchestras with soloists drew crowds.

There was a multitude of bands, orchestras and other performers through the years. Patrick Gilmore and his band stand out and were nationally known in the late 19th century. His band was one of the first that Edison attempted to record for his recently developed cylinder phonograph.

The Lapham, Link and 54th Regiment Bands were local and popular in the early 1900s. The Rochester Park Band was well established by the time it first performed at Ontario Beach in the early 1920s. The Dossenbachs, Theodore and Herman, were prominent in the Rochester music scene. Theodore conducted the Park band until his death in 1924. Herman then took over for a tenure of 21 years. John Cummings, who had played in the band, took over for an even longer run of forty-two years. Edna White (shown in the 1925 park band photo) was nationally known and did a number of recordings for the Columbia and Edison companies.

Edna White, Trumpet Virtuoso-played two season's with the Rochester Pk. Band



Band Stand Ont. Beach Pk. Lapham's "Red Russes" Band - Japan Day, 1910



AMUSEMENTS.

This open house to HOTEL, ONTARIO Pavilion. All amusements on the Beach will be here continued during the season.

ONTARIO PAVILION

WE SING

SUNDAY

AFTERNOON AND EVENING CONCERT

BY

54th Regiment Band

ROCHESTER MANNER CHOR

Grand Kirmess

AT

ONTARIO BEACH PAVILION, CHARLOTTE

ON

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 24, 1896

THE BEACH AT CHARLOTTE.

Special to introduce to Wash. 1077818

WASH. MESSIAH and Grand Pavilion

APPROXIMATELY 10:00 AM TO 10:30 PM



E. B. CO. INTERIOR OF PAVILION, - COTTAGE HOTEL.

