



*Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir
Governor-General of Canada and Wife*

“Foreword”

I am so glad to hear that the Women’s Institute of Ontario is going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely sometimes in a short time.

It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women’s Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see that water colour sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them “The Tweedsmuir Village Histories”.

- Written by Lady Tweedsmuir.

Windermere Women's Institute

The Windermere branch of the Women's Institutes of Ontario was formed October 11, 1911, at the home of Mrs. Francis Forge. Mrs. Herman Goltz came from Bardsville to organize the branch. We haven't any record of the meeting, but we do know that the women came from Windermere and Dee Bank to join. They have continued to be members.



Mrs. Herman Goltz
Bardsville



Mrs. Francis Forge
First President

Mrs. Francis Forge was elected president and Miss Gertrude Aitken was elected secretary-treasurer. The archives have no record of this first year, but this is what is recorded in later minute books.

Some of the charter members continued to work in the branch until their death. These were Mrs. Wm. Aitken, Mrs. Henry Longhurst and Mrs. Charles Roper (Gertrude Aitken). The three life members we had were Mrs. Wm. Aitken, Mrs. Wm. Skinner Sr. and Mrs. Henry Longhurst.

As most of our members are eligible for life membership we do not give them. Instead, we intend to have the names put on an honour role and hung in the community hall.

Through two world wars the members knit socks, sweaters, made minesweeper's jackets and other sewing. They supported two children in the needy countries of Turkey and Korea. The girl was from Turkey and the boy from Korea. They made baby clothes for the Hayter Street mission in Toronto. They supplied plants for local flower beds. They sponsored two 4H Home-making units a year. They bought benches for the wharf and safety equipment for the waterfront (life preservers). They provided Christmas treats for the community children. They helped fire victims and bought equipment for the District hospital. They conducted short courses to teach the women of the branch and the members of the community how to sew, cook, make hats, lampshades, etcera. One of the members looked after a library in her home for several years. We served tea and cookies at the District Home for the Aged three times a year. We adopted a resident there, who

doesn't have many visitors. We visited him, remembered him on his birthday and got him gifts for Christmas. We bought equipment for the community hall, served on its board and did a lot of work towards keeping it clean. The number of quilts we have made is more than I could estimate. We shared in a scholarship at the Public school. We looked after the Blue Cross premiums, when it was for members only. We also had a kitchen band. The instruments were kitchen utensils.

To make money for our needs, we had bake sales, bazaars, teas and draws for rugs and quilts. Instead of bake sales each member is now asked to give a donation of money.

We have had members on the district board. In 1976 at the annual meeting of South Muskoka District, Mrs. William Skinner Jr. was elected President and Mrs. Mervin Longhurst secretary-treasurer. At the time of writing this March 1979, they are still serving in those offices.

We take part in Pennies for Friendship and the Nutrition programs of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Sponsor bus trips and boat trips to interesting places.

About fifty years ago, we bought a communion table for the United Church in memory of our first two presidents, Mrs. Francis Forge and Mrs. W.P. Western. Mrs. Western was musical and did much for the community in this way.

Through the years, this has been a group of women working together in harmony, spiced with laughter for Home and Country.

Some of the short courses we have taken. (W.I. Procedure, Millinery (twice), Quilting, Using and choosing fabrics, Sewing with knits, Baking with Yeast, Salute to Vegetables, A Festival of Dairy Foods, Something to do with Books, Buttonholes and Belts, and Tweedsmuir Workshops). We also attended Food Forums.

In The Beginning

In the early years of Windermere, it was situated in the Township of Watt on the shores of Rosseau Lake. In the year 1924, the people decided to try and become a village. Henry Longhurst presented a group of reasons to the Ontario Legislature in Toronto and the bill was passed without a dissenting vote. April 17, 1924 was the date. The four councilors named were: Leslie Aitken, Thos. Huggard, Fred Newton, and Arthur Fife. Henry Longhurst was the first Reeve. The auditors were Wm. Aitken and Sam Kilburn. Without even a pencil to their name they took on the task of making this village a beautiful place to come to. Along with the people in charge and those that followed them a lot was accomplished. Hydro in 1930, streets paved, and lighted, our own road equipment for the different seasons. The boundaries of the village were the middle of the Dee River from the Rostrevor Road to Lake Rosseau. Along the shore east past Paton's Point, around Eaton's Point down the bay until it merged with the line coming from the north starting point. A few years later that line went farther to take in the farm to Dawson Road, two islands, Wellesley and Florence and Doneddy out from the west line. They also got permission to sell the 66 foot road allowance. In 1970 several townships and villages were put together to form one township, The Township of Muskoka Lakes. Their office is at Port Carling. When the village was formed a school board was formed. With this came a school board of six people. Women were well represented on this board. They also got the right to sell the 66 foot road allowance in front of people's places to them, if it wasn't needed for access.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Forge

Mr. Francis Forge was born August 19, 1838, son of Mr. and Mrs. William and Rebecca Forge, Hornsea, Yorkshire, England. His wife Elizabeth Jemima Dawson was born September 1, 1845, daughter of James and Sarah Dawson at Megantic, Quebec. Francis Forge came to Canada in 1857 via New York. There most of his clothing was stolen. He went to work at Markham. October the fifteenth, 1862, he married Elizabeth Dawson at Toronto, Ontario.

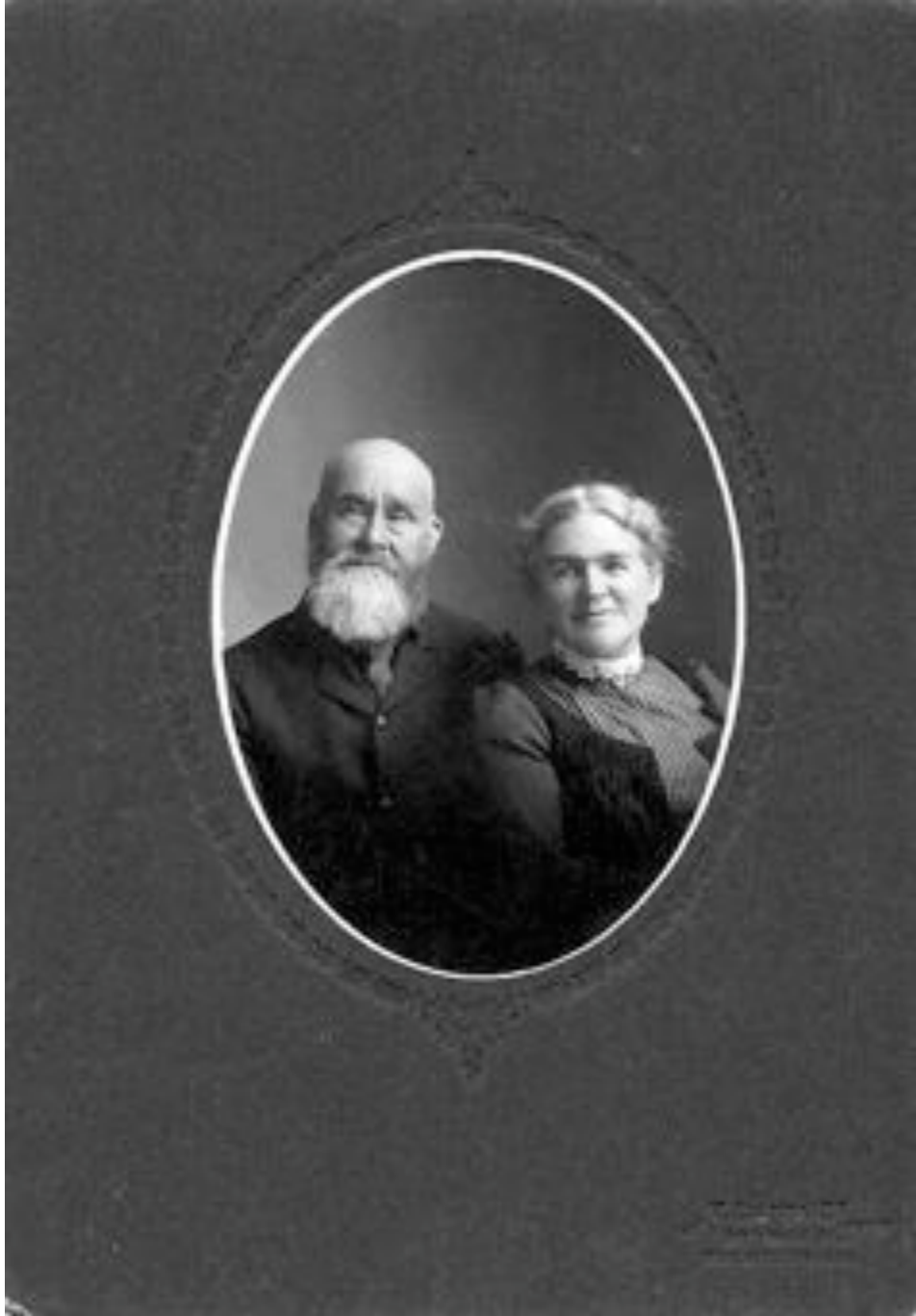
They came to Muskoka in the early eighteen sixties, to settle on a farm in Beatrice. Very soon they traded with friends, Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson for Lots 29 and 30, Concession 7, Watt Township. This was a free grant land. Each year, 2 acres had to be cleared and a cabin built, before a patent was given. Mr. Forge cleared the land and farmed it until his son Edward took it over. During these years, after the tourist came, he ran a supply boat. This was a large rowboat. He sold as much of the produce from his own farm and the farmers around Three Mile Lake as he could carry. A non-swimmer, he never missed a trip, despite the weather. The last few years he had a steamboat. He was offered the large island in front of his place in lieu of the land that was under the water of his grant of 100 acres. He wouldn't take it, as the taxes were \$11.00 and he couldn't afford that. He rowed across the lake to Lake Joseph for 50 cents a day and a cup of tea. This was to earn some cash.

Mr. and Mrs. Forge was a religious couple. They were faithful workers in the Methodist church. Frank was a man that sang at his work and the songs were mostly hymns. Both were active in the community. He served on the council. Mrs. Forge was the first president of the Women's Institute and very active in the Ladies Aid of the church.

Mr. Forge became caretaker for Timothy Eaton of his property here. Mr. Eaton had bought the land from Mr. Forge. This position he held until in his eighties. He saw many changes in the way that people travel from walking to aircraft. He was taken for a trip by Billy Bishop.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Forge

<u>Born</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Died</u>
William – July 17, 1863	Ellen Aitkin	May 15, 1960
Rebecca - October 30, 1865	Henry Creasor	March 27, 1895
Sarah – February 26, 1867	John Aitkin (Oct. 11, 1899)	July 5, 1905
Francis – February 20, 1869	Christine McLeod (Mar. 20, 1892)	Nov. 26, 1903
James – December 24, 1871	Minnie Donally (Feb. 12, 1913)	Sept. 12, 1961
Julia – March 17, 1874	Arthur Oldham (June 21, 1906)	February 16, 1945
Annie – November 17, 1876	William Aitken (Oct. 16, 1900)	October 1, 1960
Harriet – October 15, 1878	Edward Innis (Dec. 31, 1909)	April 18, 1957
Edward – September 30, 1880	N. Macpherson (July, 1904)	October, 1909
Edith – February 20, 1885	Henry Longhurst (Nov. 20, 1907)	April 3, 1972
Minnie – June 1, 1887		April 19, 1888



Mr. and Mrs. Francis Forge

David Fife Senior

Born 1829 in Otonabee ,Township Province of Upper Canada
Son of David Fife (founder of Red Fife wheat) and Jane Beckett
In 1850 he married Ellen Aitkin, who was born in Scotland 1831
Daughter Jane was born July 3, 1855, Otonabee Township
Son David was born December 17, 1857,Otonabee Township
Son William Andrew was born August 28, 1859, Otonabee Township
Son Scott was born April 1861, Otonabee Township
Son Thomas Aitkin was born 1868 in Windermere
Son Walter was born 1871 in Windermere
Daughter Ellen Marion, born August 18,1877 in Windermere

In 1863 he came to Muskoka via the Peterson Road. He settled on Lot 29, Concession 8, Watt Township. In 1868 he brought his family to Muskoka and started to build a permanent home. He had cleared some land and a cabin when here in 1863. His Free Grant of land in 1868 was for 100 acres, Lot 29, Concession 8 and 95 acres Concession 8, Lot 30. He was located for Lot 29 June 11, 1868 and Lot 30 June 7, 1872. Land grant witnessed at Toronto, February 21, 1878.

1884 – He gave the land for the first church (Methodist) and helped to build it.

Mrs. Fife died at Windermere, March 22, 1892. She was buried at Ullswater. Mr. Fife died at Bracebridge, June 2, 1901 and was buried at Ullswater.

