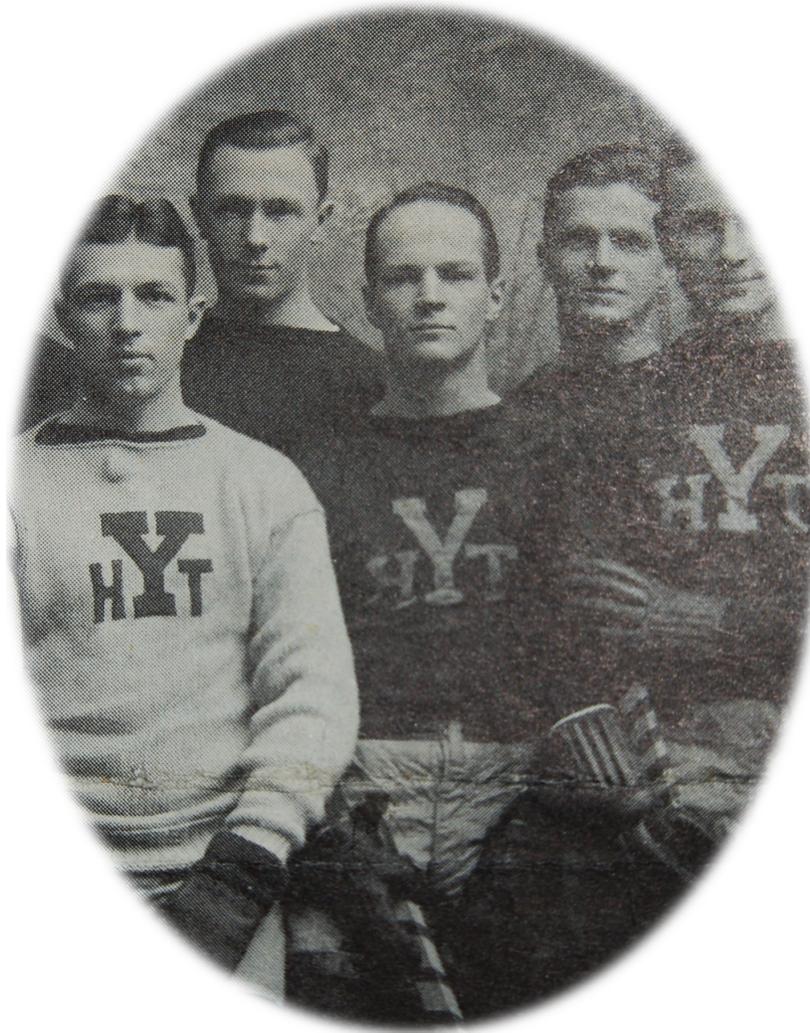


# POPSY'S HOCKEY YEARS



**Charles Denston Dickey  
And Hockey Before The Great War**

Stephen Whitney Lindsay  
2011

## POPSY'S HOCKEY YEARS

My grandfather, Charles Denston Dickey, known as “Popsy” or “Poppy” to his grandchildren, was born in New York City in December of 1893. As a teenager he was sent to boarding school at St. Paul’s School, in Concord, New Hampshire, and from there he went to Yale, where he was a member of the class of 1916. In 1917, he enlisted in the navy to fight in the “Great War”.

I was vaguely aware that during his school and college years he had been a hockey player, and it was even said that he had played in some sort of league in New York City after his graduation. He also reportedly had connections to the legendary Hobey Baker, who was a little less than two years older than him and had also gone to St. Paul’s School. While laid up with a cold recently, I decided to see if I could find anything about my grandfather’s hockey days on the internet. My primary source would be the remarkable online archive of the New York Times. During the search, I found out a lot about the development of hockey at the beginning of the twentieth century, quite a bit about the early years of hockey in New York—and a little bit about Popsy’s hockey “career”.

My grandfather and hockey kind of grew up together in New York. In 1893, the year Popsy was born, some of the most socially prominent New Yorkers—Astors, Vanderbilts, Belmonts, Van Rensselaers, and their friends—decided they needed a private rink to skate on. They formed a club, which they named the St. Nicholas Skating Club, and made an outdoor rink by flooding a low spot at 56<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue<sup>a</sup>. The exclusive club was a huge success, so three years later, in 1896, Cornelius Vanderbilt, John Jacob Astor and other investors had the first rink with an artificial ice sheet in the city built (it was the second artificial rink in the country—one had been built in Baltimore two years earlier)<sup>b</sup>. The rink was a brick building at the corner of 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue, with all the amenities of a private club. It was open to the public on certain days, but admission was set at a hefty \$1 to keep out undesirable sorts. The St. Nicholas Rink quickly became part of the social scene.

