Maine Sporting Camp History on the Piscataquis River Tributaries, Part 3

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Chapter 5 — West from Milo on the Greenville Stage Road

Sports coming north from Bangor to Sebec village at the east end Sebec Lake between the 1820s and 1860s arrived in Milo village by stage.1 If they were on a stage headed north, then they transferred to a stage headed west. Depending on the time of day, they may have spent the night in Milo. With whom and where they spent the night in the village is unknown. J.E. Gould’s hotel, Gould’s Hotel, opened in the 1860s and remained the only hotel in town until 1913.

From 1869 to 1883 sports and tourists bound for Sebec Village boarded the Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad train in Bangor and either departed at a stop about a mile south of Milo Village or at South Sebec. At the Milo stop, Gould probably picked up some guests in a horse-drawn cart and brought them to his hotel. Early Milo guides, like C.S. Harris, W.L. Hobbs, Charles Randall, D. Harris, Will Crosier, Owen Chase, Frank Tibbetts, and A.D. Bumpo probably met others and took them to a destination.2 Travelers headed to Sebec Village departed at South Sebec where someone with a horse-drawn conveyance met them.

In 1883 the Milo stop became a junction when the B&A extended rail service north to Brownville and Katahdin Iron Works (KIW). By 1906 demand apparently exceeded what Gould’s hotel had to offer and the Stewart House opened at Milo Junction (Derby) with E.S. Daggett as proprietor, and in Milo, Walter E. Dillion opened the Dillion House in 1913, and in 1918 the American Thread Company built and managed the Atco Inn that served their company needs, housed permanent residents, and catered to transients. These four hotels were the only hotels to serve the two villages. Gould’s Hotel went through several proprietors and two name changes, Oriental House (c.1879) and Milo House (1902), before it closed c.1918. Similarly, the Stewart House had many proprietors and its name changed to the Piscataquis Hotel (c.1916) before it closed c.1940. ATCo sold its hotel in 1931 and its succeeding proprietors used the names: Milo Hotel and the New Milo Hotel, until it closed c.1961. The Dillion Inn (Dillion House) closed in 1977.

Sebec Lake

Sebec Village, the next town west of Milo and six miles farther up the Sebec River, was not on a road that followed the river.3 From Milo travelers had either a 10-mile stage ride due west to Sebec Corner and north to the village or a five-mile horse-drawn cart ride from the South Sebec station due north. Once the railroad reached the area the ease of accessibility to the village and points on the 12-mile long Sebec Lake made it an early destination for tourists. However, the community never developed as a rendezvous spot for sports and guides.

Given the village’s position at the foot of the lake, it quickly became one of the lake’s transportation hubs. By 1857 commerce was sufficient enough for G.E. Bryant and Thomas Keating to operate a ferry service by equipping an old ferryboat with a horse treadmill that turned the boat’s side paddlewheels. The boat provided transportation between Sebec Village at the east end of the lake and the mouth of Big Wilson Stream 12 miles down the lake, a four-hour trip. The boat ran during the summer months in support of blueberry picking and fishing around the lake. Eleven years later Captain

1 The Maine Register and the following books provided information on places to stay.

2 Guide lists appeared regularly in the Bangor and Aroostook publication In the Maine Woods and in the magazine The Maine Sportsman.

A.G. Crockett spent $5,000 to build and launch a new 20-horsepower steamer; 90 feet long, 24 feet wide, with six to eight staterooms, and a capacity of 500 people.\(^4\) In 1861 perhaps another steamboat plied the lake and had a capacity of 300 people and that reflected the popularity of spending a day on the lake. Ten years later the side-wheel steamer *Rippling Wave* was operating on the lake. Another early steamboat, the *Defiance*, ran from Sebec Village to Blethen’s Landing at about the mid-point of the lake, and on to the Lake House at the lake’s west end; a one-way ride was 25 cents. These and other motorized boats plied the lake for the next 75 years serving loggers, sports, and lake cabin owners.

The steamboats and the completion in 1869 of the Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad to South Sebec brought a considerable number of tourists to the village. Two years later in May 1871 Sebec Village had a hotel, Sebec Hotel, which O. Durgin operated through 1885, when F.A. Hall and J.N. Durgin took over until H.M. Richardson bought it in 1889 and ran it through at least 1903. In 1902 Captain Horace W. Atwood, who had been a lake steamboat captain and the state’s steamboat inspector, bought the now named Sebecco Lake House.\(^5\) He met his guests at the railroad station in South Sebec with a buckboard, was open year-round, and served guests until 1912. The hotel either reopened in the same building or another in 1916 with Marcus LaRoc as proprietor, until he sold to Roscoe P. Lamson in 1923. Lamson probably ran it for two years before he closed and someone tore it down. Its 20 rooms at $20 per week were generally full during the summers.

Another of the three primary access points to Sebec Lake was at its halfway point on the south shore at the mouth of Bog Brook. Blethen’s Landing became the lake’s access point for those coming from Dover and Foxcroft.\(^6\) By the time sports and tourists headed north through these communities, the stage line came on a direct line from Bangor. It was not until 1870 that the first

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\(^4\) *The Piscataquis Observer*, May 7, 1868.


\(^6\) Dover-Foxcroft history books and *The Maine Register* provided information.


train service reached Foxcroft from Bangor. Nineteen years later the Maine Central Railroad completed its line from Portland via Newport Junction to Dover.

Depending on the year and each line’s schedule, sports on their way to sporting camps in the Piscataquis River Valley, Sebec Lake, Lake Onawa, Long Pond, and others probably spent a night in one of the local Dover and Foxcroft hotels. From the earliest days someone in these communities, two individual towns separated by the river until they joined together in 1922, provided lodging for teamsters, stage drivers, travelers, loggers, and river drivers. Isaac Blethen built the first known hotel, Blethen House, in 1844 and his family and subsequent heirs managed it until 1935, when Eben G. Tielston purchased and ran it for four years before he sold to Arthur P. Stacy, who was the proprietor through at least 1947.

Between 1872 and 1930 the two towns had five other hotels. E. Sanford ran the American House for another ten years before it closed in 1882. H.N. Greeley operated an establishment for a year (1872) and James Cromptt operated another for five years, both ceasing operations after 1877. The Foxcroft Exchange, which opened in 1868 and whose ownership changed frequently, closed soon after 1905, but apparently reopened from 1913 to 1927, and someone demolished it in September 1930. The Dover House opened about 1888 with J.K. Robbins as proprietor, but then it experienced numerous ownership changes until it closed in 1917.

From these hotels it was about a four-mile buckboard ride to Blethen’s Landing, a landing that has always been a major access point. At the landing the Blethen family built a mill, established a farm and livery stable, and had a wharf where steamboats docked to load supplies needed at various points around the lake and to pickup lake travelers. Its proximity to Dover and Foxcroft meant teamsters could make a round trip in a day. The Blethen’s apparently sold to David Greeley in 1882 and the site became known as Greeley Landing. He brought more resi-
dents to the landing area when he constructed a sawmill along with a boardinghouse and school. The Blethen Farm became a place for people to stay, and much later became known as Log Lodge.

Some of the individuals residing in the Sebec Lake area realized how important good fishing was to the livelihood of those living in Maine. One of the first hatcheries in the State of Maine was on Ship Pond Stream at Bucks Cove on Sebec Lake from 1873–1876. The Sebec Landlocked Salmon Breeding Works was an egg-taking operation established by the United States Fisheries Commission and the states of Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. As early as 1883, members of the Piscataquis Fish and Game Protective Society (founded in 1881) were stocking trout.

By the 1890s the lake had become a popular destination for those in southern Maine and New England. The hotels at Sebec Village were busy. A number of private cottages built by wealthy families began to appear on the lake’s shore. For others, tenting on the lake became an enjoyable activity. Frank A. Jordan, a guide from Sebec, set up tenting campsites on islands and at other attractive shore locations by 1892 and they became known as Jordan’s Fishing Camps, which he might have run until they closed at his death in 1917. Jordan had a steamboat to ferry his guests and owners of the private camps, numbering 22 in 1908.

Witnessing these successes were the Packard and Earley families, who would each transform two early hotels which were primarily built as boarding houses for loggers and mill workers and rugged sports, but not families’ of sports and other tourists. In 1894 Packard bought the old Lake House at the mouth of Big Wilson Stream, and nine years later Earley bought the Willimantic Hotel, which was on the same stream not far above the lake.

The seven-room Lake House operated sporadically for perhaps as many as 29 to 35 years before the Packards bought it. In 1865 William Blethen and George Gilman of Dover either took over the Lake House or added to it or built a hotel and named it Lake House. Charles E. Crockett was the proprietor in 1883 and Captain A.G. Crockett and his wife Sarah assumed ownership in 1887. However, the house was little used between 1882 and 1889 and appears to have closed by 1894, when the Crockett sold to Burton Marlborough and Etta Packard (m. 1892).

Packard, a Searsport ship builder who liked to hunt and fish, knew the challenges he faced in attracting guests when he made the purchase. He moved to Willimantic to work in the spool mill, saw what he thought was an opportunity and saved his money. His first investment was to modernize the structure and as he did this his clientele was primarily loggers, river drivers, and gum pickers, men like him who worked in the area. At the same time, he operated the accompanying farm, the products from which he fed his guests and sold to loggers and others. With the improvements he began to attract fishermen and their families, who generally came after the logging season was over. His guest numbers were sufficient enough for him to start adding sleeping cabins to the complex in 1899. To better accommodate summer guests, who struggled with rough lake water and unpredictable ferry schedules, he cut a road to the road the local mill used to haul its product to the railroad at Abbot; the buckboard ride cost fifty cents.

The hardwork of the Packard family and their guides paid off in an increasing number of guests. Their first guides, Scott Cook, Sam McKenney, Dan Neal, and Harvey Hurd, were men who helped their sports be successful and influenced their return year after year. They used a horse and wagon to transport sports to fishing spots


9 The source for this and the following summary information is: Packard, Marlborough, A History of Packard’s Camps 1894–1916. Privately published, 1974. (A copy is available at the Maine State Library.)
like Lake Onawa. Once a week, with the support of the sporting camp cook, the guides hosted a fish fry, the cooking of everyone’s catch. Once a month, one of them killed a deer that they roasted whole over an open fire. The guides may have also helped each evening, when all the sleeping rooms were filled with cedar smoke to deal with the black flies and other biting insects.

The operation continued to grow in popularity. By 1920, when Packard’s son Burton joined him in running the sporting camp, the complex had 22 cabins with bathrooms, tennis courts, telephones, and post office. While many were now arriving by car, which had to be parked in a garage away from the sporting camp, they still used Harry Coy’s transportation services from the train station at Dover-Foxcroft. In 1950 the sporting camp had a main building, 16 log cabins, seven larger cottages, and advertised golf at a nearby golf course. The sporting camp operated generally under the American plan until about 1950, when it seemed to be too expensive for their clientele, so they switched to all housekeeping cabins; they had their first housekeeping cabin in 1917.10

The ownership and management of the sporting camp remained in the family for 110 years. In 1994 Amanda and Jerry Packard, great grandson of Marlborough, were running the sporting camp. Jerry’s mother came to work summers at the sporting camp as a young woman, married his father and never left. Amanda likewise came to work summers, met Jerry, they married and she never left. Jerry’s grandmother Christine, wife of his grandfather Burton, also came to the camp to wait tables and never left. The children of all the families worked to make the sporting camp the success that it was. In June 1998 the family put the sporting camp up for sale. In the interim their daughters Jessica and Laura took over the

10 Other information pertaining to Packard’s came from the following three books:
operation and Jerry managed the 25 cabins and campgrounds the family owned in other locales. By 2003 Jerry and his daughter Laura were running the sporting camp that included 15 log cabins.

The second hotel that underwent a transformation on Sebec Lake was the Willimantic Hotel at the first falls on Big Wilson Stream above Packard’s. The hotel was the Willimantic Linen Company mill’s boarding house, which opened by 1883. During its first 20 years, it had six different proprietors. In 1903, about the time the mill closed, William (“Bill”) L. Earley bought the hotel and the accompanying farm. Like his neighbor B.M. Packard, Earley, who was born in 1880 in Somerville, Massachusetts and moved to Willimantic by 1900, was a clerk in the community’s general store, which he owned at the time of his purchase. He soon married Iva M. Bennett of Guilford and they, and their seven children, ran what became known as Earley’s Camps and the accompanying farm until they closed 50 years later.

Other commercial operations began to appear on the lake in early 1900. About 1901, on the north side of the lake a little east of due north from Greeley’s Landing, George W. Morgan and George P. Thompson built and ran Bowerbank’s three-story Grand View Hotel for about three years, and then sold in 1911 to Walter S. Crittenden, who turned it into a private residence. Lord’s Camps, also known as Gavitt’s Camps, which Jack H. and Ida Lord opened in 1924, had a main lodge and four cabins, and operated June 15 to December 15 through the 1930s, but at some time in the 1940s it became a private residence.

Guests at the hotels and sporting camps on the lake engaged in activities other than just boat cruises, berry

12 John F. Ham ran the hotel through 1886 when he sold to F. Harmon. Mrs. O.C. Wood bought the establishment in 1896 and sold to W.E. Howard in 1899. A.T. Kincaid began to run the operation in 1901; J.E. Perham replaced him the following year.

picking, fishing, and hunting. They had a number of options for hiking. One hike was a two-day trip (c.1913); trampers went to Lake Onawa and then hiked up Barren Mountain via the rockslide and spent the night in the cabin on top and returned the next day. Who built the cabin is unknown, but it might have been one of the sporting camp owners on Lake Onawa. A climb up Borestone Mountain was a long day excursion. Less strenuous excursions were hikes to the summit of Granite Peak at the west end of the lake, where there were both wonderful views and great blueberry picking. The popular ice caves were on the trail between Granite and Ragged mountains.

