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Within Katahdin's Realm: Log Drives and Sporting Camps - Chapter 04: Millinocket Stream and Millinocket Lake Watershed

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***Within Katahdin's Realm:
Log Drives and Sporting Camps***

Part I

Logging

Chapter 4

Millinocket Stream and Millinocket Lake Watershed

Millinocket Stream

Millinocket Lake Drainage

Sandy Stream Drainage

Togue Stream Drainage

Mud Brook Drainage

Sawmills on Millinocket Stream and Lake

January 2018

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Chapter 4

Millinocket Stream and Millinocket Lake Watershed

Millinocket Stream flows south out of Millinocket Lake to the West Branch of the Penobscot River at Nollesemic Pond (called Shad Pond c. 1900). Smith Brook drains easterly from Smith Pond to Millinocket Stream about two miles below the lake. Draining into the lake are the waterways from Upper and Lower Togue Ponds to the west, Sandy Stream and Basin Ponds to the north, and Mud Brook flowage to the north-northeast.

Millinocket Stream

The first white settler and an early logger on the stream was Thomas Fowler Sr., whose home in 1829 was at Nollesemic Pond on the south shore at the mouth of the West Branch of the Penobscot River.¹ In 1837, he moved up the nearby navigable lower portion of Millinocket Stream to the Native American portage to Rhine's Pitch at the foot of Quakish Lake. Use of the West Branch by loggers had increased enough for him to turn the portage into a cart path and provide a toting service. He also probably toted some people north along the stream to Millinocket Lake. For the next forty years loggers and travelers continued to reach Fowler's farm via the river. Then in 1878, Fowler cut a rough cart road from Nicatou to his farm. About this time, loggers began moving west of Millinocket Lake. Their initial tote road went up along the stream and west across the ice of Millinocket Lake. A mile above the Fowler farm became a key staging point on the road in 1894 when the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad reached Millinocket

¹ Fowler, Albert. "The Fowlers of Thoreau's Maine Woods," a January 1950 letter to Juanita Chase of Millinocket that also appeared in *Thoreau Quarterly* and Lavery, Dorothy Bowler. *Millinocket Magic City of Maine's Wilderness*. Freeport, ME: Bond Wheelwright, 1973.



Millinocket Stream

dam: red bar on waterway
logging camp: unfilled red box
major tote roads: red lines
sporting camp: unfilled green box

