

History of BATTLE POINT ASSOCIATION

BILL RICE,
Battle Point.

In the fall of 1925 there was a forest fire on the north side of the lake from where the Cataract River joins Duborne, east along the shore to Grenery Lake. By 1940 the timber had grown back. The firetower had been manned for only a few years and by 1940 it had collapsed.

Gilbert Barnes and George Gauthier were professors at Wesleyan Ohio University at Delaware, Ohio. They wanted land to build their cottages on and to start a summer resort Association for the Wesleyan faculty.

Mrs. Barnes, Gilberts wife, died in 1918 and Gilbert was left with his rather sickly son to take care of. In 1934 the Association bought more land - seventy acres for \$475. This extended their property around the the point to Abernot's Bay. In 1938 they bought an additional 60 acres which had been part of the Jensen Homestead.

Summer camps were rather expensive, so the "Absent-minded professor" of economics began his search for land.

Professor Barnes put an advertisement in the Sault Star for cottage land. He received many replies and being a professor of economics he plotted them on his map and chose Lake Duborne as his spot with little exploration of the lake. He and George Gauthier, the Athletic Director at Wesleyan, scouted the area in 1925 and employed George McArthur of Blind River as his agent to buy the land for a group of his colleagues at Wesleyan. Instead of McArthur acting in their behalf, he bought the eighty acres of land for himself. McArthur paid \$150 for the property and then sold it to the Wesleyan group for \$300. By 1926 Barnes had twenty-five of his colleagues interested in joining the Association.

They employed Paul Dufour, who had a farm on the lake, as contractor. John Gauvreau, George Doucette, and Mr. "My God" LeClair were carpenters who worked on building the cottages. Harry Godson, the forest ranger who worked at the firetower on the north shore of the lake, and Jack Gionette also helped out.