List of some of the properties sold by Mr. and Mrs. Fife

1883- March 28, part of Lot 30, Con. 8 (4.6) acres to Thomas Aitken for \$40.00
1885- July 4, Part of Lot 30, Con.8, ½ acre to John Boyd for \$25.00
1887- October 31, Part of Lot 30, Con. *, 2 acres to David Fife Jr. for \$1.00. This land was where the Fife House was built.
1892- June 2, Part of Lot 30, Con. 8 an eighth of an acre, to the trustees of the Methodist Church for \$10.00.
1895- August 27, Part of Lot 30, Con. 8, ¼ of an acre to Right Reverend Edward Sullivan, Bishop of the Diocese of Algoma of the Anglican Church. This is the site of the Anglican Church in Windermere.



Mr. and Mrs. David Fife Sr.
And
Ellen



Jane Fife



William Andrew Fife



Scott Fife

The Fife House Hotel

October 31, 1887 David Fife Jr. bought from his father 2 acres of land, part of Lot 30, Con. 8. This was on the shore of Lake Rosseau. On this property was erected the Fife House. To build this hotel an exchange of logs from the farm for lumber at the Hutchison's mill was made. All the windows, frames, doors and door frames were handmade the winter of '87. On the building construction a carpenter, Julius Klingbeil worked. An excellent carpenter and framer, David Fife Sr. lent a helping hand.

On completion, the Fife House consisted of three floors. At ground level, a large dining room overlooked Lake Rosseau. Next were a large hall and a mammoth recreation and ballroom, with living quarters to the rear consisting of an office and a huge kitchen where all the cooking was done. A family living room with two bedrooms on the ground floor and four bedrooms above the living quarters was built at the rear. Two large cook stoves and a massive box stove were the heating system and also provided the heat for cooking.

With long halls extending the full length of the building, the hotel part consisted of 27 bedrooms on the second and third floors. Two 8 feet wide verandahs extended the full length and width of the building.

Mr. and Mrs. Fife and their family ran the hotel until 1913. It was sold to Thomas Johnson. After some years Thos. Huggard had it. Mr. Wilson either rented or bought it. At one time it was called the Waldorf. Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Huggard lived in Tom Johnston's ice cream parlour upper stairs until the village bought it for a few years. It was bought by Mary Elizabeth Aitken of Windermere House. It was then torn down to make way for other buildings and called Settler's Bay.





Hand Written on the back and signed Evelyn(Longhurst)
Persons in picture reading from left of Father: Harold Fife, Allen Murray, Eric Western,
Rev. Goden (United Church Minister), Stuart Fife, Thomas Brooks,
Miss Jones (cook), Bert Prosser, Arthur Fife, Bruce McKendrick, Roy Coivan, clerk in
Stuart's store, Mrs. Godden + Murray, Gertie Bunn, Eva Rusk, Annie Kirk + a Kitchen
girl whose name I do not remember.



Mr. and Mrs. David Fife Jr.

David Fife Jr.

David Fife Jr. was married to Mary Ann Galloway of Ullswater, 1882.

She was the daughter of Mathew and Jennett MacKay Galloway.

He purchased Lot.28, Con. 6 and 7, Watt., 4 acres of Con.6 and 89 acres Con. 7, from George Ferguson Lee, a Methodist minister for \$600.00, payable in one hundred dollar installments, plus 8% interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Fife had ten children.

Mathew James born July 31, 1883

Jennett Ellen Mary born November 2, 1884

Daviv Scott born February 4, 1886

Arthur William born September 7, 1887

Rozella Marion born May 9, 1890 at Fife House

Stuart born 1891

Bertha Matilda born September 14, 1893

Sinclair born September 12, 1895 died the same day

Margaret Evelyn born February 20, 1897

Harold Alexander born November 29, 1898

He purchased 2 acres of land, part of Lot 30, Con.8 from his father for one dollar. This was the site of the Fife House. This was October 31, 1887. The work of building the Fife House was begun in the late autumn of 1887. During the previous winter the window and door frames had been made. David Fife Jr. assisted by his father and Julius Klingbeil sometime s called John, a carpenter, erected the building. This became a popular tourist resort. In 1896 David Fife Jr. was given a contract to drive the mail to Falkenburg. The round trip was thirty-five miles. The route serviced two other communities. His horses which took him on the route each day were names Maud and Tip.



The Windermere House



Elizabeth and Thomas Aitken
(Elizabeth Boyer was Thomas' second wife)



Minnie Aitken
Daughter of Mary and Thomas Aitken

Shortly after 1872 stray sportsmen started to come looking for a place to stay. Thos. Aitken had built a house on the shores of Lake Rosseau. By this time he had married a widow with two children, Mary Trail, John and Mary the children. They started taking in these tourists and the Windermere House grew. The account of this place grew and part of the story is written on one of the menus for breakfast. It will let you know how the place grew. It is still there in 1990. Not now run by an Aitken , but was until a few years ago. When his first wife died, Thomas married Elizabeth Boyer from Bracebridge. To his first wife, a son William and a daughter Minnie was born. Leslie and Gertrude were the second family. His step-daughter Mary married the Rev. R. Fralick, the stepson married but I do not know the name. William married Annie Forge, Minnie married Sandy Brown, Leslie married Maude Dakar, Gertrude married Charles Roper. Leslie carried on as the manager with his wife. Gertrude and her husband looking after the rest of the running of the hotel. Mary Elizabeth took over when Leslie died with the help of her aunt Gertrude and alone after Gertrude died.

The Story of Windermere House

About the year 1860, a young Scotsman, born in the Shetland Isles, sailed for Canada to make a home for himself in this new country. Four years later, he settled in the free-grant lands of Muskoka, then the newest frontier of Ontario and, undeterred by hard work, became one of the pioneers of this lake country. The hardships faced by the early settlers were a stern test of any man's courage, and many newcomers were unable to endure them, but the young Scotsman, Thomas Aitken, was one of those who stayed.

Shortly after Thomas Aitken had cleared land and built his first house, near the shore of Lake Rosseau, stray sportsmen, even then searching for new fishing grounds, began to appear in Muskoka during the summer months. Soon there were occasional requests for a room or a meal. As the number of visitors increased, there came the idea of erecting buildings especially for their accommodation and about the year 1872, one or two small cottages were built and added to as the years went on and the demand for accommodation grew. It was about this time that steamers began to ply on the lakes and the rails of the old Great Northern were extended north to the Muskoka Lakes.

Additions to the main house at Windermere were made as the years passed, one in 1887, and another in 1902 and improvements in both buildings and equipment followed the desire to give service.

The first lighting of Windermere House was by kerosene lamps and these were in use until 1902 when acetylene, considered a vast improvement was introduced. A small gas-electric was the next, about 1918, and this was followed by a steam electric generator that was used until the Ontario Hydro Electric lines were built in the village in 1930.

For many years water was hauled from the lake in barrels on a "jumper" or wooden sleigh, then a windmill was built and later a second one added and water pumped to a tank on the roof. However, the uncertainty of wind and the ever increasing need for more water made a change necessary and a hot-air engine was purchased, another one was added a year or two later and the next development was a gasoline driven pump. With the coming of the Hydro, electric pumps were installed, giving an adequate and satisfactory supply of water to the house.

In the first kitchen there stood an ordinary cast-iron stove for burning wood and a battery of pots and pans. All the work was done by hand. Gradually this equipment was improved, but in 1933, the old kitchen was replaced by a new building with tiled floors, wide screened windows and equipped with all the modern machines that promote efficient handling and preparation of food. You are invited to see the kitchens at any time.

It is the aim of the present management of Windermere House to carry on the policy of its founder – continuous improvement along the lines of better service, and more comfortable surroundings. If, as a result of your stay with us, you find better health, a return of good spirits or the renewal of youthful vigour, we shall feel that we have indeed accomplished something and honoured the memory of a man, who with others, laid the foundation of a great summer resort district. (From a breakfast menu).

Windermere School

The people of Windermere had been asking for a school to be built in their community. At a meeting of the trustees in the year 1912, they agreed to build one if a suitable piece of land could be found.

Mr. Thos. Huggard was at the meeting and Henry Longhurst asked him to come outside. Mr. Longhurst knew that Mr. Huggard had the property that would be suitable. Mr. Huggard agreed to sell an acre of land for \$100.00 dollars. The deal was completed at that meeting. Part of Lot 28, Con. 8.

A brick building was erected. George Dawson and James Fife doing the carpenter work, The Waltenbury Brothers the cement and brick work. They were from Bracebridge.

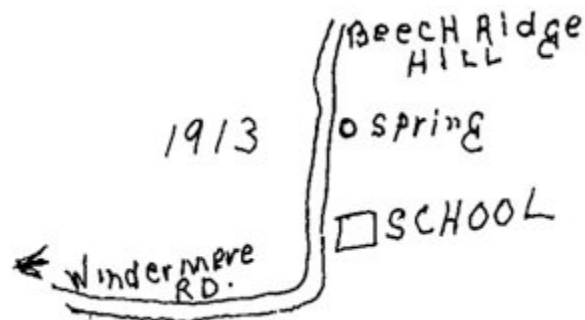
It was a one room building, with a closed in entrance porch. At the rear of the school was a frame building containing a wood shed and two toilet rooms.

This school never had a bell. There was a huge box stove, teacher's desk and double seats for the pupils. Drinking water came in a pail from a spring on the side of the road at the start of the Beech Ridge hill.

The school opened in 1913 with Miss Olive Dickenson in charge. The number of pupils enrolled at the time is unknown. At some time later the enrollment reached as many as fifty pupils. There was one teacher for all grades. In the late twenties, first grade in high school was given.

Changes made over the years were a basement, furnace, a well 95 feet deep, electricity, first chemical toilets and then water, blackboards (new), a piano.

This school had been in School Section #5 Watt. When the village was formed in 1924, a school board of six persons was formed. This school served the community until it closed November 4, 1966. Miss Bonnie Creasor was the teacher. The children would be taken by bus to the consolidated school at Ullswater.



Windermere Teachers

Olive Dickson
Edna Hough
Florence Beals
Clara Vanderlip
George Davidge
Charlotte Barlow
Lekta Hutt
Miss Arnold
Leslie Poole
R. Blight
Elizabeth Gardiner
Doris Dickson
Clifford Trickey
Kathleen Macdonell
Helen Burns
Pat Harrigan
Charles Rountree
Minnie Kemp
Mary Wood
Helena Kime
Anne Vowels
Joan Fry
Rose Tamaki

Sheldon Calver
Ann Munt
Mrs. Swift
Ruth Loxton
Bonnie Creasor
Ida Hunter Gordon taught at Windermere
In the period between Miss Hutt and
Miss Arnold.

Dee Bank Teachers

Kathleen Reading
Ernest Bogart
M. Jenkins
Selina Ottaway
Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. Ballingall
Anna Perkins
T.C. Bradford
T.C. Thomas
Orma Snider
Annie McCulley
Myrtle White
Hazel Jackson
John Kane
Isabel MacArthur
Penelope Cameron
Peggy Crozier
Betty Yeoman
Ethel Boyce
Mrs. Barnard
Ruth Loxton

These were the teachers at Dee Bank since 1911. Amy Clarkson, Sarah Longhurst, A.B. Wallace were teachers there in the years prior to 1911 that we found trace of. I am sure there were several others. Miss Opher, Cora Apperly.

Dee Bank Schools

There is no known date of when the first school was opened at Dee Bank. It was on the left hand side of the road going to the river Dee from Windermere or Ufford. It was there in 1879 according to an Atlas of that date.

In 1897, the school board purchased the Presbyterian Church on the opposite side of the road and nearer to the junction of the Windermere, Ufford and Ullswater roads. At this time it was a frame building. It was bricked by the board. This building served as the school for Dee Bank and Windermere until 1913. It was known as S.S. #5, Watt. Windermere at this time had built a school. It was still part of #5 Watt section.

Some of the teachers boarded in Windermere walked to Dee Bank and made their own fires. Miss Longhurst lived in Ufford, coming by horse and what ever vehicle fitted the season. Some of the time she came riding the horse. I do not think she was the first teacher there.

Dee Bank School was closed for a period and used as a home. It was opened again. It closed again and was sold for a home.



1

*Sarah Longhurst
Teacher at this school*

Mr. A.B. Wallace, teacher lived at Windermere
Miss McKay, teacher lived at Windermere
Miss M. Opher, teacher lived at Windermere
Mr. Wm. Hetherington, teacher lived at Windermere
Miss A. Harvey, teacher lived at Windermere
Miss I. Young, teacher lived at Windermere
Miss Clarkson, teacher lived at Windermere
Miss V. Lougheed, teacher lived at Windermere
Miss Plenderleith, teacher lived alone, but I do not know where.

all lived with the
David Fife Jr. family



Pauquana Lodge
Windermere

Pauquana Lodge

“taken from a postcard mailed in 1946”

earliest date 1934 from car in background

The white 2 story house (where fence is behind the lodge) which was used as a kitchen by the Bogart's had not been built. Pauquana Lodge closed in 1950 and was reopened in 1952 when Winnie and Irv. Pettit bought it and changed the name to Paquana Lodge. Jeanne and Jim Pettit bought the property in 1975 and changed the name to Paquana Cottages as it was a house-keeping resort.

