

**JACK PLUMLEY'S ROOTS TRACE TO 1830 IN THE
ADIRONDACKS
9/10/96**

I have known John Plumley, or “Jack” as he is known to his friends, for 37 years. Many people have known him as a civic leader and businessman. He has been active in community affairs for 40-plus years. I knew of his civic and business leadership, for the most part, from what I read and learned from friends and associates of his. The reputation he garnered in those years has been an envious one.

Our personal association has been as fellow sportsmen and outdoorsmen. We share the same values and goals in that respect.

When I learned of his intention to seek office as State Senator for the 47th District, I offered my help. I did so not because of any aversion to his opponent; I simply believe no one is better qualified for the job.

I only learned of his deep roots in the area after I began to work with him. Joel Plumley, his great-grandfather, came across the frozen waters of Lake Champlain in the 1830s with a team of oxen. He and son John spent the balance of the winter in Horicon, NY, moving to Long Lake in the spring.

They started a subsistence farm on the eastern shore of Long Lake and it was there that they became lifelong friends of Peter Sabattis. Their income was supplemented by picking spruce gum, collecting herbs, making maple syrup, hunting, fishing and trapping.

John Plumley became known as “Honest John” and was a favorite guide of the Rev. William H. Murray. Murray, a Boston clergyman, was the author of many books about the Adirondacks. “Adirondack Murray,” as he was soon called, has been credited with the initial influx of tourists and the start of the industry they generate to this day.

Many other Plumleys followed in John’s path as guides – Jeremiah, Frank, Riley, Handy Rodney, Delancy and Jack’s brother, Harry, to name a few. Brother Harry guided a number of years out of Jack Helmer’s Mountain Home.

Jeremiah, Jack’s grandfather, worked as a caretaker at Brandreth Lake for 38 years. In opposition to the start of logging there, he reluctantly moved his family to Holland Patent and later to Camden.

Jack still lives in the same house in Camden where he was born and where he and his wife, Helen, raised their seven children. He knows what it takes to make out a paycheck and pay business and property taxes. He can talk with a farmer about a springing heifer or a logger about the difference between the doyle and international log rules.

I have digressed from my usual format because I believe it's important for you to know who Jack Plumley is.