New York was just becoming aware of hockey, which had been growing rapidly in popularity in Canada over the previous decades. The same year as the opening of the St. Nicholas rink, there was an exhibition game played by two Canadian teams at the Ice Palace at Lexington Avenue and 107<sup>th</sup> Street, with 2500 enthusiastic fans in attendance to see the “two teams of heavy, lusty, and sinewy players” from Montreal. <sup>c</sup> Hockey was already established in Canada by then. In 1893 – the year of Popsy’s birth—Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor General of Canada, offered a cup for the first time to the best Canadian hockey team— eventually known as the Stanley Cup.

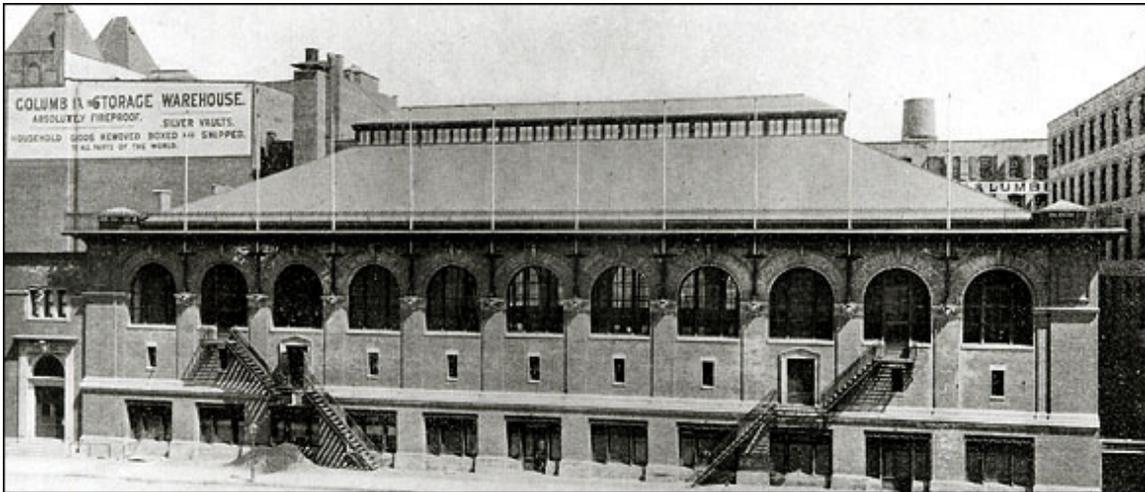


**Hockey at St. Nicholas Rink, 1896**

The rink at 66<sup>th</sup> Street became the home of the newly-formed St. Nicholas Hockey Club, an amateur team that drew its membership from former college players working in the New York business and financial worlds. The first team members were local tennis stars who were drawn to the new sport.

With some other top amateur hockey clubs forming in the city, often with origins in the social clubs, they formed the Amateur Hockey League. For the next twenty four years there was a fierce rivalry between the “St. Nicks”, the Crescent Athletic Club “New Mooners” from Brooklyn, the New York Athletic Club, the aptly named “Wanderers” (who don’t appear to have had a home) and some other amateur teams (four each year). The winners of the New York tournament went on to play the champions of the Boston league. There was no professional hockey yet in New York or Boston, and these games represented the pinnacle of the

sport. Every game was reported on at length in the papers, and crowds came to see them.



**St. Nicholas Rink, 66th Street**

The St. Nicholas Rink was also the site of many college hockey games, including the first Yale – Harvard game in February of 1900, when Popsy was 6 years old (Yale won, 5 to 4)<sup>d</sup>. Colleges all over the Northeast played there, and it served as the home ice for Princeton. The Yale team practiced at St. Nicholas until they built their own rink in 1913. All the Amateur Hockey League games were played there until the opening of the Brooklyn Ice Palace early in 1917, as were exhibition games against the college teams and teams from Canada. All these games received colorful newspaper coverage.

