



## HISTORY

Dreamers through the ages have been bemused by the spell of lake waters and greenery. Pliny the Younger had his lakeside villas, whimsically named Comedy and Tragedy. Catullus and Tennyson favored Lake Garda, Longfellow Lake Como, and Yeats his wistfully evoked "Lake Isle of Innisfree."

For over a century, well-heeled families have been drawn to the Northeast's lake-oriented areas that offer a treasure chest of shimmering possibilities. In 1903 Isaac Van Horn, a wealthy Englishman, who had amassed a fortune developing land in Florida, traveled with his new wife, Madeline, to the Lake Winnepesaukee region of New Hampshire and fell in love with nearby Squam Lake.

The rounded White Mountains that surround the lake form a bowl that holds some of New Hampshire's cleanest, clearest waters. The Van Horn's purchased a parcel of land on the lake's 65-mile shoreline and started to build a magnificent summer mansion on the gentle slope of Shepard Hill with its striking mountain and lake scenery.

The Van Horn's dream home, distinguished by exterior and interior English Manor style characteristics was built in 1904. Isaac Van Horn employed more than 100 artisans and crafts men from around the world to create the grand English country manor.

The original property comprised 20 acres, and included a Carriage House, cottage, tennis and croquet courts and fabulous English gardens.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Horn figured prominently in Boston society, belonging to many organizations. To celebrate their homes' completion, Mrs. Van Horn hosted the first of many elaborate parties and receptions benefiting numerous charities. The couple enjoyed sharing their summer home with their many good friends and all members of the upper classes of society.

Sadly, the happy times would not continue as Madeline suffered a premature death. Broken-hearted, Isaac could not bear living in the same house that had given the couple so much pleasure.

The English Manor remained a private summer residence until the mid 1940's when renowned photographer and editor of *Life Magazine*, Harold Fowler, converted the mansion into The Holderness Photographic Colony. The serene and idyllic setting of Squam Lake was the perfect setting to aspire amateur and professional photography students.

From the 1950's to the early 1980's, the property passed through a succession of owners and operated as an inn under various names.

In 1981, Hollywood immortalized Squam Lake by choosing it as the setting for the memorable film starring Katherine Hepburn and Henry and Jane Fonda in *On Golden Pond*. The lovely loons that appeared in the movie still cruise the lake in spring and summer. And in fall, the red and golden hues of the changing foliage are spectacular. The region offers skiing in the winter.

### **The Manor on Golden Pond Today**

In 1999, Brian and Mary Ellen Shields purchased The Manor On Golden Pond and began refurbishing the mansion as a year-round country inn, also enhancing the world-class restaurant.

Today, The Manor On Golden Pond has 15 suites in the main building, four additional suites in a nearby Carriage House, four suites in the Annex Chamber and two small cottages. Each individually decorated to reflect the elegant peacefulness and serenity for a romantic, restful retreat or vacation.

Reflecting on its English heritage, The Manor's lobby and public areas are elegantly decorated with English antiques, floral fabrics, fresh flowers and several fireplaces. In 2004, the Manor On Golden Pond was selected as New Hampshire's first member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the prestigious luxury organization representing some of the world's finest "five-star" or "superior deluxe" boutique resorts with fewer than 100 rooms.