History of the Property
Where the Dee River enters Lake Rosseau

October 1873-Lot 29, part of Lot 31 and 4 acres of Lot 32, was given in a free grant to Archibald Taylor. As there was five years of work to be done on the land before a free grant was given, it is presumed that the Taylors settled on this land in 1868.

February 1880- Archibald Taylor (County of York) grocer and his wife Mary Taylor sold to John Drummer 196 acres for \$420.00.

September 1880- John Drummer of the Township of Watt, yeoman, sold to George Hutchison of the Township of Arim, Bruce County, mill owner, 196 acres for \$1000.00.

October 1885- George Hutchison of the Village of Gravenhurst and his wife Annie M. Hutchison sold to Thomas Clark and Abraham Clark of the Township of Watt, mill operators, 196 acres for \$4000.00. Sometime after 1889 and before 1911, Edward Jordan of Parry Sound got the property due to a mortgage default at an auction held in Bracebridge. There is no record of him living on it and in 1911 Thomas Henry Clark got the land back.

1915- Thomas Clark and wife Jessie sell a lot to Frederick Dinsmore.

1922- Thomas Clark and wife Jessie sell a lot to Emily Skinner

1923- They sell a lot to Samuel Hooke

1925- Mrs. Clark has died and Mr. Clark sells a lot to Nellie Skinner

1932- April, Thomas Clark dies, leaving his property to his sister, Mrs. Nathaniel Bogart.

1942- Mrs. Bogart sells property to Arthur Gunnell

1945- Mrs. Bogart sells a right of way to Mrs. Kate Hood.

June, 1950 – Mrs. Bogart, a mortgage to Mrs. Jean Bogart, wife of Gordon Bogart.

December, 1950- Mrs. Bogart dies.

1952-The Gordon Bogarts sell to Mr. and Mrs. Irving Pettit of Hamilton

1973- Mr. and Mrs. Irving Pettit sell to their son, James and his wife.

On the lot listed above there was a saw mill and much of the lumber in the older homes around were built of the lumber from the mill. A lot of the logs for the mill were floated down the Dee River or driven. The picture at the beginning of this section is the lodge that the Gordon Bogarts built and called Pauquana..

Stores

In the year 1885 , Mr. David Fife Sr. sold a ½ acre of land to John Boyd. Part of Lot 30, Concession 8. On this property Mr. Boyd built a dwelling and it also housed a small store. He and his family lived there until the early 1890's. They moved to Huntsville. The property was sold to John Inglis and he kept a few items for sale.

In the late eighteen hundreds, I would think the latter part of 1880 Mr. Perry Prosser built A store on land purchased from Mr. Fife. This also was on part of Lot 30, Con.8 on the opposite side of the road. He didn't remain there very long and his brother Frank took over. This was a frame building with kitchen attached. The upper storey was the bedrooms and living room. After running this business for several years he sold to Mr. Richard Lance. Mr. Wm Aitkin purchased this business in 1911 and continued to run it until 1949 when Mr. Edwin Paullette took over. The post office and telegraph office was also in the building a few years later. This was a busy general store catering to local and tourist business.

Willy and Annie Aitkin, as they were affectionately know kept long hours. When the mail was late, the people would sit around the box stove and visit until it arrived and was sorted. Before the telephone, Willy would in case of an emergency telegraph for a Doctor. He also kept the public informed at National election times.



Windermere in Winter About 1953 Two Stores

This picture of the store built by Perry Prosser and the store that was built by Stewart Fife and now is the dairy. 1953 The latter building housed Edgar Fraser's Barber Shop with the upper level being used as an apartment. In the background you can see the cold storage that was filled with ice for the first store.



Mr. & Mrs. John Boyd
Owners one of first stores in Windermere

Dee Bank Post Office

A post office was opened at Dee Bank October 1, 1874 in the home of A.B. Shannon. He resigned as postmaster April 13, 1877. I.M. Shannon held the position from July 1, 1877 to October 10, 1878. To John Friser or Fraser the office was transferred December 1, 1878 until he resigned July 8, 1879. The next name from the archives is John M. Barber from the 1st of February 1880 to the eighth of September, 1883, when he resigned. There is a gap again and James Barber is listed as of October 1, 1884 to July 8, 1903.

At this time the office was listed as closed. No doubt during the time lapse between appointments the office was never closed. Most of the time the post office was situated in the same home.

There was a hotel at Dee Bank, but there is no data as to who was the owner. The store was operated by a Mrs. Slater for a short period.

Windermere Post Office

The first post master was John McAlpine. He was appointed January 1st, 1868. His residence was Utterson, but he must have worked for Archibald Taylor at the mill on The Dee River, Lake Rosseau. It was Mr. Taylor that brought the mail sack to Thomas Aitkin's home and said he wanted nothing more to do with it. Mr. McAlpine according to post office archives resigned the 29th of March 1869. Thomas Aitkin was appointed the first of March, 1870. Mr. Aitkin's name is spelled with an "i" on the appointment sheet. The family spell their name with an e. The post office was in his name until 1919.

Mr. Wm, Aitkin was appointed the 11th of March, 1920. He had been doing the work for his father for some time. Wm. Aitkin had the office in his store in the winter months and in a separate room in the same building during the summer. He resigned the 29th of April, 1949. Edwin Paullette, who had been looking after the office in the summer months for several years carried on then.

He was appointed June 13th, 1949 as postmaster. This was in the same building as Wm. Aitkin had been located. Mr. Paullette held this position until September of 1977. His wife carried on until January 1978.

January 11th, 1978, Mrs. Murray Taylor(Heather) was the postmistress. The office was moved to Murray's Store. Art Bilz had a store next to the church.

Mail came to the office by stage, three times a week.: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. When the steamers were running in the summer, they brought the mail daily. When the navigation company lost the contract, we got daily mail from Utterson by stage.

The early mail drivers were David Fife Jr., Thos. Huggard, Bert Huggard, Lorne Klingbeil, Arthur Bilz and now Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Beaven. The first mail would possibly be brought by a person on foot. Later it was horses. Mr. Fife's team was Maud and Tip and they picked up the mail at Fallkenburg. They also brought mail to Ufford and Dee Bank. Now it is by car with Ufford and Dee Bank having rural mail. I am sorry that I did not include Mr. Wm. Aitkin's name in this list. I believe he was the driver after the Thos. Huggard's. Mr. and Mrs. James Greer were the mail carriers before Lorne Klingbeil.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Klingbeil

Mr. Louis Klingbeil, his wife Henrietta and son Gustave came to Canada in the early eighteen hundreds. Their first home was in Montreal. Mr. Klingbeil was a blacksmith. Daughter Emma was born in Montreal and a son who died at birth.

They moved to Lot 21, Concession 9, Watt Township, Dee Bank, Muskoka, Ontario. The date is unknown. They built a log house. A daughter Nettie and a son Louis were borne at Dee Bank. They farmed and Mr. Klingbeil also had a blacksmith shop. As time went on they acquired more land which was left in timber. They were faithful members of the Methodist church at Windermere. Louis died in 1917, Henrietta in 1930.

Daughter Emma married Rudolph Goltz of Bardsville. No children. Nettie married Albert Goltz of Bardsville. Their children were Dorothy, Gertrude, Mabel, Adair, Wilfred, and Velma. Gustave married Selena Hill of Beatrice. Louis married Martha Hill also of Beatrice.

Louis built a house on the same lot as his father Louis. He and wife Martha had two children. Daughter Ina never married. Ivan Married. No children. He lived with his parents.

Gustave and wife Selena bought Lot 23, Con.9, Watt Township from the Huggards. There they farmed. As most of the men did in those days, the men went to the lumber camps in the winter. Their children were Ismena, Roy, Marjorie, Nettie, Celia, Myrtle, Norval, Ora, Olive, Lorne, and Elmer. They married:- Ismena- Eric Brieese of Bardsville, Roy- Jessie Davidson of Saskatewan. They came back to Muskoka and now live on the home farm. Marjorie- Albert Dennis went west to live, Nettie- James Huggard live in Windsor, Celia- Tony Franks live in Florida, Myrtle- Archie Barefoot, Windermere, Norval-Edna Austin, Windermere, Lorne –Jean Stewart lived on the homestead for awhile, then went to Acton. Ora-Horace Taylor, Windermere, Olive-Robert Taylor, Windermere, Elmer- Josehpine Fraser, they too lived on the home farm. They now live at Ufford.

Gustave was the owner of one of the first cars in the community. The family has taken an active part in the community. Mr. Klingbeil died in January, 1940. Mrs. Klingbeil, who had gone to live with her son Lorne at Acton died in 1971, September 19.



Present United Church built in 1951

Windermere Methodist Church

In the year 1884 Mr. David Fife Sr. gave a piece of land for a church to be built. Part of Lot 30, concession #8, Watt Township. All the settlers gave material and labour to build the church. Before it was built, they held services in the home. The lumber for the building was from the Hutchison mill.

In 1892, June 2, Mr. Fife sold to church an extra 1/8 of an acre for \$10.00 adjacent to the other church property. A larger church was built. The stone foundation was done by Mr. Milner of Port Carling assisted by David Fife Jr. It was also pine siding from the local mill, now owned by Thomas Clark.

The first church was then used as a Sunday school and for public meetings. It was sold in 1951 and a driveway for the new stone church made.

In the year of 1950 the corner stone of a new church was laid by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Aitken. The second church was torn down. The new one was built across the lot. The architect was from the Robert Simpson Co. Mr. Milton Goltz was the contractor. Adrian Hicks did the blasting for the basement. Mr. Clifford Smith assisted by Mr. John Bunn did the stone work. Most of the furnishings were given in memory of worshipers of this congregation. The chancel windows were in memory of David Fife Sr., Thomas Aitken and Francis Forge. The building was dedicated August 5th, 1951.



1884

1892

In the above picture the building on the left(1884) was the first church in Windermere(Methodist). A second church was built in 1892. (Building on right)

At the rear of the second church was a drive shed for the horses. In the one end was an outdoor toilet. Both churches were heated with wood. A huge box stove just inside the church (1892) with a long row of pipes to the back. The platform was at the rear with the organ and pulpit on it. Two doors went from the porch into the church. They were on each side of the stove.

The bell and piano for the second church were donated by Henry Longhurst. Both are still in use in the stone church. There had been a bell on the church, but while putting on a new roof, it was seen that a new bell was badly needed.

Anglican Church

August 27 David Fife Sr. sold a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre to the Right Reverend Edward Sullivan. This was part of Lot 30, Con, 8. This was to be the site of the Windermere Church. It is part of the Diocese of Algoma.



Christ Church

(Anglican-Episcopal)

WINDERMERE, ONTARIO
Parish of Rosseau, Diocese of Algoma

RECTOR
THE REVEREND R. DAVIES

CHURCH WARDENS
MR. WILLIAM SKINNER
DR. HAROLD C. ROBINSON

'No man entering a house ignores him who dwells there. This is the House of God and He is here. Pray then to Him who loves you and bids you welcome and awaits your greeting. Give thanks to those who in the past ages built this place to His glory and for those who, dying that we might live, have preserved for us our heritage. Praise God for His gifts of beauty in painting and music, architecture and handicraft. Ask that we who now live may build the spiritual fabric of the nation in Truth, Beauty and Goodness and that as we draw near to the One Father through Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ we may draw nearer to one another in perfect brotherhood.'

(from the crypt of St. Bartholomew's, London, Eng.)

Christ Church, Windermere

Like many other churches in small communities, Christ Church, Windermere was built because of the concern and commitment of a faithful family.

In 1889, The Reverent Charles Mockridge, D.D., Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton, bought property near Windermere for a summer home. In due course he began to invite interested cottagers to his porch for Sunday service. The collections gathered were set aside for the church which he envisioned for the village. The worshippers moved from the cottage porch to the Mechanics Hall in Windermere and finally, in 1890, a sum of \$25 was paid for a piece of land on which to build the church.

Dr. Mockridge's leadership was both spiritual and practical. He and his sons (four of whom were eventually ordained) worked with the builders on the frame church which was completed in 1904.

The Woodwork

One of the most attractive features of this charming little church is the unusual woodwork throughout. The builder, Charles Cox of the town of Bracebridge, was experienced in church building and furnishing. The pews were his handiwork as well as the altar, the font, medallions, and the skillful arrangements of the shingles. Two cottagers from Richmond, Virginia, Miss Porterfield and Mrs. Taylor, were expert in the art of pyrography. Their contribution to the interior of the church is the unique burnt wood design of the plant life in Muskoka.

