

# Point Au Roche Landing: A Farmers' Port

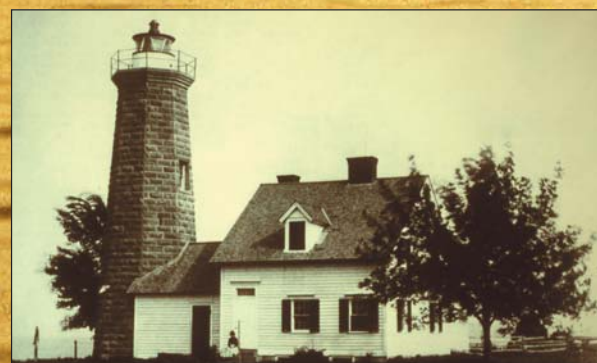
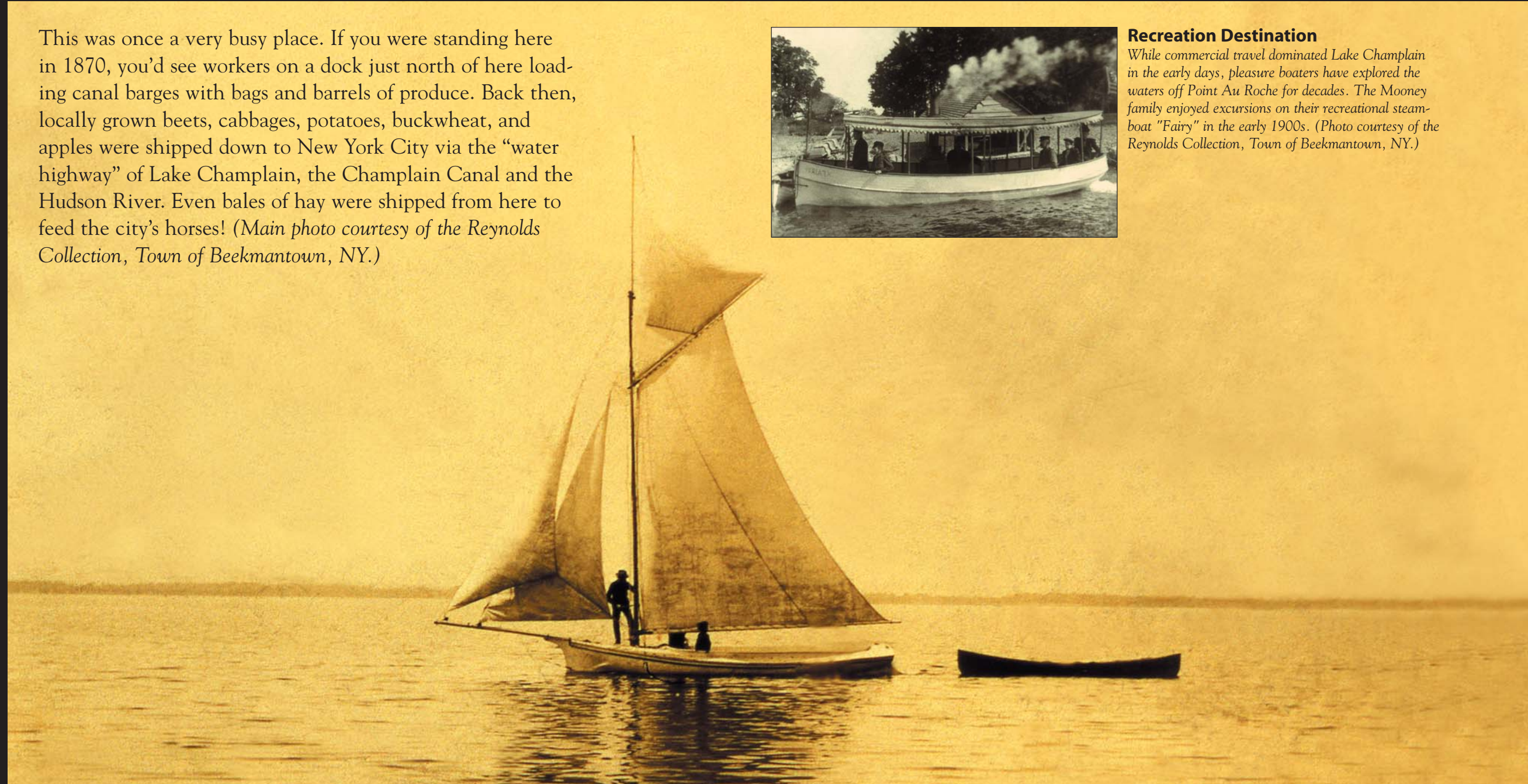


This was once a very busy place. If you were standing here in 1870, you'd see workers on a dock just north of here loading canal barges with bags and barrels of produce. Back then, locally grown beets, cabbages, potatoes, buckwheat, and apples were shipped down to New York City via the "water highway" of Lake Champlain, the Champlain Canal and the Hudson River. Even bales of hay were shipped from here to feed the city's horses! (Main photo courtesy of the Reynolds Collection, Town of Beekmantown, NY.)



## Recreation Destination

While commercial travel dominated Lake Champlain in the early days, pleasure boaters have explored the waters off Point Au Roche for decades. The Mooney family enjoyed excursions on their recreational steamboat "Fairy" in the early 1900s. (Photo courtesy of the Reynolds Collection, Town of Beekmantown, NY.)



## Lighting the Way

Point Au Roche thrusts out into Lake Champlain and creates a sheltered bay on its northern flank, which protects watercraft from powerful southerly winds. The rocky point was also a hazard to commercial shipping. A lighthouse was built south of here in 1858 to warn ships of this hazard. In 1989, a buoy light replaced the lighthouse. (Photo courtesy of the Lake Champlain Album, Vol. 2, Morris Glenn.)



## To Market, to Market...

Point Au Roche's role in commerce diminished as land transportation became more efficient. A railroad was finally built through the rugged Adirondack Mountains along the lake in 1875, linking the area with markets to the south. Trains were faster than canal boats and could travel year-long, reducing shipping costs. Produce, like the apples in barrels pictured here, was shipped from the train station two miles inland. (Photo courtesy of the Chellis Collection, Town of Beekmantown, NY.)

