

....AND SOMETIMES, THEY EVEN NAMED THEIR BOATS

PART I

The earliest settlers on and around Douglas Lake consisted primarily of land grant recipients, who purchased their holdings at \$1.25 per acre from the United States government. The so-called “resorters” did not begin making their way here until the latter years of the nineteenth century, once rail, boat, and land transportation had become more available and reliable. Four areas that were opened up to vacationers early on were Bentley Point, Ingleside, the areas on either side of the boat ramp located next to the Douglas Lake Bar and Steakhouse on the south shore of the lake, and Pells Island, all four areas having been platted in the late 1800s or the very early 1900s.

Most of these earliest vacationers stayed initially at one of the first three “resort hotels”: the first Bryant Hotel, located on Bentley Point on the site of the present-day Mercke cottage; the first Ingleside Inn, built only a few years thereafter; and the second Bryant Hotel, located on the south shore, which opened for business in 1904. However, it was not long before these early visitors sought out building sites along the shore lines to accommodate their own summer cottages. The northern/northwestern shore of Douglas Lake became the region where most of these early cottages were built, although a few were also located on the south shore, on either side of the second Bryant Hotel or on the island (the Stimson and Fitzgerald cottages).

Often, cottages constructed in the late 1800s or very early 1900s could only be reached by boat or by means of paths or primitive two-tracks located on or near the shores of the lake. There were few developed streets or roads and no house numbers to identify the individual cabins. Instead, most of these residences were identified by name.

The practice of naming a residence originated in Europe, where the royal families, the aristocracy and the landed gentry would identify their grand homes and estates with surnames or descriptors coupled with designated titles such as Hall, Manor, Lodge, or Castle. In time, that practice crept down the socio-economic scale to the point where average home owners were doing it, as well. In England, it eventually became common practice for even modest cottages to have names, such as Primrose Cottage, The Beaches, Meadow View, and the like.

In the United States, the practice was more limited, and such names were typically reserved for either grand estates or for summer vacation homes in seaside or lake communities, although there are many instances in which homes were identified by name, particularly where there was no true street address available, where there were multiple surnames found in the household, or where, in rental situations, no one family would be in residence for any extended period of time. All of these reasons may have been played in a role in the Douglas Lake setting. However, many early resorters may have named their cottages simply for the fun of it.

Typically, the family surname was the identifier and would be attached to “cabin” or “cottage” to distinguish it from the others, as in “The Larson Cottage”. However, a second trend also appeared, particularly during the interval between the 1890s and the 1940s, when lively and fanciful or sometimes just plain descriptive monikers were assigned to a newly-constructed or acquired vacation home. The “naming” trend abated somewhat during the 1950s and thereafter. However, when researching this article, I discovered that the practice has persisted, albeit more sporadically, in the years that followed and that, indeed, even newly constructed houses and cottages have been given names. What follows is a partial list of cabin names chosen by Douglas Lake residents and, where known, a description of how those names came to be chosen.

More than a few of the cottages were named after the physical characteristics of either the building site or of the cabin itself. Cottages fitting under this category include the following:

Four Birches: The name of the cottage on lot #10 in the Village of Ingleside that was purchased by Dr. John Gardner and his wife Norma Pence Gardner in 1940. Dr. Gardner, a Presbyterian minister then serving in the First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland, had much earlier served as an assistant at the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit under Dr. Edward Pence, whose daughter Norma he had married. Both Dr. Gardner and Dr. Pence had come to Douglas Lake at the urging of Dr. James Inglis, himself a Presbyterian minister and the founder the village of Ingleside, who had encouraged many ministers of that faith to join him in the village or at the Ingleside Inn, which he had built on the north shore of Douglas Lake. The lot and the cottage, however, were purchased from Lambert Wilson, who had acquired the property following the death of Dr. Inglis.

The Point Cottage: the informal name given to the Fitzgerald cottage, built on the northern most point of the island by William Fitzgerald in 1898, making it the first cabin on Pells Island and one of the earlier ones on the entire lake. This cabin is now owned by the Warner and the Greubel families, whose primary summer homes are located along the eastern portion of the south shore of the lake.

