LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION

HISTORY SERIES No. 2

SETTLERS

The earliest known plat map of Long Lake is dated 1876 (below). It shows five primary properties on the Long Lake shores: Wilson on the northwest, Button on the north and northeast; Bartelson on the southeast; Kimball along the south-central shoreline, and Coats on the southwest shoreline. This document provides an account of several of these early settlers.

1908 photo of Coats cabin looking Eastward toward Long Lake

Coats/Mumbrue/Wilson Family History – In 1852, Edmund Coats, his son Lester and daughter Jane homesteaded 130 acres on the West and southwest shores of Long Lake. Edmund's wife Catherine, decided to stay back in Pennsylvania. The father and children built a small cabin where they lived for the first four years. The property consisted of approximately 0.4 miles of shoreline and extended from N6492 County Road W (what once was known as Mumbrue's Landing) to the Springwater-Saxeville town line on South Long Lake Road. This area became known as the Coats farm.

Edmund Coats' sister, Hannah, and her husband Minor homesteaded 160 acres along the north-

***Attribution**: The information presented herein is based largely on the work prepared by one-time resident Joan Laabs and published in the Long Lake cookbook in 2015. Where available, additional information has been added to the original account. Families with descendants still living in the Long Lake area provided detailed historical information to Joan Laabs for this record: Bartleson/Van Airsdale, Coats/Mumbrue, and Wilson/Simonson.*

Vintage wagon on site of original Wilson barn and farmhouse along County Road W.

west section of the lake, which became known as the Wilson Farm. Wilson's name is etched in history by the name of the road now located along the northwest bay.

A Wilson farmhouse and barn are still standing on a one-acre parcel in what is now known as N6618 County Road W. One of the Wilson's old wooden wagons stands proudly out front as a link to the earlier times of the settlers. The wagon is a familiar landmark for those coming to visit, and a sure sign that in minutes they will reach the shores of beautiful Long Lake.

In 1856, the Coats' built a two-story log home. The cabin's loft served as the first Community School in the Long Lake area. The first teacher was Margaret Wilson. Edmund's daughter, Jane, and her husband F.W. Scranton also built a small 400 square foot cabin on the Coats land. Edmund passed away in 1881.

Edmund's son George, and his wife Nancy, moved from New York to the Coats cabin in 1893. They had two daughters, Catherine and Dora. In 1897, George and Nancy moved to Saxeville where George ran a livery stable and dray business. During these years the lakeside property transferred to George's brother, Lester. A barn, chicken coop and garage machine shed were added to the property.

In 1905 George and Nancy Coat's youngest daughter Dora, married Junior Mumbrue. The elder Mumbrue had a farm on County Road E near the intersection with North Long Lake Road. Several Mumbrue ancestors are buried at Cedar Lake Cemetery near Cedar Lake School on County Road E.

Junior and Dora lived in Saxeville for several years. Their oldest son Harmon Mumbrue was born in Saxeville on October 18, 1906. In 1919, Junior and Dora built a new, larger two-story home where they raised Harmon and his three younger siblings George, Carol (mother of Bruce Stevens) and Fern.

In 1929, Harmon Mumbrue married Marion Robbins who was from Amherst. Harmon and Marion lived in Saxeville for several years before they rented the duplex home across the road from the two-story home built by Junior and Dora. After Junior's death Dora remained in the home for another 20 years. Dora Coats Mumbrue, having moved to Long Lake at age 10, spent over 80 years of her life at Long Lake and Saxeville before she passed away in 1976.

In 1935 the Coats' log home, originally built in 1856, was razed. That was not only the end of a significant historical building, but the forerunner to even more changes after World War II. As the demand for lakefront cottages and homes grew, much of the Coats' property was sold.

The Wilson's also sold off their extensive property along the northwest bay starting in the 1950's. Wilson Road was ultimately built to access the lakeside properties, but interestingly does not connect to the site of the original homestead.

Among the most memorable landmarks in the lineage of Long Lake's original settlers is the store that Harman and Marian Mumbrue built on the Coats property that they named "Mumbrue's Landing". They operated the store from 1957 until 1972.

In the years 1959 to 1961, the Coats' tillable land was planted with norway and white pine. The forested land was later sold to Jim Cervinka. However, Dora's original home and 19 acres are still owned by the family.

There have been six generations of the Coats and Mumbrue families living on Long Lake. Along

with the Wilson's they are an integral part of the history and settlement of the area.

Bartleson/Van Airsdale – When Peter Quick Van Airsdale settled just north of Saxeville in 1849, a Native American village and mounds were located on the north side of Long Lake and the southeast side of the lake had the necessary flint for arrowheads. The early reports include numerous accounts of encounters with natives in the area.

In 1854, George Bartleson Sr. arrived from Denmark and purchased 1200 acres between Long Lake and Saxeville, which he divided between his three sons. George Jr. received 520 acres on the South Side of the lake. His farm extended along the southeast shore and south beyond Highway TT. The original Bartleson farmhouse still stands on TT and has been continually occupied since 1855. George farmed the land, raised cattle, and grazed sheep along the banks of the lake. The Bartleson school which later became known as the Oakdale School, functioned as a school from 1854 until 1957.

George told stories of marauding bands of men that would come through the area and camp on the banks of Long Lake pilfering from the farmers. In 1910, thieves stole his daughter Charlotte's dog and George followed them, musket in hand and took the dog back.

In the 1930s, Charlotte Bartleson married Erwin Van Airsdale, and for many years , wrote about the area's history and current events for local newspapers. She became a noted historian for Long Lake and Saxeville. Charlotte reported on family lineage, historic buildings and local businesses. In 1925, she graduated from Lawrence University with a degree in teaching.

Flint arrowheads typical of ones made by Menominee Natives on the shores of Long Lake.

Charlotte Van Airsdale

Among her reports was a colorful description of one early Long Lake resort, Puddy's Lodge, quoted in the Saxeville Sesquicentennial Times. *"Anna Inda and Fred Puddy married in 1927 and lived in an eleven-room home on 64 acres on the south side of Long Lake. It was Anna's love of baking and entertaining that led to the creation of Puddy's Lodge where guests could enjoy Anna's cooking, fish from shore or rent boats for $0.50 a day."*

In other accounts, Bert Nichols built the first cottage on the West End of the lake in 1928. Nichols purchased the land from the Wilson family, who also sold land to Gus Murbach, who then built a second cabin on the lake. During the 1930s these two early lakeshore settlers were joined by others who built summer homes. By 1939 there were 25 cottages, and among them several lodges. By 1946, the total had risen to 40. During the 1940's and early 1950's the South Shore of long lake was also home to a Camp Chikauna, which drew Chicagoland children to Wisconsin for summer fun.

Long Lake has continued to lure people to its pristine waters. As of 2023, there are over 240 summer cottages and year-round homes on her banks. ◆◆◆