Reed Mill

Clifford

Weed

Thomas

Abe Chase Mill

Marston

Priest farm

Stevens farm

Scott

McDougal

Peasely

Rosignol

Ambejejus Dike

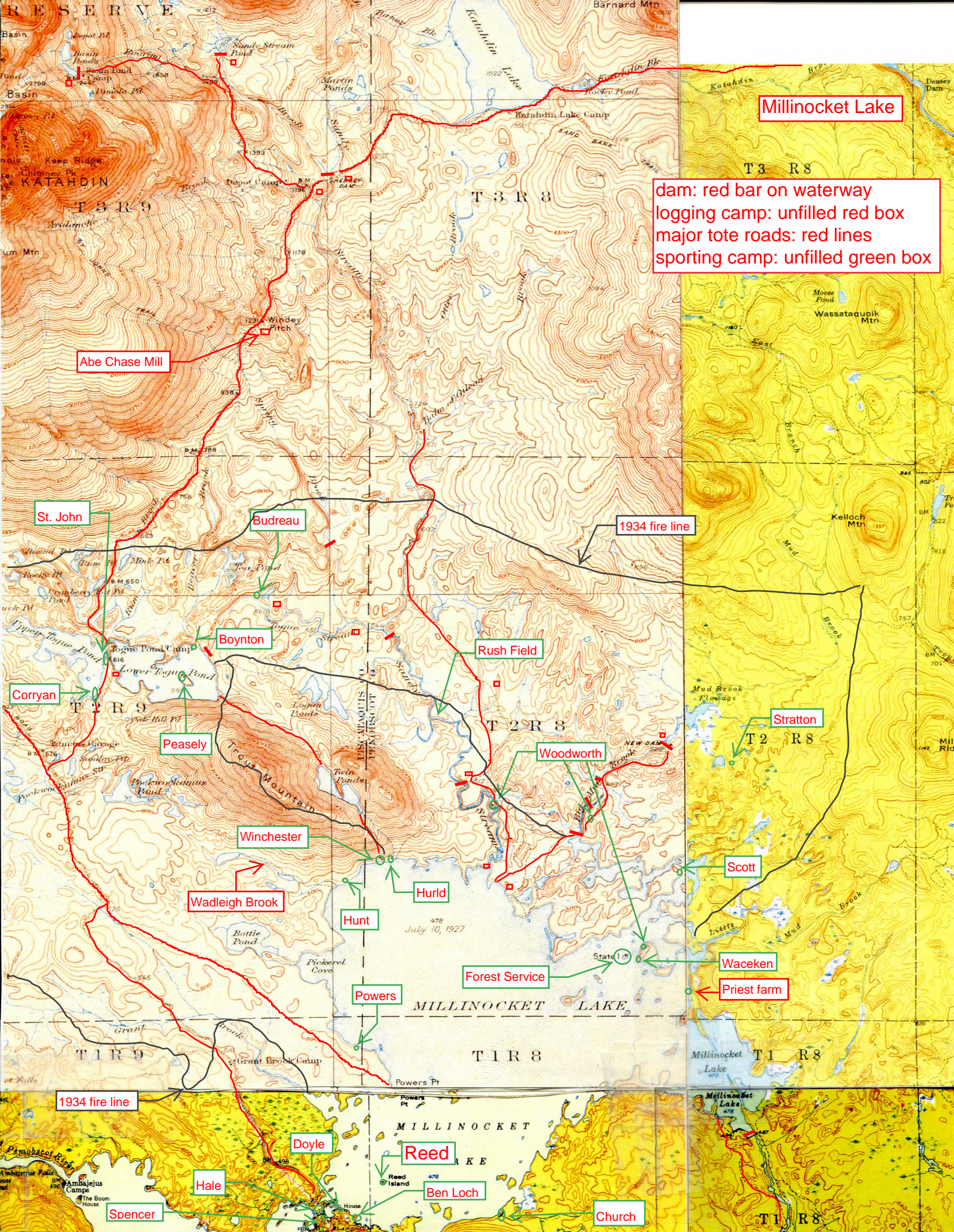
Millinocket Station

Rush Mill

Fowler

Fowler

Fowler carry



Millinocket Lake

T3 R8

dam: red bar on waterway
logging camp: unfilled red box
major tote roads: red lines
sporting camp: unfilled green box

Abe Chase Mill

St. John

Budreau

1934 fire line

Boynton

Rush Field

Corryan

Peaseley

Woodworth

Stratton

Winchester

Scott

Wadleigh Brook

Hunt

Hurd

Waceken

Priest farm

Forest Service

Powers

1934 fire line

Doyle

Reed

Ben Loch

Hale

Church

Spencer

T1 R8

Stream and built Millinocket Station. The first shanty on the developing Nesowadnehunk Tote Road was the logging camp at Grant Brook, 10 miles west of Millinocket Station. By about 1908, the tote road finally reached Nesowadnehunk Stream. By 1929, people could drive from Millinocket to Ambajejus dike, but from there to Pockwockamus Stream, the road was exceedingly rough. A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crew with a camp at the narrows between Upper and Lower Togue ponds in 1933 and 1934 rebuilt the road from the dike to the narrows and on to Nesowadnehunk Stream.

Logging on the lower parts of Millinocket Stream may have predated Thomas Fowler Sr.'s arrival given James Irish's 1825 town line survey that noted cut logs and a camp close to Nollesemic Pond.² A decade later, some of the pine cut on the stream likely went a short distance downriver to Isaac J. Stevens's sawmill, Nicatou Mill, which was operating at Nicatou Island soon after 1833.³ Stevens owned the lot on which he built the mill, bought stumpage rights, cut in the winter, drove in the spring, and milled in the summer and fall. He also had a farm on Millinocket Lake (c. 1842).

In 1870, William B. Hayford purchased the area's lands and began selling stumpage. The volume of the log cuts was enough to warrant a dam at the mouth of the stream at Millinocket Lake in 1872.⁴ Loggers worked along the stream or close to it in 1871, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1878, 1880, and 1893, the last year of Hayford's ownership.⁵ In both 1875 and 1876, Frances M.

² Irish, James. Field Notes for Survey of 1825 for the boundary lines of T3 IND and T4 IND.

³ Beathem, H. C. *History and Genealogy of Medway Maine for the Centennial Anniversary 1875–1975*. Bangor, ME: Burr Publishing, 1975.

⁴ Acts and Resolves and Special Laws of the State of Maine passed by the Legislature of the State of Maine, 1822–1945.

⁵ William B. Hayford Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections, "Timberlands Account Book"

Fowler, son of Thomas Fowler Jr. and last of the Fowlers to live at the family homestead, logged the lots of the future town of Millinocket. F. L. Clark and Wellington Henderson cut in 1874, and DeGrass cut in 1879. During these same years, loggers likely cut the lower portion of Smith Brook, an easterly flowing tributary of Millinocket Stream halfway to Millinocket Lake.

Logging continued in the 1880s and 1890s. In perhaps the 1880s, “Priest” opened a farm with one site a mile below the outlet of Millinocket Lake.⁶ *Priest* was likely Henry Priest and Sons, a longtime logging family that settled in Nicatou in 1855, established a 109-acre farm, and used wilderness farms to support their logging operations as far northwest as the Abol Stream area. In 1893, a logging camp of an unknown logger was on the stream’s east side tote road a half-mile below the dam. For two years in the 1890s, Charles W. Mullen, who cut tree-length wood for pulp mills on the Penobscot River, had a camp just below the mouth of Little Smith Brook, which flows into Millinocket Stream from the west just above the Fowler farm.⁷ Because Mullen’s logs were of different lengths, he drove his wood before the spring’s main drive. This was the first operation of this type on the West Branch.

