

# *History of St Germain*

*Article from the Vilas County News – Review*

In the early 1900's when forest settlers arrived to pursue occupations in logging, trapping and sawmill operating, the Vilas County Board decided to establish the town of Farmington on Jan. 31, 1907.

The town was built on 36 sections of land set aside from Eagle River and it was said the area would primarily be used for farming and agriculture—hence the original name “Farmington”.

The cutover lands were purchased at reasonable prices for farming. However, because the growing season was so short, the settlers gave up farming.

The rich scenery, good fishing and better roads attracted tourists, so the name changed to “Lakewood” and again on June 20, 1930 to “St. Germain”.

The statue of Chief St. Germain, a landmark of the area, is located near the information booth at the junction of highways 155 and 70. The name St. Germain spelled with an “e” dates back to a French soldier, Jean Francois St. Germain, who married an Indian maiden and settled with his wife's tribe in the picturesque wilderness. He served with the armed forced guard for fur traders until 1696 when a French government discontinued trading.

The name “St. Germain” has appeared many times in records as leaders among the Chippewa Indians. Beyond honoring these leaders, the statue commemorates all Indians who used the area as one of their favorite hunting and fishing spots, as they loved their forest retreat.

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