St. Paul's School, in Concord, New Hampshire, where Popsy was sent to secondary school, is considered the cradle of American hockey. The school claims that the first organized hockey game in the United States was held on a pond there in November of 1883 (it must have been a cold fall to have ice in November) – just eight years after the first modern game of hockey was played in Montreal<sup>e</sup>. By the time Charley Dickey went there in the “Aughts”, St. Paul's was in a hockey frenzy. Rinks were built all over the ponds, and competition was fierce. The hockey teams of all the Ivy League colleges were made up of St. Paul's graduates—sometimes exclusively<sup>f</sup>. It became a tradition for the St. Nicholas

Rink hockey season to open each year just before Christmas with the St. Paul's School Varsity taking on an Ivy League team.

The biggest American hockey star of the day was Hobart "Hobey" Baker, a young man from Philadelphia who was in the St. Paul's class of 1910, two years ahead of Popsy. As a high school senior, Baker led the St. Paul's team to a 4 – 0 defeat



**St. Paul's School, circa 1910**



**Hobey Baker at  
St. Paul's School, 1910**

of the Princeton Varsity in New York. The New York Times said that Baker "...could outskate any of the other men on the ice, and made startling sorties into the territory of the Tigers" <sup>8</sup>. All American hockey at that time was seven man: a goalie, two defensemen (called the "point" and "cover point", playing in-line rather than abreast), three forwards, and a "rover". Baker was a "rover", as was Popsy—although Popsy also played center. Baker went from St. Paul's School to Princeton, where he was elected captain of the hockey team his junior year and captain of the football team his senior year (college rules at the time restricted athletes to two sports a year, or he would have also competed in track, swimming, and baseball, all of which he also excelled at). His dashing style and his exploits on the turf and the ice made him into a huge celebrity. The New York Times became enamored of him, breathlessly calling

him “sensational”, “irrepressible”, “brilliant”, “fleet”, and “the king of the ice”.

Popsy made his first appearance in the New York Times in December of 1911, just after his eighteenth birthday, in an article headlined **“Yale’s Hockey Too Fast for St. Paul’s – Concord Schoolboys, However, Give Collegians Close Battle for Victory at St. Nicholas Rink”**. Although the score was only 2 to 1, the Times was pretty hard on St. Paul’s. They noted the stars for Yale, and then said of St. Paul’s, “the two Humphreys, Dickey, and Babitt were keenly alive to the possibilities most of the time.”<sup>h</sup>

In the breakdown of the game, the article mentions that “Dickey, the St. Paul’s rover, made several forward passes to his left wing, and developed a proneness to err in this regard” (forward passes were not allowed until the introduction of the blue line in 1918) . In the second period (of two twenty minute periods, standard at the time), “Reynolds made a great dribbling play and Dickey was on the job for the schoolboys, but they were unable to get the score they needed for a tie”.

In 1912, Popsy headed off to Yale, where he was identified as “Charley Dickey, the hockey player” in a class history.<sup>i</sup> One of his roommates for all four years was F. V. “Bunny” Burgess from Burlington, Vermont, with whom he had played hockey at St. Paul’s. “Bunny” Burgess became the captain of the Yale hockey team in their senior year.

I found no accounts of the Yale freshman team of 1912-1913—although I did find a photograph. I was able to find just one game in all my searches where Popsy was on the ice along with Hobey Baker: in January of 1914, the sophomore Dickey was substituted at “centre” in a Yale-Princeton game in which Baker was playing rover (Yale lost, 5 – 3, after an extra period).<sup>j</sup> That game was the first game played on the new refrigerated Yale rink at New Haven, in front of a packed house of 2300 spectators. (Popsy also played in a Yale-St.Paul’s game at the St. Nicholas Rink in December of 1914 that was refereed by Hobey Baker, by then a member of the St. Nicholas Hockey Club).<sup>k</sup> In his junior year at Yale, Popsy



Driscoll      Hellier      Marlow      Tighe      Sproul  
 Dickey      Sweeney      Washburn      Conners      Munson  
 1916 FRESHMAN HOCKEY TEAM

occasionally made the roster\*, but was almost never cited in the play-by-play account. He was on the ice for a 3 - 1 win over Princeton that “bristled with...rough checking, tripping, and violent scrimmaging”.<sup>1</sup> His senior year, Popsy was part of the seven-man Yale Varsity team, their official Center. In one game, Yale “crushed” Princeton 6 - 3 in a game in New Haven – and Popsy is listed as captain (Bunny Burgess was absent). The game was “exceedingly rough... six players being ordered from the ice temporarily”, and included a fight between a Yale player and Princeton’s “Captain Peacock” (my favorite name from the period).<sup>m</sup>

Popsy did have one shining moment with the Yale team: on February 16<sup>th</sup> of 1916, at the end of his Yale hockey career, Yale beat Dartmouth at New

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\* The rules strictly limited substitutions, as in modern soccer, and the 3 or 4 substitutions in a game were noted in the newspaper coverage along with the starting lineups.