From 1900 to 1910, loggers cut both Millinocket Stream and Smith Brook hard to provide logs for the new Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) mill and perhaps the Littlefield Manufacturing Company Mill, a novelty turning mill that closed in 1908.⁸ The novelty mill was just above the GNP mill near the mouth of Little Smith Brook. The GNP logging camps, all on the stream’s east side, were at the dam, halfway downstream to Smith Brook, and just below it. In 1902, James F. Kimball of Medway (formerly Nicatou) and James Daigle cut in the area of

⁶ Plan of Township 1 Range 8 W.E.L.S. January 2, 1909 and Beathem, H. C. *History and Genealogy of Medway Maine for the Centennial Anniversary 1875–1975*. Bangor, ME: Burr Publishing, 1975.

⁷ McLeod, John E. *The Great Northern Paper Company*, vol. 1–6. Unpublished manuscript, 1978.

⁸ lot 51 map T3IND, G.N.P. Co. August 12, 1908

the novelty mill. Scalars' filed reports for Millinocket Stream in 1904. John Cassidy logged in the area in 1905, and a crew cut railroad ties in 1908, the same year another crew operated on Little Smith Brook. Loggers drove Millinocket Stream in 1911. A 1920 cruiser's report for T1R8 W.E.L.S., the upper portion of Millinocket Stream, indicated that what was left was not worth cutting.⁹

The logging camps on Smith Brook were below and above the large bog. Crews cut just west of Smith Pond in 1909 and likely hauled to Elbow Lake. A crew worked along the lower end of Smith Brook in 1919. GNP made brook improvements in 1924. A 1930 James Sewall Company survey noted that the large bog area between Smith Pond and Little Smith Pond had no timber value.¹⁰ Loggers cut a large area from the shore of Smith Pond east in 1931 and an area to its west in 1934, and likely hauled to the GNP mill. Larry Yeo of East Millinocket cut wood in the area accessible to Smith Brook in the late 1940s.¹¹ The crew yarded it along the banks and on the stream and drove it at ice-out. He is not sure if Smith Pond had a dam, but he suspects it did to get the necessary flow. Loggers cut the area around the brook from 1951 to 1955. In 1951, a crew left a little over 1,000 cords in the trip boom above a sawmill because of pine logs downstream. In 1990, when Dana Brown headed a group that made a rock crib dam on Smith Pond, he did not recall seeing the remnants of a rock crib dam, so loggers may have previously used a temporary dam or had it in a different location at the outlet area.¹²

⁹ GNP Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections, "Estimate and Exploration [T]1.R.8, 1920"

¹⁰ Sewall, James W. Field Explorations for Township T1R8, 1930.

¹¹ conversations with Larry Yeo

¹² conversations with Dana Brown and GNP *Weekly Newsletter*, April 1955

Loggers were back on Millinocket Stream in 1934 when the Albert Bergeron camp, which was on the east side 3 miles above Millinocket, cut on both sides of the stream. In 1935, he located his camp on the railroad's south side three-quarters of a mile east of the bridge over Millinocket Stream. His crews cut the east and west sides of Jerry Pond and the hillside that sloped to Millinocket Stream. Legassey's loggers (23) logged 4 miles above the mouth of Little Smith Brook and drove the stream in 1947.¹³ Frank Rush followed this drive with 1.5 million board feet of pine logs.¹⁴

In the early 1950s, Brown was part of a logging crew on Millinocket Stream in the Smith Brook area.¹⁵ A private contractor logging the area dumped wood on the ice all winter and that concerned Brown. The boss said everything would be fine, but asked him to check it in the spring. Brown launched a bateau, went downriver, and quickly discovered that the logs had formed a jam that shifted the current into the woods. The current drove his bateau into a crotch of a tree, forced it into a vertical position, and then split it in two. Brown and his partner landed on the jam and never got their feet wet.

Millinocket Lake Drainage

In the fall of 1832, Joseph L. Kelsey and his associates surveyed T2R9 W.E.L.S., which extends west from the west side of Millinocket Lake.¹⁶ Kelsey noted that the merchantable timber at the west end of the lake was uncut. The cutting on the lake may have started by the early 1840s when a cut path (1841) connected the lake to Ambajejus Lake at the narrow spit of land between

¹³ GNP *Weekly Newsletter*, April 1947

¹⁴ see footnote 13

¹⁵ conversations with Dana Brown

¹⁶ Kelsey, Joseph L. Field Notes for Survey of September–October 1832 of T2R9.

the two. At the lake's other end, Isaac J. Stevens's farm began farming operations about 1842 and likely supported loggers cutting for his Nicatou mill.¹⁷ A crew tended the farm and the oxen in the off-season. Isaac may have used a strategy sometimes referred to as a "green burn." A logger cleared the land by burning so he could raise a first round of crops without extensive plowing or completely removing the trees. The farm was generally cited as being 400 acres of leased land, roughly a half-mile square. Whether it was all cleared land is unknown. In 1840, Isaac's farm at Nicatou was 340 acres with 140 of it improved land. He resided at Nicatou.

