

Peninsula Lake Association

Penlake's Missionary Cottages

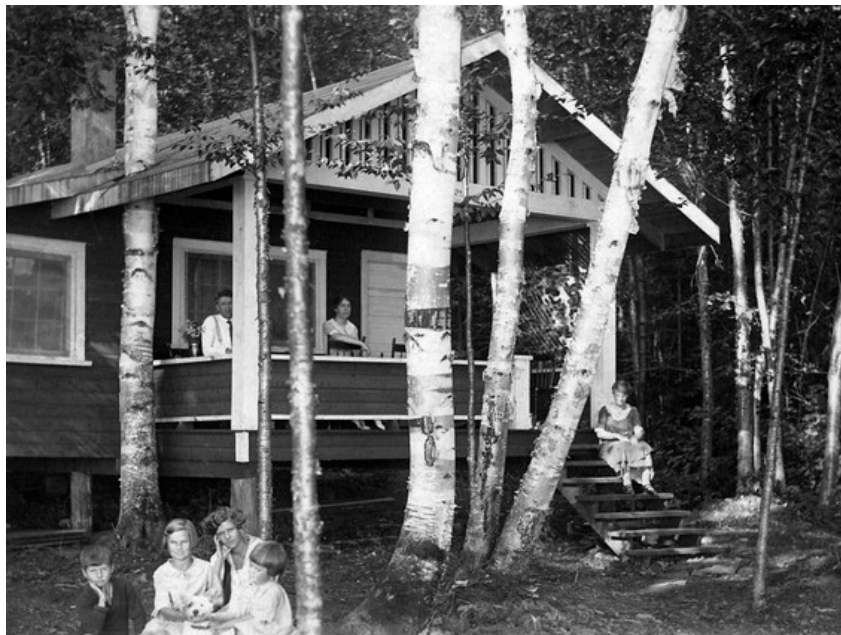
by Janet Matthews and Tony Moffat

F.W. Moffat, son of original Penlaker T.L. Moffat, was a great philanthropist who supported many theology and medical students as well as the Presbyterian Church. Over the years F.W. visited numerous countries: India, China and Africa and became interested in missionary outreach. This was also important to Moffats Ltd. worldwide. Wishing to add to the comfort of Canadian missionaries, he designed and shipped, free of charge, stoves that he had specially made for the purpose. These products were among the first manufactured goods to be introduced into a dozen foreign countries. F.W. inherited his father's (T.L. Sr.) gift of craftsmanship and inventiveness. He invented electric and gas hot water systems, electric heaters, toasters, the vacuflow system among others. He made hundreds of gadgets, many reserved just for the use of his family and friends.

F.W. took a personal interest in the lives of the missionaries and their families, and in 1915 purchased land on Springsyde shore. He erected three small cottages, placing them at the disposal of missionaries on furlough during the summer. These cottages became known as the missionary cottages and were named 'Korea', 'China' and 'India'. They have all since changed owners, but the missionary families who once stayed there have not forgotten the pleasure of those long-ago summers. In the early days, these families had to arrive by Algonquin steamer from Huntsville.

Today among the missionary cottages, China has been torn down and replaced by a larger structure. India is still standing and being used, more or less as it was as a small, box-shaped, two-storey cottage. Korea was taken over in the late 1930's by Bryce Moffat and is owned to this day by his son, Tony Moffat. They still draw water from the lake with a 1960's plumbing system and Korea remains a summer cottage without central heating beyond a wonderful and unique wood stove, fabricated by F.W. Moffat. The cottage gained Heritage status in 2008.

One summer, my father, Robert Douglas Moffat befriended David Graham, son of a missionary family from India who stayed at one of these cottages. Their friendship endured and when my father was 29, David was working with Acres Engineering building a hydro electric dam near Peshawar, Pakistan. The project required a Head of School for the many children of the Canadian engineers and David suggested Dad apply. In 1956 my father took our family to



The missionary cottage 1925 - Korea



The missionary cottage - India current owners Betsy and Julian Smith

Pakistan to live for two years. So these missionary cottages affected our life through association with the people they served!
with excerpts from the Penlake books