Furnishings and Memorials

The lectern was made by Mr. Fairclough of Hamilton, grandfather of the husband of the Honourable Ellen Fairclough. The prayer desk was the gift of the Sisters of St. John the Divine, whose founder was the sister-in-law of Dr. Mockridge. The Bishop's Chair was given by his family in memory of Mr. William Skinner Sr. who for years was warden, custodian and faithful worshipper.

The organ was given in memory of Dr. Charles Mockridge by Mr. Britton Osler; the bread box by Mrs. Kenneth Currier in memory of her father, Canon C. J.S. Stuart; the chalice and paten by Katherine Mockridge in memory of her husband H.C.F. Mockridge; the flower vases by the family and friends of Mrs. Ruth Gunnell, a year-round member of the congregation and a wonderful worker in the church. The cross on the altar bears the poignant inscription, "To the glory of God, and in memory of a little child."

The lights in the church (side lights) were a gift of the Niblett family, of Hamilton, who were regular summer worshippers.

The Windows

If one begins a study of the windows on the south wall by the vestry door, the first window, "The Purification", was given as a memorial to Mrs. Charles Mockridge, wife of the founder. Next to it is the "Dorcas" window, which was given in memory of Mrs. Western, a lady known for her good works in both the church and the community.

The new window on this side was given by her family in memory of Mrs. Marion Pickton Osler, who served this church well and was Dominion President of the Women's Auxiliary.

The windows high in the west wall are a memorial to the Rev. Charles Mockridge, son of the founder, who died aged 36 years. The first window at the west end of the north

wall is a memorial to Dr. John Mockridge, who was active in this church. The “Good Shepherd “ window is a memorial to Beatrice Bath Osler, wife of the Reverend John Mockridge. If you look closely you will find the family dog, Pickles. “The Annunciation” window is a memorial to Elisabeth Mockridge, daughter of Beatrice and John. The “St. George” window was given by long time cottagers the Dunns, in memory of their son John. The newest window “Jesus the Carpenter” was donated by friends to honor the enormous contributions of the Skinner family to Christ Church.

On either side of the sanctuary are the charming “Angel” windows, given by Mrs. Harry Snyder in loving memory of Harold and Sophie, two little Mockridge children who died young. The windows so marked are the work of Yvonne Williams, an outstanding Canadian stained-glass artist.

Divine Service

Divine services at Christ Church are under the direction of the Rector of Rosseau, but are conducted by a resident priest. Although for many years the church was open only in July and August, for the past few years the church was open only in July and August, for the past few years it has been kept open from early May until the end of October. Services are held at 8 and 11 a.m. each Sunday; the Eucharist is also celebrated Wednesday mornings at 10:30.

The Clergy Cottage

As Christ Church began to serve the spiritual needs of a growing summer population, it became evident that a cottage was necessary for the clergy. A Ladies Guild was formed by both resident and summer parishioners and they raised enough money to buy additional land on which to build the cottage. It was designed by Toronto architect Vaux Chadwick and was built and furnished with the generous help of many parishioners.

A great many distinguished members of the clergy and their wives and children have enjoyed the cottage and have served this parish well over the years.

Heritage Fund

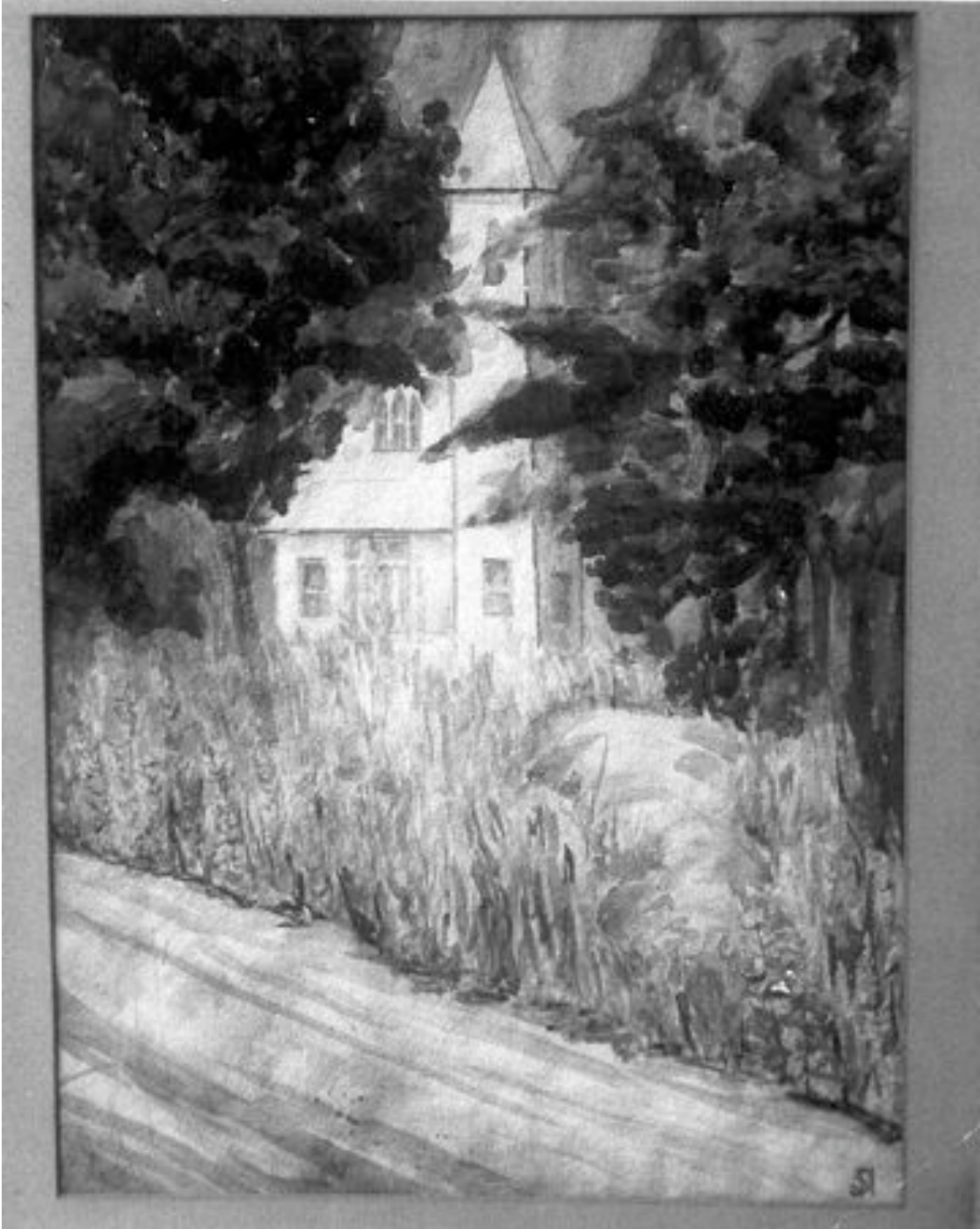
The viability of Christ Church is due to the unique blend of co-operation between a very few permanent residents such as the Dinsmores and the Skinners and a number of concerned and faithful summer parishioners. The Mockridges and the Oslers, prominent at the time of the founding of the church (the first recorded baptism is that of John Osler), have continued to worship here. They have been joined by other families who are vitally interested.

A special trust fund has been established to ensure that this church will be preserved in all its beauty and simplicity.

Christ Church was built with faith and foresight, a spiritual oasis in a magnificent setting, looking backward to the past and forward to the future. It is devoutly to be hoped that it will be maintained with the same faith through future generations to the Glory of God and for the spiritual growth of all who worship here.



Christ Church and Warden Bill Skinner



Presbyterian Church Windermere, Muskoka
Painting by Janet S. Anderson (probably painted about middle 1930's)
Church was built on ground given by John Paton, uncle of Janet Anderson.

Windermere Presbyterian Church
And
Dee Bank Presbyterian Church

The congregation at Dee Bank is first listed in the proceedings of the General Assembly in 1878. The building was frame. It was used as a church until 1897. It was dropped from the list of the Assembly but seasonal services were held until the church at Windermere was opened. It was then sold to the Township of Watt for a school. The building was then bricked.

In 1898, John Paton gave a piece of his property for a Presbyterian church at Windermere. In 1897 the church was completed. The frame construction was made from lumber cut at Clark's mill. It sat on rock across the road from the Anglican church. In the early nineteen twenties the Methodist and Presbyterians decided to worship together in the Methodist church. The Presbyterian church was closed for a few years then. Later it opened again and was finally closed and torn down in 1940.

The previous picture was taken from a painting done by Miss Janet Anderson. May have been done in 1930. The picture was taken and presented to me by John Duncan



The Huggard Family

Richard Huggard settled on land in Watt Township between Mud Lake and the shore of Young's Lake (commonly called Trout Lake) on the early maps and by settlers. There is no record of him having his family with him or where he came from. As his son came to live here from Manitoulin Island and his wife was from Thornbury I presume that Richard came from one of those areas. Richard arrived in the eighteen sixties.

His son Thomas came from Manitoulin Island to settle on Lot 23, Con.9, Watt Township. He was listed in an Atlas dated 1879 as the owner of this property. Thomas married a Miss Goldsmith of Thornbury. To this union three children were born Lily, Lizzie and John. John was brought up by his maternal grand-parents and was mostly know by their name. His first wife died and was buried in the Ufford Methodist cemetery. Later he married Harriet Spier of Allensville. Their children were George, Jane, Bert, Joseph, Rebecca, James, Vada, Minnie, Sarah, Viola, Edward, and Reginald. Rebecca and Minnie died in early childhood.

Thomas was to become the owner of a lot of land in Dee Bank and Windermere. He became the owner of the Thomas Aitkin farm at Dee Bank. In 1907 he purchased the farm of Thomas Fife, Lot 29, Con.8 and came to live there. I do not know if the house burned or not, but Thomas made his own cement blocks and built the house that lasted until if burned when the Bunns were there. His daughter Viola I believe is the only resident to become a millionaire. She also headed the Miner's and Prospectors Association. She married a George McMillan.

The Thomas Clark Sr. Family

Thomas Clark was born at Nottingham, England. When he was a year old he came to Canada. He lived near Seaforth. He married Miss Leah Duke. They came to Muskoka in 1865, living at Skeleton Bay. Later he bought the grist mill at Dee Bank, and moved there. In 1885, he and his son Abram bought the sawmill at Windermere from George Hutchinson and they came to Windermere to live. From 1902 to 1922 he farmed near new Liskeard, Ontario. After his wife died, he returned to Windermere to live with his daughter, Mrs. Rachel Bogart. He died September, 1928. Age 93. The Clark's family was William, Abram, Arthur, Thomas, Isaac, Ellen, Rachel, Annie, Leah, Janie. William married Polly Knowles, Thomas-Jessie Hardy and Rachel-Nathaniel Bogart.

When There was a sawmill at Windermere

Logging was a great part of Muskoka's economy from the beginning, and continues today, although the initial attraction of seemingly inexhaustible supply of white pine no longer exists. In the first years of lumbering in Muskoka, the river systems were in use to take logs down to the Georgian Bay, where they were boomed and taken across Lake Huron to sawmills in Michigan to help meet the demand for building in the United States following the Civil War.

It was the arrival of the railway at Gravenhurst in 1875 which replaced this export procedure and enabled Muskoka interests to produce sawn lumber from the District's own logs. In succeeding years Gravenhurst experienced a great boom in sawmilling, with as many as two dozen individual mills located on the shoreline of Muskoka Bay and near by shore of Lake Muskoka. Their activities continued for a quarter century and then began to slacken. In the same years, of course, other sawmills were active throughout Muskoka, usually located on rivers near where logs were driven down each spring for the summers mill cut.

Sawmills continued through much of Muskoka for another 25 years. A spurt in mill production occurred during and immediately after World War II. Now there is a continuing demand for lumber, and the sawmills which continue are kept busy, but their number, as mentioned has been reduced.

In this issue, through the courtesy of William Skinner, of Windermere, we are able to publish a number of pictures of the mill which operated for many years at Windermere, at the mouth of the River Dee, where it flows in to Lake Rosseau. The mill burned down in 1929 and was never replaced. It was then owned by Tom Clark, who inherited it from his father. The mill had operated for about 40 years at the time.

The mill produced lumber from logs which were cut around Three Mile Lake and driven down the Dee in the spring flood. In its earlier years the mill depended on a log chute for the last part of the delivery of logs, until construction of a dam about 1918 provided a head pond in which logs were collected. The dam still exists and is part of the water flow system that has no further use in lumbering.

Our thanks go to Bill Skinner for the use of the pictures, illustrating an industry which is part of the history of Windermere and Three Mile Lake.



Driving the logs down the river.



BUILDING OF DAM: The masonry dam built in connection with Tom Clark's sawmill at Windermere is shown here during the course of construction, about 1918. Standing on the dam, at left, is Allan Dixon, Port Carling, with Jack Insley next and then William Skinner Sr. The fourth man has not been identified.