In an 1846 letter to his uncle, Nathaniel Stevens, Isaac asked for money to invest in the Millinocket Lake farm and to buy the land. The proprietors were not interested in having the area settled, so Isaac encouraged his uncle to buy an undivided half of the township. His uncle did not respond, and Isaac continued the operations. However, in 1850 Isaac's brother Moses B. Stevens, who was managing his uncle's lumbering business in Cutler, Maine, wrote his uncle stating that their business interests on the Penobscot River needed attention and he was headed there. In that same year, Moses and Isaac bought the undivided half of the township the farm rested on from Bradbury C. Hill. The Stevens brothers were unsuccessful in turning a profit and paying their creditors. Their uncle took all the lands, stumpage, cut and uncut timber, covered the debt, and retained ownership of everything. He may have turned the management of the properties and logging over to Moses to recoup some of his costs, but in 1859 Nathaniel sold it all back to Hill.¹⁸ Moses repurchased an undivided third of the township with the farm in 1863; he was, perhaps, still involved in operations.

¹⁷ Nathaniel Stevens Papers, Maine Historical Society, Personal correspondence among Nathaniel Stevens, Moses B. Stevens, and Isaac J. Stevens, 1837–1852

¹⁸ Penobscot Registry of Deeds, Bangor, Maine

Seven years later, William B. Hayford, a lumberman who was living in Nicatou in 1853 and had registered a logger's mark in 1859, bought the property.¹⁹ Whether he continued the farm's operation is unknown, but he did sell stumpage rights and might have leased the farm if there was an interested party. The amount of logging was sufficient by 1872 to warrant a group of lumbermen seeking a Maine state legislature-issued charter for the Millinocket Dam Company. The company built a dam at the outlet and cleared the stream to Nollesemic Pond. In 1877, F. S. Davenport, who journeyed into the area for a day on his Mount Katahdin trip, described the dam as small with a narrow sluice and one gate.²⁰ The dam raised a small head that left the lake's shore relatively undisturbed. Noted dam builder William Jasper Johnston rebuilt the dam in 1883-1884 when the Penobscot Log Driving Company (PLDC) assumed ownership.²¹ The dam flooded out about 500 acres of land around the lake and was 500 feet farther upstream than its concrete replacement, which was built in 1909-1910 for \$34,121 by Percy Johnston, William's son. A crew replaced the wooden gates with steel gates in 1932. The new dam raised the lake level 7 to 8 feet above its original level and eliminated many islands.

Two years after the 1872 dam's construction, William R. Hersey and Edwin A. Reed of Springfield, Maine, began a four-year logging operation to the north along Sandy Stream.²² Assuming the practices of these lumbermen were similar to those of Robert Gibson, they could have benefited from the Stevens's farm. No one was perhaps working the farm when Frederick

¹⁹ Penobscot Registry of Deeds, Bangor, Maine has both deeds and registered log marks

²⁰ Davenport, F. S. "Part X Millinocket Lake." *The Northern* (January 1923): 2-6

²¹ William Jasper Johnston Family Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections, William Jasper Johnston personal list of dam projects

²² Daggett, W. P., "Hersey and Reed Operation," *Bangor Daily Commercial* (June 23, 1917).

Church, the famous landscape artist, bought fifty cleared acres of it in 1878.²³ His west boundary was the farm's west line of its open field and the east line cut through the open area. Church did not farm or have the land farmed, and no buildings were on his lot at the time of purchase.

According to a 1906 surveyor's notes, the trees had grown back and the only hint of a farm was the difference between the trees in the once-farmed area and the natural forest.²⁴

The lake's other early logging farm, the Henry Priest farm, was perhaps in use by the 1880s.²⁵ Its grazing lands were on the long narrow point that stretched due south a mile north of the outlet. Priest likely reached the lake via the tote road to the Fowler farm and then north to Millinocket Lake. When he ceased using the farm is unknown, but the PLDC paid Priest for services in 1886, and his son Horace continued to log after Henry's death in 1909.²⁶

The rebuilding of the dam by the PLDC indicated a substantial amount of cutting would take place over several years. In 1883, the Cook crew of eleven men and four horses and the Frank Fowler crew of twenty-five men and eleven horses hauled their cut to the lake.²⁷ Moses P. Wadleigh cut near the mouth of Little Mud Brook in 1885.²⁸ For two years in the mid-1890s,

²³ Penobscot Registry of Deeds, Bangor, Maine

²⁴ 1906 surveyor's notes Church place; titled "Twp. 1, Range 8, W.E.L.S. at Maine State Archives and map, Steven's Farm – T.1 R.8, Penobscot County, 1958

²⁵ Map of Millinocket Lake, scale 1 in. = 1200 feet, c.1900 (at Maine State Archives) and Plan of Township 1 Range 8 W.E.L.S., January 2, 1909

²⁶ Penobscot Log Driving Company payments ledgers, 1863, 1871–1893 at Millinocket Historical Society and Penobscot Log Driving Company, assessments account book, 1864–1920 available at Katahdin Forest Management Maine Division of Acadian Timber Archives

²⁷ *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, January 5, 1883

²⁸ Henderson, William, personal notes on southern half of T2R8, September 22, 1887, McCrillis Family Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

Charles W. Mullen cut on the lake.²⁹ Loggers cut again in 1902. They cut the public lots that abutted the lake above the north shore of Bottle Pond and below Twin Ponds in 1907 and 1908.³⁰ In 1930, a crew cut poplars from the Church lot border east along the shore to its northernmost point, and the following year a crew cut east from the dike area. The 1932 crews logged the west side of the lake below Pickerel Cove. Loggers returned in 1933 to harvest a swath westerly from Pickerel Cove on the drainages north of Grant Brook and south of Pockwockamus Pond. In 1934, they salvaged in the 1934 burn between Bottle Pond and Trout Mountain ridge and cut a large number of unburned pockets. Two years later, loggers cut in the Twin Ponds' drainage, and Albert Bergeron had a logging camp 3 miles east of Ambajejus dike for cutting between the camp and the dam. In 1937, the camp moved farther east as did the cutting and other loggers cut the west side of the cove at the outlet. The last documented pulpwood-cutting operations that landed logs on the lake were in 1938.