Sunny Sands: the name given to a 20-acre site and a large two-story white frame home built on Silver Strand in approximately 1910 by Myrta Inglis, the widow of James Inglis (founder and original builder of both the village of Ingleside and the Ingleside Inn) and her son James. Through the years, “Sunny Sands,” which was set back some distance from the shoreline on a small rise, functioned as a family home, an Inn, and as a rental cottage. In later years, the land upon which the home was built was acquired by numerous owners, including the Bells, who built and ran Bell’s Resort. Currently, the

property is owned by the Heike family. The cottage itself has long since burned down. However, the original basement and stone foundation still exist and can be found towards the rear of the Heike property, although sand has washed down into the basement area and trees have sprouted there. Neighbor Wally Nows, who has been coming to the lake since the 1930s, can recall playing in the basement in his youth.

Woods Edge: the name given to a cottage built by Harry and Wilma Roberts, the parents of the late Fritz Roberts and parents-in-law of his widow, Irene Roberts. After renting "Sunny Sands" for five or six summers, the Roberts family built a one-room cabin on land that they had purchased from Clark Judson in 1914. Although son Fritz Roberts referred to the original one-room cabin as "The Shack," his cousin Barb Robertson and other family members indicate that the cottage was actually named "Woodsedge" [as in Woods Edge]. Current family members state that the name was given because of its location at the edge of a clearing.

French's Singing Pines: on land originally homesteaded by Civil War veteran J. Schermmerhorn in the mid-1880s and later acquired by Dr. and Mrs. J. Leslie French at a tax sale, the quarter-section was named for the sound the wind made as it blew through the pines along Old Schermmerhorn Point (now Stony Point). Dr. French, a Presbyterian minister from Ann Arbor, had first visited the lake on a fishing vacation as the guest of Professor Johnson, the director of Camp Davis, the civil engineering component of the University of Michigan's summer program. Although some of that quarter-section was given to the University of Michigan and some sold to acquaintances of the family, the remainder has passed to the children and grandchildren of the Frenches. The original cottages were two tin cabins acquired through the Biological Station, the first of which was erected in 1917. Thereafter, a log cabin was built in 1937 by two Odawa brothers from Levering [Bill and Dan Kewaygeshik, who ultimately built quite a few log cabins around the lake, including my own family's cottage, built in 1925].

The French's younger daughter [Betty French Young] and two children of their older daughter Margaret [Margaret French Clink, known as "Peggy"] continued the traditions of the family, having built their own cabins along the shoreline. The Youngs built a new cabin in the mid-1960s for themselves and their five children. Some years later, in 1999 and 2001, respectively, Margaret Clink's daughters, Nancy Sheldon and Betsy Naumer, built their own cottages on a portion of the original quarter-section affectionately known as "Peggy's Point," so named because it had been their mother's favorite spot.

Woodshed Lodge: the name given to the original small frame cabin on the Todd's lot on Bentley Point when it was purchased in 1917 from the Hill brothers, who sold the other portion of their holdings to Fred Colby, the father of John Colby and grandfather of Susan Colby Fangman. In the early years after its purchase, the Todd family dismantled that original dwelling, one-half at a time, erecting their current two-story cabin, known as Rocky Landing, in two stages. The name of the new cabin was derived from the shoreline in front of the cottage, which was, as its name suggests, quite rocky.

Stone Cottage: named for its stone exterior, The Stone Cottage was the original cabin on the land purchased by Paul and Annie Reinhardt in the mid-1940s. During the ensuing years, three additional cottages were built as rental units as well as a store where bait, fishing gear, and small grocery items could be purchased. At the end of the roadway were a boat ramp and a dock. In addition, there was a small marina on the site, where boats could be rented. In time, the individual cottages were sold to private owners, to include the Reinhardt's residence and store, which were purchased by Jill and Dan Francis in 1987. After one of the buildings was moved over and attached to another of the Reinhardt cottages, the Francis family built their new residence, which they named Francis' Creek after the artificial creek that they had created by installing a pump underneath the dock. The pump brought lake water up to their deck area, releasing it to create a stream-like water flow from under the deck back down to the lake. The Stone Cottage is currently owned by the Bury family.

Trail's End: was the name of the Osgood cottage, purchased by Bud and Jeanne Osgood in 1949 from the Wheelocks, from whom the Osgoods had rented it the preceding summer. In time, a new winterized cabin was built in anticipation of Bud's retirement in roughly 1970. The senior Osgoods lived there year round for many years thereafter. The cottage name appeared on a sign on a tree near the cabin. However, neither the sign nor the name is in current use by their son, Jim Osgood. Now himself retired, Jim spends a good deal of time at Douglas Lake. Brother Ken Osgood and Jim's son, daughter-in-law and twin grand-daughters also visit.