WHEN THE MILL BURNED: William Skinner, Jr., who lent these pictures for publication, says this view of the fire which destroyed the Tom Clark mill was watched from a boat by himself, and in another boat was Norman Stripp. The year was 1929.



A STEAM TUG: The small boat in this picture is identified as the "Gypsy" and the date is 1909-1910. This was a steam tug used in connection with the Tom Clark mill operations.



THOMAS CLARK MILL, WINDERMERE: This picture, taken from the lake side of the mouth of the River Dee at Windermere, shows the buildings of the Tom Clark sawmill, with a jack ladder to bring logs up to the saw equipment from where they floated just offshore.



EARLIER PICTURE: This view of the Clark mill property at Windermere was taken before the dam was built and shows the log chute leading down to the mill.



WINTER VIEW: This picture at Windermere was taken long ago, and shows the Clark sawmill. In the distance, on Tobin's Island, Lake Rosseau, can be seen the hotel first known as Wascana, which became the Muskoka Assembly, and finally Wigwagan Lodge. All the hotel buildings were removed from the property in recent years.

Wm.W. Buckerfield

Mr. and Mrs. Wm.H. Buckerfield settled on part of Lot 21 on the 9th Con. And part of Lot 21 on the 10th Con., Watt Township. I do not know when this was, but it was on the map of 1879. The family consisted of three children that I know of: Daisy, Harry and another son. Where the Buckerfields came from I do not know. They farmed the land. In the year 1891 the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. James Bogart of Ufford.

Mr. and Mrs. James Bogart and family

Effie born 1882
Maud born 1883
Ethel born 1885
James born 1884
John born 1887
May born 1896
Pearl born 1898
Eliza born 1904

Three members of this family died one night from diphtheria, Effie, Ethel and James. John took over the farm in 1908. He married Gertie Eaton. They lived on the farm until they died. John was active in the life of the community: Telephone commissioner for the local telephone company and secretary of the school board for several years. The Bogarts had four children: Mildred, Stella, Marion and Aubrey. Aubrey and his wife, Mable Hammell took over the farm in 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dawson (Christina Archman)

Mr. and Mrs. Dawson settled on Lot 27, Watt Township on the shores of Lake Rosseau. Here they cleared the land and built a home. They farmed. I do not know when they came, but it was I believe in the 1860's. With them was Isabel, who went by the name of Issa Grant. Her son George was raised by Mrs. Wm. Dawson as her son. Mr. Dawson died September 9, 1892. George, now twenty years old took over the running of the farm. July 14, 1897 George married Edith Hughes in the Presbyterian Church parsonage. Rev. Wm Clark was the minister.

The George Dawson Family

Frederick George born September 3, 1908

Hazel Margaret born November 3, 1899

Gordon Leonard born November 22, 1901

Florence Edith born July 30, 1903

Abram George born March 10, 1905

Burton Frederick born July 10, 1906

Irvin Alfred born February 4, 1908

Walter William born July 8, 1909

Martha Christina born January 16, 1911

Hattie Chilton born December 2, 1912

Bertha Marion born August 1, 1914

Alice Muriel born December 3, 1916

Arthur Vernon born April 11, 1918

The Dawsons continued to run the farm until 1935, when son Gordon and his wife Polly took over. George and his wife, Edith moved to Ufford. During his time here on the farm George also worked for the tourist, building homes, boathouses etc.. He also served on the school board as secretary.



George and Edith Dawson Family on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Lot 23, Con. 7, Watt

The first registered owner was John Shennan (later known as John Shannon). He sold to Mr. Thomas Clark and his wife Leah. John Bettes was an owner. In 1900 James Barwell and his wife Esther purchased the lot. Mr. Barwell was a builder and in the year 1908 he fell off a roof where he was working. The injuries he received in the fall caused his death. The family of the Barwells were; Walter, Coan, Susan, Fred, Ettie and Louise. In the year 1910 Harold Watson and his wife Dolly, nee Eaton with son Clarence moved from the other side of Three Mile Lake to this property. Three other children were born here; Alice, Muriel and Ernest. The Watsons reside here until the fall of 1918 when they moved to Ufford.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Crowder and family then purchased the property. The children were Richard (known as Dick), Oliver, Nigel, Verna and Basil. There was another child John Wesley who died when small. There was very little cleared land on this lot, so Mr. Crowder cut wood and worked in the lumber camps,

Mr. Frank Millar and his wife Aggie, son Leonard, Lillian and Thelma purchased part of Mr. Crowder's holdings. (The part that had the original buildings.) Edward Botting built a house on part of the Millar holdings. Arnold Veitch and wife live there now. The Millars had another daughter, Madeline.

The Thomas Aitkin Family, Dee Bank

In the early 1860's, Thomas Aitkin came from the Otonabee to settle on Lots 25 and 26, Con. 8, Dee Bank. Thomas had been a barrel maker before coming to Muskoka. We do not know if he was born in Scotland or Canada. He was a brother of Scott Aitkin and Mrs. David Fife Sr. Mr. Aitkin was born Nov. 17, 1819. (His wife as of Sept. 8, 1833.) No record of the date of marriage.

Their children

Janie was born Oct. 8, 1852, married Wm. White May 18, 1882, Jan. 12/8
William A. born August 2, 1854, married Etta Forge April 5, 1889, Jan. 25/16
Agnes born August 23, 1856, married Geo. White, died April 4, 1882
Thomas Scott born Dec. 22, 1858, married widow Clarissa (Keal) Beattie, died October 2, 1921. Buried at Belle Plaine, Sask.
David born Feb. 14, 1860, married Alice Keall, June 3, 1903, died June 17/09
Ellen born July 26, 1863 married Wm. Forge, died June 5, 1911
Maggie P born May 24, 1866, married Geo White July 7, 1897, died Aug. 22, 1944
John J. born Feb. 8, 1868, married Sadie Forge Oct. 11, 1899, died Dec. 1926
Married Florence Allen, March 17, 1908
Walter Smith born Dec. 23, 1871, married David's widow Feb. 20, 1911, died Nov. 16, 1914
Minnie J. born July 5, 1875, died 1905
Mr. Aitkin cleared the land and farmed it with the help of his sons. He died at his home September 9, 1899. Most of the family moved to farms in Saskatchewan. Mr. and Mrs. Aitkin had Two grandchildren with them here, Roy Aitkin and Jane Agnes White. She was known as Gee. Mrs. Aitkin died Sept. 19, 1919 at Windsor, Ontario.



Dan Aitkin Jr. Minnie Aitkin
 Will Aitkin Roy Aitkin? Abner (Pip) Aitkin David Aitkin Jane Aggie Ber White (Daughter of Jane Aitkin)
 Walter Aitkin Ella Aitkin Maggie Aitkin John Aitkin

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Briese



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Briese and daughter Anna Elizabeth

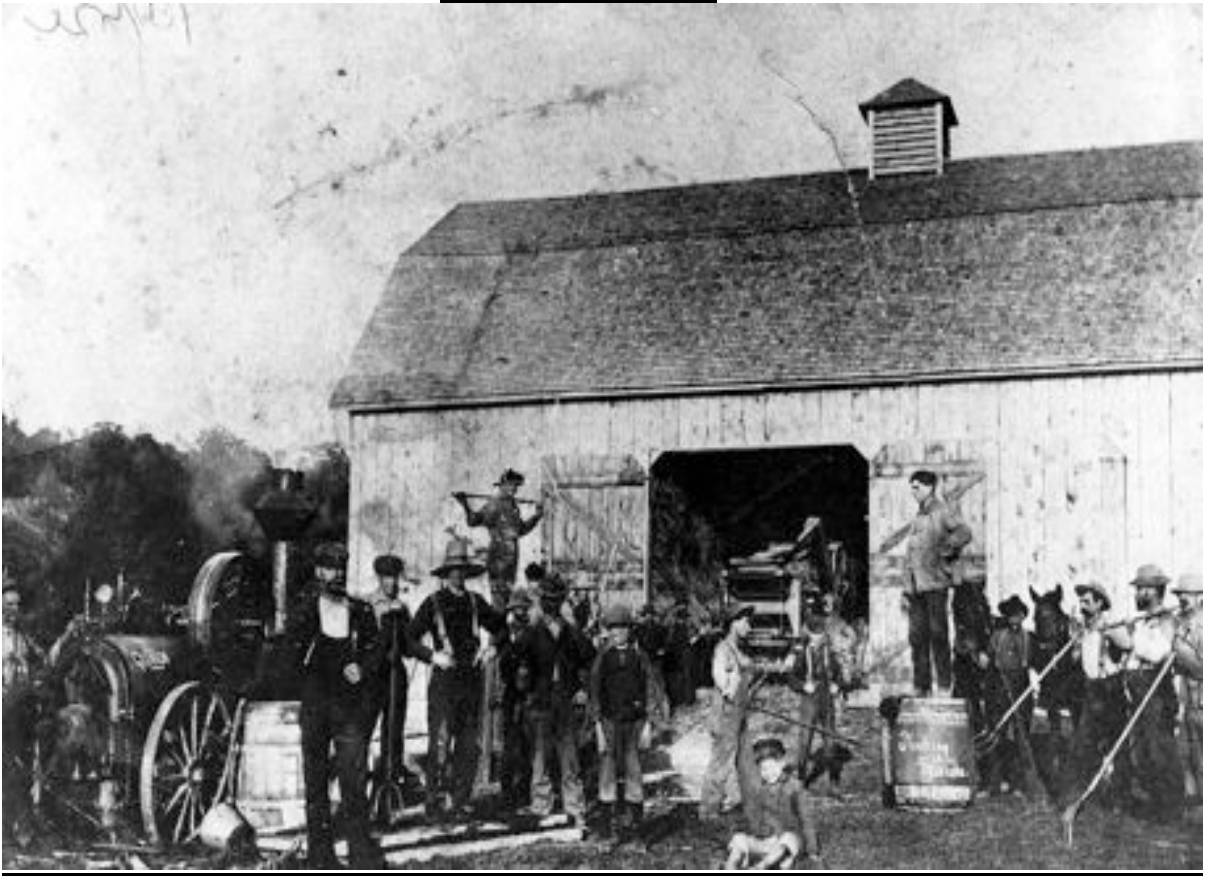
Albert Whitefield Briese was born January 8th, 1877. He died November 30, 1942. His wife, Marie Elizabeth Pickering, was born June 24th, 1877. She died April 4th, 1972. Mr. and Mrs. Briese were married September 9, 1896 in Bracebridge by Rev. J. Moore. The marriage was witnessed by John Noble and Ellen Pickering.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Briese

Arnold – Born April 10, 1897	Died April 10, 1897
Alvin Whitfield – Born March 21, 1898	Died July 12, 1900
Anna Elizabeth- Born May 12, 1900	Died August 20, 1931
Edna Mae- Born December 14, 1903	Died April 12, 1973
Edwin Wilfred- Born April 4, 1907	Died December 23, 1973
Thomas Clifford- Born January 15, 1911	
Lila Gertrude- Born September 22, 1913	
Albert Merlin- Born January 26, 1916	
Vernon Garfield- Born August 13, 1918	

Mr. Briese first worked at scaling logs for the Laidlaw Company. In 1903 Mr. Briese bought from Mr. James Barber the farm on the bank of the Dee River. It was to be their home for the rest of their lives. They farmed and in the winter Albert worked in the bush. He was reeve of the Township of Watt for thirty-three years. His son Vernon held this position for a few years. Vernon still lives on the property, but does not own it. Merlin and Lila also live in the vicinity.

Threshing Muskoka



1. Dan Quinton
2. Thomas Fife
3. Fred Mapes
4. Thomas Huggard
5. John Bogart
6. Not known
7. Not known
8. Charles Quinton
9. Lewis Klingbeil
10. Joe Huggard
11. Not known
12. Not known
13. James Fife
14. James Huggard(sitting)
15. Bert Huggard
16. Behind B. Huggard not known
17. Hubert Briese (standing on barrel)
18. William Quinton(between horses)
19. Alex Cowan
20. David Fife
21. Ben Taylor

A Historical Account of the Waller, Mack, and Stigler Families at Windermere

Prepared by Stephen M. Stigler August , 1990

The first member of our family to come to Muskoka was my great-grandfather Dr. David J. Waller Jr. As the oral history in our family has it, he, while president of a small normal school in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, saw an advertisement in the New York Times and in 1903 brought his family up to Windermere for the summer. At that time the trip to Muskoka took several days – train to Gravenhurst, lake steamship to Port Carling or Windermere, then finishing the trip by land. In later years they were picked up by car—my mother, Margaret Mack Stigler, remembered being driven the last few miles by Henry Crowder in an old Ford over washboard roads.(Henry Crowder is immortalized in the name of the second hole at the Windermere Golf Course--- Henry's Gully !).

