

# **FINNISH LOG CONSTRUCTION**

**“IF IT FITS-  
IT’S FINNISH “**

• **By Frank Eld-Founder**

• **Long Valley Preservation Society**

• **Roseberry, Idaho**



# 16TH CENTURY CABIN IN FINLAND



# Finns in Finland Finishing a Finnish Cabin

2 B



Painting by Akseli  
Gallen-Gallela early 20th century.



# VALLEY COUNTY MUSEUM

## ROSEBERRY, IDAHO



Est 1970, Roseberry Open Air Museum is operated by the Long Valley Preservation Society. The site is open year round and the 25 buildings are open summers.

A Heritage center was established for the preservation of Finnish buildings and culture.





# RESEARCH & RESTORATION



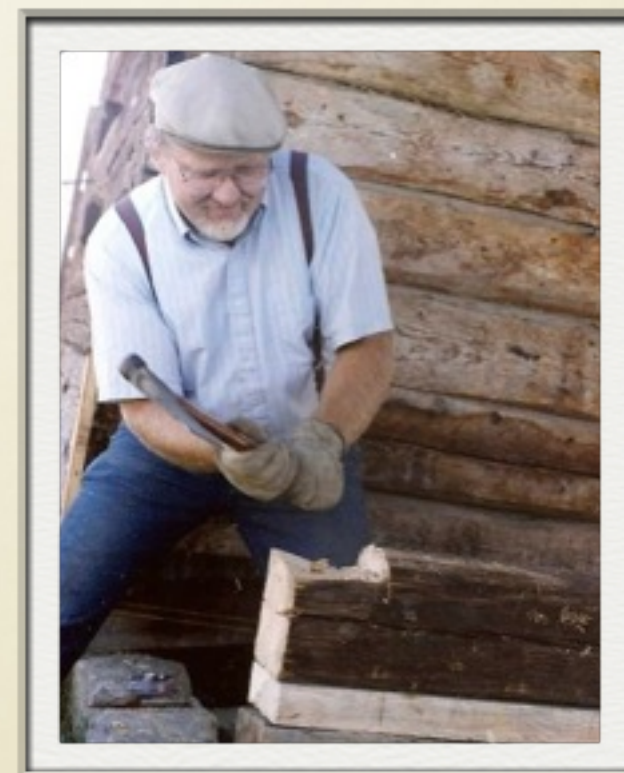
**Reassembling a 1912 Finnish hand hewn timber frame barn**



**The “Finnabego”  
Home away from Home.**



**Moving the 1904 Mahala Blacksmith Shop**



**Restoring logs on the Korvola Cabin**



# FINNISH HOMESTEAD WITH LOG BUILDINGS



THE FINNISH AMERICAN DREAM



# IF IT FITS-IT'S FINNISH!



Finland





# LOG BUILDING IN FINNISH HISTORY



The Finn, Axe in Hand, Hewing logs.







