



In 1910, Dr. James Jackson of Madison purchased this property from Breeze Stevens. His purpose was to have a place away from the frantic pace of a physician and surgeon to be able to relax, hunt, and share with his family and friends. Shortly after he purchased the property, he and his family and friends built the cabin pictured at the left. It was simple and efficient, providing rustic relief from their busy lives. On many evenings, they would gather to play cards while on other days they worked in a large garden at the eastern end of the property. Wildlife, especially ducks were plentiful and became a passionate pursuit. Nephew, Dr. Reginald Jackson purchased the property from James about 1950, and he too continued the tradition. Dr. Reginald Jackson maintained the cabin and expanded his passion for hunting to include pheasants. Along the west edge of the clearing there were extensive pheasant rearing pens and birds were released periodically for hunting by Reginald and his friends. There was a long wooden walkway from a large black willow to the lake. There was a duck boat stored there for hunting. Reginald enjoyed his days here, making trips when age wanted to prevent him. Upon his death, he willed the property to the State Medical Society. The SMC held the property until 2001 when the town of Westport purchased it to preserve and maintain as a haven for wildlife and a place for us to relax and enjoy. Dr. Robert Jackson, son of Dr. James Jackson, (center front of the lower photo), grew up with the Jackson traditions and spent many days with his family at the cabin. Robert passed away in April, 2002. The river birch beside this monument was dedicated to Robert and the Jackson family on Memorial Day, 2002. The base of this memorial is from the original foundation of the cabin which was torn down in 1987. As you walk the trails, you will most likely see artifacts and signs of those early years. Interestingly, the property had previous owners, including early settlers and Native Americans that most likely enjoyed the same pursuits. Enjoy.

Town of Westport
November, 2002