From Granite Peak one could look into the northwest-most cove of Sebec Lake, Buck’s Cove, and the mouth of Ship Pond Stream. The Native Americans, early loggers, miners, and trappers followed this stream to reach Lake Onawa. Only a few small sporting camps opened on Lake Onawa prior to 1889, when the Canadian Pacific Railroad crossed the south end of the lake. The early settlers and many of the early travelers to Lake Onawa arrived in Monson by stage from Bangor and took a tote road 12 miles to Bodfish intervale and Long Pond Stream at the head of Lake Onawa.

Lake Onawa and Long Pond

Sports headed to Monson continued another 10 miles by stage or later, train, from Dover and Foxcroft to Guilford, the next village on the Piscataquis River. The town probably had accommodations of some sort for teamsters as soon as the tote road was open.\(^\text{14}\) Commerce in Guilford increased notably between 1871 and 1874 when the town was the railroad’s terminus. Here loggers off-loaded the supplies and teamsters tooted the material on to Abbot, Monson, Shirley, and Greenville.

\(^{14}\) *The Maine Register* and the following books provided information on places to stay.

hotel between 1872 and 1947. Z.L. Turner opened the Turner House by 1872, but after two other owners (Robinson Turner and J.W. Patten), it seems to have closed by 1903. In 1899 William Hatch opened the Guilford Exchange and managed it for a couple of years, until H. Stewart renamed it Stewart House and ran it until about 1906. S.S. Hubbard opened the Braeburn in 1904 and it went through a succession of six owners, until it closed about 1947.

Four miles north of Guilford, the stage stopped at Abbot Village.15 Abbot became more than a small logging and wilderness farm community in 1874, when the railroad’s terminus was in town and it suddenly became the loggers’ supply transfer point for the next three years. Business at J.J. Buxton’s Abbot House, which opened by 1872, likely increased and the family managed it until they sold in 1902 to the Worcester brothers. B.M. Packard, who owned Packard’s Camps at the west end of Sebec Lake and picked up his guests at the Abbot train station, bought and renamed it Packard’s Inn in 1904. The Packard family resided at the inn during the winter, when they closed Packard’s Camps for the season. The inn also provided accommodations for his guests prior to their 14-mile buckboard ride to the lake. After three years, he sold and a succession of four different proprietors kept the now named establishment, Abbot House, open until about 193216.

Abbot was also the departure point for a few other sporting camps, the locations of which are unknown. From 1924–1933 Fred G. Hayden operated Hayden’s Camp at Whetstone Pond. Hayden bought a large tract of land on the pond in 1896 and was actively involved in the development of the area. In 1927 L.J. Muraness opened Sporting Hunters House that he ran through 1930, when B.B. Mitchell and Son bought the business


16 S.J. Morse, D.H. Foss, F.G. Hayden, and Silas Huff
and also opened a restaurant, all of which appears to have closed following a fire on October 4, 1931. J.M. Russell, who may have taken over Myhrs (Myers) Sporting Camps that operated from about 1947 until 1952, owned a nearby sporting camp from 1952 through about 1961.

**Monson**

Travel from Abbot to Monson went through several changes over the years. In the years before the train, sports remained on the stage in Abbot; however, when they started arriving by train in 1877 they got off and took the stage due north to Monson. Six years later in June, travelers departed the train at Monson Junction just above Abbot Village and rode the stage or perhaps the Monson Railroad, a narrow gauge line, four miles north to Monson. This rail line, which served the Monson slate quarries, was abandoned in 1945.

Monson village was not a logging hub, but it was a teamster’s stop from c.1830 until 1884, when the B&A, which bypassed Monson by following the river through Blanchard six miles to the west, reached Greenville. In 1832 stage service from Bangor was three times per week and the trip from Bangor to Greenville took two days. When Henry David Thoreau came from Bangor through Monson in 1853 on the stage, he stayed the night in Monson. With whom he stayed is unknown, but from the earliest of times Monson farmers supplemented their income by housing lumbermen, loggers, teamsters, stage drivers, and travelers on their way to and from the north.

Thoreau took the same route north on his 1857 trip, but he only stopped for a meal, perhaps at the Monson House with S. J. Chandler proprietor, and arrived in Greenville about 8:30 p.m.. The Monson House probably burned in the town fire of 1860, but then Aretas Chapin, son of an early settler, built the Chapin House within 200 feet of Hebron Pond at the side of the stage road. By the time Chapin House burned in 1882 some of the area’s farmers were also advertising for fishermen, hunters, and travelers.

In 1882 or 1884 someone built a new hotel, Lake Hebron Hotel, overlooking Hebron Pond. Charles H. Sawyer, a hotelier from Moosehead Lake, leased and ran the 75-bed hotel. A horse team met the train at Monson Junction, where trains arrived twice a day. The hotel had a number of proprietors until the Monson Slate Company purchased it in 1891 and hired Fred H. Crane to manage it. Five years later they sold to Crane who, with the exception of a couple years when the Worcester brothers owned it, was the proprietor until it closed c.1904. It burned January 6, 1910 and no one rebuilt it.

Beginning in the early 1890s town residents realized Lake Hebron was becoming a summer resort community, and over the next 40 years responded by offering places to stay. The Lake Hebron Hotel’s advertising of excellent fishing in 25 ponds, all within ten miles of the hotel, was apparently successful. Captain Fred A. Crockett provided transportation around the lake on his steamer *Molly Tomah*. The first family cottages went up in 1890 and many more soon followed. Calvin Sears opened the Monson House in 1903 and operated until at least 1918; it apparently closed by 1921. In 1911 Cora Roberts began hosting guests at Roberts House and 11 years later sold to H.M. and Lottie Thomas, who ran the then named Thomas House through 1947. In 1931 L.E. Wilkins started Wilkins’ Camps on Lake Hebron; the sporting camp was open through at least 1940. Lake Hebron Sporting Camp opened by 1947 and closed about 40 years later.

Another group of adventurers started passing through Monson Village in 1934, hikers using the newly opened Appalachian Trail (AT). Even though trail crews rerouted the AT in 1989 so that it bypassed the community, Monson was still the last supply stop for a hiker entering what became known as “the 100-mile wilderness.” Places like the Thomas House and the Wilkins’ place served these

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early hikers, as did Gray’s Tourist Home until at least 1953, Monson Tourist Home, and the home of M.E. French from 1934 until at least 1942. The community has nearly always had lodging for hikers.

Monson to Bodfish Intervale, Long Pond Stream, and Lake Onawa

Bodfish Intervale and Long Pond Stream

Monson was also where those who resided or had early sporting camps at Bodfish intervale, Lake Onawa, and Long Pond met their guests to begin a 12-mile buckboard ride to the northeast on the Elliottsville tote road. The road ended on the west side of Long Pond Stream where it formed a junction with the tote road between Lake Onawa landing and Long Pond. This was the usual route people used to reach this area until 1889, when the CPR crossed at the foot of Lake Onawa and opened a nearby siding. No other road to Lake Onawa materialized before 1967.

The first family to settle above the head of the lake and on Long Pond Stream retained its presence in the valley for over 125 years. During this time the family members logged, farmed, ran a sporting camp, and managed other sporting camps. Samuel Bodfish (b.1785) came to the valley via Monson to open a farm in 1823 and by 1826 had cleared sufficient land. He, his wife Fanny, and their three daughters and three sons moved from Township 8 Range 8 Somerset County soon after 1830. Like many early farmers, they probably provided accommodations for loggers, teamsters, and sports, before they traveled up Long Pond Stream to Long Pond.

The amount of farmable land in the intervale area seemed to preclude anyone other than the Samuel Bodfishs. Samuel owned nearly all the lots between Bodfish landing on Long Pond Stream and the confluence of the stream and Vaughn Brook, the Brown farm site. None of the other lot owners lived here. By 1860 two of Samuel’s now grown children had their own farms in the intervale area: Freeman Bodfish (b.1814), his wife and four children; Samuel’s daughter Hellen M.V. McLuen (b.1820), her husband Andrew and their two children. Ten years later Freeman and his family had moved to


19 Piscataquis County Register of Deeds and lot maps.
Shirley to farm, Helen’s family was no longer present, and Samuel’s son Nymphas and his first wife, Mary, and children, and Ivanhoe, took over Freeman’s farm. By 1880 Freeman, who apparently lost his family, was back running his parent’s farm, and Nymphas had married Lydia McKenny, and they had three children, John, Sarah, and Fannie.

In 1900 the Bodfishs left in the intervale were Nymphas, Lydia, John, Sam G., Rodney, and Sarah (Sadie), all of them living at the one remaining farm. They farmed, guided, logged, picked spruce gum, took care of private camps on Lake Onawa, and housed travelers and sports. By 1910 Sam G. had moved to Dexter. John remained in the valley running his own sporting camp on Lake Ona-
wa for a short time, caring for other camps, and guiding. Sadie and her husband, Edmund F. Drew, who had been farming and guiding elsewhere in Elliottsville, and Rodney were partners in running the farm business. Rodney married by 1920 and he and his wife had their own farm in the intervale, but gave it up by 1930 to move to Hadonfield, New Jersey, where Rodney chauffeured for the Moore family who had cabins on Lake Onawa and Big Benson Pond. Sadie Drew continued to live in the valley with her son through the late 1950s.20

When the sporting camp and private camp era commenced in the 1890s, the Bodfish family began to serve sports and continued to do so in several ways through the early 1950s. Bodfish Farm, which first advertised accommodations in the late 1890s, began advertising again in 1924. Drew’s Sporting Ranch or Bodfish Valley Sporting Ranch, at the site of the original farm, was a friendly stopping point on the AT from 1934 through 1953. For the last 11 years, the ranch offered only a place to stay; no meals.21 In 1911, at the nearby Onawa train station, Drew and Bodfish Company Incorporated had a store that catered to summer residents and visitors to the lake.

The Bodfishs had one farming neighbor about a mile above their farm at the confluence of Long Pond Stream and Vaughn Brook, where Long Pond Stream shifts from a north-northwest direction to the northeast. Exactly when Trustim Brown and perhaps his wife Catharine and daughter Rosa E. moved to the farm is unknown. Trustim was born in Maine in 1825 and as a young man went off to California to find his fortune in the gold fields. He came back in the 1850s empty-handed, but by 1860 he had married, their daughter Rosa was seven years old, and he was a successful farmer in Harmony. Some thought that when the Civil War started, the family moved to the farm on Long Pond Stream so that he could escape the war.22 Diphtheria took the lives of his family before 1880, the first year the United States Census recorded Brown being at the farm. He bought the land on which the farm rested in 1881, and trapped, hunted, fished, and eventually offered accommodations to sports at what became known as the Brown Farm. The death of his family might have influenced his becoming a self-styled spiritualist and mental healer that resulted in him being referred to as “Doctor.” By 1889 Trustim opened what he called “Mediator Home” that he operated until at least 1894.23 About 1892 he also had a new small cabin on Long Pond to go along with one on Indian Pond about three miles north of his home.24

One of Trustim’s frequent visitors was Maine writer Holman Day.25 Through those visits Day came to understand that Trustim believed himself to be a mediator between man and God. Trustim shared his writing with Day. One written piece was a foot-high stack of paper, a “New Bible.” Day read it all and appreciated the words as those of a thoughtful man. Day captured an element of Trustim’s mediation in “A Cry in the Night – a Story of the Maine Woods” that appeared in Forest and Stream January 4, 1902. Day used Trustim’s farm and his character for Prophet Eli of Tumbledick in his book King Spruce, which he wrote from his cabin at nearby Long Pond.

Sometime in the late 1890s Brown closed up his operation and left the area for a time, but then returned and stayed until he died. Brown was not at his sporting camp in 189626 and he sold in January 1899 to Blanche E. Davis, wife of Charles A. Davis of Elliottsville, with the condition that he could reside on the premises and keep a horse at no expense to him for as long as he wished.27 With the $600 from the sale, Trustim took a trip back to

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20 Interview with James Draper.
21 Maine Appalachian Trail guides.
the California gold rush country, published some of his poetry, and returned before 1905 to live out his life at the Young and Buxton Camps on Lake Onawa.

Other guides and sports coming by road from Monson passed the Brown farm on the Long Pond Tote Road and continued up along Long Pond Stream to the dam at the east end of the Long Pond. From here they used canoes and boats to reach their desired destinations on the pond. When the Canadian Pacific Railroad reached the Onawa community at Onawa Lake in 1889, some sports got off at Bodfish siding to use the Long Pond Tote Road. In general, those who were at the west end of Long Pond, Lane and Davis and the Leeman family, came through Bodfish intervale and those at the east end came in from KIW, until the 1940s when they sometimes used the Bodfish intervale route, a route available until the early 1970s when roads from Greenville and KIW reached other parts of the pond.

The most frequent users of the Long Pond tote road were proprietors and guides Blanche Davis who owned the Brown Farm, Henry W. Lane and Charles A. Davis, Blanche’s husband, who had a sporting camp at the foot of Long Pond, and the Leeman family who had a sporting camp on the south side of Long Pond. In January 1899 Blanche E. Davis joined with Lane and they advertised the Brown sporting camp as joint proprietors. Sadly Blanche soon died, but Lane continued with the sporting camp through 1918, after which no one took it over. Guides Henry W. Lane and Charles A. Davis, who both lived as farmers in Elliottsville Plantation, had a sporting camp at the foot of Long Pond on the south side by 1896. In fall 1901 they had enough sports to hire a cook. By 1910 both men gave up the sporting camp and worked the remainder of their lives at Charles’ father’s Elliottsville farm. However, R.A. Buxton, who bought the Davis sporting camp at the foot of Lake Onawa, had a branch cabin on Long Pond at an unknown location (c.1903); perhaps it was the Davis cabin. How long he had a branch cabin at the pond is unknown.