The Silver Moon: was the name given by new owners Eddie and Ione Churchill when they purchased their turn-of-the-century two-story frame cottage from R.E. and Elizabeth Haskett in 1924. One impetus in the selection of that name was the fact that they could observe stunning moon rises over the eastern horizon which laid down a silvery stream of shimmering light across the water of Bryant's Bay towards their cottage, located two doors down from the Bryant's Douglas Lake Hotel on the south shore of the lake. However, a secondary reason also existed: Ione's grandfather had owned a side-wheeler river boat named the "Silver Moon" that he had captained along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on his journeys from Cincinnati, Ohio to New Orleans and back. The paddle-wheeler had also seen service during the Civil War when it was utilized by Union forces to transport troops to various battle sites, one of which was the legendary Battle of Vicksburg. Alas, the "Silver Moon" had met an inglorious end when it foundered on rocks outside of Louisville and sank. When the cottage was sold to the Drake family in the mid-1950s after Ione's death, the name fell into disuse until my mother, Ione Churchill's cousin, retrieved the hand-painted sign, showing the shimmering reflections of a moonrise over the bay, from the attic of a later owner, who was preparing to sell the cottage. That sign now graces my own cottage on Pells Island, which was thereafter named The Silver Moon, since that same river boat captain happened to be my great-grandfather. And, yes, moon rise offers the same spectacular view from our deck, which faces North and South Fishtail. As a footnote to this story, the original cottage no longer can be found in its initial location on Bryant Road. It was lifted from its foundation and hauled to a new site near Munro Lake, where it rests on a tree-covered

hillside that rises high above the lake. Peter and Ruth Markey are the current owners of lot, upon which a beautiful new frame cottage can be found.

Sunset Shores: as its name implies, this cottage, now belonging to Jayne and her husband Dennis Morse, is positioned on the south shore, from which the cabin's front windows offer a spectacular view of the sunsets over the west end of the Lake. The cabin itself was a part of Ted and Vivian Lile's "Sunset Bay Subdivision", the land for which the Liles had purchased in approximately 1948. After clearing the lake frontage, Ted began constructing a group of what became four small frame rental cottages, which he continued to rent until he sold them, one by one, during the roughly ten-year-interval between the mid-1960s and the mid-1970s. The cabin named "Sunset Shores", the fourth unit, had originally been purchased by the Lovaason family. Mrs. Lovaason was a teacher in the Pellston public school system. In 1971, that cabin was sold to Jacob and Pearl Hess and was given the name "Sunset Shores" by their daughter Jayne, who with her husband Dennis, are the current owners. The cottage has been undergoing some radical changes in 2011, having been moved back from the shoreline to make way for a new two-story construction that will be the Morse's retirement home come the summer of 2012. Next door to it, immediately to the west, is what was actually the fifth and final cabin in the series of Ted Lile rental cottages, which Ted and Vivian had intended as their own retirement home. Instead, it was sold to the Treffry family, who in 2001 sold it to their neighbors, Jayne and Dennis Morse. It's name, The Last Resort, references the fact that it was the FINAL cottage built by the Liles in the original Sunset Bay Subdivision.

North Woods: in that this land area will be the subject of another article, the history will not be discussed in great detail. However, the roughly 40 acres comprising what came to be known as "North Woods" made up the grounds of a large frame cottage built by Colonel Charles Bogardus, a Civil War veteran and the son-in-law of Pellston founder William Pells. He and his wife Hannah moved to the Pellston area in 1901 and built the large frame Douglas Lake cottage in 1904. So far as I can tell, however, the designation "North Woods" did not attach until the property was later developed as a camp. The first camp established on the site was the North Woods Camp for Girls, which opened for its initial season in the summer of 1924. The residential directors were Mrs. W.P. Bowen, the grandmother of Stuart Case, and Mrs. P.B. Samson, both of whom had had extensive experience conducting camps for the Girl Scouts and for Camp Fire Girls. When examining the brochure, it is interesting to note that the junior camp bugler was Miss Eleanor Bowen, an Ypsilanti high school student who happens to have been Stuart Case's mother. It is also interesting to note that the Bogardus cabin was called "The Lodge", not "North Woods." In later years, the grounds became the home of a second summer camp, this one called "Camp North Woods for Boys," with different directors. After the Boys Camp closed, both of the residences on the grounds [the Lodge and the Wayside Inn] were rented to families summering in the Douglas Lake area. Ultimately, the camp and grounds were sold to developers and the "Lodge" and other buildings were torn down to make way for new summer cottages. According to the plat map, the Northwoods Club Subdivision was to consist of 10 lake front lots with six additional back lots platted. In the years that followed, numerous cottages have been built on the grounds of the old North Woods Camps.

