

## ***My Home Away From Home***

There are not many places in the world that I know of that are quite like my grandparents summer cottage. It is way up north, far away from the hot and built up beaches of Florida and hours away from the crowded Jersey Shore, in the quiet and beautiful state of Connecticut. We call it the Sandcastle, and it acts as a meeting place for my extended family. There is one thing that makes the cottage stand out from all the other surrounding cottages, the view. It is the ideal Connecticut scene, with its clean white sand, 5 Adirondack chairs patiently awaiting to offer someone a seat, a small row boat, for off shore adventuring, and of course the dock, its old rickety planks have managed to with hold storm after storm and every summer it leads me right back to the water.

The other aspect of the cottage that makes it special is the history that is behind it. The plot of land that the cottage sits upon today and many surrounding acres was first entered as a family farm in the 1700's. The family up until the early 1900's, when sadly the next heir to the farm, George Denison passed away, upheld this farm. His three daughters inherited this long tract of land, but had to sell most of it to a developer in order to make ends meet, however ½ of an acre still remained in the family, and that ½ acre is exactly where the cottage stands today. The family constructed a day house, propped up by stilts, overlooking the long Island sound. For many years this little cottage acted as the day house and summer cottage. However in 1938 all of this changed with the striking of the Great Hurricane of 1938. The winds were so great it ripped the waterfront cottage to shreds, and a neighboring cottage was even lifted off of its foundations and was moved almost a mile down the road. After the tragic storm had passed, remains of the once beautiful day cottage were found floating in the near by river and today the only parts of the old day cottage that remain are the stakes that once supported it, forever reminding us of the family's past. The sisters still kept the land, but never rebuilt, instead, two of the sisters sold their portion of the land to the third sister Mary, for a mere dollar. Now compare that to what land would go for today! Mary and her husband eventually rebuilt the house, which is actually the cottage that stands today, in 1951. When Mary died, the land was inherited by her three sons, but like the three sisters before, the two brothers sold their share of the land to the third, Lucious, who remained the sole owner until he sold the land to my grandfather in 1996. And here it is today, acting the same as it did back in the early 1900's, as a summer retreat for the Cody family. And it is my dream that one day I inherit the cottage and continue the history with my family so my grandchildren can have this special home away from home.