By 1898 James S. and Mary A. Leeman and their two sons, Thomas and Arthur, were hosting sports at their farm four miles north of Monson village on the road to

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28 J.A. Thompson mentioned a Clement camp above Brown’s in 1901, but did not indicate whether it was a sporting or logging or trapper’s camp. (Rowe, Herbert W., “Iron Works to Onawa,” Vol. 9 no. 99 (November 1901): 33.

Bodfish intervale, and at a sporting camp, Camp Damfino (translated as “damned if I know where the fish are”), toward the foot of Long Pond on the south shore. They advertised their establishment in 1898, 1900, 1901, and 1906 and had branch cabins on other area ponds. They met their sports at the train in Monson Junction. At that time, Thomas Gilbert, a teamster operating between Long Pond Stream Landing on Lake Onawa and Long Pond Dam kept the road in good shape. Their guests came from such cities as Boston, New York City, Hartford, and Providence.

James died at his Monson farm in 1914, but Thomas and Arthur continued to farm, guide, and operate the sporting camp through 1917, when they sold. Thomas, who married in 1896 and had two children, took over the family farm, but when he may have stopped taking

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**Leeman’s Camps 1906 (1898–present)** (courtesy Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company, *In the Maine Woods, 1906*)

**Leeman’s Camps 1908** (courtesy Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company, *In the Maine Woods, 1908*)

**Leeman’s now owned by Dore 1918** (courtesy of Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company, *In the Maine Woods, 1918*)
guests at the farm is unknown. In 1918 Arthur was still guiding and he also ran a general store in Monson.

They apparently sold to Frank H. Mitchell, who renamed the sporting camp Mountain View Camps and ran it for the next four years. About the time he purchased the sporting camp he was a Great Northern Paper Company employee working at Lily Bay on the supply line for the Ripogenus Dam building project and by 1920 he was a lumber estimator. Mitchell, a single man from Waterville, may have been a frequent guest at the sporting camp, as he and Thomas had a lasting friendship. In his later years, when Frank was confined to a wheelchair, he stayed with Thomas.

In 1921 Mitchell sold to William “Will” Marcellus Dore. A year prior to the purchase, Dore was trapping from a cabin at Trout Pond and fellow trapper Ernest C. Thombs boarded with him. Their neighbors at Trout Pond were Winford L. and Ola M. Starford, who were also trapping in the area. Winford came from Vermont and Ola immigrated to the USA from Canada in 1910. What became of Dore’s cabin and the Starfords’ cabin is unknown.

The Dore family operated the camp from the start of the fishing season through the hunting season for 28 years. Will was born and raised in Monson, married Pearl O. Douglas in March 1906, did odd jobs, worked in the Monson slate quarries, and by 1920 listed trapping, guiding, and woods work as his occupations. At the time of Dore’s purchase the establishment included the cook cabin and four sleeping cabins that accommodated up to about 16 sports and had a valuation of $2,000. Will did the guiding and brought in the guests and supplies, and Pearl cooked. Their daughter Ottielee Alice and son Guy F. helped with the garden, cow, and other chores. They attended school in Monson in the off-season. Dore lived at the sporting camp nearly year-round, cutting firewood and ice during the winter, collecting spruce gum, and tapping maple trees in the late winter. He did not build any new structures.

The sporting camp’s guests, who were initially people interested in fishing, were joined in the 1930s by Appalachian Trail (AT) hikers. Sports hiked into and fished the Wilder Ponds up behind the sporting camp, traveled across the lake to walk into Trout and Hedgehog Ponds, and canoed to the upper end of the lake to follow a trail into East and West Chairback ponds. Beginning in 1934 the sporting camp also provided options to AT hikers. A trail from the camp went to the gap north of Barren Mountain. Hikers who wished to bypass all or some of the Barren-Chairback mountain range could use the Long Pond Tote Road from Bodfish Intervale to the foot of the pond, where Dore picked them up or left them off depending on which direction they were traveling. For those heading north, he transported the individuals and their gear, or just their gear, to the Chairback Mountain Camps at the other end of the pond where the AT came off the ridgeline.

The same phone line through which hikers used to make arrangements probably saved Dore’s life in one incident. Through at least 1931 Dore tooted in supplies with a horse and wagon. Once while standing in the buckboard, holding the horse reins and driving the team, his foot slipped as the buckboard bounced. He fell and one of his legs got caught in the wheel spokes and was broken in numerous places, but he managed to crawl back to the sporting camp and call for help. No flying service existed before 1941.

Dore did not build any additional cabins in his complex, but he probably did build a cabin for the Armstrong family to the east of his Mountain View Camps in 1920, given the date of one of the three fieldstone fireplaces in the cabin. Doctor Armstrong, his wife, and two adopted children lived in Boston, Massachusetts and had probably been guests of Dore. At some point the Armstrongs sold the cabin to Dore and it was part of his sale to Haley in 1949.

The Harold Haley family did not continue the operation as a commercial establishment. Harold had been a guest at other Maine sporting camps, enjoyed those visits, and was looking to buy a site for his family to enjoy during his retirement. They bought the sporting camp knowing the buildings needed restorative work. After doing considerable work on the existing structures and adding a boathouse, family circumstances led him to sell in 1955 to Mrs. Thomas Davidson, who bought them as a present for her husband Tom. The sale included both Mountain View Camps and the Armstrong Camp. Eleven years later the Davidsons, who lived in York, sold Mountain View Camps to Harold Haley’s son, Frank, and his family still retains the lease that includes each refurbished cabin and all the original buildings. The Davidsons retained ownership of the Armstrong Camp that they sold later to Bing Adams, owner of the Kittery Trading Post. The cabin is still in use.

Reaching the site on Long Pond via Bodfish Intervale was never an easy or relaxing door-to-door ride. In many years, some found it more comfortable to walk than ride. The Lee-

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30 Maine Appalachian Trail guides.
31 Considerable information about the sporting camp came through conversations with Frank Haley and Milton (Nick) Anderson, a member of the Leeman family tree.
man’s access was an 18-mile horse-drawn buckboard or wagon ride from Monson through Bodfish intervale and up along Long Pond Stream to the Brown farm. From the farm they walked to the dam and in 1902 could cross the water in a cable car by pulling on an “endless cable” before continuing their walk. Alternatively, they could paddle a mile down Long Pond to the sporting camp. Beginning with at least Frank H. Mitchell, a horse and cart traveled the full length of the Long Pond Tote Road, crossed at the dam, and continued to the sporting camp. Dore’s access was also via Bodfish intervale and Long Pond Stream Tote Road. By 1939 access was by either auto or team depending upon time of year, state of the road, and the route. An old Model T ford sits in the area behind the sporting camp and someone probably used it on the road from Bodfish intervale. Dore also advertised access from KIW (by team and canoe). After the Harold Haley purchase in 1949 the Bodfish route was passable for a few more years. However, at that time, they had to park at the dam and walk to the sporting camp. Beginning about 1966 and continuing for about the next 16 years Frank Haley, Harold’s son, used an old Dodge Power wagon from Bodfish intervale, before he had to give it up and come in from Greenville on the KIW Road to the north side of the pond, a route similar to that in 2016.

Lake Onawa and Benson Ponds

When other sports traveling from Monson reached Bodfish intervale, they turned easterly on the Long Pond Tote Road and went to the landing on Long Pond Stream just above Lake Onawa. The first of these sports may have been in 1873, when Evan (Eph) H. Gerrish built a sporting camp, some thinking it to be the first one in eastern Maine, on an island in Lake Onawa.32 The previous year J. A. Thompson,33 hired to check on Walter Scripture’s log drive from Long Pond, employed Gerrish as a guide and the two of them set forth in the spring from Brownville to Sebec Lake and went up Ship Pond Stream into Lake Onawa. Gerrish loved the lake and was back within a month to start construction on the sporting camp. Apparently by 1884 Gerrish also had a primitive hotel on the north shore in the cove at Haynes Beach.34 Whether he used the Monson or the Ship Pond Stream route to bring his sports to the site is unknown.

Gerrish had new neighbors in 1884, when Henry W. Lane and Richard C. Davis of Elliottsville built a sporting camp known as Onaway House on a predominant pine point on the south edge of the lake a mile west of the outlet. They brought sports in from Monson through Bodfish intervale.

Business of both these operations got a boost beginning in 1889, when service on the east-west running Canadian Pacific Railroad began. The new line crossed the lake’s outlet on a long, high trestle, passed above the south edge of the lake and continued northwest along the easterly shore of Little Greenwood Pond and under the west side of Borestone Mountain.35 The area where the tracks crossed the tote road to Bodfish intervale became known as Bodfish siding, and three miles to its east above the south edge of Lake Onawa was Onawa station. Some sports traveling the tote road from Monson now took the train from Bodfish siding to Onawa Station (3 miles) and others traveling by train disembarked at the station.36

The Onawa Station area became the center of activity on the lake. Men who worked for the railroad lived here and some had families. Everyone used the short public-access path from the station to a public dock on the lake. The Davis and Lane sporting camp, Onawa House, which opened on the lake’s edge in 1884, was below the station. Loggers frequented the area during the winter cutting season and at the time of the log drive. The Onawa House that was near the station was ready in 1890 for

33 J.A. Thompson is Joseph A. Thompson. Typically his name appeared as J.A. Thompson.
35 On Greenwood Pond, which drains into Lake Onawa, a Mr. Holt had a cabin to which he brought sports in 1881 (Forest and Stream, June 16, 1881, p. 391). Charles C. Hill of Elliottsville and J.M. Willey of Monson advertised a sporting camp in 1898 (The Maine Sportsman September 1898). In 1874 Willey owned two parcels of property at the end of the road from Monson, a mile due west of Greenwood Pond. Hill was born and raised in Elliottsville where he farmed, married Florence M. Pushor, and raised six children. By 1910 the family was farming in Willimantic, where he died in 1922. The sporting camp’s location and history remain as unknowns.

The Bauer family papers that include unpublished history, “Memories of Donald E. Philbrook regarding Onawa,” Maine, April 1973.
boarders and sports, and private camps soon followed. Wood mills sprouted up and delivered milled wood to the station, where employees picked up supplies. A granite quarry operated on the south side of the tracks west of the station near Greenwood Pond before 1900. A school opened immediately; in 1918 its pupil count peaked at 18 students in grades one through eight; it closed in 1957. In time the community included a post office, shop that made canoes and snowshoes, two stores, a community center, and a church. In the 1940s Raymond Perry, who was probably preceded by others, provided lake transportation from the public dock. By the 1960s there was only westbound service on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and eastbound service on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The year after rail service ended in March 1966 the first road reached the community and the year-round community population shrank due to the loss of railroad workers.

The Onawa House brought sports to the lake community for more than 60 years. It was a ten-minute walk from the station or a two-minute walk to the public dock and a canoe ride. Richard C. Davis gave up his share to his son Charles and, by the time he sold in 1895, he had bought out his partner Henry W. Lane. Rodney A. Buxton and his nephew Rodney A. Young, both from farming families in Greenbush, bought the establishment and renamed it Young and Buxton Camps. Young had left Maine to attend medical school in Maryland or Delaware. At school he came down with tuberculosis and returned to Maine to close out his life in a more healthful environment. Running and living year-round at a sporting camp apparently had a positive impact, for he outlived his uncle and died at 74 years of age in 1939.

Beginning in 1898 Young and Buxton began to buy the property at the point and upgrade their structures. Their first purchase was the pine point lot on which their sporting camp rested. Two years later they acquired property adjacent to their lot. They began by tearing down the old log cabins, perhaps those of Davis, and built new ones in 1901. Their dining cabin, which was 16’ x 30’ (no longer standing), and some sleeping rooms rested among the pines on the low knoll above the water. Two were on the point close to the water and another three cabins were behind them, but at some unknown time an owner removed them. In the same vicinity two others whose sidewalls were not more that two feet apart still stood in 2016, but when they were built is unknown. The mini-village also included an icehouse, cook’s cabin, guide’s cabin (still being used in 2016), cabin for servants, and a boathouse (still being used in 2016).

Florence Young, sister of Rodney Young, joined the sporting camp operation in 1896 as the cook and housekeeper. She moved in along with her young adopted son Paul Douglas, who helped with anything he was capable of handling. Florence taught school for Paul and the other nearby children during the off-season, but when Paul reached high school age in 1906 they moved to Bangor so she could enroll him in a proper high school. Florence returned to the sporting camp to help for an unknown period of time after the death of Buxton in May 1909.

The sporting camp, also the year-round home of the two families, was open to sports from March 1 until January 1. Their guests took the train to Brownville, where they switched to the Canadian Pacific train and disembarked at the Onawa station. Life at the sporting camp was not easy in the early years and difficult financially. They produced what they needed as supported by a cow, a horse, chickens, axes, guns, fishing rods, and a cleared one-acre hillside garden. These elements supplied them and the guests each year with eggs, milk, butter, fish, meat, and produce. In the spring the family members tapped maple trees to produce both maple syrup and candy. In 1900 they took in 12 boarders to help make ends meet and perhaps finance a dining room addition to the large kitchen and two more sleeping cabins the following season.