Northwinds: was the name given the blue frame cottage built on the south shore west of the island by Dr. Emory Sink and his wife Maud during the winter of 1927/1928. Dr. Sink, a general practitioner/ophthalmologist from Ann Arbor, had served as the staff physician for the Biological Station during the summers of 1922 through 1924, thus kindling his love of Douglas Lake. The cottage still stands and is currently used by Dr. Sink's niece by marriage, Mildred Nolan, who has her own ties to the "Bug Camp", and by her son John Perry, his wife Lorraine, and their two daughters. As most residents of the south shore can attest, the strong blasts of wind coursing in from the north can be quite formidable at times and, hence, the cottage's name.

Windward House, Leeward House, and Wayward House: a constellation of cottages built near the center of the island by the Waggener family, whose patriarch, Bob Waggener, had spent time as a teenager staying with fellow Rushville natives Ione and Eddie Churchill while working at Bryant's Hotel. As a young adult, he returned to the lake, bringing his wife Emy and their children. That first summer, the summer of 1946, when gas rationing was discontinued and travel to the lake was again possible, the Waggener family rented the "White Birch" from Rolly and Helen Kreuger, then the proprietors of Timberlane, a series of rental cottages on the south shore west of the island. The following summers up until their first island cabin was constructed, they rented the Geiken cottage, built by the Geiken family, who ran a general store on Milton Street in Pellston. The initial Waggener cabin on Pells Island was a chalet-type structure built into the hillside facing the west end of the lake. Because of its positioning, it was subject to the prevailing west winds and, hence, its name: Windward House. That first cottage was built in 1960/61. Roughly one year later, Bob and Emy decided to build a small one-room hide-a-way on the east, or opposite, side of the island, which was partially blocked off from the prevailing west wind by the island itself and the trees. That second cottage, with its porch cantilevered over the east embankment, was dubbed Leeward House due to the protected nature of the site. The final residential cottage was not built until roughly 1978. Casting about for a name that fit thematically with the other two names, it was ultimately decided to name it Wayward House. And when a tool shed was erected on the grounds...what other name would possibly suit? Yes, it bears its name plaque proudly: Toolward. Bob and Emy's children and grandchildren and now great-grandchildren continue to make their summer treks to Pells Island.

The names of trees native to the northern Michigan forests also figured prominently in the selection of cottage names. One notable example would be Big Pine Point, the name given to the southernmost cabin on the island, where the island joins the mainland. Since the island was never logged and was still basically a primeval forest, the size of the pine trees in the low lying regions where this cabin was situated was substantial. Indeed, one of the pines was so extraordinarily huge that the local children along the shore referred to it as "the dinosaur tree," since it looked like a brachiosaurus stretching its long neck well above the tree line. The kitchen of Big Pine Point may have originally been a boathouse to which further additions were made over the years. In 1952, it was purchased by Howard and Eleanor Case, the parents of Stuart Case and Anne Case

Cherney, both of whom spent their formative years there. In subsequent years, Stu and Carma Case built a year-around home in Northwood Shores, but Anne and her family have continued to vacation in the island cabin.

Another cottage bearing a forest-based name was Three Oaks, a large white frame cottage situated on the south shore, east of the island, that had been owned since the 1920s by Curtis and Emma McLin. After being widowed, Mrs. McLin sold the cabin to the Green and Alexander families [Derby and Bertha Green and their daughter and son-in-law Kate and Marland (“Alex”) Alexander], former renters who came up each summer from Rushville, Indiana. The Greens, the Alexanders, and their daughters Sue Alexander (Green) and Joan Alexander (Koch) returned through the years as one generation gave way to the next, with new children and then new grandchildren making their way to Douglas Lake. Ultimately, in approximately 1996, Joan Koch sold the family cottage to Dorothy Signs, whose family still owns it. However, the Alexander family is still represented at the lake by grandson Bruce Koch, who with his wife Cammy and their children, spends time at her family’s cottage on Pells Island View Drive

Perhaps nowhere was the tendency to use arboreal names more pronounced than in the former Timberlane, a series of cottages that became rental units beginning in approximately 1930, when they were purchased by Rolly and Helen Kreuger. In roughly 1955, Bennie and Nellie Ruggiero assumed ownership and continued to rent the 11 cabins until the enclave was divided up among the three new owners. As a group, they include many of the local species found along the shores of the lake. The western-most cottages, which initially were purchased by Robert and Mary Frook, but are now owned by the family of Joe Moran, were named as follows: The Big Oak, The Little Acorn, The Tamarack Log, and The Driftwood. The next three, now owned by Susan Frook Dunlop and her husband John, continued that theme: The Cedar Log, The Yellow Birch, and The White Birch. And finally are the last four cottages that make up “Big Pine Resort”, owned by the Gehran family: The Big Pine, The Needle, The Little Cone, and The Blue Spruce.

