

SVENSK

Building the house 1915. [from Oiva Svensk. R.S.]

Father had an equity in a house in Toronto - 25 Nelson Street, the first house I remember living in. In the summer of '15 the house was sold. Father paid off the mortgage and settled up some debts around here. There was money left over so he planned on building a house.

The builders: Jack Aho Kapro Savela

In Waters he heard about these two men building pretty fair houses, doing good axe work. He found them out at Long Lake. After they finished there they came here. I think it must have been September. There was a contract price agreed on for the entire job. There was no time limit. They picked their own hours. They had room and board with us. We put them up in the cabin with us. They were sleeping in a sort of double bunk. I guess I was sleeping on the floor.

The tools: The fellows had one broadaxe between them and two rather small axes. They used our crosscut saw. They had a plane and a handsaw each one of them. They had a plumb and a level. They used a gauge - a metal thing - to make a scratch on the underside of each log to show the width of the groove they had to make there. They used a chalkline to mark where they were going to hew the faces of the logs. They would chalk up the line with a cake of soft chalk. They would stretch the line out tight. One of them would give it a snap and they would have a line marked on the log.

Boughten material: Father bought material at Evans. I suppose the men who were going to build the house advised him what would be needed.

4000 square feet of one inch rough lumber

2000 feet of V-joint for the ceilings

red cedar shingles

oakum to stuff the chinks between the logs (oakum came in fifty pound bales)

windows - The sashes were bought unglazed. Father bought two cases of glass and a pail of putty. It was all 12" x 24" panes at that time. A case was about 50 panes.

doors: The two west doors, one upstairs and one downstairs had glass windows about 24" x 32" (Those doors are now in Oiva's newer part of the house.) The paneled wooden doors used between rooms, 30" wide, first grade, cost \$2.50 apiece (three upstairs, four downstairs).

There was a carload of stuff came out to Whitefish by C.P.R. We hauled the stuff down to the river at Patry's place and loaded it on our raft. Everything but the flooring went on one raft load. The red cedar shingles and the rough lumber were loaded on first. The other stuff was piled on top. The lower part of the load submerged. We were on top of the pile. We rowed it with kind of big oars.

We bought the hardwood flooring all the way home by wagon - it took more than one load.

Logs from the land.

Aho and Savela selected the logs and cut them. If they could get it, they used "hongga" - dry pine. It was better to work with because it was straighter. They used a lot of cedar too.

They got most of the cedar logs from the low ground south and east of the bay. There was a trail through there, you know. That's the way we traveled then. There was a lot of cedar on the low ground to the north of the night pasture and on as far as the Buttercup field.