Haven in front of the “junior promenade crowd”. Towards the middle of the first half, according to the Times, “Captain Burgess of Yale dodged through the defense for the first tally. **Dickey followed five minutes later with a spectacular shot from the side of the rink for Yale’s second goal.**” Go Popsy! The story continues: “At the end of the regular periods the score was tied at 2 all, and the sevens agreed to play two additional five minute periods. When



Buchanan      Armour      Otis      Aldrich      Van Nostrand      Jacob  
 Gould      Washburn      Murray      Burgess      Dickey      Bierwirth      York

UNIVERSITY HOCKEY TEAM, 1916

these closed, the score stood at 3 all, and the teams agreed to let the next goal scored decide the contest.” Four minutes later, Yale scored.<sup>n</sup> The 1916 class history noted that “the goal that Ira Washburn shot in the Dartmouth Hockey game, in the third extra period, with all the girls watching . . . will be remembered up at Tuttle’s and other storehouses of Yale lore well into the next century<sup>\*\*</sup>. He made it from a few feet in front of the Yale goal, through the whole Dartmouth team.”<sup>o</sup> I wonder if Miss Catherine Colt, who 14 months later would become

<sup>\*\*</sup> Please note: it is being remembered in the next century!

Mrs. C. D. Dickey, Jr., was among the girls in the stands that Prom weekend. (The 1916 Year Book shows that she was indeed Popsy's date for the Senior Prom, but this was the Junior Prom weekend.)

After graduating, Popsy went to work at Brown Brothers in New York, where his father was a partner. In the fall of 1916, he joined the St. Nicholas Hockey Club, which had an opening for a rover, since Hobey Baker would not be playing that season. Upon graduating from Princeton two years before, Baker had taken a job at J. P. Morgan, and moved in with the family of a wealthy



Hobey Baker (front, plain sweater)  
with the St. Nicks

Princeton alumnus in Manhattan. He had been introduced to both polo and auto racing (both of which he took up avidly), and had joined the St. Nicholas Hockey Club. He became the undisputed star of the "Santa Claus seven", and with him as rover they were the champions of the Amateur Hockey League in both 1915

and 1916. In exhibition games, they had beaten Toronto University, the Montreal Victorias, the Argonaut Rowing Club of Toronto, Queens University from Ontario, and the Montreal Stars—an incredible record for an American team, equivalent to an American soccer team today beating 5 Brazilian teams. He had reportedly been offered a three year \$20,000 contract to play professionally in Canada, but he chose to retain his gentlemanly amateur status. A New York Post sports writer described what it was like when Baker played at the St. Nicholas Rink:

**A line of limousines would stretch from Columbus Avenue to Central Park West on 66th Street. A most fashionable audience would be inside, drawn solely by Baker's appearance. Men and**

**women went hysterical when Baker flashed down the ice on one of his brilliant runs with the puck. I have never heard such spontaneous cheering for an athlete as greeted him a hundred times a night and never expect to again. <sup>p</sup>**

However, in 1916 Baker had moved back to his home town of Philadelphia. This made him ineligible for official AHL games under the league rules, which stipulated that players had to live within fifty miles of their clubs. So in the winter of 1916-1917, Hobey Baker could only play rover in exhibition games for the “Kriss Kringles” (they had lots of nicknames)—and Charley Dickey took the spot in the team’s official AHL games.<sup>q</sup>

