

# Cabin in Woods Holds Memories

This is about a family who have been a part of the Lake Maxinkuckee community and the cabin they have preserved for six generations.

The first member of the family to discover the lake, in the 1890s, was James Beardsley. His daughter, Harriet, and her family came for the summer season. The next generation, Bill and Sam Allen, chose to live and work on the West Shore. At the present time the fourth generation, Emily and Keith King, live here, where their home overlooks the lake. Their sons, Shannon and Nathan, with their children, the sixth generation of this family, continue to enjoy the lake.

James Beardsley, an immigrant from England, became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1858. He was employed by the Terre Haute and Logansport Railroad, which would later become the Vandalia Railroad.

Beardsley was given the assignment to survey the land between Lake Maxinkuckee and Little Lake Maxinkuckee. As he walked the land, he discovered the beauty of the lake and its surroundings.

Knowing he wanted to spend more time in this spot, he leased a 25-by-25-foot plot of land on Little Lake Maxinkuckee, which allowed access to the big lake. Here he pitched a tent and began to enjoy leisurely vacations.

Later, property was purchased for the building of a wooden shack. Being able to fish from the window was a great asset. The next step was to increase the size of his property by purchasing more land.

This allowed him to build the log cabin for his family to enjoy. The following year, a screened-in porch was added. The beds in the cabin were made of iron, and they were hinged on the walls with iron rods. They were let down at night and clipped back in place in the morning. Similar iron pieces were mounted on the windows and doors to secure the cabin when unoccupied. The old shack became the "cook shack."

At this time, Beardsley was living in Terre Haute. Florence and Harriet, his daughters, would come to the lake with him during their summer vacations. There were many picnics under the trees, with their father being the chief cook. As time went on and because of his love for this place, he requested his funeral service be conducted near his log cabin, and it was. His body was taken for burial to Akron, Ohio, by train.

## Welcome, New Readers!

If you are looking at this newsletter for the first time, the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver would like to welcome you as readers.

You are also invited to attend our meetings, information about which is contained elsewhere in this newsletter, and to consider becoming members of our society.

Harriet Beardsley married Samuel E. Allen, a pharmacist. Harriet's grandchildren remember her playing the banjo. Their three sons, David Beardsley, Sam Harper and James Bill, who used the name Bill, spent many summer weekends at the log cabin. The boys looked forward to the days with their grandfather at his cabin in the woods and swimming in the lake. Bill remembered his grandfather preparing the meals in his cooking shack.

Bill met his wife, Mary, at the University of Akron. They, with their daughters, Cynthia and Emily, began coming to the lake for the summers in 1945. The old boathouse, once a part of the Arlington Hotel complex on Long Point, became their summer cottage.

Emily remembers her mother as brave and a good sport for coming from a comfortable home to a dirt floor, with no electricity nor running water. They lived on the upper floor of the boathouse for three summers. The tin roof kept the cottage dry, as it still does today.

The cottage now has a large glass window overlooking the lake on the lower level. Originally there were two large doors to allow a boat to be pulled in on the sand floor and moored to a piece of railroad track. This part of the house is now the kitchen.

Sam Allen valued his summers at Culver, spending one year in the band at the Culver Summer School. His interest was in the nature that surrounded him. He could name the trees and recognize the birds by their song.

After Sam and Gertrude were married, they watched for an opportunity to live close to Lake Maxinkuckee. A position became available in Rochester for Sam. Gertrude taught in the Culver Public School.

They moved into Grandfather Beardsley's cabin in 1949 and lived there for one year with no electricity, a pump for water and a small stove in which Aunt Gerti made wonderful cookies, remembers Emily. A path led out from the back door. The cabin was snug and warm, and they enjoyed the creatures in the

(Continued on Page 2)

woods. The two couples, working together, added a small bathroom and kitchen.

In the following year, Sam and Gertrude bought 15 acres nearby, which included a farmhouse. This farmhouse had been the home of early settlers, James and Emeline Green. About 1859, James Green came to Union Township, where he met and married Emeline.