After renting at our current location for a year or two, Dr. Waller bought the property from the estate of a Dr. Scott, who, the story goes, had built the cottage to serve as a TB sanitarium, a venture doomed by a classic misjudgment of climate. The point was named "Rothesay," presumably by Dr. Scott after the island of that name in the Firth of Clyde, 30 miles from Glasgow. (The original Rothesay was a site of a health resort at the turn of the century.) That first cottage was fairly large, with second storey sleeping porches on all sides. It was believed to be haunted by a headless woman, but the evidence for this is slim. For sometime, the only homes in the bay were those of the Waller's and the first arrivals, the Andersons (now Duncan's).

I believe the Hincks were not long in coming to the bay. About five years after Dr. Waller's first summer migration, the Sweeneys moved into Llanllar, and Dr. Waller and Dr. Zachary Sweeney enjoyed a long and close friendship. Both of them preached in Windermere, first at the Presbyterian Church that was once across the street from the Anglican Church, and after 1930 at the United Church. This closeness has carried on, with long friendships between my grandmother, Dr. Waller's daughter Mabel Mack and Dr. Sweeney's grandson Irwin Miller and my father George Stigler. Their sequence of matches has produced such useful ground rules as, "No more than two club lengths on ball identification."

Dr Waller enjoyed very good health (he swam daily well into his 90's), but he died about 1938, and the cottage passed to Mabel Waller Mack and her husband James, an Indiana Pennsylvania attorney. They and their four children (James, Josephine Ferree, David, and my mother Margaret Stigler) were faithful summer residents through the years from 1910 or so until the Second World War disrupted all plans. There is still one tangible sign of James Mack's energy and organization. About 75 years ago he planted several rows of red pine trees in what we still call our back meadow, rows so uncannily straight that they still startle visitors. After 1941, James and David Mack were off to war, and no family members visited the cottage. Both were flyers, and David spent two years in a German prison camp after being shot down over enemy territory.

In the summer of 1946 the whole family was excited by the prospect of returning to Windermere after five years' absence, when they learned only days before the planned trip that the cottage had burned. Many fires in the area are caused by lightning or carelessness, but this was a case of arson. A village handyman had robbed the unoccupied cottage of a few trinkets and set it on fire to cover his tracks. He then tried to sell his loot in town, but some things were recognized by our friends (I believe it was the Goltz's),

and he was arrested. Later that summer my father, George Stigler, and my uncles came to Windermere and camped in the garage (which, with the boathouse survived the fire), and they planned the rebuilding.



“Rothesay “ at Windermere



Dr. David J. Waller, Jr.

The new cottage was designed and built by Milton Goltz, after plans drawn up by my grandfather. It served us wonderfully ever since, with only minor modifications. In 1976 my father built an academics' study and library on the point, and then spent the major share of his 1982 Nobel Prize award to expand this to include a sleeping cabin. This seemed a fitting, since some of his work in economics that was recognized by that Prize was done at the cottage, in moments stolen from painting, repairs, golf and children.

There have been many changes in our lives over the years. Before the war, Hanna supply boat called at our dock. In the 1950's we counted on the fresh vegetables that Lloyd Parker sold from his boat, while in the background a seemingly endless procession of Ditchburn launches ferried Wigwassan guests to and fro from the lodge. The Windermere Dairy delivered milk in a big rattling old truck that widened our lane with every visit. Then for several years, Wilbur Norman, of the Raymond General Store, would deliver groceries by truck. There were two mail deliveries a day in the 1950's and there was never any uncertainty about when the mail had arrived. When the "Sagamo" arrived in Windermere in the late morning, and when the "Cherokee" or the "Segwun" arrived in the evening, we knew it would be only 20 minutes until Ed Paullette would have it sorted, and we would always be in line when the wicket opened. The two-letter combination of our mailbox was "M-T," an often accurate prophecy that greatly amused my grandfather. Sometimes we went to Port Carling to help turn the large handles that operated the locks in those days, helping the "Sagamo" on its way.

James Mack died in the winter of 1950-51, and Mabel Waller Mack died in June 1964. The cottage currently is home to my father (my mother died here in August, 1970), me and my wife Virginia and whichever of our four children can be here, by brother David and his children when possible, and by brother Chop and his wife Martha and their three children. Martha's parents Haviland and Shirley Allen live just across the bay, another example of a marriage made in Muskoka!



Waller's summer home on Rothesay Point,
Before it burned. The above is a wood cut
By the late Reverend R. Edis Fairbairn

The Bungalow

The following is from material compiled by Alice and John Duncan of Windermere in celebration in August, 1988 of 100 years of summer residence by their family on the property where the original house, the Bungalow still stands today. The Bungalow derived its name from the association of these cottagers with India, two of them having served as missionaries there. The word bungalow has evolved from the Bangalore which is pronounced by the Indian people as we pronounce bungalow. Of the Bungalow, Alice and John comment; "We believe the Bungalow to be nearly unique in two respects. It is probably one of the least changed Muskoka cottages that is a century old and has been continuously occupied. It is also very likely the only century old cottage in Muskoka used by four generations of one family."

"The Bungalow, built in 1888 by John and Margaret Paton Anderson, was occupied continuously by their descendants Janet S. Anderson, Margaret A. and John Sinclair, George W. and Ann Alice Jane Anderson, Phyllis A. and John M. Duncan, Mary P. Anderson; David G.S. Anderson, John O. Anderson, Ralph W.P. Anderson; Alice E. Duncan, John David and Carol Duncan; J. Peter Duncan, David L. Duncan, Christopher C. Duncan, Suzanne D. and Craig Simmonds, Edward O. Duncan."

"The story of the Bungalow begins with a section descriptive of the bay, Paton's Bay, in which the cottage is located. It is titled The Bay."

"In 1875 or 1876 Uncle John Paton came to Windermere by boat and pitched his tent on the shore where, later, the Fife House was built and which is known now as Settlers 'Bay. Several years later he and others (Harcourt, Nairn, Shaw, Morris and MacKenzie) formed The Windermere Club and in April 1884 purchased the property from the present Windermere docks northerly to Llanllar Point and from the lake back to the present Golf Avenue Road. Mr. MacKenzie was the father of Ada MacKenzie, the golfer, and he was in business with Uncle John. They proceeded to divide the property into lots, most of which were square and an acre in size. The Paton cottages on "the point," Blinkbonnie and Hillcrest, were built several years before The Bungalow and were moved later to their present location in order to be nearer the water. We believe these cottages were built as part of the original concept to have a "club" operation with a central dining facility and smaller cottage sites along the shoreline. In fact, our grandmother, Margaret Paton Anderson, sister of Uncle John, rented one of these cottages before

Historic: The bungalow house of the Andersons' was built in 1888.

This photo of the original dining room was taken in 1895

John and Margaret Anderson, and their family

buying the property on which The Bungalow is built. This land is now being enjoyed by the fifth Paton generation."

"The land to the west of the Chalet has been in the Niemeier family since 1930 when Dr. and Mrs. Niemeier purchased it from Helen Nicol who had owned it since 1896. The cottage had been built several years before Dr. Scott, who later built on the point. He had bought the property in 1890 from Margaret Harcourt who had acquired it from The Windermere Club Ltd. In 1886. Her husband had been one of the original members of the Club."

"Muskoka cottage life was becoming very popular and in 1902 the Waller family came to stay at Rothesay on the point, buying it the next year. The first cottage built there

by Dr. Scott was lifted off its foundation by a "Hurricane." It was thought the location on the high rocks was not too safe and the next cottage was built on lower ground. We were always told Dr. Scott had a T.B. Sanitarium in mind when he built his place. It had an open verandah on the second floor where patients could get the benefits of the Muskoka fresh air. The Waller family, via Mack and now Stigler, is in its fifth generation on the property. A fire in the 1940's took the old cottage."

"To the east of The Bungalow, the Cringan family built their cottage, Blink O'Rest, in 1900. A son, Robert drowned in 1906 after being knocked off a sailboat. After renting for a year, their cottage was sold to the Hincks family about 1920 and was recently replaced by the Toivanens and Hincks with the present winterized home. Five generations have enjoyed Muskoka from this site."

"In the "corner" of the bay the Cottons purchased and built in 1901, then rented to the Millers in 1907, who, a year later, acquired Llanllar. The property transferred through the family to Marshall, then to Gay in 1953. The cottage burned in 1962 and subsequently the property was purchased by the Allens'. While owned by Noel and Marguerite Marshall, the property was added to by the acquisition in 1941 of the site of the old Presbyterian Church. This church stood on a piece of high ground across the road from the Anglican Church. The land for it had been given by Aunt Annie in 1898."

"In the early 1900's ;and described as "a low lying lot with a swamp on it was owned briefly by William Aitken and then Frederick Newton followed by Mr. Mason of the Home Bank. A small re cottage was built on the lot, then a green cottage which we believe is the present white one owned by the Smith family, next to the stream. Mr. Mason was influential in starting the Windermere Golf Club. The first cottage was replaced by Mr. Newton's hotel which was moved from across the road. In 1914 it became the Cutten family cottage. In 1947 Lloyd Smith purchased the property and operated it for a while as The Silver Birches resort. Subsequently the large structure was torn down and the Smiths built their present home."

"The property now in the Niblett family, has also been owned by Margaret Harcourt and by Margaret and Dr. Scott. It was sold to Lizzie Ann Gordan in 1905 after the cottage was built. In 1927 Arthur W. Treble and his wife purchased it and ten years later, partly due to health reasons for their son, John, it was sold to Mrs. Josephine Niblett."

"The piece of land in the bay lying between the entrance road an, approximately, the stream has been a part of the resort now known as The Baldwins since the turn of the century when Ireneaus Hough purchased it in 1899. Until after World War II it was known as the Maple Leaf House and was operated by the Hough family. In 1946 the sports figure, Frederick G. Baldwin and his wife, Mildred Alice, purchased and changed the name. Sixteen years later Ruth Irene Paget acquired the resort in 1964, keeping it sixteen years until selling to Al and Patricia Poutanen in 1980. Many people still refer to the bay as "Maple Leaf Bay" although the name on the original Windermere Club maps is Paton Bay."

The Cottage

"The Bungalow was designed by Mrs. Margaret Ogilvy (Paton) Anderson and built in 1888. The cottage and icehouse cost \$668.29 to construct. The wharf and fence were \$42.27.

"There is little question but that the design was patterned after the bungalows of India and a number of features were incorporated into it to assure a reasonable degree of

coolness and relief from the heat experienced in Toronto. A few of these are the extensive and wide verandahs, the well-ventilated under part of the cottage, ten and one-half foot high ceilings, all rooms on one floor, very high peaked roof forming a large attic, and the extra-high ceiling in the passage between the kitchen with its wood stove and the balance of the living space of the cottage.

“Changes to the cottage over the course of the century have been relatively few. The major ones have been:

- addition of the “outside “bedroom, late 1800’s
- changing maid’s room to a bathroom and zinc lined cupboard, 1915
- addition of bathroom to outside bedroom, mid 1940’s
- incorporating pantry into kitchen, 1957
- kitchen expanded to the rear, 1985

In addition some more minor changes were:

- adding back wall as windbreak for dining verandah, late 1800s
- moving front steps to the centre from the easterly corner, early 1900s
- adding a second window to the bedroom behind sitting room, early 1900s
- changing front door from a single with a few windows to fully glazed double doors, early 1900s
- enclosing dining room verandah with windows, 1931

“Many of the changes were made to increase light inside the cottage. In her attempt to keep away the heat, Grandmother also shut out light, especially as trees planted nearby grew to full maturity. Aunt Jan was a prolific tree planter, as well, and got many seedlings which she planted along the roadside and at the back of the cottage.

“Aunt Jan, in fact, was so protective of her trees that, in the opinion of some, she allowed The Bungalow to become too much closed in. It was even a challenge to have her allow us to trim away dead limbs. I can remember waiting until Aunt Jan had gone to Huntsville or Bracebridge for the morning and quickly getting a ladder or simply climbing a tree with saw in hand to cut off the dead limbs. Once in a while a large limb dropped to the ground with a bit of green needles on it. You can be sure there was a lot of hustle to drag it into the woods before Aunt Jan returned.

“When The Bungalow was over forty years of age, it was wired for electricity in the late summer of 1929. In the mid-1950’s additional wiring was done, primarily the ceiling lights in the bedrooms.



John and Margaret Anderson and their family. This photo of original dining room was taken in 1895



The bungalow house of the Andersons' was built in 1888

A Love Affair With Windermere

The story of Clare Hincks and his family, written by his daughter Margaret Hincks

In 1894 my grandfather, William Hincks, bought a piece of property on the top of the looking Windermere Bay. He called it Brownies' Cliff. Today it is known as Tintagel. My grandmother, Mattie Hincks, was in poor health and the doctor recommended long summers spent in the out-of-doors. So my grandfather pitched a large multi-partitioned tent on his property and Mattie brought Clare, their nine year old son, to Windermere for a four month summer. William joined them for his holiday time from his Methodist church in Toronto where he was the where he was the minister.

