

CELORON AMUSEMENT PARK

WHEN Mary A. Prendergast died, she left very specific instructions for the disposal of her estate. The property known as Prendergast Point, which she inherited from her husband after the death of his father, was to be sold by auction. In May of 1891 a

group of Warren, Pennsylvania financiers purchased the estate with the purpose of creating a new resort and suburb to Jamestown. Honoring one of the first Europeans to travel along the lake and its outlet, the new development called itself the Celoron Land Company.

In 1893 streetcar service to the

Jamestown region was being provided by the Jamestown Street Railway Company under the direction of A.N. Broadhead. Understanding the necessity of having the streetcar line reaching to their development, the Celoron Land Company (managed by the firm of Lindsey & Lindsey) entered into a lease with Broadhead to transform the area into a "pleasure garden" such as was found throughout Europe at the time.

Later the pleasure gardens, also called "trolley parks," became known as amusement parks. Part of A.N. Broadhead's goal when he leased the shoreline area was to create a mecca for area residents to escape their everyday lives, as well as to increase ridership (and profits) for the Jamestown Street Railway Company.

Things happened fast. The bath house, Hotel de Celoron and first "long dock" had already been built when Broadhead became the leaseholder. He spared no expense to make this the best park in western New York and

Pennsylvania, and the results were spectacularly successful. In 1896, to the already existing bath houses and toboggan slides, was added a huge ferris wheel known as the Phoenix Wheel, brought to the Park from the 1895 Atlanta Cotton States & International Exposition. Covered