Unfortunately the St. Nicks, who had just had two championship seasons with Baker, finished at the bottom of the four-team AHL in 1917. The St. Nicholas team was still made up of former college players working in the financial industry, like Popsy, whereas some of the other teams seemed to be redefining the word “amateur”. The Irish-American Athletic Club “Flying Fists”, for example, fielded a twelve man squad—ten of whom were from Canada. One of them, Tom Bawlf, was from Winnipeg, but had already played on “amateur” teams in Toronto and Pittsburgh before coming to New York. The Crescent “New Mooners” featured two players originally from Montreal: “Moose” Heffernan and Emil Desjardins.<sup>r</sup> Bawlf and his teammate “Duke” Wellington were eventually barred from the league when it was determined that they were insufficiently “amateur”. This led to weeks of counter-accusations and lawsuits that continued throughout the season. Things came to a head at a game between the sulking Irish-Americans and the Hockey Club team at the St. Nicholas Rink on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1917. The Times reported that

**a free-for-all fight interrupted the second half, and officials and spectators were powerless to quell the small riot until some faces had been bruised and a few heads smashed. The trouble started when Patsy Sequin’s stick smashed a cut over the left eye of Tom Hayward Jr.**

“Half a hundred spectators”—including two women—ended up on the ice. In the locker room after the game, the fight was resumed and “the head of Hewitt...came

into harsh contact with a hockey stick, and the former object was cut by the latter.”<sup>s</sup>

The Times noted that the teams had been struggling to fill their rosters since many young men had been called up by the military that winter to fight Pancho Villa along the Mexican border.

At the same time , in January of 1917, a group of pro teams in Montreal had a squabble with Canada’s National Hockey Association. They decided to form their own association, so they founded the “National Hockey League”.

A week before the brawl at the St. Nicholas Rink, Popsy played in a game against the “Flying Fists” that was “a hurly burly of roughness”. One player had to leave the game after an injury, another was knocked unconscious and was cut on his nose, and “Turk” Smith of the “Flying Fists” “was hit in the eye by the flying puck and for a time saw nothing but stars”. Towards the end of the game, “Turk” Smith and the St. Nick’s Marshall Peabody got matching two minute penalties for “slugging” due to a “hot mixup”.<sup>t</sup>

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the St. Nicks—including Dickey—played their first game at the brand new Brooklyn Ice Palace, the new home of the Crescent Athletic Club. The underdog St. Nicholas team beat the top-ranked Brooklynites 2 – 1 in overtime.<sup>u</sup>

Popsy played again on February 8<sup>th</sup>, this time losing to the Hockey Club a week after they were involved in the brawl. The Hockey Club featured the two sons of his Yale coach Tom Howard, who also coached this team.<sup>v</sup> On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the St. Nicks managed to beat the Irish-American “Flying Fist” ringers 4 -3, after eight minutes of overtime.

In between those two games, Hobey Baker played in a couple of much-hyped exhibition games in New York. In the first, he played for the Quaker City Hockey Club of Philadelphia against the #1 ranked New York team, the Crescent “New Mooners”. The Philadelphians were creamed 6-1, and the New York Times felt that Baker had lost his spark. As they put it,

**every time Hobey got the puck the crowd was upon its feet yelling like mad for the blond master of the steel blades to perform miraculous feats of hockey that were not forthcoming.**

A Mrs. Conway was hit in the face by a puck, but she was not injured. <sup>w</sup>

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Baker took Popsy's place as rover with the St. Nicks in an exhibition game against the Boston Hockey Club—who won 2 to 1. Hobey may have been preoccupied with a new challenge: he had enrolled in the Civilian Aviation Corps, and was learning to fly at an airfield on Governor's Island. (In the fall, he had led a squadron of planes to Princeton to put on an impromptu airshow before the Princeton-Yale football game. After doing flips and “looped-the-loops”, the twelve biplanes landed and the pilots climbed into the stands to watch the game.) <sup>x</sup>

On the same day as the Boston exhibition game, a winter carnival was held at Van Cortlandt Lake in the Bronx that drew a crowd of 20,000. It featured skating races (including women's races), “fancy and acrobatic skating”, a demonstration hockey game (“Flying Fists” versus New Rochelle), and curling. “And through it all the musicians of the brass band played until their fingers were numb”, according to the paper. The night before, the lake had been illuminated by thousands of Chinese lanterns and nine bonfires.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Hobey Baker played another losing game with the St. Nicks—this time against a Canadian boys team from Ontario. The Crescent Athletic Club won the Amateur Hockey Club season (the St. Nicks were fourth of four) and went on with the Irish-Americans to play the best of Boston for the Eastern title. Although the St. Nick's season was officially over, Popsy still had some opportunities to enjoy himself on the ice.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 1917, the St. Nicholas Rink held a huge “Mi-Carême” (“Mid-Lent”) Carnival to raise money for the care of patients at the Stony Wold tuberculosis sanatorium in the Adirondacks. The theme was Ancient Egypt. The event sounds extraordinary, as reported in the Times:

**The feature was a burlesque, entitled “An Egyptian Freeze”, which was allegorical. First came the River Nile,**

represented by the Misses Barbara Shedd and Mary C. Sturges, both dressed in green, who swept across the ice, carrying a long strip of green cheese cloth.