Perhaps to also help finance their operation, they made some lot sales. In 1899 they sold a small lot to Herbert Lawton for $200, and bought it back two years later for the same price with structures on it. In 1901 they sold another small lot, known at the time as “the first knoll at Camp Onawa” to Cyrus P. Clough. The lot and cabin abutted the east side of the Young and Buxton property. The sale included a provision that for Clough to sell he had to have the permission of Young and Buxton.

37 The Bauer family currently owns what is left of the former sporting camp and has amassed considerable information on its history. The Maine Sportsman, Vol. 3 no. 34 (June 1896): 25 and Vol. 5 no. 56 (April 1898).


39 Land transaction information around Onawa Lake is from Piscataquis Registry of Deeds.
ton. As did the other members of his family, Clough knew the area; he had been a regular guest at Leeman’s Camps on nearby Long Pond, and at this sporting camp with his father, Samuel, beginning in 1898.\textsuperscript{40} He was a successful pipe-fitting manufacturer in Cranston, Rhode Island and retired about 1930.

In 1903 Cyrus’s sister, Nellie D. Clough, who grew up and lived in Kennebunkport and accompanied her father on some of his trips, married Rodney Youn and joined him in running the sporting camp. By 1920 the Young’s decided to reduce the size of the operation and sold the west portion of their structures and property which bordered the cove on the west side of the pine point, now known as Buxton Point, to Frederick S. Hartshorne, who obtained the cabins for the use of his family and friends.\textsuperscript{40}

The Hartshornes had been guests at Young and Buxton’s in at least 1904 and 1905 and also had property on the east side of the lake at the north end since 1901. They also bought more land in 1920 and 1923 at the north end of the lake on the west side. About 1930 the Hartshornes built another small cabin from a Sears and Roebuck kit in the woods behind the other cabins near Buxton Point. The log structures they purchased from the Youngs still stand, but the additions made over the years involved covering the logs with cedar shingles on the outside and paneling on the inside.

The Youngs sold what was thought to be the remainder of their land and structures at Buxton Point between 1923 and 1924 and moved to Guilford. Frederick S. Hartshorne bought the one lot that abutted the land he already owned at Buxton Point. Cyrus Clough bought

\textsuperscript{40} The Maine Sportsman, Vol. 7 no. 183 (July 1900): 13.
the remaining two land parcels, which enlarged the Bux-
ton Point lot he had previously bought, and continued
the sporting camp operation under the name Onawa
Lake Camps. He lived at the sporting camp from May
first to November first, but took guests from July to Oc-
tober and directed them to come by train.41

Clough ceased commercial operations about 1930
and the sporting camp did not reopen as a commercial
establishment for another 27 years. With the exception
of one small lot the Cloughs retained the property and
used it for their personal enjoyment. They sold their
cabin on the first knoll, Camp Dougherty, in September
1930 to Margaret Handy, a physician from Wilmington,
Delaware. Doctor Handy's first trip to Lake Onawa was
in 1919, when she was a guest at the Young's sporting
camp.42

Doctor Handy was a colleague of four other doctors
who first started coming to Young and Buxton's about
1915 and continued their presence into the 1970s. The
group's leader, Dr. Staunton, had been a professor of
Rodney Young when he was in medical school. When
she was at Sebec Lake in 1915 and realized how close she
was to Lake Onawa, she made a trip over by horse and
buggy to see Young and check on his health. A year later
she bought a cabin, which was on the east side of the lake
and south of the prominent point (now known as Sher-
red's Point), and continued to come summers into the
1970s. Two of the other doctors, Rose and Clark, took
joint ownership in a cabin and lot that abutted Handy's
east side and Deerfoot Camp's west side; they passed the
lot with three cabins (Loon, Chickadee, and Moose) to
the Gagnons who sold in 1974 to Joseph Tatem, son of
Mrs. J. Fithian Tatem who owned Deerfoot Camps until
1963. The fourth doctor, Van Gaskin, built a cabin that
became known as Gray's Camp in the area of Handy's
cabin; in 1974 another woman doctor, Dr. Katherine Es-
terly, bought the cabin. Esterly, who was a partner in the
Handy practice, carried on Handy's tradition of being
available for medical emergencies at the lake. A nurse,
Miss Gilman, and a friend of hers, Miss Eddy, lived in
Loon Camp that was in the area of the Rose and Clark
cabin.

In 1949 all the Buxton Point land belonged to one
family, and eight years later the site reopened as a sport-
ing camp for less than ten years. Cyrus’ wife, Marion
Stowell Clough, sold the remainder of their property to
Frederick S. and Adele H. Hartshorn. They sold to their
son and grandson, Frederick M. and Joseph M., three
years later. Joseph and his wife, Marion, restarted the
commercial sporting camp operation in 1957 and ten
years later Marion put the whole of the property up for
sale after Joseph died. Harry A. Bauer and his son Albert
T. Bauer, who were of the Moore and Tatem families of
Haddonfield, New Jersey and had been frequenting their
cabins on Lake Onawa for years, bought the property
for their private use. The property remains in the Bauer
family.

Above Lake Onawa in the community that was
quickly springing up around Onawa station was Onawa
House, which a crew built in 1890 east of the railroad’s
water tank; it served the community for about 25 years.
Alexander and Cora Arbo built and then moved from
Brownville into the Onawa House with their four chil-
dren. Four years later after the death of their son Ervin,
the Arbo's sold to E.C. Morrill of Atkinson and moved
back to Cora's family's farm in North Brownville.43 By
1899 F.N. Spencer owned the house, charged two dollars
per day, and served up to ten guests. The facility not only
served sports, but also transient workers of the hard-
wood bar mill, granite quarry, lumber camps, and rail-
road. Between 1905 and 1909 the house went through a

41 Assorted camp brochures held by the Bauer family.
42 Bauer family papers contain information in this paragraph.
43 The Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, July 26, 1898, p. 8. North
Brownville was also known as Prairie.
quick succession of owners that included Daniel Small, C.H. Messer, S.F. Kneeland, Hermon Ladd, and Henry Sawtell. The listed sale price in 1912 was $2,000 and included twelve rooms partially furnished, three log cabins, a boathouse and boats, two sheds, and three-and-a-half acres of land.44 Emil J. Gans of Groveton, New Hamp-

shire was the next owner, and apparently ran it for a while and then closed it for some years, before selling it for a private residence in 1916. At the time of the sale to Dr. Frank Tomlin, a dentist from Haddonfield, New Jersey, the house was in poor shape. A year later Tomlin moved the house 300 feet down the steep hillside to the lakeshore, abutting a lot Tomlin’s wife, Florence, purchased in 1909. In 1989 his son Hurlburt was the owner.

Another early (c.1892) neighbor of the Arbos and Lane and Davis was Dr. F.B. Sanden of New York City and Chicago.45 He built his private cabin on the prominent eastside point about the middle of the lake and reached the cabin via the road from Monson. The circumstances that led to his building on the lake are unknown. Sanden developed and successfully sold electric belts that stimulated male vigor and overcame impotency until the federal government closed the company in 1917 for fraudulence. Two years later Mary Moore Sherrerd and her husband William D., who had for years been at Little and Big Benson ponds, bought the cabin, which Sanden rebuilt in 1897. Their reason for buying was that the Moore family had outgrown their Big Benson cabin and her father did not want to build any more cabins on the pond. As of 1989 the family still retained the structure, which became known as “The Pines.”

The number of sports finding their way to Lake Onawa by the late 1890s was substantial enough for hotelier William Heughen, who ran the Silver Lake Hotel at KIW from 1889–1897, to open Deerfoot Camps on the south shore of the lake below the Onawa House in 1898. By 1900 Earnest L. and Mamie Parsons of Bangor took over and Mamie became the sporting camp’s cook.46 The 16’x 40’ hotel had hot and cold baths and eight rooms for two persons with each room having an open fireplace. Between 1900 and 1906 they both bought property, which included the sporting camp’s lot and abutting lots. After selling in 1914 the couple moved to Concord, New Hampshire where Earnest was a hotel steward. Asa McK-
Chapter 5 — West from Milo on the Greenville Stage Road

Enney operated the sporting camp until 1921, when John I. Bodfish took over the operation for a year before selling to Frank H. Mitchell of Waterville. Mitchell had been living on nearby Long Pond and running Mountain View Camps that he sold in 1922. During this era sports could take a room in the large main building or use one of several private sleeping cabins. The sporting camp opened May fifteenth and closed on December first.

Deerfoot Camps became a private residence in 1924. Mrs. J. Fithian Tatem (Minnie A.M. Tatem), daughter of Henry D. Moore, both of Haddonfield, New Jersey, bought the compound and had a boathouse built the following year. The Moore family outgrew its private cabin at Big Benson Pond and Minnie, who became a widow in 1921, wanted her own place nearby. As Alfred Burke, who had a cabin near Onawa station and a carpenter shop in Brownville Junction, was remodeling the main cabin in 1926, it burned, but Twin Camps, Birch Camp, and Cedar Camp survived. Burke rebuilt the main structure that same year as well as an icehouse. Minnie died in 1963 and the compound remained as part of her estate until 1970 when her daughter Sylvia and her husband Harry A. Bauer bought them and their son Henry F. Bauer acquired them a year later. The compound was still in the family in 2016.

Deerfoot Camps also became the lake’s gathering point for Sunday morning worship. Being interested in a worship space for Christians, Minnie invited worshipers...
on summer Sundays to join her in her living room and on her porch for a nondenominational service. About 1956 the services moved to a larger space in the Onawa community center and by 1970, at the invitation of the Catholics, the Protestants began holding their services in Onawa’s Alfred A. Burke Memorial Chapel, which Burke built with community contributions on land he owned and gave in the mid-1930s.47

For any Lake Onawa cabin owner or visitor being at the lake was an exciting time and an adventure that began with the drive to the Bodfish siding or intervale. In the mid-1930s members of Minnie Tatem’s family, who looked forward to these excursions,48 drove partway from Haddonfield, spent the night in New Hampshire, and arrived at Bodfish Siding in time to catch the once-a-day 2 p.m. train to Onawa Station. They came to accept that the train was never on time and would eventually arrive, up to two hours late. Plenty of others were also waiting, so they played and time passed quickly; no one really cared, as long as they did not miss the train. When they arrived at Onawa Station, those who lived nearby and along the lake typically came up to greet the train, which brought mail and everyone’s supplies. From the station, Minnie’s family walked down the hillside through the forest to the compound on the lake. Often as many as 23 family members gathered around the dining room table for the evening meal; in that number could be ten or more grandchildren, who relished their visits. As did other summer visitors, they enjoyed boating, canoeing, fishing, and climbing Barren, Benson, and Borestone mountains, all of which had trails. When the fox farm was on Borestone (c.1915–1930), it too was a popular place to visit.49 The common swimming and picnicking spot was Haynes Beach, currently known as Sand Beach, which was also the community gathering point for July fourth celebrations.

In 1900 Deerfoot sporting camp, Young and Buxton’s, and Onawa House were the only commercial establishments on the lake, but beginning about that same year the Ship Pond Stream Company, owner of much of the land around the lake, began to sell small cabin lots. In June 1901 Frederic S. Hartshorn whose family was in the insurance business in Wakefield, Massachusetts, had a little more than a half-acre of land and a cabin on Lake Onawa’s east shore to the northeast of Poor Joe Island. George W. Bassett of Verona purchased a half-acre in 1906, a lot just west of the schoolhouse. His brother Fred A., who lived with him in Verona, either joined him or bought another lot by 1910. Wilbur S. Cochrane bought a lot in 1906, as did Jane M. Moore of Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Moore and Cochrane lots were near the railroad station. In 1914 Edward C. and Phyllis E. Luques of Biddeford bought lakeshore land at the upper end near the inlet from Long Pond on the west shore and may have built the first structures on the lot. The land and structures and lots around it went through a list of owners that included Nellie Young, the Hartshorne family, and lastly Terris and Katrina Moore, who became owners in 1982. Five years later they deeded most of the land to the Audubon Society, who owned the adjacent property on Borestone Mountain, land deeded to Audubon by Terris’s father Robert T. Moore. They retained the lot with the cabin and it was still in the family in 2016.50

One of the early small camp lots sold by Ship Pond Stream Company was on nearby Borestone Mountain at its three ponds. Its history reflects the love of and com-


48 From the Bauer family papers: Pennypacker, Marion, “Paradise Enough,” July 1935.

49 Interview with Mary Bauer

50 From the Bauer family papers: Moore, Terris, “Borestone Mountain: its early history, present status and far future.”
mitment to the area that Henry D. Moore and his wife instilled in their children and grandchildren, who had their own cabins on Lake Onawa and Big Benson Pond. In 1908 Henry’s son, Robert T. Moore of Haddonfield, became the first of his siblings to buy land near Lake Onawa and make a life-long commitment to the preservation of the area and its traditions. He obtained one-and-a-half acres on Borestone Mountain, built a cabin that year and the first of his Adirondack-type buildings the following year, continued to amass contiguous properties, and did no cutting other than in 1916 when he built the road to the ponds. He and his family lived in the large cabin near the outlet on the upper pond, Sunset Pond.

Instead of opening a seasonal sporting camp, he built a fish hatchery in 1915 and then formed the Borestone Mountain Fox Company, a fox farm, near Sunrise Pond. The farm included the fish he raised in Sunrise Pond and a herd of 40 goats. The fish and goat milk were the feed for the foxes. He hired an experienced fox farming couple, George and Mary Falconer from Prince Edward Island, to live year-round at the farm and manage the operation and its staff of local persons. The fox farm closed in 1930 due to depression and changes in women’s dressing styles. Some goats escaped and lived on the mountain until shot. The Falconers moved to Shirley to manage a fox farm for Mr. Johnson of Johnson & Johnson Company.

