

Hello I am Jack Godding, I am donating the first log cottage that my grandfather, Fred Tilden and his brother Horace Tilden built in 1903 to start the Tilden Brothers Resort. In 1919 Fred bought out his brother Horace's share and changed the name to "The Tilden Resort" I would like to tell you a bit of history about the Tilden Resort. In the late 1800s The state of Wisconsin wanted to develop property in the North Woods. The state would delegate land to you to homestead on, and when you met the state requirements for developing it, the land would become your homestead. In 1893 the brothers signed up for some land next to Eagle River on Silver Lake. They did this to have a place to vacation in the North Woods. When they came to Eagle River, they were told their land was 6 miles south of Eagle River, what is now Oneida county. Does this sound familiar to old land allocations? Going south on Hwy 45 to Meta Lake road, and across the county line into Oneida county, between Meta Lake and Cranberry, is where their homestead was to be. This is where Meta Lake road followed the northeast shore line of Meta Lake. It was there on Meta lake road just as you enter Oneida county that the Tilden Brothers decided to build. Grandfather Fred Tilden, his parents, brother Horace, and his wife Haddie first camped in tents during the summers until they built the tarpaper shacks in the late 1890's. They built their first log home in 1900. This being Paul Bunion Country, it is where the timber came from to build Chicago. All that was left was brush and a few non timber trees. You could stand on a stump and see all the way to Eagle River. When we were kids we could go to a hill on Herdener road and be able to see across Cranberry lake and island and across Eagle Lake. Now you can barely see to Cranberry Island, As a side note, in 1884, Meta Dupont and a number of her friends came north in their personal train to Pelican Lake to fish. The mosquitos were so bad, that they decided to go north to Eagle River. Meta hooked up with a boatman and fished on Cranberry Lake. It was much smaller then now, just a creek and small ponds. The boatman saw a buck, shot at it, wounded it, and in tracking it he found a lake that was not known. There were lots of bass along the shore, and they caught many. The shoreline is where 9 years later would be my Grandfather's shore line. Meta wanted to go back the next day, they went out in his boat and literally caught a boat load of bass. The boatman named the lake Meta.

The Tilden brothers had a two story rooming house on the Fox River in Illinois. They worked at the Waltham Watch Factory in Elgin Illinois. My grandmother. Lena Atherton, lived in Maine and worked in a boarding house. Lena was treated very badly. She packed up all of her belongings in a small wicker basket and moved to Elgin Illinois to work in the Waltham Watch Factory as a jewel setter. That is where Fred and Lena met, married, then came up to their new home on beautiful Meta Lake for their honey moon. Grandma was an excited bride, anxious to see her new home. When grandpa opened the door for Lena, she stood in shock and cried. Her north woods dream home was in shambles inside, for the squirrels got in for the winter and chewed and shredded stuff all over the place. She learned quickly that you needed to be tough to live in the North Woods. Grandma was tough and at the same time very much a lady. The tarpaper shack was a short distance away and she was happy to clean the cabin and be in the log cabin and not the tarpaper shack.

In 1903, the Tilden Brother's were presented with a document, signed by President Teddy Roosevelt, giving them ownership of the $\frac{1}{4}$ section Homestead property. Over the years their friends would keep asking if there was a place they could stay. In 1903 they built the first log cottage, to start the Tilden Brother's Resort, and it was one of the first two resorts in the Eagle River, Three Lakes and St Germain area. This is the cottage that I am donating to the Eagle River Historical Society. Grandpa would sell land to be able to build more cottages. With Meta Lake road along the shore, his guests could drive right up to their front door. When Meta Lake road was moved through his property to about half way between Meta and Cranberry Lake, Grandpa was not happy. Grandpa said "I want my guests to drive up to their front door". Grandpa wanted to tear down the blockade on the original road. Good thing that he lost the fight, for it would be a disaster for everyone now with the road along the shore. When the power line was first strung along the new road, Grandpa was not happy again, because he had to pay for the line to be installed, when he had just done major repair on his generator.

When the Otter Rapids dam was put in west of Eagle River for the power plant, and the lands above the dam were flooded, creating a navigable chain of lakes, with Cranberry Lake being one of them, over $\frac{1}{2}$ of grandfathers land was flooded. This created a span of almost $\frac{1}{4}$ mile between the main land and the island. Before that, there was only a creek that you could step across from Grampa's main land to his land on Cranberry Lake island. When the Burnt Rollaway dam for the Three Lake Chain was put in, one of the workers was severely injured and was bleeding a lot. On the way to Eagle River for help, they stopped at my Grandfather's where my Great Grandmother wrapped him in a sheet and flower to stop the bleeding,

witch saved his life. When the dam was completed, they gave the extra concrete that was left to Grandpa, and he used it for the basement under the first resort dining hall. A few years later, the new dining hall with kitchen and recreation room was built. The dining hall served all of the resort cottages and 3 private cottages that used to be resort cottages. There were no kitchens in the cottages. The first dinning room and kitchen was then remodeled into a 4bedroom cottage. In1950, my parents bought the resort, and the 4 bedroom cottage was our home, until the resort was divided up and sold. In the early 50s, I dug with a shovel, 8 septic systems to replace the out houses, and for 2 new cottages. In doing that, the cottages were upgraded from modern to strictly modern. I also drove 4 wells by hand, because water in and water out was very important.

In 1985 ,the log cottage was moved to 1015 Hwy 45 south of Eagle River, and was God's Country Furniture. Cleaning and restoring has been done to it,and now it needs to be prepared for moving to the Eagle River Historical Society property. There it can be seen and appreciated as a cottage from one of the first two resorts in the Eagle River, Three Lakes, and St Germane area.