Another trend involved the use of proper names in playful or creative ways. One of the earliest examples involved the newly constructed log cottage of the Priest family, built in 1922 along the southern shore, west of the island. The tiny cabin was christened Nan’s Tucket, combining the name of the Massachusetts resort of Nantucket with Nancy Priest’s nickname, “Nan.” And, of course, there was the tongue-in-cheek tag coined by Graham Paton in reference to the OTHER Roberts cabin, this one built by William Roberts, his great uncle, in 1902 next door to the Graham cottage on Bentley Point. According to Graham, the family cabin had been dubbed Paton Place in clear reference to the somewhat risqué novel “Peyton Place,” authored by Grace Metalious in the mid-1950s.

Sometimes a surname was used in a unique way, as in its use for the cottage built by Frank and Gail Beaver on Reinhardt Shores in 1980. In naming their cottage, they connected his surname with her maiden name (“Place”) to create a new designation that sounded like a destination in and of itself: Beaver Place. And when, in 1921, the

Blair Nixon family set about naming their new cabin, built on the south shore, west of the island, they created a phonetically similar construction reminiscent of their own surname while adding a suggestion of the hospitality that would be forthcoming. Their cabin was named The Nix-Inn. And, as is so often the case, when the cabin was purchased by other individuals, it was renamed --- The Big Oak, which was discussed in an earlier section of this article. That cabin now belongs to the family of Joe Moran. The Nixon family still comes to Douglas Lake, however. Following the sale of their family cottage close to the island, another Nixon cottage was built in the Birchwood Bay Subdivision near the outlet for the Maple River.

Another playful surname-based designation was The Four Bucks. The cottage, located on Pells Island Drive, had initially been purchased by Mildred Buckels' parents, Charles and Christine Froom, in 1930 as the result of a tax sale. During the early years, it had been used by the elder Frooms and their children, including Stan Froom, father of Susie Froom Dunlop, who now owns three of the "Timberlane" Cottages with her husband John. After the Froom cottage was acquired by their daughter Mildred Froom Buckels, their son-in-law Cliff Buckels, and their two children (Joe and Nan), the name The Four Bucks was chosen to reflect the four family members who now made it their summer home. In subsequent years, the cottage was acquired by Abe and Doris Keiser and, still later, by the Bowers family, who currently own it. Grand-daughter Katie Buckels and her husband Andy Strauss and their daughter Maisie Nell now have their own home on the south end of the island.

Sometimes the name chosen for a cabin is no more than the nickname(s) of one or more of its owners, as in the case of The Pat Cottage, which was the name given to their initial cottage when Fred and Ava Reed purchased it on Silver Strand in the late 1930s or early 40s. The chosen name was the nickname given to wife Ava Reed. In time, other cabins were added to what was to become Reed's Resort, which featured rental cabins and which continued to operate through the mid-1960s. A similar principle guided the choice of name for The Essie-Lew, a family cottage currently owned by Joan Caldwell that had been so named by her grandparents Essie and "Lew" (Albert) Lewellen. With the passage of time, however, both the name and the placard upon which it had been painted have disappeared from use. One suspects that a similar fate has been met by the "bunk house" next door that at one time housed various Caldwell daughters and their father and stepmother. The name given to that smaller cabin was The Denora, a mispronunciation of the first name of Lewellen's daughter Lenora, who married Jack Caldwell, father of Ann, Katie, Treva, Margaret, and, later, Joan. Young Margaret was the source for the name "Denora" when her youthful tongue could not quite pronounce her stepmother's Christian name. That second cottage is currently owned by Mauro and Becky Agnelneri.

The Jo-Beck cottage on Nutting Bay belonged at one time to the families of a brother [William and his wife Elise JONES] and a sister [Caroline and her husband Art BECKNER]. The name accorded to their shared cottage contains a portion of each of the two surnames. In time, the Joneses took over the cottage, which next passed to their daughter Bunny Lang. The current owners are James and Susan Gartin of Ann Arbor.