To move logs across the lake, loggers used a headworks in the early years, but when a boat took over the towing is unknown. Lake residents remember an old boat pulled up on rails in the cove near the carry to Ambajejus dike and another in the field by the store at the dike. These boats may have towed wood and ferried supplies or been the personal boats of some of the wealthy early camp owners. Neither of these boats was the 32-foot boat of the Church family. The six drives from 1933 through 1938 typically employed 600 to 700 boom-sticks, 500 boom chains, a bateau, and a motorboat.³¹ Drives on this watershed always remained a responsibility of the PLDC.

²⁹ Cutting for Season Record Book 1889-1916, William H. McCrillis Family Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

³⁰ see note 29

³¹ GNP Inventory Book (roughly 1933 – 1939)

Sandy Stream Drainage

On the Millinocket Lake's north side at the mouth of Sandy Stream, the earliest booms filled may have been those of the William R. Hersey and Edwin A. Reed operation of 1875. They formed the Sandy Stream Dam Company in 1874, sought a charter, and received it.³² Their crews did some limited stream clearing with oxen and black powder and built three dams. Their dam at Lower Togue Pond stored water needed to drive the lower portion of Sandy Stream. A dam the loggers called "Lower Dam" was on Sandy Stream a few miles above Millinocket Lake just below the confluence with Togue Stream. Their main driving dam, referred to as "Upper Dam," was just below the stream's confluence with Roaring Brook.

The operation's supply route came from the east. At that time, the main tote road from Mattawamkeag continued north to Patten where teamsters toted the supplies west, ferried them across the East Branch of the Penobscot River, and continued to Katahdin Lake where the road ended in 1870; it was initially cut about 1848. To travel west of Katahdin Lake, Hersey and Reed cut a tote road to their Upper Dam. Later, other loggers cut a tote road to Sandy Stream Pond and then north to Basin Ponds.

The operation's main camp was on the east side of Sandy Stream about a mile above Upper Dam. A depot camp for the May 1875 drive was on west side of Millinocket Lake near the Bottle Pond outlet stream. The camp also supported the cutting operation on the lower portion of the stream. As spring approached, the men left the well-stocked Millinocket Lake camp and headed north to the main camp to prepare for the drive. Reed brought up additional log

³² Acts and Resolves and Special Laws of the State of Maine passed by the Legislature of the State of Maine, 1822–1945 and *Daily Kennebec Journal* March, 28, 1874 (logging that year on Sandy Stream)

drivers via the West Branch to Millinocket Lake where they stayed at the depot camp. During their first night, it burned to the ground, destroying everything, and the men barely escaped. Edwin led the men through deep snow to the camp at Upper Dam. Misfortune struck again when the drive got hung up for a year, a result of the newly constructed Upper Dam being washed out by high water. The company rebuilt the dam the following year, got the logs to market three years after being cut, and closed the operation in 1877.

Apparently, loggers did not return to the lower end of Sandy Stream until 1893. The reason for that absence may be related to an R. W. Sawyer 1918 assessment in which he noted that in 1883 high wind blew over a great deal of virgin timber in the north half of T2R8 W.E.L.S.³³ James M. McNulty logged near Sandy Stream in 1894. For the 1896, 1898, and 1909 through 1911 seasons, the Jordan Lumber Company cut on the lower half of Sandy Stream, perhaps using the camp at the stream's major bend to the west.³⁴

In 1901, John B. Ross changed the access route into the Sandy Stream watershed.³⁵ His crews cut a tote road from what eventually developed into the new Nesowadnehunk Tote Road near Pockwockamus Pond across the narrows between Upper and Lower Togue Ponds and on to the old Upper Dam site. The supply route into the Sandy Stream watershed no longer went across Millinocket Lake and up along the stream.

In support of that operation, the Maine state legislature issued a 1901 charter to the Sandy Stream Dam and Improvement Company for erecting and maintaining dams, sluices, and side

³³ T2 R8 assessment, October 9, 1918; William H. McCrillis Family Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

³⁴ Prentiss, Henry, letter to George T. Carlisle Jr., November 3, 1919; T2 R8 assessment, October 9, 1918; William H. McCrillis Family Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

³⁵ Avery, Myron. "The Keep Path and Its Successors." *Appalachia* 17, no. 2 (December 1928): 221 and Neff, John W. *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*. Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 2006.

dams, and widening and deepening Sandy Stream to drive logs and lumber.³⁶ Ross built his Hersey Dam with three gates and a 14-foot head just downstream of the Upper Dam, which was in ruins by 1881. Another dam was at the head of the big “U” at the top of the falls, Indian Pitch, where Ross had a camp. He may have built, as opposed to rebuilt, this dam and another one that was about three-fourths of a mile above Millinocket Lake. Given that Ross had a logging camp on the south shore of Sandy Stream Pond, he probably rebuilt a dam at the pond about 1901. He worked the area through 1905.