The three Hinckses soon grew to love Muskoka, and Windermere in particular. Over the years my father, Clare, became friends with the residents of Windermere. He could tell stories about such people as Willie Aitken, Leslie Aitken, Tommy Johnson, Ben Taylor, Henry Longhurst, and Art Fife. Others who figured in his life included the Tom Smiths, the Prossers, the Frasers, the Skinners, and the Klingbeils to name a few. My father always admired his Muskoka friends. He spoke of the year round residents as "the salt of the earth" and he depended on them for help and advice. He would never have his hair cut before coming to Windermere because he wanted Edgar Fraser to cut it. He and Edgar would chat away, first in the barber shop by the dairy and later in the little shop on the Fraser property. In Dad's eyes nobody could make a lemon pie like Mrs. Tom Smith and nobody knew more about boats than Sam Stripp.

In the early years Clare spent his time playing pranks with his Windermere friends. He soon learned to handle all types of water craft: rowboats, canoes, sailboats, and motor boats. He made friends with Mr. Jack Matheson, an expert sailor and boat builder.

When Clare reached his teens he began to earn pocket money by working for cottage owners. His odd jobs included painting and minor repairs. During the height of the season he took vacationers out for sailboat and motor boat rides. His knowledge of the Muskoka Lakes was learned first hand and he would say he knew every rock because at one time or another he had hit each one. My father could always make a good tale out of his various experiences.

During these years Clare's mother regained her health and lived to enjoy Muskoka until she was 82 years of age. William's and Clare's enthusiasm was equally enduring. In time Clare entered the University of Toronto and embarked on a medical career. He continued to come to Windermere early each year (usually before his parents). During June he would stay at the Fife House where Mrs. Fife pampered him with wonderful meals. As word got around that there was a young "doctor" in Windermere my father was often called upon to attend the sick or wounded. With very little knowledge and expertise he did what he could. Some years later, when he had specialized in psychiatry, he was still asked to pullout fish hooks, splint broken arms and prescribe remedies for the "Muskoka Complaint". His general practice skills were once again questionable and he was glad to hand cases over to others who were better qualified.

By the time Clare was a university student there were many cottagers at Windermere and he made some life-long friends from these families. Among these were the Patons, the Andersons, the Coltons and the Cringans. The friendship with the Cringan family was to be of special significant because some years later Clare bought their cottage. It was

built by Mr. A.T. Cringan shortly after the turn of the century to meet the needs of a family of 13. Mr. Cringan was a professor of music at the Toronto Normal School but he had acquired some carpentry skills from his father who was a cabinet maker. My father, who was never handy with a hammer, volunteered his services to help roof the Cringan cottage. Around 1903 the Cringans were able to move into their two storey cottage. Downstairs there were two bedrooms, a living room, a double kitchen and large verandahs on three sides. The latter provided eating, sleeping and living space in an outdoor environment. Upstairs were five small bedrooms with partitions that went part way to the roof. Lighting was provided by Siche gas and oil lamps. Cooking was done on a wood stove. There was a lovely stone fireplace in the living room with ingle nooks on both sides. When the boathouse was built it provided additional sleeping quarters. There was no indoor plumbing except for cold water that was pumped to a sink in the back kitchen. The cottage was christened "Cringla" and was much enjoyed by the Cringan family from 1903 to 1918.

In 1905 Clare was invited to an early spring house party at the Patons in their cottage on Paton's Point. At the same time the Anderson family was hosting a group of "young ladies" at the Bungalow. Of course the two groups got together under the watchful eyes of a chaperone. For the first time Clare met Mabel Millman, who was also a student at the University of Toronto. Before long a seven year courtship began. During these years Mabel had some holidays with her parents at the Windermere House and further visits to the Bungalow. Her acquaintance with Windermere was also increased by daily letters from Clare during the long summer months. In 1912 they were married.

Between 1912 and 1919 Clare was struggling to feet on his feet and establish a career. By the end of that time he was pursuing the field of mental health and that some year the Cringans put their cottage up for rent. Clare and Mabel now had two children, Margaret 2 ½ years and 4 month old Billy. It was decided that the Hincks and Millman families would combine forces and rent the Cringan cottage. Everyone came to Windermere to enjoy the summer- grandparents, aunts, an uncle and our family of four. Clare's parents took over the boathouse where they slept and prepared light meals. For their main meal they went to the Maple Leaf House (now known as the Baldwins). By the end of the summer my parents offered to buy the cottage and were quite surprised when the cottage and all the contents including the piano and a number of pieces of furniture made by Mr. Cringan.

Now, 70 years later, the cottage still bursts at the seams with the addition of a fourth and fifth generation. Since 1920 we have called the cottage "Blink O' Rest".

Coming to Windermere in the early nineteen-twenties was a big undertaking. We would leave Toronto on the King's birthday (June 3rd) not to return until well into September. For days in advance Mother would be shopping for supplies and packing steamer trucks, suitcases and dunnage bags. Groceries would be shipped by the Robert Simpson Company. The arrival and opening of the wooden crates was always exciting because tucked in with the canned goods and tins of biscuits etc. would be a few toys. The trip to Muskoka was made.



Four generations: At back: William Hincks and Clare; seated: Mattie, Mabel with Margaret Henry, (father of William), 1917



William and Mattie Hincks with their son Clare in Muskoka 1913

Mr. Ireneaus Hough

Ireneaus Hough came to Canada in 1871. In 1897 Mr. David Fife sold him a piece of property. He built a building on it and started to take in tourists. He married Ellen Clark. An addition had been built on it. In 1905, Ivan was playing with matches and the building was burnt to the ground. Mr. Hough had bought several pieces of land around the acres of land that he had bought from Mr. Fife. He built another lodge and called it The Maple Leaf Lodge(now the Baldwins). To this page I am fastening a report that was given to me by the present owners Mr. and Mrs. Al Poutanen.

This story and the memories of the Maple Leaf House, then Maple Leaf Lodge, and finally, as it is today, "The Baldwins", all began back on the 30th day of October, 1878 when two parcels of land were turned over to Thomas Aitkin and David Fife on the 1st day of February, 1878. At that time, the crown disbursed 100 acres of land at a time to encourage farming to individuals who desired to work and live in the area.

On the 17th day of July, 1897, Mr. David Fife sold part of the property to Ireneaus Hough for consideration of \$50.00. On September 27th, 1898 Mr. Hough purchased a further piece of land adjacent to the first parcel for a consideration of \$20.00. On the 1st day of October, 1899 another piece of property was bought for \$375.00, and on the 19th day of May, 1920, Mr. Ireneaus Hough secured several more lots for a total sum of \$1000.00.

After Ireneaus Hough's wife passed away on the 2nd of May, 1931, he sold a small parcel of land to Ethel Edna Saunders. During the period May 1931 and June 1933, Mr. Hough remarried to Elsie Louise Hough. At about the same time, Mr. Hough granted a piece of land to Norman Theodore Hough, one of his sons. Likewise on August 26th, 1933, he did the same for another son, Ivan Reginald Hough. These parcels of land sit presently left of our office and garage, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Young, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Klingbeil.

The Windermere Golf and Country Club

The Windermere Golf and Country Club was founded in 1919. The first lot of land was bought from Mr. Thomas Huggard. Some more land was bought from Leslie Aitken. The brochure I am putting in will tell you what has taken place during the sixty years and a few other special things. One thing it does not tell is that a local girl became such a good golfer she went on to the Ontario Ladies Champion match and she came home a winner. Verena Newton won over Ada Mackenzie that year. I believe the Newtons looked after the clubhouse some of those years.

On August 4th, 1920, the then new nine-hole golf course was officially opened. A foursome of prominent golfers of that era played the opening round. They were George Lyons, George Cummings, F.P. Freeman and a Mr. Thompson (no Christian name was shown). Two or three hundred spectators watched this first round at Windermere. The course now has 18 holes.

It all began back in October of 1919 when some of Toronto's leading bankers, merchants, barristers, etc., who were also summer residents of Windermere, on Lake Rosseau, decided a golf club was needed to make this area an even more desirable place to holiday. Provincial Letter Patent were granted to founding group on October 31st, 1939.

From this starting point land was chosen and purchased and arrangements made for George Cummings, professional at Toronto suburbs, to lay out the new course. For this he received the sum of \$335 – a small sum now, but evidently an adequate one at that time. A Mr. Borrows was hired as pro and greens keeper that first year at \$60 per month plus meals and living quarters.

Among the Founders and Provisional Directors were: Lt.-Col. James Cooper Mason, general manager, Home Bank of Canada; Albert Ernest Calvert, banker; Arthur William Treble, merchant; Major William Fletcher Eaton, T.Eaton Company; Gordon Nicholas Shaver, barrister; James S. Douglas, publisher.

The first president was Lt.-Col. James Cooper Mason. Major J.S. Livingston, the first club manager and organizing secretary, was empowered to negotiate the purchase of the Huggard and Crowder properties for a price of \$5,000. Approximately 32 acres were also purchased from Leslie Aitken, of Windermere House, for \$2,000. The Bunn property at the corner was bought later. A total of 124 acres was assembled.

At that time there were three summer hotels in Windermere- Windermere House, Fife House and Maple Leaf Lodge(now known as The Baldwins). Fife House has since been torn down.

Among the early shareholders and supporters, in addition to the founding directors were other prominent people such as G.H. Gundy and E.R. Wood, financiers; Hugh C. Mclean, publisher; Dr. C.M. Hincks; Britton Osler, barrister; Mrs. Timothy Eaton and Mrs. E.Y. Eaton.

While the land was purchased for eighteen holes of golf, only nine holes were in play for a few years. This was increased a few holes at a time until Windermere became a full eighteen holes of championship length.

An idea of the difference in the value of money is the fact that golf dues of a shareholder in 1920 were only \$10 per season.

A portable clubhouse was purchased in 1920 and located in the general area of the current clubhouse.

A review of the first year records indicate there were about 30 shareholder members and then an additional 93 individual green tickets were sold at \$1 per game. It is also interesting to note that in the same year \$140 was received by the Club for hay from the Club grounds, which is more than the \$93 green fees.

Over the last years there have been a number of golf pros and golf managers at Windermere. The first appears to be the previously mentioned Mr. Burrows. The minutes say that in addition to his \$60 a month plus room and board, "he also had the privilege of selling balls and clubs and giving lessons."

For quite a number of years the job of Club Pro was filled by a father and son combination of Hugh Logan Senior and Junior. Many of the people currently playing at Windermere will remember them. For the last nineteen years the Club Manager and Pro has been Jim McLeod. Jim was a Pro in Scotland for some years before going to the Mid Ocean Club in Bermuda. Between Bermuda and Windermere he was golf pro at Tyandaga Golf Club in Burlington, Ontario.

The excellent condition of Windermere's greens and fairways is due mainly to the continued skills of several members of the Bunn family. Early in club history, William Bunn was the Greenskeeper and Course Superintendent. When William retired he was followed by his son Elmer, who is current Greenskeeper.

A great many of the changes that provide the fine course summer visitors can now enjoy came about since Jim MacLeod took over as manager. To clear up spongy, wet conditions on part of the course, a series of 14 ponds has been constructed. Drainage lines to the ponds relieve wet fairways and the ponds themselves provide not only additional beauty, but make the course more competitive. Some holes have been lengthened by changes in tees and greens and many tees have been enlarged. An overall plan for tree planting has been undertaken, and smaller trees newly planted in the last five to fifteen years are now adding to the natural look and beauty of the entire course.