A good sized pyramid, concealing H. Pemberton Sturges, the skater, then hove into view, and took its position near the river. Afterwards an oasis was formed, surrounded by human palm trees, and finally a camel came along, and drank up the Nile.

The audience, which was large and fashionable, applauded the novelty, also the exhibition skating of Bror Meyer and Mrs. Emma Bergfeldt, which preceded the burlesque. The program was opened with a grand march on skates, and finished with a hockey game, the players being garbed in Egyptian costume....

The hockey game was called the Battle of Agalumpsis, with Frank P. Washburn acting as umpire. Marshall G. Peabody was Captain of the Justites team ... . The opposing team, the Fishbites, with Dr. Robert H. Fowler as Captain, was made up of H. Cary Morgan, Charles D. Dickey, Jr., Clarence C. Pell, Phillip Chew, Leonard Stanley, and Gouverneur M. Carnochan....

Afterward there was supper and dancing, with society girls acting as waitresses, and also general skating...

While reading this account, I found I could hear my grandfather's unmistakable laugh again in my head, more than thirty years after his death, as though he were telling me about the Battle of Agalumpsis today.<sup>y</sup>

Four days later, on St. Patrick's Day, the St. Nicholas Hockey Club went to Boston to play an exhibition game against the Boston Athletic Club. 5000 fans turned out to see Hobey Baker, who was supposed to be on the roster. Hobey couldn't make it, but Popsy could. He played center, while Captain Ellis took Baker's place as rover. According to family legend, the disappointed crowd booed every time Popsy touched the puck. New York lost 5 – 3 after what must have been a memorable night.<sup>z</sup> (It is not clear what the attendance was at a typical AHL hockey game, but the St. Nicholas Rink held 4000 and was often described as filled.)

A week after that, the St. Nicholas Rink hosted a double header: the Eastern Championship game between the Irish-American Hockey Club and the Boston Athletic Association (won by Boston, 8 – 2) was followed by the first women’s public hockey game ever played in New York. The newly-formed St. Nicholas Girls Hockey Club took on the Girls Hockey Club of Boston in a game of two twelve minute periods. Miss Elsie Muller, of the St. Nicks, scored the only goal, to win the game. Miss Grace McNamara, also of New York, got one minute for tripping, and later caused a delay in the game when she “went down with such force that her long black hair came tumbling down. The game stopped right there until Miss McNamara collected all her hairpins and fixed the tresses up under her cap again.”<sup>aa</sup> I would assume that Popsy was sure to be in the audience for that event.



**Ladies' Hockey Team, Saskatchewan, 1907**

That marked the end of the 1916-1917 hockey season. It also marked the beginning of a very different era. Two weeks later, on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1917, the US Congress declared war on the German

Empire. Charley Dickey was set to wed Miss Catherine Dunscomb Colt on May 12<sup>th</sup>, but the date was moved up to April 14<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the head usher, the bride’s brother S. Sloan Colt, who had been called up for service in the Armored Motor Corps. (“Bunny” Burgess, former captain of the Yale Hockey team, was an usher. )

Popsy enlisted in the Navy, and served as a lieutenant j.g. in a destroyer flotilla. He was 23 when the United States entered the war.

Over the next year and a half, 116,000 Americans died in the war, among them many alumni of St. Paul's and Yale, whom Poppy would have known. In January of 1918, Poppy and Ganny's first child was born, my uncle Charley (the fourth Charles Denston Dickey). About that same time, Poppy's younger brother Whit left his senior year at Harvard to enlist as a private in the U. S. Army.



**Whit & Charley Dickey, 1918**

Ten months later, in October of 1918, now 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Whit Dickey was killed in action in the Argonne Forest. A week after that, Marshall Peabody, left wing on Popsy's St. Nicholas team and captain of the "Justites" in the Battle of Agalumpsis, was killed in action. In November, the Armistice was signed, and the war was over.