F. B. Hussey cruised the upper Sandy Stream area Ross cut and the rest of T3R9 W.E.L.S. in mid-1915.³⁷ He recommended that crews rebuild Ross’s Hersey Dam and the dam three-quarters of a mile above Millinocket Lake, remove boulders by blasting for the first 6 miles below the Hersey Dam, replace the stream’s abutments, dredge some of the lower sections, and build a dam with a 10-foot head at Basin Ponds, an area not previously logged.

The next major logging operations were in the early 1920s. The Sewall 1920 survey indicated that only Frank Rush was cutting below the T2R8 town line, that he had a camp about 2 miles up the stream, and that the roads above his operation had grown over.³⁸ The Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) reopened the Ross road network and logged in T3R9.³⁹ Everything cut went onto the ice of Basin Ponds, Roaring Brook, Avalanche Brook, or Sandy Stream. The depot camp was a half-mile west of the junction of Roaring Brook and Sandy

³⁶ Acts and Resolves and Special Laws of the State of Maine passed by the Legislature of the State of Maine, 1822–1945.

³⁷ Hussey, F. B. “Estimate and Exploration of Township 3, Range 9, W.E.L.S.” GNP Division of Forest Engineering, July 30, 1915

³⁸ Sewall, James W. Field Explorations for Township T2R8, 1920.

³⁹ Avery, Myron. “The Keep Path and Its Successors.” *Appalachia* 17, no. 2 (December 1928): 221 and *The Northern*, April 1922, May 1923, December 1923

Stream, currently known as Avalanche Field, the terminus of the old tote road from Katahdin Lake. GNP extended Ross's road from the depot camp up along the west side of Roaring Brook to Basin Ponds. The depot supported five cutting camps in 1922 and six in 1923 with 363 men and about one hundred horses, including the twenty-two horses it took to keep the camps supplied. Camps were at the lower Basin Pond, halfway up the stream to it, and on the rise immediately east of the Hersey Dam.

The 1920s operation required a number of dams. Crews cut a second outlet from Sandy Stream Pond's southwest corner directly to Roaring Brook, which needed the water for the drive, and constructed dams at both outlets. The Basin Ponds' dam was 180 feet long and its 7-foot head transformed the three distinct ponds into one body of water.⁴⁰ In 1923, GNP rebuilt Hersey Dam, renamed Sandy Stream Dam, which was 240 feet long with 11-foot head creating a half-mile of flowage. GNP probably rebuilt the dams or side dams farther downstream because they were in poor condition. Crews built a side dam on the east channel of the small island above the stream's confluence with the outlet stream of what loggers called Spectacle Pond. Whether GNP built the dam a little over a mile up Avalanche Brook for this or an earlier operation is unknown.

GNP returned to log along Roaring Brook and at Sandy Stream Pond in 1929 and 1931.⁴¹ The Sandy Stream Dam was still holding water and its gates and headworks remained in fine working condition into the mid-1930s, but by 1926, the lower dams had completely washed out. Loggers' last drive on the upper portion of Sandy Stream was probably in 1931. Ten years of cutting left little merchantable timber.

In 1939 to 1941, loggers used the roads Ross built and cut up the eastern side of Rum Mountain from Windy Pitch area, a logger named location where the tote road to Basin Ponds

⁴⁰ see footnote 39

⁴¹ Hall, Lester. *Katahdin comrades*, Brunswick, ME: High Point Graphics, 2010

rose steeply over a ridge less than a half-mile above Spring Brook. They used a rack truck to haul the 4-foot wood to the mill. About the mid-1940s, Ed Carr visited the area around Windy Pitch with his father who worked for the Maine Forest Service.⁴² Abe Chase had a mill at the top of the pitch, and Carr liked the albino porcupine Chase kept in a cage. In 1945, Percival Baxter bought the lands in the Basin Ponds area from John B. Ross's son, Harry F. Ross, who held the timber rights until February 1946, but apparently did not exercise those rights.⁴³

Togue Stream Drainage

The drives on Sandy Stream above its confluence with Togue Stream ended in the early 1930s, but driving in the Togue Stream watershed continued for a few more years. Exactly when loggers first cut in the watershed is unknown. The 1832 Joseph L. Kelsey survey indicates that the area within hauling distance of the ponds had burned, probably in a 1795 fire.⁴⁴ In 1853, William McCrillis, a landowner for T2R9, the area between Millinocket Lake and the Togue ponds and beyond, paid Pitman for exploring and other activity; the sum was in excess of \$1,700.⁴⁵ Whether any cutting took place is unknown, but in another township that McCrillis owned, he did some logging soon after exploration. When Edwin A. Reed's operation of 1874 built the Lower Togue Pond's dam for water storage, his crews cut timber from the big island near the outlet. Whether they did any other logging is unknown. Weaver had a camp on the north edge of

⁴² conversations with Ed Carr

⁴³ Whitcomb, Howard R. *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession: A Documentary History of Baxter State Park 1931–2006*. Augusta, ME: J.S. McCarthy, 2008.