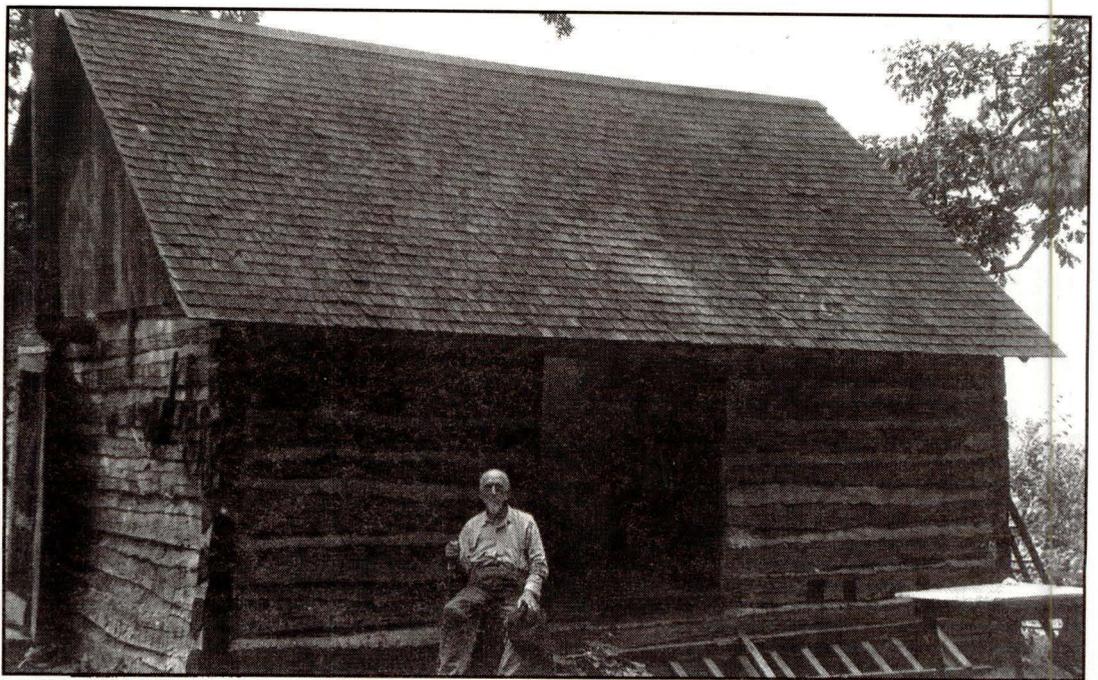
Green purchased all the land between Maxinkuckee and Little Maxinkuckee Lakes, including all of Long Point, the gravel pit and the adjacent acreage.

In the 1870s, he owned about 100 acres. He sold some of the lake frontage lot for fifty dollars to his friends. The Greens, with a family of eight children, lived in the farmhouse located at the southern base of Long Point, close to the lake.

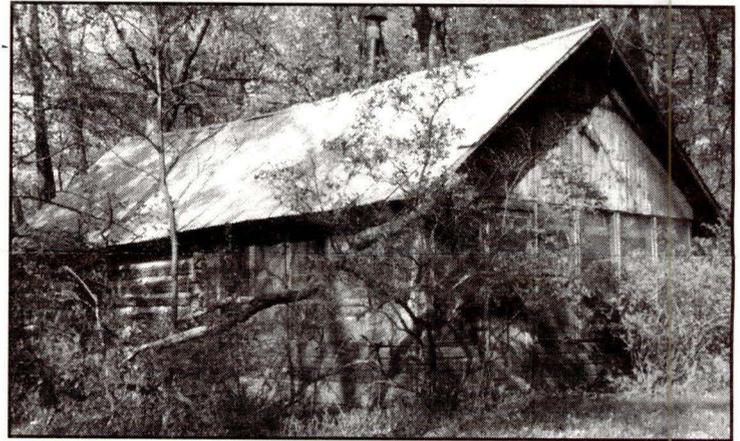
As the railroad line was progressing toward Marmont, with land being prepared for the track, it was found that the farmhouse was in the right-of-way. The house had to be moved quickly to the hilltop, where it stands today.

After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Green, the house was rented to other families. Subsequently, it was abandoned and lay vacant for many years. The house, in the mid-'30s, was inhabited only by mice and squirrels. It was this house that Sam and Gertrude had purchased. After a thorough cleaning, it became their home. Gertrude lived there for 43 years.

In 1954, the two brothers, Bill and Sam, purchased the marina on the West Shore from Fred Wallstead. It was a family affair. Mary and Gertrude were responsible for the



**JAMES BEARDSLEY, grandfather of Sam and Bill Allen and great-grandfather of Cindy Allen and Emily Allen King, relaxes in front of his cabin in the woods in this view dating from the early 1900s.**



**THE CABIN is much the same but showing signs of neglect in this photo from the spring of 2005.**

marina during the week while the men of the family continued their regular jobs until Sam retired from his job in 1958.

The gas pumps were on their pier. There were metal boats and one powerboat to rent and fiberglass boats to be purchased. Children came to the marine to satisfy their craving for sweets. A path, at the lake's edge, led them to the store. Would it be BB Bats chocolate, vanilla, strawberry or banana, bubble gum, a soft drink or some other penny candy? Emily was in charge of the store. She did the ordering along with being the chief salesgirl.

During her college years, Emily stayed in her great-grandfather's cabin in the summertime. She remembers it as being a totally different world and "such a peaceful place."

After living in the Plymouth area for some time, Emily and her husband, Keith, came back to the lake and to the Green farmhouse.

They found it necessary to do some remodeling and to add an addition but were able to keep the feel of the origi-

### **Lake Maxinkuckee Lighthouse**

**The Antiquarian Society board at its last meeting authorized development of a site plan as a preliminary step toward possibly restoring the Lake Maxinkuckee Lighthouse in the Culver Town Park.**

**Ten feet tall, the lighthouse apparently was used not to warn watercraft of dangerous reefs or shoals but to alert steamboats when their passengers had arrived by rail in Culver.**

**According to information gathered by the Marshall County Historical Society, the lighthouse was built around 1900 of concrete block and blown down in a storm on July 8, 1913. It is believed to have been located near the fishing pier where the flowing well is now.**

(Continued on Page 3)



**GATHERED together in the forest, the family of James Beardsley, seated at left, enjoys a pasoral repast. Standing at center is Harriet Allen, mother of Sam and Bill Allen and daughter of James Beardsley. The others are not identified and the date of the photo is unknown.**

nal house. As the remodeling continued, to their surprise, they found the walls packed tightly with hickory nuts.

