

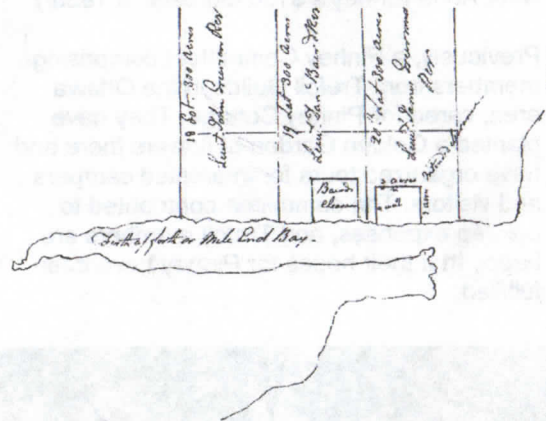


Located at Crown Point in Torbolton, Pinhey Cottage is an early example of pioneer life in the Ottawa Valley. Pinhey Cottage is a one-and-a-half storey rectangular structure with a gable roof, built of hand-hewn logs with notched corners, constructed in the 1820s. It is typical of log structures built during the 19th century throughout the area that became the province of Ontario. The building was renewed in the 1930s and 1970s but its heritage character remains.

Pinhey Cottage - A Brief History

Captain James Grierson of the Royal Navy came to the area in May of 1824 upon receiving a land grant in Torbolton as compensation for serving the British in the War of 1812. He and the other first settlers would have entered the township in 1824 by way of the Ottawa (then called the Grand) River and would have had to make a clearing on their lot before they could build a home and move their family there. No roads existed in the township--except maybe a "lumber road" over which a free-roving lumberer would have drawn logs to the water's edge.

A pictorial drawing made in 1823 by Lt. James Grierson, R.N., shows Lt. Daniel Baird's "clearing" on his Lot 19, Concession 4, on the shore of Buckham's Bay West. This pictorial drawing also shows that Lt. James Grierson intended to clear a 9-acre site on his adjoining Lot 20, Concession 4, also on the same shore of Buckham's Bay West.¹²



Evidence can also be found that in 1824 Lt. John Grierson, R.N., built a log shanty on Lot 23, Concession 4, at today's Crown Point. Since this Crown Reserve lot had been occupied earlier by various squatters, it is most likely that he used the log house first as a lumber shanty. This log house, now called "Pinhey Cottage" and used by the Girl Guides, was moved from Crown Point to its present site at Camp Woolsey, the adjoining lot.

Pinhey Cottage was almost lost in the 1930's. It was at this time (1933-35), that Mrs. E. C. Woolsey, then President of the Girl Guide Local

Association, urged the Guides to purchase the 100-acre property at Crown Point which had been part of the Grierson land grant and was now up for sale. The site was thought ideal for a Guide Camp by Mrs. Woolsey, whose own cottage property near-by had been a popular camping spot for local Ottawa Guides.

The old log cabin on the new camp property had been considered unsafe and off-limits to early campers at Woolsey, who were trying out the spot as early as 1937. Of course the Guides immediately decided it was haunted, which meant that while the camp officers called it the "log cottage", the Guides called it the "haunted house", which, after all, is something no camp should be without! Because the cottage was in such a state of disrepair a decision had to be made about its future.

A Local Association member, its Treasurer Anna Pinhey, who had been born at nearby Pinhey's Point and loved the history of the old cottage, could not stand to see it torn down. She had donated \$500 towards the purchase of the property and asked that \$150 of this be spent in making the cabin livable again. So a concrete foundation was put in, the logs re-chinked, the partitions of three rooms downstairs removed to make one large room, a new floor laid, stairs built to the upper level to replace a trap-door and ladder, the roof shingled, a new chimney built, and new windows, door and shutters installed ... And all was completed in time for the 1939 official opening of Camp when Lady Campbell, wife of the then acting British High Commissioner Sir Gerald Campbell, christened "the charming log cabin, Pinhey Cottage," in Miss Pinhey's honour.

Throughout her life, Miss Pinhey continued to donate money for the cabin's upkeep and suggested it become the much needed camp hospital. Miss Pinhey's idea that Pinhey Cottage would make a good hospital was accepted, but as time went by it became more obvious that the building was not suitable. Department of Health regulations stipulated that such a building must have an indoor toilet, a source of hot water and a separate "admissions" room. Pinhey could not provide these amenities, and there was a further problem. The copious amounts of whitewash, used to give a more sanitary appearance to the walls, and generally brighten up the interior, had a distressing propensity for flaking off, and falling into food and "sterile" dressings. Needless to say, this situation was found to be unacceptable by the Health Inspector, so consideration was given to the building of a more suitable infirmary. In 1957, a hospital building with indoor plumbing was built at Woolsey to better serve the needs of the growing camp and to comply with new camp health standards.

Pinhey was not abandoned. It became the home of the waterfront staff, was used by Rangers for winter camping, and at one time it was the residence of the camp Guard, his dog "and the mice". It was noted at the time that the Guard spent his evenings visiting around the various camp sites, until it was time to do his night-time prowling.

Later, in 1972, Pinhey was turned over to the Trefoil Guild. It was then that the 1st Ottawa Area Trefoil Guild of retired Guides and Guiders began a determined effort to preserve Pinhey Cottage as a slice of our pioneer past. Guild members rolled up their sleeves to scrape off layers of whitewash (acquired during

Pinhey's hospital career) to return the interior log walls to their original appearance. Through a Wintario Grant and the expert help of log cabin restorer Gerald H. White with the architectural class at Algonquin College, the cabin has again been made structurally sound. The interior has since been refinished and refurnished in an appropriate farm house fashion and the roof and door replaced. (Through cookie selling and bazaars the Guilds have raised more than \$5,000 to accomplish what Anna Pinhey's \$150 did back in 1938!)

Previously, a Pinhey Committee, comprising members from Trefoil Guilds in the Ottawa area, cared for Pinhey Cottage. They have planted a Golden Garden of flowers there and have organized tours for interested campers and visitors. The committee contributed to upkeep expenses, and Trefoil members are happy that their hopes for Pinhey have been fulfilled.

Early photos of Pinhey Cottage show it situated in a grassy field with the Ottawa River and Gatineau Hills visible in the distance behind it. Today, Pinhey has a forest of trees enclosing it. In fact, the camp property has changed dramatically since the 1930's -- from open sandy fields to a pine forest (a wooded land much as it must have looked in those early days of settlement) for the Guides have planted thousands of trees over the years.

Shortly after camping began at Woolsey, the first 1,000 pine trees were put in around the camp gate and along the fences. Major Woolsey, Hoyes Lloyd and a forester, Mr. Steele, supervised the first planting of trees which were donated by the Ontario Forestry Department at Kemptville. Many more pines and firs have been added since then to create about Pinhey Cottage and Camp Woolsey this "miracle of trees".