⁴⁴ Kelsey, Joseph L. Field Notes for Survey of September–October 1832 of T2R9. Kelsey, Joseph. Map of T2R9, 1832.

⁴⁵ William H. McCrillis Family Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

Upper Togue Pond operating sometime between 1882 and 1896.⁴⁶ Unknown loggers cut the area between Upper Togue and Abol ponds in 1892.⁴⁷ By 1897, a tote road connected Lower Togue Pond to Twin Ponds. Enos Sawyer Jr. logged in 1898, the only years the *1896–1922 Stumpage Ledger* of the property owners, the Webber family, denotes cutting.⁴⁸ According to the 1915 F. B. Hussey assessment, no one had cut above the southern boundary of T3R9 W.E.L.S., an area about two miles north of the Togue ponds.⁴⁹ Hussey recommended hauling to Lower Togue Pond, Togue Stream, or Spring Brook.

In 1921, the Sewall survey, reflecting the fact that the Webber family sold no stumpage between 1897 and 1922, found no useable dams in the Togue ponds area, but assessed Togue Stream as drivable for both short and long logs.⁵⁰ When and how many times loggers rebuilt the 1874 dam for log driving is unknown as is whether or not a dam provided water storage to support drives such as the one when loggers cut the south side of the pond or when loggers cut from a camp on Togue Stream on a notable pine knoll below Spring Brook or another on Spring Brook in 1934.⁵¹ Before 1933, loggers cut the pine to the north of Lower Togue Pond. The area surrounding Upper and Lower Togue Pond and Togue Pond Stream burned in the summer 1934

⁴⁶ Sketch map showing No.2 R.9 W.E.L.S. and the N.W. corner of No.1 R.9 available at James W. Sewall archives

⁴⁷ William H. McCrillis owned this land. William H. McCrillis Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

⁴⁸ Webber Family Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections, Stumpage ledgers: 1896–1904, 1904–1912, 1912–1922

⁴⁹ Hussey, F. B. “Estimate and Exploration of Township 3, Range 9, W.E.L.S.” GNP Division of Forest Engineering, July 30, 1915

⁵⁰ Sewall, James W. Field Explorations for Township T2R9, 1921

⁵¹ GNP Division of Forest Engineering, Township 2 Range 9, October 4, 1934 and a second map of same title and date

forest fire. Loggers returned to the area in 1934 and 1935 for salvage operations and to cut the numerous untouched pockets as far west as the Spring Brook drainage.

Spring Brook flows southeast off Mount Katahdin into Togue Stream a half-mile above its confluence with Sandy Stream. Given that by 1915 loggers had not cut the timber on that portion of the stream in T3R9, the upper portion, it seems probable that some crew logged it before a documented 1934 drive and cuts in 1936 and 1937.⁵² Supporting the 1934 drive was a dam about 1.5 miles upstream from Togue Stream in T2R9. This construction may have been a rebuilding of a dam that supported earlier drives of cuts on the lower portion of the stream. For the 1937 cut, loggers used the logging camp about a mile east of the dam at Lower Togue Pond at the no-name pond on the north side of Togue Stream. Given the newsprint found in the walls, the Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) built it in the 1910–1915 era.⁵³ The 1934 cut was the last one in the area driven on a waterway to the mill.

Mud Brook Drainage

Loggers cutting on Millinocket Lake's east side drove their logs into the lake on Big and Little Mud Brooks. The earliest documented logging took place in 1888–1889 in the area between the two streams. William Henderson, who did the assessment for the 1888 cut, indicated loggers, perhaps the Stevenses and the Priests, previously cut in the area.⁵⁴ The crews built two logging camps on Little Mud Brook and another near the mouth of Big Mud Brook on the point near an old hunter's camp. The assessment did not call for the construction of dams. A hunting party in 1901 described paddling up Big Mud Brook about 3 miles to an old, currently unused logging

⁵² see footnote 51

⁵³ conversations with Shorty Budreau

⁵⁴ Henderson, William, personal notes on southern half of T2R8, September 22, 1887

camp.⁵⁵ In 1908 and 1914, loggers cut the public lot whose northern boundary is about a mile below Mud Brook flowage, which is on Big Mud Brook.⁵⁶ These loggers used a tote road that ran from the logging camp and store house in the cove east of the mouth of Sandy Stream east to Big Mud Brook where the road crossed to follow the brook's east side to a dam at the foot of Mud Brook Flowage.⁵⁷ When loggers built this dam or the others on the stream is unknown.

A 1920 James Sewall Company survey assessed the remaining dams on Big Mud Brook as worthless, the old logging roads as overgrown, and the stream as drivable.⁵⁸ Old, undated maps showed two dams on the stream and one at the flowage. The brook also had a number of side dams to keep the water in the brook's channel. Frank Rush kept the end of the tote road near the lake open in support of his pine harvesting. In the winter of 1926, Arthur Burns had a camp and crew cutting railroad ties on Little Mud Brook.