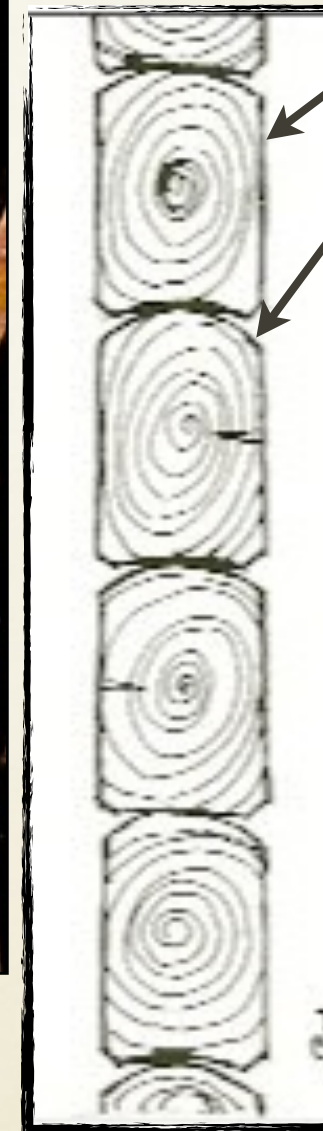
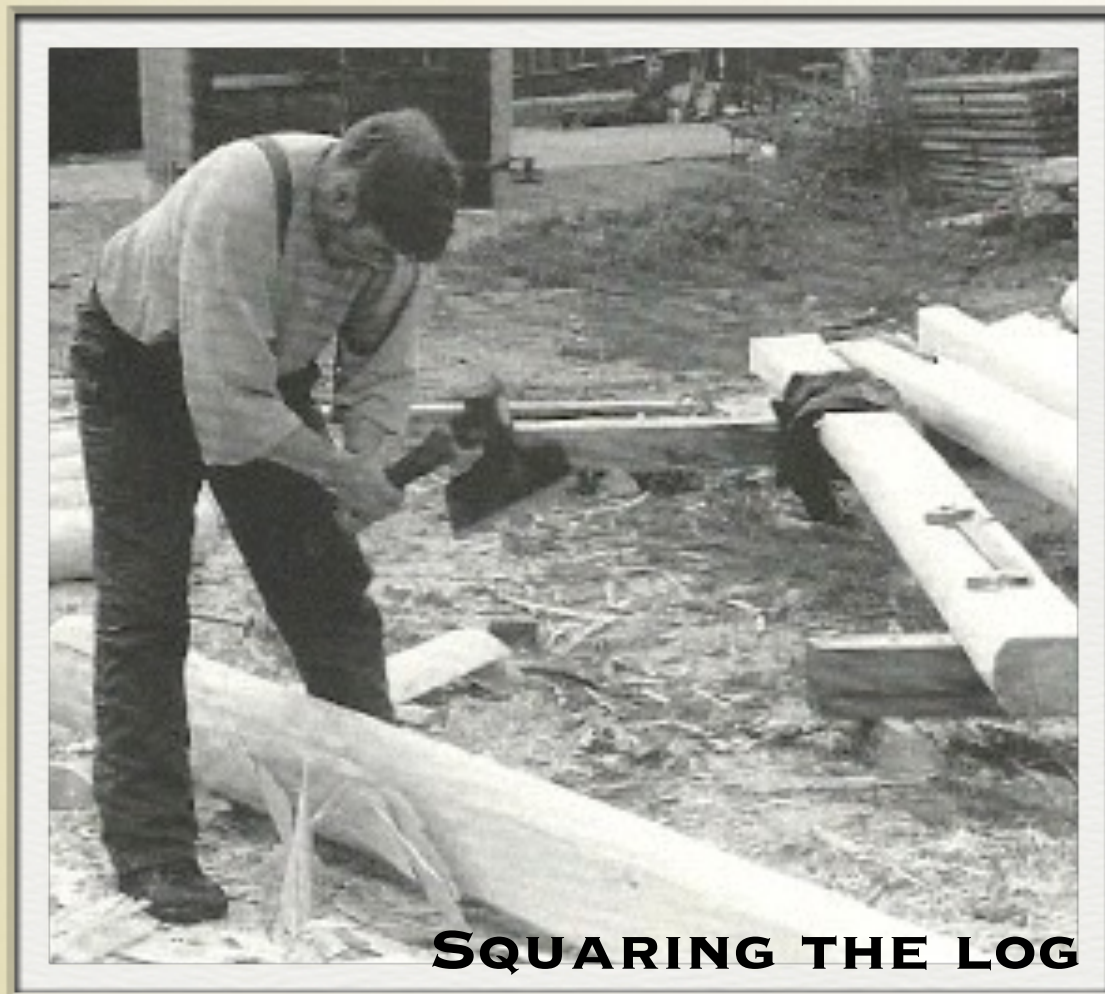
# THE FINN'S TOOLBOX



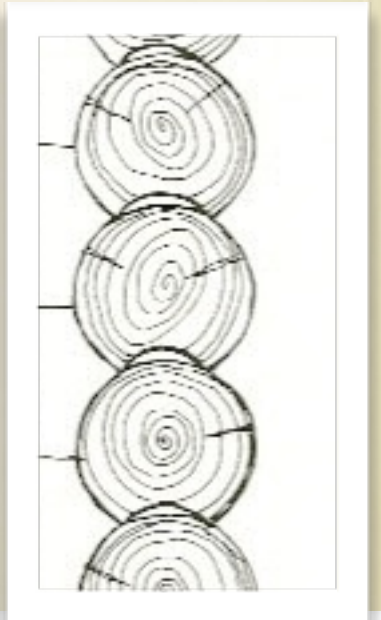


# FINNISH CONSTRUCTION

9



**Squared and fitted logs**



**Using the Vara for scribing the logs to fit.**



**The Peg and Moss**



**Round & fitted logs**



# IT'S "FINNISHED"

10





# KORVOLA HOMESTEAD

## ONE ROOM CABIN

11



Typical homestead cabin with one log room and a second of lumber. The log room was heated living space while the other was for storage.