The final cottage in this sequence is The Julia B. , a small half-log cabin located immediately to the east of the DLB. At the time it was built, it was intended for use by family and friends of the owners of the DLB, John Bryant and Julia Squibb Bryant, his second wife. Through the years, the cottage passed through many hands, first given to Julia's foster son, Elmer Cummins, who, in turn, sold it to the Drakes for use as a rental cabin. Its current owners, Larry and Sue Carrick, have extensively remodeled the cottage, adding multiple new living spaces around the original tiny cabin. However, if you look carefully from the rear, the outline of the Julia B. can still be detected.

Another factor that played a role in the naming of summer cottages was color. Most typically, the color was green, which is not all that surprising given the geographical setting. The earliest cabin in the grouping was Green Gables, a residence that both moved and grew. In its initial incarnation, it was constructed as a small New England saltbox-style residence located on eastern shoreline of Bryant's Bay, facing west towards the island. It was ultimately located behind a much larger cottage, constructed in 1904, that belonged to Colonel Charles and Hannah Bogardus, the son-in-law and daughter of Pellston founder William Pells. Green Gables had been one of three buildings constructed on Bogardus Point. In the earliest available photograph, taken during the summer of 1907, the unpainted cottage sported a small front porch held up by birch tree support posts, with matching birch railings. On the swing next to the cottage sits a very young Charles Zipf, son of Colonel Bogardus's daughter Maria and her husband Charles Zipf, Sr. The Zipfs moved their cottage over the ice the following winter to its current location on Bryant Road, where it acquired a coat of green paint, several new rooms, a new porch, and, at some point, a garage. Sold by Dr. Charles Zipf, Jr. to Hiram and Jessie Warner in 1965, it now belongs to their son Don Warner and his wife Marcia. The Bogardus family had inherited large tracts of untimbered land east of Pellston and around the lake, earning substantial sums from the end product, the raw lumber used to build many structures in the Midwest. Much of their timber passed through the Tindle and Jackson Sawmill, located in nearby Pellston. The head sawyer at that mill was Erasmus Warner, the grandfather of the current owner, Don Warner.

A few years thereafter, this time on the north shore on Nuttings Bay, was the new cabin of the Charles Nutting family, which was built in 1912. Named The Green Cottage due to the color of its paint, this cottage is now approaching its centennial summer, which will undoubtedly be celebrated in 2012 by multiple generations of the Nutting family.

The color green also figured prominently in the name ascribed to her new family cottage by Jody Lighthammer as the result of her particularly arduous first trip during the summer of 1972 in the family station wagon filled with six children, five of whom were Lighthammers, two large Golden Retrievers, and assorted household goods necessary for the new purchasers that summer. The trip had been punctuated by an accident in Bay City that necessitated the use of a different car, which was delivered by husband Leo. While addressing the issue of what to name the cottage Jody, nearing the end of that initial trip, announced, "The cottage is green -- you are driving me crackers -- so we will

call it --- Green Crackers.” Whether or not the name is still in use is not clear, but the exasperation that occasioned the selection of that name can be shared by anyone who has made an extended trip in a smallish vehicle with numerous children and dogs.

Two of the rental cabins in “Timberlane” also fit neatly into this category: The White Birch and The Yellow Birch, both of which were painted and re-painted to match their chosen names through the years.....until several years ago, that is. From time to time, an owner may grow weary of some particular cabin color, but few of us would actually change it where a cabin name memorializing that color is involved. However, it came to pass when engaging in a massive remodeling project that the Dunlops, the current owners of both cabins, decided that they liked brown and blue so much better than the yellow they had been living with for over 20 years. The changes in color were readily accomplished --- the real issue was what to do about the name once the new color scheme was adopted. Their solution was a clever one.....the “new” cabin now bears a sign over its brown and blue rear entryway that reads, Ole Yeller, an homage to the Disney movie from some years back as well as to the cottage’s former color.

In other instances, the owners of Douglas Lake cottages have chosen to incorporate the name of their home state or city when selecting a name for their newly built or acquired cabin.....a pattern followed by three such summer residences on/near Bentley Point on Douglas Lake’s northern shore.

The first of this series was Kentucky Cottage, built in 1901 by Charles Graham and used by three generations of Grahams before it was finally sold by Aggie Graham Vogt, the widow of grandson Emery Graham, Jr. in roughly 2000. This Louisville family named their cottage for their home state of Kentucky, spelled out in large block letters affixed to the second story, over the front porch. Since the new owner, Sandy Ruffini, hales from southeast Michigan, however, that name is no longer in current use.