Hobey Baker had been a pilot with a respectable record at the front, having shot down three German "machines". He had also been involved in training other pilots. He flew a plane that he had painted orange and black, his Princeton colors, and had been promoted to captain. He was discharged from the service six weeks after the Armistice and was about to leave for home, but he decided to take a last flight in a recently repaired Spad before leaving France. The engine stalled, and the "blond master of the steel blades" was killed in the crash. He was 26 years old. <sup>bb</sup>



**Hobey Baker at Princeton - he played football without a helmet**

The New York papers reported Baker's death just after Christmas. Then, in first weeks of 1919, Popsy's fifty-nine year old father died suddenly—one of the 20,000 New Yorkers to die in the Spanish Influenza pandemic.<sup>cc</sup>

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It must have taken a while to pick up the pieces. During the war, an attempt had been made to keep the AHL going by having Brooklyn play against Manhattan, with six players and unlimited substitutions, but it had not been very successful. By 1919, all of the AHL teams had folded except for the St. Nicholas Hockey Club. In the 1919-1920 season, the red-and-green played in a three-team league with the Quaker City Athletic Club and the New Rochelle team. Dickey shows up at least twice at center. Bunny Burgess, Popsy's friend since boarding school, was the new captain of the St. Nicks. But the league was no longer the hot ticket in town, and the newspaper accounts get shorter and shorter. In 1920, the St. Nicholas Rink abandoned its ice and became solely a boxing venue (it had been hosting boxing events since the sport was legalized 1906). The hockey games moved first to the 181<sup>st</sup> Street Ice Palace, and later to "Iceland" at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 57<sup>th</sup> street—interestingly, near the site of the original St. Nicholas Skating Club outdoor rink in the 1890's.

In 1925, a boxing promoter named Tex Rickard built a new Madison Square Garden at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 49<sup>th</sup> Street to replace the old one at Madison Square, which had just been razed. After seeing the success of a pro team called

the New York Americans, Rickard decided to start his own professional team, which he planned to call the New York Giants. However the press insisted on calling the new team “Tex’s Rangers”, and the name stuck.

Rickard also helped to form a new Eastern Amateur Athletic League, which played at the Garden on Sunday nights. The Knickerbocker Club formed a team for the new league by importing an existing team from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The Crescent Club was revived for the league, as well as two Boston teams. The St. Nicholas Hockey Club continued its true amateur tradition, with some of Popsy’s old teammates and foes appearing for them (such as Jack Bierwirth, Yale 1917, and “Turk” Smith.) A typical double-header drew 10,000 spectators.

The St. Nicholas Rink served as a boxing venue for 42 more years. In 1962, WABC television purchased “The Rink” (as it was known in boxing circles) and converted it to television studios. In the 1980s, ABC demolished the old brick building and built its network news headquarters on the site.<sup>dd</sup>

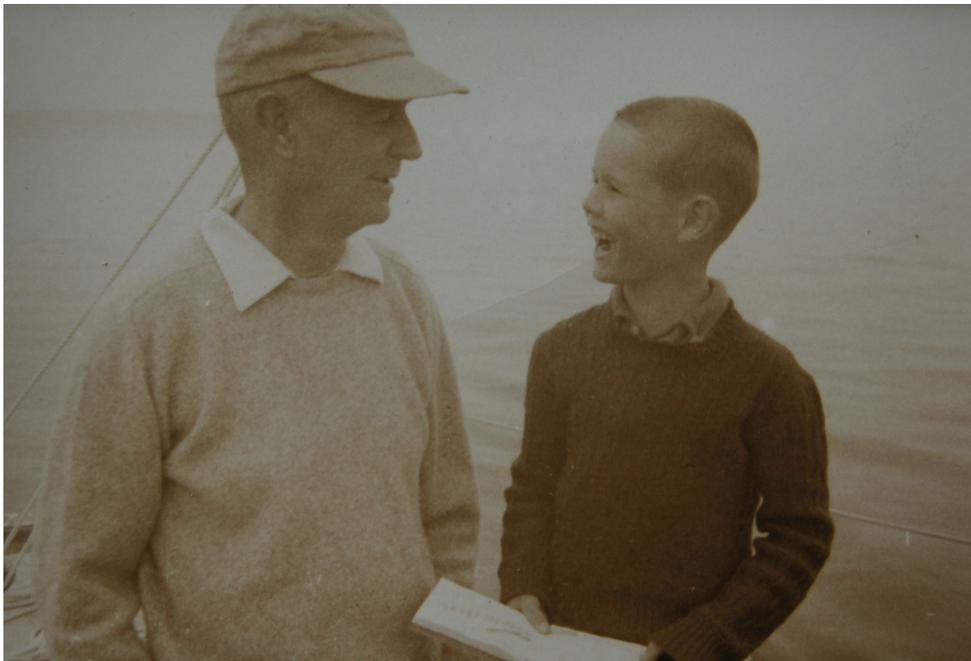
There is one unlikely survivor of the era: The St. Nicholas Hockey Club still exists, some one hundred and fifteen years after its founding. It is still made up of New England college alumni who work in the financial world in New York. They practice in Westchester, and play against Ivy League varsities, the New York Fire Department team, the New York Police Department team, and in national “elite senior” tournaments. The St. Nicholas Hockey Club is, not surprisingly, the oldest amateur hockey club in the United States.