The Korvola cabin was built by four Finnish bachelors who drew straws for it.



Before



Note the Dovetail corners



# SAMPELA HOMESTEAD

12

## TWO ROOM CABIN, 1 1/2 STORY



Built in 1902 and moved from the Sampela homestead. Note the unusual number of windows and double notched corners.



A two room (w/upstairs) cabin with a board partition wall (removed). Now used for meetings and gatherings at the Roseberry Museum. Eleven children were raised in this cabin.





# MAHALA HAY BARN

13



Round logs with spacing between were typically used for hay barns. The ventilation was to dry the hay. In Finland, each field had a hay shed.



A simple saddle notch was used on these buildings.





# MAHALA BLACKSMITH SHOP



Built in 1904 by the Mahala brothers.

Note the dovetail corners which have an additional notch.

The fit is extraordinary when you note the curve of the logs.





# SAUNAS

15



**Wargelin Sauna**

Built like a one room cabin, most saunas had a log room (for sauna) and a lumber room (for dressing).



**The Kangas Sauna**

Originally a savusauna and later converted to a stove.

The hole in the foundation for feeding the savusauna fire is still visible.

**Maki Sauna**

Built as a savusauna, it had a stove and pipe added later. The “smoke vent and cover and blackened walls attest to it early use.

















# FINNS IN OTHER PLACES



Wisconsin



Minnesota



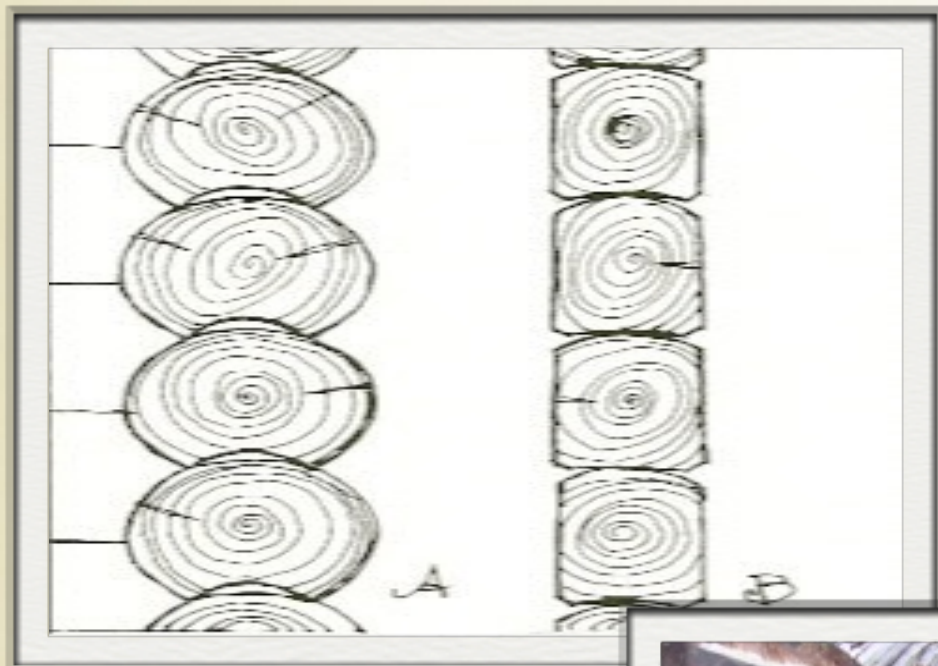
Michigan

Oregon





# BARNs

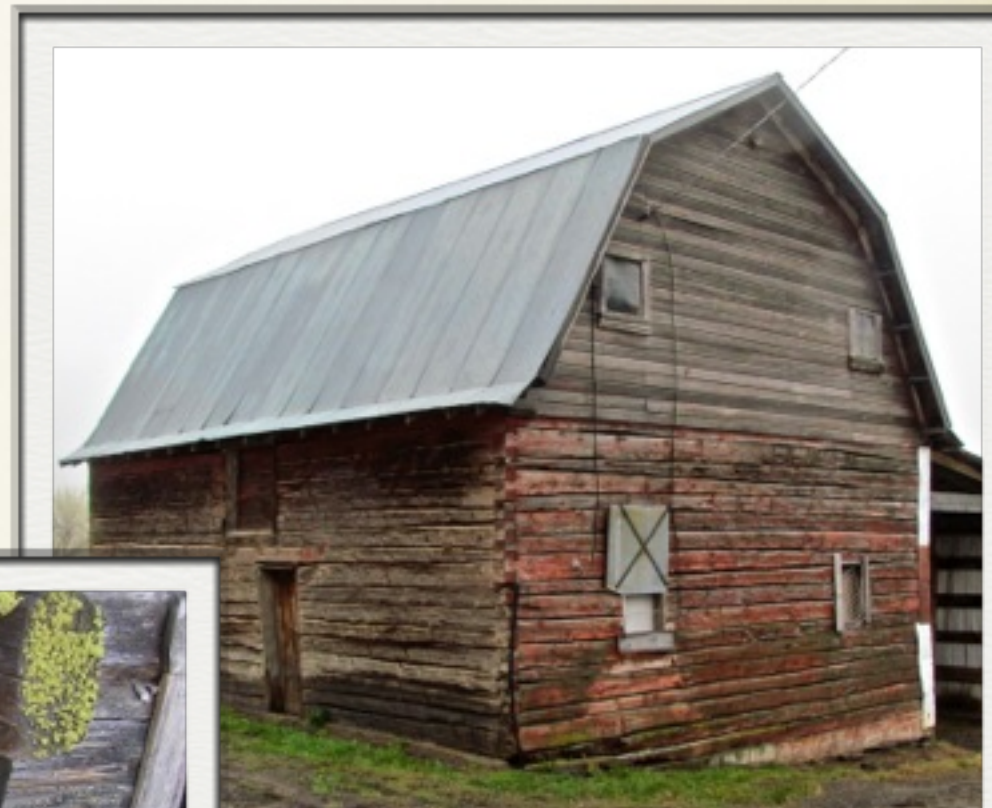


Idaho

Michigan



Montana



Minnesota





# SHEDS AND OUTBUILDINGS

## EVEN CHICKEN AND outhouses!



Minnesota

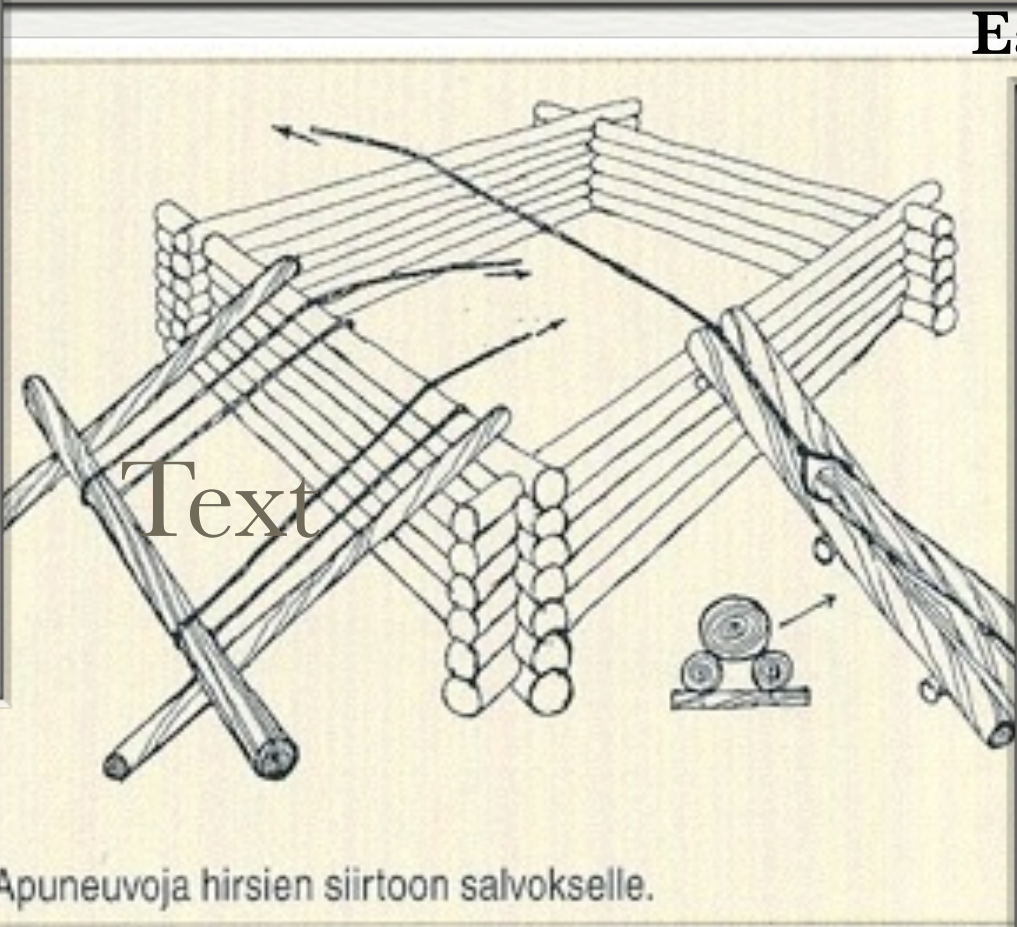
Michigan



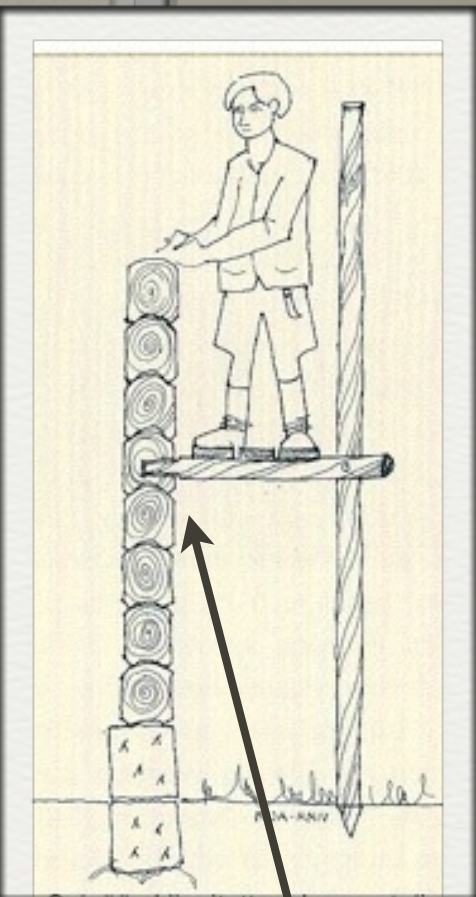


# BUILDING IN FINLAND

Typical log construction for centuries in Finland Same techniques were used here in America



Early scaffolding.



Hay shed





# LOG CHURCH IN FINLAND





# AMERICAN LOG CABINS IN IDAHO

Hundreds of cabins remain in the West



Typical American log construction using round logs with daubing and chinking between the log gaps.



# MONTANA FRENCH-CANADIAN LOG CONSTRUCTION, c. 1870



Beautiful hand hewn, dovetailed log work  
**Daubed and chinked, not scribed and fitted**





# EARLY PENNSYLVANIA- GERMAN LOG CONSTRUCTION

Late 1700's to  
early 1800's  
German  
construction of  
hewn logs with  
very wide gaps.



Note the  
chinking made  
of wood, rocks  
and plaster



Other examples of  
Pennsylvania log  
houses with similar  
construction.





# COLONIAL AMERICA FINNS

The first Finns in America came in the 1640's to the New Sweden Colony (today's NJ, Pa, De corners). They brought with them their craftsmanship in log building.



Hewn and scribed to fit





# NOTHNAGLE HOUSE

Considered to be the oldest Finnish cabin in America



Original corner fireplace



**SWEDISH/FINNISH? PLANK CABIN**

**SWEDISH/FINNISH? GRANARY**





# FROM COAST TO COAST FINNISH LOG BUILDINGS STAND AS MONUMENTS TO THE ART OF THESE CRAFTSMAN