After the closing of the farm, Robert and his family continued to frequent the site through 1982. In 1958 he willed 1550 acres to the National Audubon Society and retained 50 acres surrounding the three ponds. In 1982 Terris Moore, Robert’s son, deeded the remaining 50 acres to the National Audubon Society and joined his cousins on Lake Onawa by buying a cabin there. In 2000 the Society gave the land to Maine Audubon Society, which continues to manage it as a sanctuary that was last logged in 1889.

The first Maine sporting camp experiences of Robert and his sisters, Mary and Minnie, and another brother, William, were with their parents on nearby Big and Little Benson ponds, which drain into Ship Pond Stream. Their father, Henry D. Moore, was born in 1842 in Steuben, mustered with a Maine regiment for the Civil War, and became a wealthy businessman who never forgot his Maine roots. From 1911 to 1922 he funded the Henry D. Moore Parish House and Library in Steuben, and in 1922 he created a trust to support the facility that still serves the community in 2017. By 1919 Henry and his wife Mary had 20 grandchildren.

At first, Henry and his family generally vacationed on the Maine coast during the summers, but then they came to Little Benson Pond and never left the area. A Civil War friend, perhaps Charles W. Page, encouraged him to bring his family inland to Little Benson Pond where Page had a cabin. They made their first trip in 1888, taking advantage of the recently completed east-west route of the Canadian Pacific Railway that passed south of Benson ponds and disembarked at Benson siding near Little Benson Pond. They enjoyed the spot and in the following years they returned with family, friends, and business clients from Philadelphia. In 1904 the Benson Lake Sporting Club, which included Henry D. Moore, William D. Sherrerd (Moore’s son-in-law of Haddonfield), S.C. Small (Boston), Harry Headley (Ocean City, New Jersey), and Frank Schoeble (Philadelphia), and three other...
name of their cabin) in 1907. In 1914 Henry took advantage of the bankruptcy of a landowner and was able to purchase 87 acres that included the northernmost end of Big Benson Pond. Here he built a number of structures, one of which spanned a stream and became known as Noisy Brook Camp. When the cabin burned in 1924 the Moores quickly rebuilt it. Access was from the Benson siding (Moore Station; Henry Moore was a railroad developer and owner) on the CPR due south of the pond where the Moores had a storage-type building.

When Henry died in 1930, his son, William G., retained this property and in 1969 deeded it to his two daughters, Katharine and Elizabeth, whose children continue to own the cabin.

The Moore family was not the only group to use the Page cabin at Little Benson Pond. In fall 1904 a group of eight men, most of them grew up in Charleston, took the B&A to Brownville Junction where they switched to the CPR and then disembarked at Benson siding. From here they walked 50 rods to Little Benson Pond and paddled across to the cabin. An account of the group in 1906, when they were at the same cabin, indicated that they began this yearly adventure 15 years previously and that Charles “Charlie” Page guided on that trip and built the cabin. In 1906 Charlie stopped by to say hello to the group and their guides Arthur Pearl and Herbert Howes. Charlie was now working down on Lake Onawa. What became of the cabin on Little Benson is unknown, but one possibility is that Charles Harrison (Harry) Coy, a Dover-Foxcroft resident, eventually took it over.

Harry Coy ran Coy’s Camps from 1920 through at least 1942 on one of the Benson ponds, probably Little Benson given the Moore’s seemed to want to be the only cabin on Big Benson. Coy grew up on his family’s nearby farm and became one of a number of Sebec Lake entrepreneurs who supported development around the lake. Coy became interested in steam engines and by 1920 he was captain of one of the Sebec Lake’s steamboats. In the winter he was a scalar in the logging camps, and in the spring he towed log booms. In the 1920s he built and his family managed Coy’s Dance Pavilion at Greeley Landing on Sebec Lake. Coy also provided a transporta-

56 Piscataquis Registry of Deeds.
59 This information is based on advertising and information in The Maine Register. The Coy family heirs had no further information.
tion business for people traveling between Dover-Foxcroft and Greeley Landing, where they transferred to his steamboat Marion for a ride to their destination. By 1932 he knew the 45-year-old steamboat was unsafe, so on its last evening he lit it up like it had been in its glory days, steered it down the lake, and sank it in Bucks Cove. He replaced it with a gas-powered boat he brought up from the coast, and continued his lake service and his sporting camp into the 1940s.

**From Monson to Blanchard, Shirley, and Greenville**

**Blanchard**

Blanchard, five miles west of Monson, was not on the main tote road or stage line from Bangor to Greenville, but roads did connect the communities and that is reflected in the number of hotel accommodations available for fishermen, hunters, and lumbermen. Blanchard’s relative isolation ended in 1876 when the railroad bypassed Monson and reached the community, which remained the end of the line for eight years.

Blanchard had a number of places to stay in town. In 1865 the Worcester Farm provided lodging and meals for woodsmen moving either north or south, and was still advertising for guests in 1917. By 1870 Cyrus Packard, a lawyer, and his wife, Sarah, with their eight children, ran the town’s one hotel and did so through 1879. Before 1880 J.M. Knowles opened the Railroad House, which he operated through at least 1884.

Outside of town were a number of places to stay. A mile from town in 1898 John M. and Lizzie Patten opened the Valley House, sold it in 1901 to E.P. Blanchard who, after a year, sold to Mary F. French, who managed it from 1902 to 1924. G.M. Philbrick’s sporting camp was three miles from the village in 1906. The Pleasant View House, one-and-a-half miles away, with G.H. Bartlett as proprietor, was open for business in 1917, as was the Riverside House, a half-mile from town and owned by Mrs. F.M. Worcester, who was still advertising in 1924.

Some of these establishments advertised blueberry picking on Russell Mountain, which residents burned each year in the early 1900s in support of the local economy.

What became of these places is unknown, but most listings ended following the 1921 edition of the Bangor and Aroostook publication, *In The Maine Woods*.

Blanchard was the departure point for three sporting camps to the west of the Piscataquis River. In 1895 sports departed for two sporting camps on Whetstone Lake and two on Lake Juanita (Piper Pond) where a small steamboat provided transportation to the sporting camps, one at each end of the lake. Who operated these sporting camps and for how long is unknown. In 1900 M.S. Tyler, who was a four-mile carriage ride from Blanchard, advertised Breezy Blanchard Farm, a farm with cabins on Russell Mountain and boats on neighboring ponds. She sold by 1905 to W.B. Taylor, who first renamed it Mountain House and a year later, Russell Mountain Lodge. Mrs. Ruby Jeffords ran the lodge through at least 1922.

When the Appalachian Trail first opened in 1934 it passed through Blanchard, but no accommodations were available at that time. However, beginning five years later hikers stayed at the Decker Tavern (c.1939–1947), and the homes of Mrs. Charles Decker in the 1940s and Ernest Garon from the late 1940s through the early 1950s. Beginning in 1987 the AT bypassed the village.

**Shirley**

The next settlement north of Blanchard was Shirley. Above Monson the first tote and stage road (1826) crossed the east ends of Bell and McLellan ponds three

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Information on places to stay in the Blanchard area came from *The Maine Register* and *In the Maine Woods*.


miles east of the area that would become Shirley Corner, and then went northerly, crossing over Eagle Stream and ending on the flat area among the settlers’ homes about halfway between the southeast corner of Moosehead Lake and Lower Wilson Pond. Four years later (1830) a new tote road replaced it and went northwest from Monson crossing over Doughty Hill, passing between the two Spectacle Ponds and turning due north at what became known as Lower Shirley Corner, a little less than two miles southeast of Shirley Mills at the foot of Shirley Pond on the East Branch of the Piscataquis River and nine miles south of the southeast-most cove of Moosehead Lake at what eventually became known as Greenville. Two miles above Lower Shirley Corner and a mile east of Shirley Mills was the Upper Shirley community at the headwaters of Little Wilson Stream, which flows east to Big Wilson Stream.

In 1825, Shirley’s first inhabitants were farmers and loggers working their way up the East Branch of the Piscataquis River. The first gristmill and clapboard mills were operating in 1833 at the falls at the foot of Shirley Pond (East Bog). Since Upper Shirley Corner was about the mid-point of the 20 miles from Monson to Moosehead Lake some enterprising person probably opened a shanty in support of the teamsters. By 1830 the supply route was also the stage line, with stages drawn by teams of six to eight horses.

The first public accommodation other than the shanty was available by 1848 with Paul S. Merrill of Blanchard and Shirley opening the Shirley House at Shirley Corner. Merrill was born in 1810 in Massachusetts, moved to Blanchard, married his wife Caroline in Blanchard in 1835, and moved to Shirley in the 1840s. He was named postmaster of Shirley in May 1850 and it is likely the post office was in the hotel. By 1860 Merrill was practicing law in Shirley. Between 1838 and 1870 he bought and sold a considerable amount of land in the Shirley area. Some time in the 1870s the Merrill family moved to Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

The Shirley House, which in some years was referred to as a tavern, stayed open through at least 1900 with a succession of owners or managers that included John H. Eveleth in the 1860s and Edward W. and Ermina P. Church in the early 1870s. Eveleth was the son of Oliver and Betsey Eveleth, who moved from Monson, Massachusetts to Monson by 1830 to farm. The family lived in...
Greenville by 1860 and both John and his father listed themselves as merchants, but were also major landowners, buying their first land in Greenville at the foot of the lake in 1843. By 1880 John was a lumberman and died as such in 1899, when he fell from a wagon.

The Churchs were farmers from Bingham and moved to Shirley before 1869. Edward died in 1888; his son John married, continued to farm through the 1930s, and ran a sporting camp on West Shirley Bog.

In 1884 the train tracks from Bangor reached Shirley Mills and that shifted the focal point of activity away from Lower and Upper Shirley corners two miles to the east to the foot of East Bog. The railroad advertised that the Shirley House was a two-minute walk from the train station. This suggests that the Shirley House moved from Lower Shirley Corner to Shirley Mills. What accommodations might have continued at Lower Shirley Corner is unknown, but in 1933 an establishment called Shirley Corner opened with Charles Willer as proprietor and it operated through 1939. William Mussey opened Old Hotel in 1935 and he was still operating in 1944, but when it closed is unknown.

By 1898 the Shirley House at Shirley Mills was Hotel Huntington and Charles L. Huntington was the proprietor. Either Huntington or a predecessor expanded the hotel’s services to sports by having cabins available at most nearby ponds. What became of the hotel after he sold in 1900 is unknown. Charles and his wife Augusta M., with three sons and a daughter, moved to Blanchard and ran a railroad boarding house. By 1910 they lived in Guilford where he sold jewelry and ten years later he was a lumber dealer. They also owned some cabins at unknown locations and what became of them after he died in 1929 is unknown.

Joining Huntington in taking advantage of the rail line and interests of sports were other Shirley farmers and guides who began to develop the first sporting camps in the area in the mid-1890s. The early owners of the township, Shaw and True, made a conscious decision to sell lots for settlers on the east side of the township and held the west side, West Bog and the head waters of the West Branch of the Piscataquis River, for loggers and sporting camp owners. In 1895 sports got off the train at Shirley Mills for a seven-mile journey to the northwest on Big Indian Pond. Proprietors Alphonso T. Mitchell and his son, Alphonso C., were early (1860) Shirley farmers and area landowners who sold stumpage rights to loggers. At first there was no access by team and they guided sports to the sporting camp on foot. By 1898 the first part of the trip was a buckboard ride, followed by a hike. They did not disclose their route, but a trail followed what was then known as Long Pond Stream to Wilbur Brook and ended on the south shore of the pond. Alphonso T. (b.1838) and his wife Dorcas Shorey of Palmyra resided, guided, and farmed in Shirley until he died in 1911. Alphonso C. married Mary Hubbard in 1896, when he was a 24-year-old railroad agent and she

63 A Guide to Maine and Aroostook County (1895) by the B&A.
was a teacher. He listed his occupation as a guide in 1910 and died in 1914. Alphonso C.’s daughter, Ida, and her husband, Arthur, ran the sporting camp for a time, but when Arthur ceased guiding is unknown and no one apparently took over the operation. The sporting camp had disintegrated by 1944.

Ten years after the Mitchells opened their sporting camp, John H. Church and his cousin Charles H. Littlefield, both farmers and guides in Shirley, each had a sporting camp on West Bog. Guests traveled by team to these sporting camps. They advertised consistently through about 1927, when Littlefield died. In 1928 John advertised two sporting camps, Beech Tree Camp and Camp Comfort, perhaps one of those was Littlefield’s. In 1927 and 1928 John also advertised “Cedar Tree Camp” on Spectacle Pond in Monson. John continued his West Bog operation until c.1936.

Two other owners also operated on West Bog and may have been subsequent owners of the Littlefield and Church sporting camps. In 1930 Charles E. Huff, who grew up on his family’s Shirley farm and was the local fire warden in 1926, owned West Bog Camps and ran the operation through 1940, when he died. His family might have continued to operate the sporting camp until c.1945. Stanley and Faye Marble operated “Buckhorns” on West Shirley Bog from 1917 through at least 1940. What became of the sporting camp following the Marbles is unknown.

Another area sporting camp, The Ledges, with Arthur P. Stacy as proprietor, was open from 1928 through about 1964. Arthur grew up in Blanchard, had land in Shirley, and worked for the Shirley Lumber Company in Shirley. By 1940 he and his wife Helen owned Dover-Foxcroft’s Blethen House, which they ran until at least 1947. The sporting camp’s location and what became of it are unknown.