Their sons, with their wives, continue to enjoy the lake while bringing with them the sixth generation, the great-great-great-grandchildren of James Beardsley, who fell in love with Lake Maxinkuckee while surveying the surrounding land.

His cabin is still standing in the place he thought was so special. The cabin, built over a century ago, shows signs of the years gone by. The weather has taken its toll and has left the cottage in a deteriorating condition, although the memories linger.

— Jo Dugger

## Annual Meeting June 18

Please note that our annual meeting will be at the Culver Library on June 18, starting at 1 pm. instead of the usual morning hour. We will elect board members, conduct whatever other business is necessary and hope to conclude by 2 o'clock. After the meeting, we are all invited to go upstairs for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the publication of **The House of a Thousand Candles**. You will all know that this famous novel by Hoosier author Meredith Nicholson, is set in the house on the East Shore still known as "The House of a Thousand Candles." The Culver Library will offer this program with author, journalist and historian Rita Kohn, who will present, to quote from the library publicity:

"a lively and entertaining look at Meredith Nicholson's life and work and the book that made him famous and inspired generations of Culver lore! Also on hand will be Creighton Hippenhammer, present owner of the house itself, to talk about the home and its illustrious history."

Please come to the meeting and stay for the program.

### Sources:

Thank you to Emily Allen King for sharing her family's history and photographs. Recent photo by Jo Dugger.

**Our Township's Yesterdays**, by Edwin R. Corwin.

## Betty Moss, R.I.P.

Betty Moss, long-time member and friend to many of us, died peacefully at home on Feb. 5, 2005.

We remember her has a happy, pleasant person, curious about everything and interested in everyone. She was an avid reader, and Jim is having a hard time getting through the Wall Street Journal and the many other publications that continue to arrive at their home on the East Shore. It's a sad and empty house for Jim, her husband of 56 years, but he continues to keep all of the Antiquarian Society's lists up to date and to furnish us with mailing labels for notices of meetings and this newsletter.

We will miss Betty's cheerful participation in life and her genuine interest in anything you had to say. Our very real sympathy goes out to Jim, their four daughters, 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, who were all, except for the youngest, participants in the Culver Summer Schools. It is hard to say good-bye. —Agnes Bramfeld

### Brick orders

Brick orders we received since last fall have not been sent to the "brick printer" yet because there are not enough to get the price we need. With the new orders, we will be able to get those bricks in the park soon. We want you to know that we are not always able to place your brick where you want it, and are not able to keep track of where each brick is. If anyone is able to devise a plan for plotting the park and creating a brick locator, it would be a welcome addition to our brick file, which, like somebody's garden "just grew."

SPRING, 2005  
NEWSLETTER

Antiquarian and Historical Society  
P.O. Box 125  
Culver, Indiana 46511-0125

## July Meeting at Scene of 'Poisoned Vows'

On July 16, we will have a meeting at the Culver Bed and Breakfast on Lake Shore Drive, beginning at 10 a.m. The B&B was once the home of an infamous lady who was the subject of **Poisoned Vows**, a book written by Clifford L. Linedecker, which proclaims on the cover that it is

"A True Story

She spun a web of marriage,  
money...and maybe even murder."

This should be very interesting!

July 15 and 16 will be Moonlight Serenade nights on the lake. It would be a nice touch and very nostalgic if we would decorate and light up our lakefront yards and piers, if we are lucky enough to have them. We would let the band know that we are pleased and appreciative of the wonderful and unique entertainment they provide.

Don't know about August yet, but for our September meeting we have arranged with Culver author John Houghton to do a program about the lake and his new book. John Houghton grew up in Culver and is a prize-winning historian with degrees from Harvard, Yale, Indiana and Notre Dame. His book, **Rough Magicke**, is a fantasy about strange goings-on at a Midwestern military academy. It's Culver, all right, and the school even has a website - [www.annandalemilitary.com](http://www.annandalemilitary.com). I've only read about 10 pages so far, but look forward to reading more.

The Culver library has two copies, but I'm guessing Houghton would be happy to sign your copy of the book if you happen to buy one. We do not have a place for this meeting yet, and Dorothy Peterson (842-3940) would appreciate a call if we can use your home for this meeting some Saturday in September.

- Agnes Bramfeld

Antiquarian & Historical Society of Culver Spring 2005 Newsletter

News Editor: Agnes Bramfeld

Feature Editor: Jo Dugger

Production Editor: Fred Karst

### YEARLY DUES \$20.00

Send 2005 dues to the Antiquarian and Historical Society, P.O. Box 125, Culver, IN 46511-0125

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Antiquarian and Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 125, Culver, IN 46511