In 1981, the Decathlon Club of Bloomington, Minnesota created the Hobey Baker Memorial Award to honor the best college hockey player in the United States. The criteria require that the committee take into consideration character, teamwork, and scholastic achievement as well as all-around hockey playing skill.<sup>ee</sup> The Hobey Baker Award has become the highest honor in NCAA hockey.

Popsy and his growing family moved to Philadelphia in 1923 when he was assigned to run the Brown Brothers, Harriman & Co. office there. In 1932, he left Brown Brothers, Harriman for J. P. Morgan & Co., where he had a long and distinguished career. He died in 1975.

In all the articles and reports I read, I only found one account of Charley Dickey scoring a goal, in the 1916 Yale – Dartmouth game. As far as I could see, he never got a penalty, and he never got a “scalp wound” or a black eye. I could only find one reported instance of him being on the ice in a game with the iconic Hobey Baker, in that 1914 Yale – Princeton game when Popsy was a sophomore.

But he was certainly a part of the exciting world of pre-World War I hockey. He was skating in front of packed houses, witnessing fights, dealing with “Moose” Heffernan and “Turk” Smith, hauling his gear to Brooklyn and Boston, and—best of all— hanging out with the irrepressible, inimitable star of his age, Hobart A. H. Baker.



**Charles D. Dickey with his grandson (the author), circa 1960**

## ENDNOTES

<sup>a</sup> “WHERE SOCIETY SKATES – Success Of The Recently Organized St. Nicholas Club” NYT 1/23/1893  
<http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F50D1EFE3B5515738DDDA0A94D9405B8385F0D3>

<sup>b</sup> “FINE NEW SKATING RINK; The St. Nicholas Club Opens Its Building On The West Side” NYT 3/25/1896  
<http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F40A15FB395A16738DDDAC0A94DB405B8685F0D3>

<sup>c</sup> “A TIE GAME AT HOCKEY; Montreals and Shamrocks Each Score a Single Goal. TIE TO BE PLAYED OFF THIS EVENING - Canadian Players Show Marvelous Skill as Skaters and Hockey Players at the Ice Palace.” NYT 3/11/1896 <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F30D17FD395A16738DDDA80994DB405B8685F0D3>

<sup>d</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_Nicholas\\_Rink](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Nicholas_Rink)

<sup>e</sup> “On Frozen Pond: Playing Up A Hockey Legacy” NYT 1/25/2011  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/26/sports/hockey/26pond.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/26/sports/hockey/26pond.html?_r=2)

<sup>f</sup> “HOCKEY SEASON GIVES GOOD PROMISE – Yale’s Team, All Old St. Paul Boys, Looms Large Among the College Sevens” NYT 12/15/1912  
<http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F40C14FE3D5B13738DDDAC0994DA415B828DF1D3>

<sup>g</sup> “HOCKEY VICTORY FOR ST. PAUL’S TEAM-New Hampshire Lads Speedier On Rink Ice Than Princeton Collegians.” NYT 1/22/1909  
<http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F50A15FC385A12738DDDA0A94DA415B898CF1D3>

<sup>h</sup> “YALE’S HOCKEY TOO FAST FOR ST. PAUL’S – Concord Schoolboys, However, Give Collegians Close Battle for Victory at St. Nicholas Rink” NYT 12/22/1911  
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<sup>ee</sup> <http://www.hobeybakeraward.com/>