A similar fate has occurred with a neighboring cabin belonging to the Colby/Fangman family, located just around the bend on Bentley Point. The original cottage was built in 1888 by the Hill family, one of two cabins on adjoining lots. In 1917, when the Hills decided to seek out a new summer home on a lake with “better fishing,” both cottages were sold -- one to Fred Colby, from New Albany, Indiana, and the second to the Todd family next door. Fred and his son John (Sue Colby Fangman’s father) named their new cabin The Indiana Cottage, following the pattern established by their friends the Grahams. Through the years, despite small changes, this cabin bears a remarkable resemblance to the original structure. Equally interesting was the old boathouse that came with the cottage, a rather primitively executed structure that was originally situated immediately adjacent to the cabin’s side/rear wall, not all that far from the water’s edge. What is interesting about the boathouse is that it is structurally similar to the equally primitive two-story structure of the original Bryant Resort Hotel that was initially built on the high ground of the Bentley Point Bluff according to the plat map signed and approved in 1899. On that same plat map is shown an existing boathouse located in approximately the same location as the old Colby boathouse, raising that possibility that it had once been part of the original Bryant Hotel complex. In any event, as with its neighbor The

Kentucky Cottage, the current owners of The Indiana Cottage now live directly across the Ohio River from New Albany, Indiana and make their home in Louisville, Kentucky, as do their daughter Mindy Masterson, their son-in-law Billy, and two grandsons.

The third geographically named cabin in the sequence is The Louis-Villa, built in 1926 on the highest ground on Bentley Point by Clarence Mercke, who likewise hailed from Louisville, Kentucky. According to the 1899 plat map of Bentley Point, as reinforced by the Mercke family history, their new cabin appears to have been built on the foundation of an earlier structure, which apparently was the original Bryant Hotel and which reportedly had burned to the ground around 1910, after being sold to a Mr. Farnsworth. Successive generations of the Mercke family have called The Louis-Villa home, including Clarence's sons Evans and Charles Mercke, grandchildren Allen and Mariellen Mercke, Allen's wife Laurie, and their children. [After his marriage to Louise Fleming, whose parents owned a cottage further west near the site of the former Ingleside Inn, Evans Mercke, along with his wife and their three children spent their summers in the Fleming Cottage, currently owned by daughter Jeanie Lou Mercke Eberhardt and her husband Tommy Eberhardt.]

Yet another group of cottage names reflect a touch of whimsy and a sense of humor sometimes associated with lakeside residences of the era. The earliest of this group is The Pine-Ear, an old-style New England Saltbox cottage located on the south shore of the lake, east of the island, on the lot now belonging to the McLouth family. In an interview conducted some years ago, Pat McLouth, whose mother-in-law was Erasmus Warner's daughter Carrie, knew a good deal of the cottage's history given the Warner family's close association with the logging industry around the turn of the 20th century. According to an article in the "Pellston Journal" published in December of 1903, Colonel Bogardus (and his predecessors William Pells, founder of Pellston, and William's son Edgar) owned more pine timber than any other interest in Cheboygan, Emmet, or in any other nearby county and was at that time operating three lumber camps, including one at Douglas Lake. Pat McLouth related that The Pine-Ear (a play on words for the word Pioneer as well as for the main targeted trees of the lumbering industry, the majestic white pine) had been built on the shore of Douglas Lake as a cookhouse and a dorm sleeper for loggers working around the lake in the 1880s, making it one of the earliest residential buildings along the shoreline. In the off season (since the timbering was primarily a winter activity), it had served as a summer rental through at least 1914 according to family records. It was later acquired by Carrie Warner McLouth, daughter of the head sawyer at the Tindle and Jackson Sawmill, and her husband Louis McLouth. The Pine-Ear was torn down some years ago to make way for a remodeling project involving a second McLouth cabin located on the same lot.

To the immediate west of that cottage is another older frame cottage bearing the name The Windblew Inn, as is proudly announced by the painted sign hanging on the front porch. That name was given to it by former owners Dick and Grace Hafefeld, who lived there from the 1930s until its sale to Hiram Warner and his wife Jessie in 1954 by Dick's widow Grace. Locals have described him as an avid fisherman who spent many an hour on the lake along side fellow fishing buddies and neighbors Derby Green, Eddie

Morek, and Buzz Holtby. The current owners are Judy Warner Greubel (yet another granddaughter of Erasmus Warner) and her husband Ray. Although the cabin is still in use, the name is not.

The Dew Drop Inn, located in Silver Strand, likewise dates from that same era. The cabin, built in the 1920s and one of the earlier ones constructed along the western end of the lake, was acquired and named by Wally Nows parents in 1936. The cabin continued to be identified by that name during its many years of use by members of the Nows family until its sale in the 1990s. Its current owner is Donald Johnson.