**Greenville**

The tote road over which loggers hauled their supplies from Bangor to the foot of Moosehead Lake, a spot that soon became known as Greenville, was in use before 1830 and Pollard’s Shanty was operating near the lake and town. In 1836 Henry Gown built the community’s first hotel, the Seboomook House. Business was brisk with lumbermen, timber speculators, loggers, and some sports. Ten years later Oliver and John Eveleth opened the second hotel in town, the Eveleth House, which was on a small lakefront knoll immediately west of the town center. In 1884 the railroad reached the community and the Mount Kineo House opened halfway up Moosehead Lake. For the next 50 years tourists and sports arrived in Greenville, the rendezvous point for those heading to the hotels on Moosehead Lake; the sporting camps on the lake and the waterways to the north, northeast and east; and those adventurers starting their canoe trips on the St. John River, Allagash River, East Branch of the Penobscot River, and the West Branch of the Penobscot River.

Greenville was also the access point for sports inter-

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64 Sporting camp information came from The Maine Register and the B&A’s yearly publication In the Maine Woods.


minister and superintendent of The Little Wanderer’s Home in Boston, had a cabin on a predominant birch point on Upper Wilson beginning c.1900. A year later the Moosehead Inn in Greenville had cabins on the pond for their guests. A 1918 map by surveyor E.B. Crowley marked five camp lots on the pond; four of them had one or more camps and four of the five were on the upper west side of the pond, the other was on a point on the southeast side.

Sports headed to the Wilson Ponds and after c.1906 departed from the train at Greenville Junction and sometimes met a Walden Farm employee who transported the party to the E.O. Walden Farm about five miles to the east and a mile from Lower Wilson Pond. The next morning, a guide like Rube Bartlett, who had a sporting camp on Upper Wilson, met the sports, took them to Lower Wilson Pond and canoed up the pond. On their portage to Upper Wilson Pond they passed Templeton’s Camp, where author William J. Long spent the summer of 1906 working on one of his outdoor books. From Bartlett’s cabin they had a half-day walk to Horseshoe Pond where they camped or, if it was raining, used a cabin on the other side if available. In 1927 someone had a sporting camp on the west shore of Upper Wilson Pond and two cabins were on its north shore. Beginning in 1936 W.A. Wilt advertised Wilt’s Wilson Pond sporting camp on Wilson Pond, five miles by auto from Greenville. His ads in *In the Maine Woods* ceased after the 1942 season. On nearby Rum Pond a cabin was on the north shore in 1927. At Horseshoe Pond, accessible from either Greenville or Little Lyford Camps, a cabin of Little Lyford Ponds sporting camp was on the east shore in 1927. The early development around the Wilson ponds and others east of Greenville was probably slow due to its close proximity to Moosehead Lake and its many attractions and places to stay.

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67 *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 8 no. 90 (February 1901).
68 Bowdoin College Grant West Township 8, Range 10 N.W.P. Piscataquis County, Maine, E.B. Crowley, surveyor, 1918. (available at Fogler Library University of Maine)
Epilogue

This history of the Piscataquis River watershed sporting camp operations is the second watershed I’ve written about, the first being the West Branch of the Penobscot River south of Ripogenous dam. Their histories have both a major commonality and some differences.

The Piscataquis camps began to develop in the 1870s, twenty years earlier than those of the West Branch and prior to the advent of the railroad. The West Branch camps developed after the railway reached the West Branch at the foot of Elbow Lake at what we now know as Norcross. Even after the railways reached the rendezvous sites, sports reached the Piscataquis camps via land routes requiring a horse and cart of some type. The West Branch camp owners needed canoes, each with a guide to paddle, in some cases for 20 plus miles, to reach the site. The Piscataquis region certainly had guides, but most camps did not employ them in the large numbers of the West Branch camps. The Piscataquis camps, however, employed road workers and horsemen in order to keep the logging tote roads passable throughout the season. Most of the West Branch camps never had roads to maintain.

In the mid-1890s when the West Branch sporting camps began to open they followed the lead of the Piscataquis watershed camps, most of which were already beginning to involve women as cooks, generally the wives of the proprietors. From this point forward the woman’s role in camp operations continued to increase as the presence of women guests became critical to the viability of a camp.

In this book, like my other one, I made a conscious effort to include the name of the proprietor’s wife and refer to her as part of the camp proprietorship. Advertising generally only listed the husband as proprietor, thus, when I saw ads for Little Lyfords with “Call and McLeod Proprietors,” I kept hunting for male first names and those of their wives; they turned out to be women.

As I think about my text it is clear to me that the women proprietors loved this wilderness every bit as much as their male counterparts. Their love and capabilities were evident from the earliest of times. In 1833 Julianna Philbrook moved with her husband and three children to build a shanty on the Nahmakanta Tote Road; he soon died, but she ran the operation with the help of her children, whom she educated. Nearly a century later Sarah (MacDonald) Green, who moved to KIW in 1890 with her parents, worked at the Silver Lake Hotel, married Albert, a KIW man, and became a widow in 1929, stayed until just before she died in 1968 and left the forest she still owned in the protectorate of The Nature Conservancy. They were not the only remarkable woman with incredible know-how, energy, ingenuity, and devotion to a way of life that always faced challenges. Just think of what I’ve written about their camps.

Each of these woman owners knew her interaction with the women guests was important and she engaged them. She had the ability to make her guests feel comfortable and enjoy their stay. Through conversation her guests understood the love she had for her life and work at her sporting camp. Her stories included her gardening, cooking, animal and bird sightings, raising wild animal pets, being safe with bears, who also like to pick berries and eat baked goods, and caring for sports, who became ill or sustained fishing tackle or gun shot injuries.

Each of these women knew what made women sports comfortable and insured it: cleanliness; fresh produce, either from the woods or a garden; a library for reading; regular mail for letters going and arriving and for newspapers; walking paths and picnic places in beautiful settings; a comfortable dining room and well-presented meals. She used her ingenuity and capability to work with what she had and what she knew would bring her guests, now her friends, back year after year. She was the advertising medium.
Of all the sporting camps in the Piscataquis and West Branch watersheds, those that survived into the 1950s were those either run by a woman or a wife and husband team.

Dedicated couples, unsubsidized and using their own financial resources, are responsible for the preservation of the original camps that remain. First West Branch Pond Camps has never lost a building due to fire and the family has invested and worked incessantly in preserving the original structures. Nahmakanta Lake Camps still has the buildings in use as built by Lewis Ketchum; dated wood is still in the walls; they’ve not torn down to rebuild. Yoke Pond Camps is another preserved site with more modern structures out of view. Rainbow Lake Camps, once destined for eradication, were instead saved and restored by Webber Energy Company, including the rock crib wharf. Much more recently the AMC has preserved some of the historical structures at Little Lyfords and Chairback Mountain Camps; their predecessors had done necessary upkeep. The Dore camps on Long Pond, now privately owned, have been preserved, as have many of the structures of the once Young and Buxton sporting camp on Lake Onawa. Many other families, like those of the Henry Moore heirs in the Benson Pond and Lake Onawa area, Carolyn Brown on Endless Lake, and the families who own one of the structures in the old Gourley Schoodic Lake Camps compound, have preserved old private camps of trappers and sports from a century or more ago.

I pray such commitment to the preservation of Maine history continues on through this century.
In 1979 Robin went to work at Nahmakanta Lake Camps and has since been employed at a sporting camp. She married Barry Nevel, whose family owned the camps, and in 1987 they began managing Yoke Pond Camps and still are. (Bill Geller photo)

Once Minnie Perham arrived at camp early each spring, she never left until she closed about Thanksgiving. If you were there for two weeks between 1936 and 1954, her years of proprietorship, you never ate the same meal twice. (courtesy Nancy Mae Perham)

Carolyn (Dugans) Brown (r) with her mom and dad (Ellen and June) and brother (Orrie) grew up riding in a donkey cart from her Seboeis home to Camp Ruth on Endless Lake. Her dad, as had her grandfather, managed the Richards camps, and upon the death of Mr. Richards he was given the camps. Carolyn and her family have continued to preserve the camps. (courtesy Carolyn Brown)
Alice Chadwick and husband Lewis bought the camp in 1914 when their daughter, Shirlie, was 12 years old. Abbie knew Chadwicks Camps before she married Fred Chadwick in 1922; her parents worked for Alice. In 1950 Abbie’s daughter Connie, who married Cliff Kealiher who worked at the camps, took over the operation. Their daughter Carol and husband Andrew Stirling took over in 1973, passing it on to their son and wife, Mildred and Eric Stirling, in 2003. (courtesy the Chadwick family)
Etta Packard opened Packard’s with her husband Burton M. in 1894. The next three generations of Packard sons each married a woman who came as young women to work at the camps. For nearly a century the work of Etta, Christine, and Vivian focused on the success of Packard’s Camps.  (courtesy Jerry Packard)
When the Appalachian Trail opened in 1934
Sadie Bodfish Drew welcomed hikers at her farm in Bodfish Intervale.

The Bodfish family hired Lydia McKenney (seated right) as a domestic in the late 1860s. She became Nymphas’ second wife after Mary died and lived at the farm with her daughter until death. Her daughter Sadie Bodfish Drew (standing left) spent a lifetime helping to manage the operation; she was nearly 80 years old when the business closed about 1954. Sadie had six children. (courtesy Gary Noyce)
As a young woman Marion Call worked for Abbie Chadwick at First West Branch Pond Camps before she partnered with Grace MacLeod in running Little Lyford Camps. (Bert Call photo, Call Collection, courtesy Special Collections Raymond H. Fogler Library, DigitalCommons@UMaine)

Vera Cole (right) passed on the ownership to her daughter-in-law Barbara (left), but still liked to assist with the cooking in the 1960s. Barbara was the backbone of the operation until she sold in 2012. (courtesy Debbie and Rodney Cole)

Vera and Maurice Cole, Camp Moosehorns, 1940–1957
(courtesy Debbie and Rodney Cole)
In creating a story to accompany a place name I start by trying to determine when a name first appeared on maps. That provides a time frame for such items as when someone first referenced the site, who either owned the land or worked in the area at the time, and therefore, for whom the feature might be named. I have not included names that are in Phillip Rutherford’s Maine place name book, unless I have new information.

Adams siding (on the B&A in Lake View): Sprague and John Adams were landowners who sold stumpage to loggers in the Schoodic and Seboeis lakes area.

B-Pond, B-Ridge (TBR11 W.E.L.S.): These are the accepted simplifications for Baker Pond and Baker Ridge. The pond name did not appear on the 1858 Walling map of Piscataquis County, but the label B-Pond appeared on Lucius Hubbard’s Maine map of 1879. The pond’s naming might have been for one of two Bakers, both with a first name John. John G. Baker (b.1844) and his wife Selena (b.1845), both born in Canada, were living in Old Town by 1870 with five children under the age of seven and John logging. By 1880 John noted his occupation as lumberman and with his wife, children, and crew, was cutting on the South Branch of the West Branch of the Penobscot River in T5R4 (Blake Gore N.B.K.P.). Their next appearance on the census is in 1910 in Bradley with John a lumberman. John died in 1936. Both John and Selena could neither read nor write; perhaps his signature was simply “B.” The other John Baker (b.1848 in Canada) had a farm “opposite Kineo,” and in 1880 had a farm in Chesuncook township. He died in 1902, an accidental drowning, and was buried in the Chesuncook village cemetery.

Benson Ponds (Big and Little) and mountain (Bowerbank): Both Benson ponds are present and labeled on the Hubbard 1879 map, but they are not on the Walling 1858 Piscataquis County map. Hubbard added the Benson Mountain label to his 1900 map. Alfred G. Bensen, a New York City merchant, bought a large tract of land in Bowerbank township in 1835 when a fellow city merchant could not meet his debt obligation on the land. Bensen then proceeded to buy five other parcels in Bowerbank. In 1842 he sold nearly all of it to Waldo T. and Hayward Pierce of Bangor. No other Bensen had owned land in Bowerbank during the period of time preceding the use of Bensen as a place name.

Barnes Falls: The only bridge across the Piscataquis River between Upper Abbot and Blanchard was at Barns Falls. A bridge was in place by 1858, but no farms were nearby. Attwood Barrows moved to Blanchard by 1840. His wife Mary C. gave birth to two children John (1842) and Mary (1855). Their farm was on the Piscataquis River’s east side just above Blanchard village and next to the mouth of Jackson Brook. Attwood resided here until his death and was buried in Blanchard Cemetery. Given the Attwood farm’s proximity to the Blanchard dam and no others above it, it is hard to imagine that Barrows was not involved in logging. Most farmers of his era were involved in logging, a winter activity when farms were dormant.

Barnes Ponds (Big and Little) and mountain (Bowerbank): Both Benson ponds are present and labeled on the Hubbard 1879 map, but they are not on the Walling 1858 Piscataquis County map. Hubbard added the Benson Mountain label to his 1900 map.

An ancestry.com search revealed no early farm settler in the townships of the area. Loggers at this early time, pre-1870s, were often local residents.

In 1875 Benjamin and Blanche Benson with their three children lived in Williamsburg and Benjamin was a quarry man for the Piscataquis Central Slate Company in 1880; the quarry opened in 1874. The couple and their oldest daughter Mary C. (b.1868)
emigrated from Sweden, probably about July 1870 when New Sweden, Maine was purposely established by the state legislature for Swedish immigrants and 51 families came to settle. Many of them were miners and found work in the Piscataquis River watershed slate mines that opened c.1870. The couple’s second child, Benjamin, was born some place in Maine in 1873 and their third child, John, was born in Williamsburg (1875), as was their second daughter, Agnesa (1880). Benjamin’s first mining job in the area could have been with the Howard Slate Mine that opened some distance from the north side of Buck’s Cove on Sebec Lake in 1870. The company formed a small settlement at the mine where the family could have lived. The owners discovered that their crews could not mine the slate profitably and closed it before 1880.