The 1926 Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) assessment of the area above Mud Brook Flowage noted loggers previously cut the area for long logs and that the American Thread Company harvested the birch on the higher ridges.⁵⁹ This cutting occurred after the railroad reached the area in 1894. The assessment deemed the old road networks as useable with limited repairs and that the two camps of the thread company, one on the east branch of Big Mud Brook and the other on the west branch were suitable.

⁵⁵ "A Month on Millinocket." *Forest and Stream*, 56, no. 4 (January 26, 1901): 63.

⁵⁶ Cutting for Season Record Book 1889-1916, William H. McCrillis Family Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

⁵⁷ GNP Division of Forest Engineering Township 2 Range 8 October 11, 1927

⁵⁸ Sewall, James W. Field Explorations for Township T2R8, 1920.

⁵⁹ GNP Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections, Estimate and Exploration of the Mud Brook Cant of the N ½ of T.2. R.8., 1926 and Sewall, James W. Field Explorations for Township T2R8, 1926.

Mud Brook flowage's New Dam, rebuilt in 1926, was 250 feet in length with 8 feet of head.⁶⁰ At the same time, a crew of eighteen men re-cleared the stream. A logging camp was on the north side of the dam and at the north end of the flowage. An August 4, 1926, fire burned 2,000 acres in the area, consuming 7,000 cords of stacked wood and a camp.⁶¹ A year later, loggers cut pulp and drove the stream again, perhaps for the last time. Fires in 1926 and 1934 ended much of the logging in the Big Mud Brook and Little Mud Brook drainages for a number of years.⁶² Subsequent loggers probably trucked their cuts to the mills.

Sawmills on Millinocket Stream and Lake

Two sawmills operated on Millinocket Lake and hauled some of their logs over the ice. The earliest was perhaps Captain Reed's mill, which he built south of the mouth of the brook from Bottle Pond and operated during the Great Northern Paper Company (GNP)'s early years. A camp, presumed to be a logging camp or camp in support of the mill was below it near the town line. The mill's location near the cedar bogs suggests it could have been a shingle mill. The family was in the lumber business and had a shingle mill in Springfield, Maine, in the late 1800s. Captain Reed was probably well aware of the pine in the area and the demand for dimension lumber needed to construct the GNP mill and to build homes in Millinocket. He was perhaps Edwin A. Reed, who was in charge of his family's Hersey-Reed logging operation of 1874 to 1877 on Sandy Stream. The operation was made famous in the "Ballad of Sandy Stream," a line of which refers to Reed as their captain, the man who enabled them to survive his camp's burning and get to help. Reed served as a corporal in the Coast Guard during the Civil War, and

⁶⁰ Hempstead, Alfred G., *The Penobscot Boom*. Orono: University of Maine Press, 1931.

⁶¹ *The Northern*, September 1926

⁶² Mapped 1926 and 1934 burns map Township 2 Range 8 Penobscot County, not dated

although he was not a captain, the title captain could derive from that deployment. Edwin Reed's son, Harry Reed, and his wife Adelaide moved to Millinocket in 1898, and by 1910, Harry was operating an insurance business.⁶³

Abe Chase built his mill on the cove west of the carry to Ambajejus dike.⁶⁴ He milled pine, most of it for GNP and the remainder for housing in Millinocket. Local icehouses used the sawdust until the need for block ice ended in the 1950s. Shorty Budreau, who hauled ice and sawdust in the early 1940s, explored the island near the mill and found many tobacco tins, which led him to believe it was part of the mill operation.⁶⁵

Some of the pine logs driven on Millinocket Stream were for the Frank Rush mill, which he built in 1907 at the mouth of Little Smith Brook, an area that became known as "The Pines."⁶⁶ The lumber from the mill helped meet the demand for Millinocket homes and structures. Rush's crews cut on Millinocket Stream, around Millinocket Lake, in the Mud brooks area, along Sandy and Schoodic streams, and in later years on Ambajejus Lake. He towed logs cut on or near Ambajejus Lake to the dike and trucked them to the mill. One of his logging camps was in the Millinocket Lake cove just west of the mouth of Sandy Stream and another, known as Rush's field where he kept his horses, was at the large, grassy clearing two plus miles up Sandy Stream beyond a sharp turn to the west.

⁶³ ancestry.com

⁶⁵ conversations with Shorty Budreau and Ed Carr

⁶⁶ Lavery, Dorothy Bowler. *Millinocket Magic City of Maine's Wilderness*. Freeport, ME: Bond Wheelwright, 1973.

During Rush's early years, he likely used headworks to tow his booms to the mouth of Millinocket Stream. Eventually, he had a towboat and a landing for it where the tote road touched the lake in the cove west of the dam. Rush might have towed booms for other operators or the Penobscot Log Driving Company (PLDC), which was in charge of the drives from this area. He burned a boat, presumed to be his "steamer," sometime before 1940 between Sandy Stream and Big Mud Brook in front of a circa 1940 Dana Brown camp.⁶⁷ How Rush moved logs after that is unknown, but he continued to cut pine logs and floated them into the lake where he boomed and towed them to the dam, and then drove them down Millinocket Stream through the early 1950s. The mill burned in June 1953 and reopened as an electrically powered mill that operated until about 1967.

⁶⁷ conversations with Dana Brown