The Hornets' Nest was a three-room cedar log cabin built by two Ojibway brothers from Levering in 1925 for Julia Squibb, who was later to become John Bryant's second wife. That first summer, she and her two daughters, Marianne (age 9) and Ruth (age 12), plus foster son Elmer Cummins (age 15), were engaged in a "boisterous" conversation about what to name their new cottage when tempers flared among the three younger family members, who could not agree on any of the proffered choices. Elmer had been lobbying intensely to have it named The Pirates' Den and his two younger sisters were equally adamant as to their respective choices. The voices grew progressively louder and the wrangling continued until their exasperated mother finally shouted, "You sound just like a nest of hornets!" And, voila! The cabin had a name. The original Hornets' Nest burned down in the winter of 2006, with a new cedar log cabin arising from its ashes. New cabin, same old name. The current owner is Jan Huntley, Julia Squibb Bryant's grand-daughter.

Setangababit (sit and gab a bit) was the name given to the white frame cottage on the opposite side of the public boat ramp located next to the Douglas Lake Bar and Steakhouse. The cabin was so named by owner Samuel Sipe, who operated the Douglas Lake Boat Line and also rented cottages, boats and motors and sold "bait of all kinds." The cottage's name was proudly displayed from a large painted sign hanging above and next to a long wooden bench designed for relaxing and friendly chatter. One of my favorite early pictures is of Sammy and his wife Minnie (with their dog sitting contentedly between them) on that bench one bright summer's morning. Sammy's second wife was Cecil, who was Joe Cooper's mother. In later years, the cabin was acquired by Sammy's step-son Joe Cooper, who ran a similar business from the premises and who helped to build local cottages, including my own out on the island in the mid-1950s. When his arthritis gradually overtook him, Joe sold most of his rental cottages to new owners. The original residence and an adjacent rental cabin now belong to Bob and Kathy Watz.

Occasionally, a cabin has been given a name that recognizes the original inhabitants of this region. A cottage that clearly reflects that trend is The Cree Lodge, which is located on the point of the mainland where the sandbar stretching towards the island has its beginning. Initially a much smaller green frame cottage, it was built in the 1930s by Charles Granice, who along with his two daughters Viola and Vera hailed from the small northern Indiana town of Wolcottville. According to Jim Neuman, an early arrival on the south shore who also had lived in Wolcottville, Mr. Granice operated a "fur house",

handling trappers' furs during that era, which may have been how he had come into contact with the Lake. In any event, the cottage eventually came to belong to his daughter Vera, an avid bridge player with whom my mother and grandmother spent many an evening playing cards while I watched and snoozed from the sidelines. I have a distinct memory of Vera telling me that the cabin was so named by her father to honor some of her ancestors, who were Cree Indians. In later years, the cottage was sold to John and Betty Hartman, whose daughter Sarah inherited it a few years ago.

And when the Beechlers (John and Martha) built their new cottage in the Northwoods Subdivision on the site of the old North Woods Camps in 1989/1990, they decided to give it a Native American name that would be a translation of the general terrain upon which their cabin had been built: a "Pine Point." After approaching a native Odawa speaker, however, they discovered that there was no direct translation for that choice. Instead, they chose the closest available option, which was Shen Gwah Ko Kee, meaning "Pine Land."

The last entry in this article describes a naming choice that seemingly reflects the hopes and aspirations of the individual making that choice. The landowner was the Reverend James Inglis and the name he selected for the village he created and, still later, the Inn that he constructed around the turn of the twentieth century was Ingleside. The name was derived from the Scottish Gaelic word "aingéal," which meant fire. In time, however, it also came to mean a fireplace or a hearth. Hence, an "Ingleside" literally translates as "a fireside," thus conjuring up an image of warmth and welcome. ...a totally appropriate name for the community he had hoped to create.

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NOTE TO READERS: the information contained in this article (the first part of a two-part series) was gleaned from written and oral histories, from the Internet, from newspaper archives, from interviews conducted over the past 12 years, and from general information gleaned from friends and neighbors over the years. As such, there are bound to be some misunderstood facts, some incorrect dates, and some outright mistakes. Please contact me to let me know what needs to be amended or corrected so that I can do so. You can reach me at the e-mail address found in the Douglas Lake Improvement Association Directory. Additionally, if your cottage does or did have a name and was not included in this piece, an e-mail with the name and a brief history of the cottage and its owners should remedy the situation.