Billings Falls in Gulf Hagas (T7R10 N.W.P., Bowdoin College Grant East): Thomas Waldo Billings, a Brownville logger and accomplished trapper and hunter, worked on the river for landowner William McCrillis. Billings had a trapper’s camp at both Long Pond and Big Lyford Pond. He died in 1890.

Burdin Pond (Bowerbank): The earliest map with the Burdin label is an ATCo 1924 map of Bowerbank. No land owner named Burdin lived or owned land in Bowerbank according to the U.S. Census records and the Piscataquis Registry of deeds. Fred A. Burdin (b.1852) grew up in Wellington, worked as a carpenter in Cambridge in 1880, married, and by 1900 was a lumber sawyer living in Foxcroft, where he resided until his death. In 1920 he was working at a local mill as a filer. One of Fred’s sons, Vernon W., was also a millman and a cordwood sawyer. Fred could have worked for the sawmill at Greeley Landing; it operated through 1908, when it burned and was never rebuilt. Greeley hauled wood from Bowerbank to this mill. The Dwelley Mill in Foxcroft also hauled wood cut in Bowerbank.

Buttermilk Falls in Gulf Hagas (T7R10 N.W.P., Bowdoin College Grant East): When the river water is high enough to flow and drop over the falls in one smooth mass the water’s distinctively yellow color looks like rich buttermilk poured from a wide-mouth pitcher. Columbus Mountain: (T7R9 N.W.P.): The Farrar guidebook of 1889 and the Hubbard guidebook of 1893 include the name Chairback Mountain, not Columbus Mountain. In the 1930s the Columbus Lumber Company logged on the south side of the Chairback ridgeline. The 1933 NETC map in its guide to the Appalachia Trail used the label Columbus Mountain. The 1934 MATC Guide text indicated Columbus Mountain had previously been a part of the “chair” of Chairback Mountain; Hubbard’s guide described the “chair.”

Ebeemee ponds (Ebeemee Township): Ebeemee is a Native American word meaning “where they get highbush cranberries.”

Endless Lake (T3R9 N.W.P.): An older and frequently-used name for this body of water was Trout Pond.

Gray Ledge Deadwater (East Branch Seboeis Stream, T3R9 N.W.P.): Newell B. Gray, who was born in 1862 in Lagrange, was a Milo farmer and a logger for whom one record revealed that he cut in this area during the second decade of the twentieth century. An entry in the Howland Outing Club Camp Keith Journal for the club’s camp on Endless Lake mentioned Gray Ledge Deadwater in 1895. The Hubbard maps up through 1906 have no label for the deadwater. The first USGS map of the area was 1942 and had “Gray Ledge Deadwater.”

Upper and Lower Greeley Falls (Willimantic): When lumbermen first sought dam and river improvement charters for Big Wilson Stream in 1893 those charters referred to the stream’s two falls just above Sebec Lake as Upper and Lower Greeley Falls, now labeled as First and Second Falls. David Greeley was a Dover lumberman who worked the Sebec Lake waters.

Guernsey Brook (TBR11 W.E.L.S.): Notes from 1892 in the William McCrillis papers at the Raymond Fogler Library referenced Guernsey Brook. Chapman used a different label on his 1909 map. Sometime between 1910 and 1927 the Guernsey name began to appear on maps. Frank E. Guernsey, a son of a miner, Ed-
ward H. Guernsey, was born in Dover in 1866, became a lawyer, and in 1898 took over control of the Dwelley mill in Dover. He was also the Piscataquis County Treasurer from 1890–1896, a member of the state legislature, and served as U.S. House of Representative from district four (1908–1917).

Hardy Pond (Lake View): The earliest map found with the Hardy Pond label is the “D. Lord, Map Plan of Township No.4 R8 (N.W.P.),” c.1881. Assuming Hardy is the last name of a person who had a connection to this body of water, the connection predated 1881.

Hay Brook (T7R10 N.W.P., Bowdoin College Grant East): One source indicated that “Hay” came from hay as animal fodder. I did not find evidence of a logging farm on or near the brook. However, maybe substantial quantities of hay were used to help slow the descent of sleds to the landings on this mountain stream.

Henderson Brook (T7R10 N.W.P., Bowdoin College Grant East): Charles J. Henderson was a chopper for logging operations in the Henderson Brook and the West Branch of the Pleasant River areas, and a guide who worked for the Browns at Chairback Mountain Camps on Long Pond from the 1890s into the 1920s.

Hermitage (T7R10 N.W.P., Bowdoin College Grant East): Campbell Young, a Scotsman, opened the Hermitage at the foot of Gulf Hagas in 1892. Hermitage, a village, and Hermitage Castle are both in the Scottish Borders area. The castle was a guard for the area lands. The word hermitage derives from the French l’armitage, guard house. Young might have named it for the Hermitage of his homeland and thought of his camp as a guard post for Gulf Hagas. Equally possible was that Young simply named it the Hermitage, a reflection of its meaning, a small remote dwelling of a hermit, but the structure was not small like hermits’ camps in the area.

Big and Little Houston ponds (T7R9 N.W.P., and Katahdin Iron Works): The Walling 1858 Piscataquis County map includes the Houston label for both Houston Brook and what is currently known as the Barren Chairback massif, but neither pond. In 1835 Benjamin Houston and others bought and within a few months sold all their land in T8&9 R9 N.W.P. that includes the southwestern two-thirds of the Barren Chairback range. Benjamin (1797–1860) was a surveyor who grew up and died in Belfast, where he also had a substantial farm. No other Houston had a deed for land in the vicinity of the mountain or the stream and ponds.

Since the Houston Ponds and stream are within T7R9, the Houston name could be attributed to someone else. Jonas A. Houston and Joseph Houston are the two most likely persons who appear in ancestry.com in the early 1800s in the Piscataquis River watershed. Both men were born about 1793, lived in Orneville in 1820, farmed in Dover, and died in 1877. General John Parker Boyd owned all of Orneville township in 1820; only a few people lived there, as he was holding the land for lumbering. Whether or not those living there at the time were cutting for him is unknown. The fire of 1825 destroyed the timber in the whole of the township. By 1830 Jonas moved to Dover and was present on all census reports during his lifetime as a farmer, who in those early years also logged and hunted. Joseph was not listed in either the 1830 or 1840 census, but had a farm in Dover in 1850. His occupation as listed on the 1860 census was hunter. Farmers like the Houstons were cutting the white pine during the winters on the West Branch of the Pleasant River by the 1820s, and would have ventured up the stream, now named Houston Brook, in the lower part of which the spring freshet could carry the logs to market.

Hutchinson Pond and Hutchinson Brook (TAR11 W.E.L.S.): Dave Hutchinson, born in 1850 in Glasgow, Scotland, grew up in New Brunswick, Canada and moved to New Hampshire in 1886 to log. In 1888 he participated in his first drive in the Pleasant River area and continued doing so for the next 30 years. He lived up on the arm of nearby Shanty Mountain, an area that had great spruce gum picking, and operated a sporting camp on B-Pond
from the mid 1890s until 1923. He tended anyone of a number of dams in the area including that at B-Pond.

Ingalls siding (a B&A siding in Long A): J.E. Ingalls of Lagrange opened his logging camp at the siding in the off-season as Long A Camps by November 1896 and ran them for several years. He was a member of the Phineas Ingalls family of Bridgton and owned surrounding area land in T4 I.P. beginning about 1848.

Kuroki siding (Bowerbank): Kuroki is not a word of the Abenaki as they do not use “r” according to Carol Dana, Penobscot Language Master, Penobscot Nation, Maine. She could think of no similar Abenaki word. Penobscot place names are generally descriptive of a particular spot. Kuroki siding area has no distinctive landmark. In Japanese “kuroki” means “unbarked lumber,” and when used as a person’s name it “implies great success.” Perhaps when the Canadian Pacific Railroad built the siding they had one or more Japanese persons employed. However, Paul Larrabee, whose father grew up in Morkill, never heard his dad tell any stories of Japanese workers on this line in the early days. He heard stories of Chinese workers being killed in a blast and buried beside the track near Tarratine Siding, which was once called Kuroki Siding. He thought the marker was right beside the track just east of Tarratine.

Leeman Brook (Monson): James S. Leeman, born in Parkman, Maine in 1848, moved to Monson, Maine before 1870 to work as a laborer on the Curtis farm about four miles north of Monson village on the north side of the Elliottsville Road and west of a stream. By 1880 he had married, began raising a family, and had a farm across the road from the Curtis farm and closer to the brook that later took his name. In 1898 James and his family began running a sporting camp at Long Pond. He died in 1914, but family continued to run the farm for some time.

Leyford Island (T4R9 N.W.P.): The Walling Piscataquis County map of 1858 does not have the Leyford label. The Colby Atlas of Maine 1886 has the label as Lyford. In 1886 no landowner in this township was a Lyford or Leyford. Minimal logging was taking place in this area in 1886 and none of the loggers were a Lyford of either spelling. James G. Lyford came to Sebec to settle about 1820 and had a large family, whose members continued to reside in the area after James’ death in 1868. James, who became known as “old Uncle Jim,” trapped and hunted in the Schoodic and Seboeis area and was friends with the Philbrook family near Upper Ebeemee Lake on the Nahmakanta Tote Road. He taught their son Rufus to trap. Once when he stopped by everyone was sick, so he stayed to care for them until they were healthy. The island could be named for Jim or another family member.

Little Lyford Ponds (T8R10 N.W.P.), Big Lyford Pond (TAR12, W.E.L.S.): James Lyford of Sebec township was known as Maine’s finest hunter until he died in 1868. He hunted, trapped, and guided in the area of these ponds and had a trapper’s camp at the head of Big Lyford Pond. By June of 1867 he had killed 340 bears and hoped to reach 365 before he died.

Livingston settlement (Katahdin Iron Works): This mill settlement formed around a small, presumably birch, mill c.1905 and structures at this site were still on maps dated 1940. The mill is close to the Brownville town line, with a short access road from the KIW road, and the only Livingsons in the area were at the end of the 1910 Brownville Census and lived on the “Iron Works Road.” The KIW 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses listed no Livingsons. The Livingston family emigrated from New Brunswick to Maine between 1904 and 1908. The family included: George Livingston, the patriarch, and his wife Mary, with married son George H. and wife Marguerite Arbo (d.1918), and older sons Herbert and Melvin, and two young daughters and a young son. The father and sons all listed their work as lumber and wood, and one spool-bar mill. Mary was the cook at the Herrick Hotel in Brownville and lived there when working. Marguerite’s family owned a nearby farm and a place for travelers to stay on Brownville’s north town line. The 1940 census listed George H. and his wife Jennie (m.1922) in Brownville and he was manager of his lumber operation, presumed to be at the Livingston settlement.
Lucia Pond (T7R9 N.W.P.): The earliest map on which I found a label for this pond is the Colby Atlas of 1886. There are a number of Lucias (first name) of the right age living between Abbot, Dover, Foxcroft, and Sebec villages. As a last name a “Lucia” search produced one result with no connection to the site.

Morkill (Greenville): Morkill was a label for a siding on the CPR east of Greenville; it was home to a section crew beginning in 1888. The siding was originally called Elliot, and at some point in the early 1900s the name changed to Morkill. Paul Larrabee, whose father grew up in the remaining section house at Morkill from 1927 on and who was an engineer on this line, never heard where the name Morkill came from. The family still has a camp at the siding.

Murphy Pond (TAR11 W.E.L.S.): Cornelius Murphy and his son Billie (Willie) Murphy both logged and drove on the East Branch of the Pleasant River. Cornelius was a much-admired-by-his-men Bangor lumberman who also worked the drives of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, where he was the drive boss for the Penobscot Log Driving Company on numerous occasions prior to 1900.

Norton Pond (Brownville): Elijah Norton built his farm, which served as a stopping point for teamsters on the Nahmakanta Tote Road, a couple of miles north of the foot of Norton Pond around which the road passed. Elijah was operating his farm by 1869 and was still there in 1880.

Packard siding (a B&A siding in T4R9 N.W.P.): O.B. Packard of Medford Center was a logger in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He logged on the Pleasant River watershed in 1902.

Piscataquis River: The word “Piscataquis” translates as “many branches.” White men applied the label to the river.

Prescott Pond and Brook (Monson): Jonathan S. Prescott, born in 1833 in St. Albans, was living in Monson by 1860 and eventually purchased the H.G. Sherman Farm on the road that ran south from the Willimantic Road and was a mile from the Monson east town line. The farmhouse was on the east side of the road and north of the first brook crossing. He and his wife Harriet Steward of The Forks had three children. Jonathan died in 1917 and Harriet in 1926. The road the farm was on is now named Steward Road, probably in honor of the two Steward farms on the road in 1858. (I did not discover a link between Harriet and either of these Steward families.)

Rand Cove (a B&A siding in Lake View): The Rand Cove label appears on no maps, that I found, before 1899. By 1891 Merrick had a birch mill in the cove and referred to it as “Five Islands.” Through at least 1921, entities with a name in the cove area were all “Five Islands _____. ”

Sampson Pond (T7R9 N.W.P.): Oral history passes along the story that Sampson, a Civil War draft dodger from parts unknown, made his way into this uninhabited great bowl and established a farm south of Barren Mountain and north of Indian Pond. No other information about him has since surfaced. On the Walling 1858 map of Piscataquis Country this area remained uncharted. The pond appeared unla- beled in the Colby Atlas of 1886, as it did on Thomas W. Billings survey map of T7R9 N.W.P. c.1890; it was one of a string of ponds Billings labeled “Second Houston Ponds.” Billings owned an undivided share of this township and walked it frequently. The James W. Sewall T7R9 map of 1929 had the Sampson Pond label.