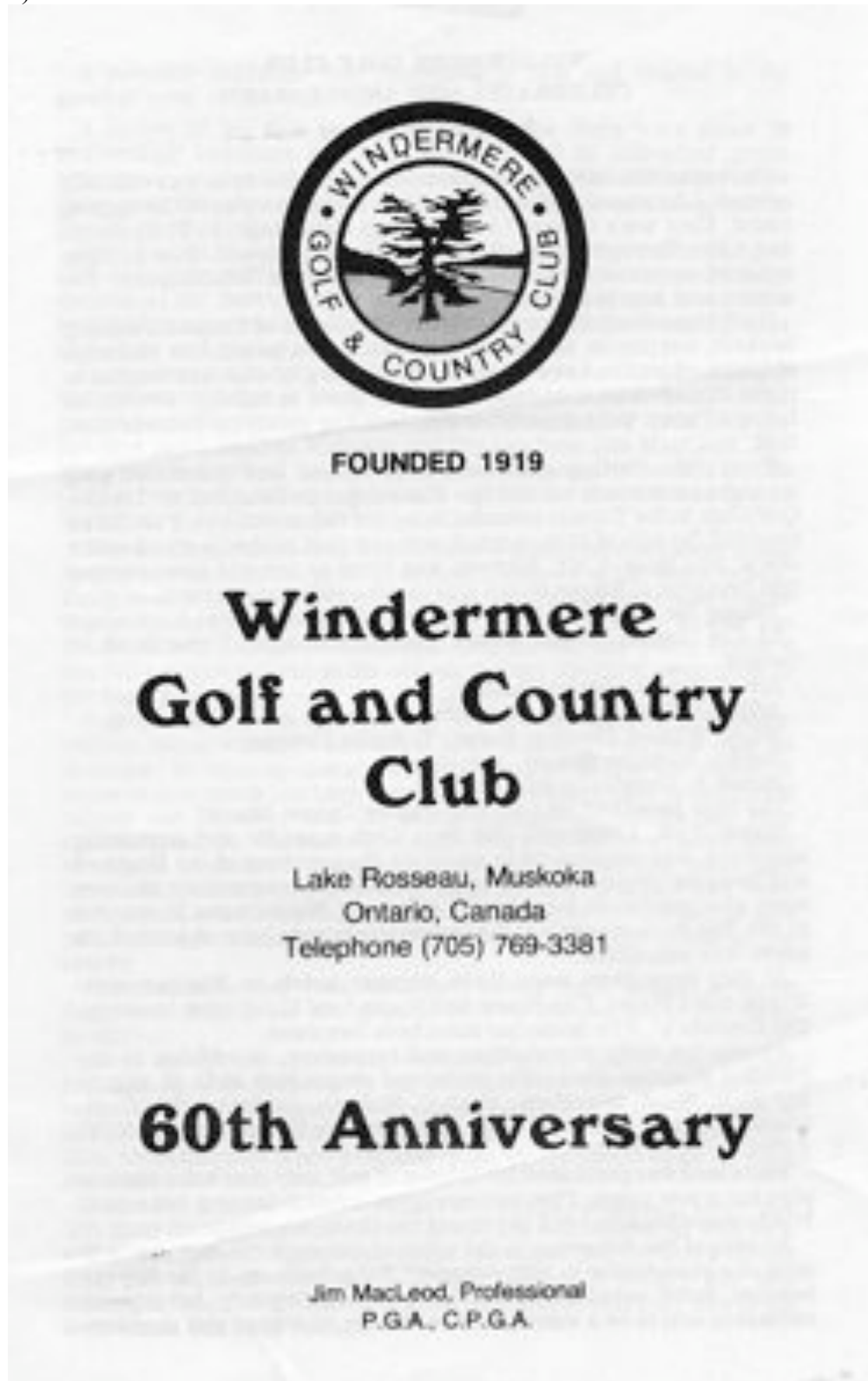
The clubhouse has been enlarged, flowerbeds added, a large flagpole installed, and the general area of the clubhouse has been beautified.

About 15 years ago two professional grade tennis courts were installed on club property in an area between the Greenskeeper's house and the Clubhouse.

At the Pro Shop, in addition to golf and tennis equipment, there is a Gift Shop that carries sport clothing for men and women as well as a wide variety of small gift items. In the Clubhouse there is also a Coffee Shop that supplies soft drinks and light lunches to hungry golf and tennis players, and to some hotel guests in the area.

Appendix

1) Brochure from Golf Course



**WINDERMERE GOLF CLUB
CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

By Grant H. Adams

On August 4th, 1920, the then new nine-hole golf course was officially opened. A foursome of prominent golfers of that era played the opening round. They were George Lyons, George Cummings, F. P. Freeman and a Mr. Thompson. (No Christian name was shown). Two or three hundred spectators watched this first round at Windermere. The course now has 18 holes.

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An idea of the difference in the value of money is the fact that golf dues of a shareholder in 1920 were only \$10 per season. In the 60-year interval senior membership rate has become \$150 yearly, but it is not necessary now to be a shareholder to become an annual golf member.

A portable clubhouse was purchased in 1920 and located in the general area of the current clubhouse.

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A great many of the changes that provide the fine course summer visitors can now enjoy came about since Jim MacLeod took over as manager. To clear up spongy, wet conditions on part of the course, a series of nine ponds has been constructed. Drainage lines to the ponds relieve wet fairways and the ponds themselves provide not only additional beauty, but make the course more competitive. Some holes have been lengthened by changes in tees and greens and many tees have been enlarged. An overall plan for tree planting has been undertaken, and the smaller trees newly planted in the last four or five years are now adding to the natural look and beauty of the entire course.

The clubhouse has been enlarged, flower beds added, a large flagpole installed, and the general area of the clubhouse has been beautified.

About five years ago two professional-grade tennis courts were installed on club property in an area between the Greenskeeper's house and the Clubhouse. It is possible to have a golf membership, a tennis membership or a combination golf and tennis membership. Also, these fine courts are available on an hourly rental basis for non-members.

At the Pro Shop, in addition to golf and tennis equipment, there is a Gift Shop that carries sport clothing for men and women as well as a wide variety of small gift items. In the Clubhouse there is also a Coffee Shop that supplies soft drinks and light lunches to hungry golf and tennis players, and to some hotel guests in the area who may like to eat their lunch out for a change.

In August of 1923, the first president... ol. J. Cooper Mason, died. He was replaced by Albert E. Matthews who headed the Board of Directors, a post he occupied until 1948, a period of 25 years. As Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Mr. Matthews became the Honorable Albert E. Matthews.

In August of 1948 Major-General A. Bruce Matthews became President and he served in that capacity until replaced about 1968 by Fraser Fell, a barrister with Fasken & Calvin, and a nephew of Bruce Matthews. Mr. Fell is still Club president and Mr. Matthews is a director of the Club.

Among the strong supporters and benefactors of The Windermere Golf and Country Club, almost since its inception, was the family from Columbus, Indiana, who summer at "Llanilar," a beautiful home in the Windermere vicinity. Family names include W. G. Irwin, Hugh T. Miller, Miss Elsie Sweeney, Irwin Miller and his sister, Mrs. C. Tangeman, who is currently a director of the Club.

Guests of Windermere House and The Baldwin's, as well as cottagers in all of Muskoka enjoy the use of golf and tennis facilities at Windermere Golf and Country Club. Electric golf cars are available for those preferring to ride, and tennis and golf can be played on either a pay-as-you-play basis or annual membership fee basis.

Due to the vision of those far-seeing summer residents of 1919, an outstanding Muskoka sports facility is available today.



WINDERMERE GOLF COURSE IN 1920'sS: The above historic picture of the old Windermere Golf and Country Club house is reproduced from a photograph framed and hanging in the clubhouse of today. The buildings have been identified by Grant Adams as follows, from the left: the residence today of Mary Elizabeth Aitken on the Windermere House property; Christ Church (Anglican) and the clergy cottage; the Presbyterian Church (torn down in 1927 or 1928); Windermere Golf Clubhouse, and at right, the Maple Leaf House (now the Baldwin's).

- 2) Old Christ Church Bulletin
Drawing of Church by Stephen Osler



Christ Church

(Anglican-Episcopal)

WINDERMERE, ONTARIO

Parish of Rossens in the Diocese of Algoma

RECTOR

THE REVEREND R. G. CHARLES

CHURCH WARDENS

MR. Wm. SKINNER

MR. E. SKINNER

'No man entering a house ignores him who dwells there. This is the House of God and He is here. Pray then to Him who loves you and bids you welcome and awaits your greeting. Give thanks to those who in past ages built this place to His glory and for those who, dying that we might live, have preserved for us our heritage. Praise God for His gifts of beauty in painting and music, architecture and handicraft. Ask that we who now live may build the spiritual fabric of the nation in Truth, Beauty and Goodness and that as we draw near to the One Father through Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ we may draw nearer to one another in perfect brotherhood.'

(from the crypt of St. Bartholomew's, London, Eng.)

A BRIEF HISTORY

The history of this charming little church reads like a chapter from the Acts of the Apostles. So often there the local church began and grew out of the concern and generosity of a faithful family. And that is how Christ Church, Windermere, began. In the year 1889 the Reverend Charles Mockridge, D.D., Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton, bought some land near Windermere for a summer home. By the year 1900 this distinguished churchman had gathered a few interested cottagers on his porch for Sunday Service. The collection from these gatherings was set aside for a church which he one day foresaw for the village. In that same year a plot of land was purchased for the sum of twenty-five dollars! Meanwhile, services were being held in the Mechanics Hall in Windermere.

It is not surprising that a clergyman whose four sons eventually were ordained should be keen to see this church established. Both Dr. Mockridge and his sons could be seen giving a helping hand in the construction of this frame building which was to house the faithful in Windermere. The task of building was completed in 1904.

The unique woodwork

One of the attractive features of this little church is the unusual wood work throughout. It has the smell of Muskoka about it as soon as you enter. The skillful arrangement of the shingles was done by the builder, Charles Cox, who was a carpenter from Bracebridge. The pews are also his handiwork as well as the altar, font and medallions. Among the early cottagers in this area was a Doctor and Mrs. John Dunn and the two sisters of Mrs. Dunn, Miss Porterfield and Mrs. Taylor. They were from Richmond, Virginia where Dr. Dunn was a well-known oculist and his wife a writer. The two sisters of Mrs. Dunn were skilled in the art of 'pyrography' which accounts for the burnt wood design throughout the church. The theme of this work is the plant life of Muskoka. This was their contribution to the adorning of this place to the glory of God.

The furnishings and memorials

The lectern is the work of a Hamilton carpenter, a Mr. Fairclough, who was the grandfather of the Honorable Ellen Fairclough's husband. The Prayer Desk is the gift of the Sisters of Saint John the Divine, whose foundress was a sister-in-law of Dr. Mockridge. The

organ was given by Mr. Britton Osler in memory of Dr. Charles Mockridge. The bell is also a memorial to the founder of the church. The Altar Cross bears this inscription:

*To the glory of God and in memory of
a little child.*

The West Window is in memory of the Reverend Charles Mockridge, one of the four sons in holy orders who died in Boston at the age of 36 years. The two modern windows on the north side are the work of Yvonne Williams. Of these, the 'Good Shepherd' window is a memorial to Beatrice Bath Osler, beloved wife of the Reverend John Mockridge. In this the family pet dog 'Pickles' is included. The other, the 'Annunciation' window is in memory of their daughter Elisabeth. The wild flowers of Muskoka are in evidence in both of these windows. The 'St. George' window nearest the organ is a memorial to a young American, John Dunn IV, who died soon after joining the R.C.A.F. He was the son of the Dunn family mentioned earlier. On the south side the 'Pacification' window is a memorial to Mrs. Charles Mockridge, wife of the founder of the church. The 'Dorcas' window was given in grateful remembrance of Mrs. Western known locally for her good works in both the church and the community for many years. The lights are gift of the Niblett family of Hamilton who were regular summer worshippers at Christ Church. On either side of the Sanctuary there are 'Angel Windows' given in loving memory of the two Mockridge children, Harold and Sophie, who died in infancy. They were given by Mrs. Harry Snyser of Louisville, Kentucky where Dr. John Mockridge was rector.

The clergy cottage

Christ Church began as a venture to serve the spiritual needs of the growing summer population. It became evident as time went on that this would be its chief ministry in the scattered parish of Rousseau. To this end a Ladies' Guild was formed from among the resident and summer parishioners. From bazaars and sales, money was raised to enable the purchase of additional land on which to build a clergy cottage. It is said that the large lot adjoining the church was purchased for seventy-five dollars! A well-known architect from Toronto, Mr. Vaux Chadwick, offered to design the cottage. In due time it was built and furnished due to the generous help of Lady Gooderham, the Britton Oslers, the William Smiths after whom Wellesley Island is named, the Drummond McKays and their

sisters, Helena, Josephine and Mrs. Alfred Whitehead, the Dunns and many others. A long list of clergy have enjoyed this summer incumbency with their families, among whom were the former Dean of Toronto, Dr. C. E. Biley, the present Bishop of Ontario, Dr. Kenneth Evans, the late Dr. Basil English, Canon A. H. Leak of St. Catharines, Archdeacon Hill of Welland and others.

Divine Service

Under the direction of the Rector of Rosseau services are held at Christ Church most of the year and especially on the Greater Festivals. During July and August the summer incumbents are able to provide two services every Sunday at 8 and 11 a.m. On Saints' Days there is a celebration of Holy Communion at 8 a.m. Canon C. J. S. Stuart, formerly rector of St. Thomas' Church, Toronto, continues to take a lively interest in the church as summer organist and often as officiant. The records show that the first to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in Christ Church was John Ouler, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Britton Ouler. This is typical of the story of the church in this place. It is by the keen interest and support of such summer residents as these and the continuing effort of the local congregation that Christ Church, Windermere, exists today.

1990 It is now designated a Heritage building
and will so remain. ~~Thanks~~ be to God.