Schoodic Lake and Schoodic Stream (Lake View Planta- tion): Moses Greenleaf, Maine’s highly regarded early mapmaker, used the label “Scootum Lake” for what is now labeled “Schoodic Lake.” “Scootum Lake” translates as Trout Lake, which was an early name used by settlers for what is now commonly labeled Endless Lake. John Charles Huden, author of Indian Place Names of New England (1899), wrote that “Schoodic” translates as “trout place” and perhaps “point of land,” and was frequently used.

Sebec Lake and Sebec River (Bowerbank and Sebec): Se- bec translates as “large body of water” and the Native Americans applied it to the lake. Settlers probably applied the name to the river.
Seboeis Lake and Seboeis Stream (T4R9 N.W.P.): “Seboeis” ³ means “small river” or “little waterway” in the Abenaki language.⁴

Shanty Mountain, Little and Big (TBR11 W.E.L.S.): Beginning in the early 1830s teamsters hauling on the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road had overnight rest stations, shanties, about every ten miles. “Ten-mile shanty” was on the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road at the foot of these two mountains.

Saddle Rock Mountain (also Saddlerock) (TBR11 W.E.L.S.): This mountain, the base of which abuts the north side of Silver Lake, was so labeled on Walling’s 1858 map of Piscataquis County and continued as such through the publication of the 1953 MATC guide. The USGS maps had the label Saddlerock on the 1943 KIW map. Why the name eventually shifted to Saddleback Mountain is undiscovered.

Toby Falls (Willimantic): Toby Falls was mentioned in the BAR publication In the Maine Woods 1902. The only Toby family apparently living in Willimantic or Elliottsville townships prior to 1902 was the Thomas and Lovina Toby family who appear on the 1850 and 1860 census as farmers. By 1870 they were farming in Kansas. The Walling 1858 Piscataquis County map has the label “T. Toby” on a farm on the east side of Big Wilson Stream opposite the mouth of an unlabeled brook (Leeman Brook) and the site of what is now Toby Falls.

Whitney Ridge (Seboeis): William C. Whitney purchased the land February 12, 1821. The first settlers built on what they called Whitney Ridge in 1835 and referred to the township as Whitney Ridge Plantation.

White Brook and Little White Brook (Pleasant River watershed, T7R10 N.W.P., Bowdoin College Grant East): Samuel White led logging operations on the West Branch of the Pleasant River from the mid-1880s into the early 1900s. Jacob Palmer, a logger in this area (1878–1886), referred to White Brook in 1881. The label “White Brook” first appears on Lucius Hubbard’s map of 1883. The “White” might simply be attributable to White Cap Mountain from which the brook flows.

Wilder Ponds and Brook (T7R9 N.W.P.): The 1858 Walling Piscataquis County map does not have the ponds, nor does the Colby maps of the 1880s, but that may be because of the small scale of the 1880s maps. Thomas W. Billings was the cartographer for the earliest map I found for this township. He did not date the map, but he died in 1890. R.E. Mullaney copied Billings work to create an undated map of the township. I don’t know that Billings actually labeled the ponds, but at a minimum Mullaney did. I found other Mullaney maps of the same notable style from 1910 and 1920. Consequently Wilder was active between the 1860s and 1890–1910.

On Sunday night August 30, 1874 David Barker, a poet of some repute and in poor health, was visiting KIW to partake of its mineral springs, and wrote a poem titled “Katahdin Iron Works.” In the poem the reader learns that this is where Wilder Taylor “dwelleth.”⁵ Wilder is a fisherman who sells his “rare fish,” a phrase left to interpret. The men are eating some place in KIW where women prepared the fish. Barker died two weeks later and Taylor died in December 1875. Taylor, a Bangor resident, had some kind of presence in the KIW area and fished. That suggests he probably used a guide. Thomas Billings, the maker of the map with the Wilder Ponds, was a guide in this area and the ponds are in the northwest-most corner of the neighboring township (T7). Another Bangor man and part owner of T7, Joseph A. Thompson, also lived in the area and guided, and regularly walked his boundary lines. Either Thompson or Billings might have guided him to what are now Wilder Ponds.

³ The spelling of Seboois with “oo” as opposed to “oe” was the spelling used by the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. The Abenaki translation of “Seboois” is like that of Seboeis, “little stream.” (John Charles Huden, author of Indian Place Names of New England (1899)) The Canadian Pacific Railroad spelled the same word with “oe,” Seboeis. A review of maps at the Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine offered the following: 1877 – Sebois, 1879–1899 Hubbard maps – Seeboois, 1881 – Sebois, 1883 – Seboesi, 1894 – Sebois, 1902 – Seboois, 1911 – Sebois; 1913 – Seboois, 1924 – Sebois, 1926 and after – Sebois. For the lake and stream, Seboeis is the spelling in this text.

⁴ Eckstorm, Fanny Hardy, Indian Place-names of the Penobscot Valley and the Maine Coast (1941).

⁵ Honorable John E. Godfrey, Poems by David Barker with Historical Sketch, Bangor: Press of Samuel S. Smith & Son, 1876
The only landowner with the Wilder name was Lydia G. Wilder, who, along with others, purchased land in T6R9 (KIW) about 1843. She also owned land in Barnard and Williamsburg, where she lived and was postmaster between 1848 and 1850. She was also a contributor to the American Colonization Society in 1842.

Wilson Township, Upper Wilson Pond, Lower Wilson Pond, Big Wilson Stream, Little Wilson Stream, Big Wilson Cliffs (Greenville and Elliottsville Plantation): Whether or not all these Wilson names are the same Wilson is unknown. The Wilson Pond and Wilson Stream labels appeared on the Moses Greenleaf’s map of 1820. Wilson became a township name in 1836. Deed records reveal no Wilson landowner before 1830. Greenleaf might have known a Wilson who was living in the township during his survey.

In 1820 Wilson township was simply T9R9 N.W.P. Massachusetts land agents gave all but the southwestmost corner to the Massachusetts Medicinal Society before 1820. Henry W. Fuller (and others) bought much of the land from the society in 1823 and more in 1830, and it became known as Fullerstown. Fuller (1784–1841) was a graduate of Bowdoin College and a well-respected Augusta lawyer and judge of probate. The township name was Wilson from 1836 to 1848 when the Maine state legislature eliminated the township by reapportioning it to the townships of Greenville, Shirley, and Elliottsville.

In 1824 Wilson Savage cut a clearing on what is now known as Little Wilson stream and eventually opened a sawmill at the head of Little Wilson Falls; some sources identify the mill as Nelson Savage’s; he was Wilson’s brother. Whereas Nelson appears on the 1830 U.S. census and those following, Wilson Savage was not found in the township census.

In 1828 Wilson Arnold, who was living in T9R9, bought the north half of lot 7 from Fuller. In 1830 and 1833 he engaged in other land transactions in T9R9, which was still Wilson’s town of residence. Another land transaction deed in 1837 listed Arnold’s address as Augusta. Perhaps Wilson Arnold was living in T9R9 before 1820.

William A. Wilson (b.1810) was a Berlin, New Hampshire lumberman who moved to Monson in 1835. In 1836 he married Mary Shaw, daughter of Enoch Shaw of Greenville, and she was living in Greenville at the time. The couple lived in Monson and Greenville from 1836 through at least 1851 and Mary gave birth to eight children during that time.

William engaged in buying land. Between 1834 and 1837 he bought considerable land (over 1,000 acres) in the Saco Academy Grant in Haskell Plantation (Greenville), and on Eagle Creek, where he bought mill rights and some mill machinery. The lands abutted what became Wilson township. Eagle Creek, a tributary of Big Wilson Stream, was so named at the time of purchase. He was a member of a sizable group of men who combined resources to buy the Kineo area in the 1840s.
Sources of Information

The two questions people ask me most frequently are: in what sources do you find this information and where are the sources located? Each footnote of the book provides the reader with the specific source and location. In the paragraphs that follow are the resources I find most helpful in discovering answers to my Maine history questions about sporting camps and logging.

These two questions will probably stimulate a third question once you start working with the sources. How can I find what I’m looking for when I use this resource? I provide some suggestions.

Two key publications offer a good starting point for finding sporting camp names and some initial information. Bangor and Aroostook Railroad printed a yearly publication (1895–1952) that was consistently titled *In the Maine Woods* after c.1901; it promoted travel to those camps accessible from its lines. *The Maine Sportsman* (1894–1907) printed people’s experiences while visiting Maine sporting camps and traveling its watersheds. Both are available at the Maine State Library in hard copy and carry informative advertising.

For me Maine woods history begins with the early land surveys and that information is all organized by township by county. Land ownership and logging is organized in the same manner. Lumbermen worked according to township and they did their forest assessments by township. Land surveys and assessments typically include roads, lumber camps, sporting camps, and private camps. The Maine State Archives has this type of material.

When searching for a township I do not simply rely on the township’s current name; before each had a name, it had a township number and a range number. For example, Seboeis Township was T3R8 N.W.P.. Some early township names also changed over time like T8R8 Somerset County became Fultertown, and then Wilson Township, which was reapportioned and divided among Greenville, Shirley, and Elliottville townships.

The county registry of deeds is an important source in figuring out who owned land. Once I have a landowner’s name I search for the availability of their family papers. The largest repository for the state of Maine is in Special Collections at the University of Maine Raymond Fogler Library.

The *Maine Register, State Year-book and Legislative Manual*, one for each year beginning about 1870, is organized by county and township (both organized and unorganized), and provides a yearly glimpse of who’s who and the township sporting camp business.

The earliest county histories, which are collections of each town’s history, are those of Piscataquis (Loring) and Penobscot (Chase) in the 1880s. A Maine state gazetteer (Varney) of the same era has some early history of every county and town in Maine. Individual township histories, which were typically written after 1900, are numerous, with the largest collections at the Maine State, Raymond Fogler, and Bangor Public libraries. Small town libraries often have what no other library has.

To supplement township histories old newspapers are a valuable source. The *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, which covers the eastern half of Maine, is searchable online for the years 1832–1900 through newspaperarchive.com. The link is available free at Raymond Fogler Library or for a nominal monthly rate for your home computer. The archive includes a number of other old Maine newspapers.

Not all newspapers are indexed or searchable electronically, but they are well worth reading. *The Piscataquis Observer*, 1842 to current, with columns organized by township, is available on microfilm at a number of the University of Maine libraries. *The Maine Mining Journal* that after a few years became *The Maine Mining and Industrial Journal* and then *The Industrial Journal*, published from c.1880 to 1910 and has a wealth of sporting camp and hotel business information and is available on microfilm at the Raymond Fogler Library.
My plea to Maine libraries is: “Please do not remove microfilmed documents.” Even though many journal and magazine articles are online, if you wish to peruse the magazine’s pictures or advertising or get a sense for the totality of the publication, that is not necessarily online. The only way to see the whole of the publication is on microfilm or hard copy. Microfilm viewing technology is many times better than what users once experienced.

Another example of microfilm versus online revolves around learning about people. As I read the preceding materials, I kept track of names and then I looked them up on ancestry.com at my local library. Here I learned about a person’s family and their business activity that I could track across time. But I also spent nearly as much time using the microfilm form for the census. If I do not know the name of anyone in a township, I cannot search for the township for a particular census year to see who lived there and what they were engaged in. The source www.mainegenealogy.net provides an online form of the microfilm through 1850. If I don’t have a person’s name for a particular township census after 1850, then I use the Maine Register, State Year-book and Legislative Manual for the year of the census desired to find a name in the town and use that name in ancestry.com to see the township census list.

Maps, county and township, are another useful source of information. Many of the maps are available online at the Maine State Archives, Raymond Fogler Library, University of Southern Maine Osher Library, and the Library of Congress. The Walling Piscataquis County map of 1858 is the earliest that includes homes (with the owner’s name), mills, schools, and helps one understand the flow of people. The Colby atlases of the 1880s have similar information. The Way and Hubbard maps reveal the evolution of tote road development north of the Piscataquis River (1870–early 1900s).

The largest map collections that I use are at: the Raymond Fogler Library Special Collections, the Maine State Archives, the Maine State Library, and the Millinocket Historical Society.

Old pictures, labeled or unlabeled, are another helpful tool in translating and clarifying activity. A number of Maine institutions have magnificent large collections of old pictures that one can access online. The entities include: the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the Maine State Archives, the Raymond Fogler Library, the Maine State Library, and the Maine Historical Society. A review of the pictures at these sites will provide a list of the photographers for additional research and more pictures at other locations.

In addition to traditional libraries and archives, the internet has three interconnected powerful search engines. If I have a key word or phrase or name I google “Google Books”, which word-searches a staggering amount of material. If I know or suspect an item was in print before 1920, then I google the exact title followed by “Hathi Trust.” Hathi Trust is a huge repository and is connected to other large major libraries. If the site has the book or document, then you can read and word search it. If I am not successful at Hathi, then I google “Internet Archive” and type the title into its search engine and if the item is there, then I can read and word search it.

Three important and fun key information sources are local historical societies, small town libraries, and people whose families made their livelihoods in the Maine woods. I enjoy working with people who care about their history.

Enjoy the excitement and challenge of the search.