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# Within Katahdin's Realm: Log Drives and Sporting Camps - Chapter 09: Millinocket Station North to Basin Ponds

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

Part 2

Sporting Camps

Chapter 9

Millinocket Station North to Basin Pond

Camps on Millinocket Lake

Camps at Millinocket Station, Togue Ponds, Togue Stream, and Sandy Stream Drainage

January 2018

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## Chapter 9

### Millinocket Station North to Basin Ponds

#### Camps on Millinocket Lake

The earliest travelers with encampments at Millinocket Lake were the Native Americans, who came to it via Millinocket Stream from their route up the West Branch of the Penobscot River. One of their confirmed encampments was at the east end above the outlet. In the late 1800s, folks knew the site as the Priest farm.<sup>1</sup> One local tale was that the name was a consequence of a Jesuit priest who came north to this location to live and work with the Native Americans. However, the northernmost outpost on the Penobscot watershed was the Native American community at Mattawamkeag. *Priest* was probably Henry Priest of Medway, who had a logging farm at the site. The current home at the lake site is not one of the original farm structures.

In 1878, guides paddled Frederick E. Church, the famous landscape artist, and his party into Millinocket Lake and along its south shore.<sup>2</sup> Other than a logging farm and some unseen trappers' camps, no other camp existed. Church had previously climbed Mount Katahdin at least twice and traveled the waterways on various sides of the mountain in 1852, 1856, 1870, 1876, and 1877. He knew the magnificent Katahdin massif landscape from several perspectives. On this trip, he was back to find a place from which he could paint and chose fifty cleared acres of the former Stevens farm that he bought from William B. Hayford.<sup>3</sup> A year later, Church was back with his wife Isabel and friends and built simple log structures, Camp Rhodora, perhaps no more than a couple lean-tos. To reach the camp in the early years, Church traveled from Medway

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<sup>1</sup> Northeast Archaeology Research, Inc., Farmington, Maine

<sup>2</sup> Neff, John W. *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*. Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Penobscot Registry of Deeds





Millinocket Stream

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

Reed Mill

T1 R8

Clifford

Weed

Thomas

Abe Chase Mill

Marston

Stevens farm

Scott

Peasely

Priest farm

McDougal

Rosignol

T1 R8

Ambejejus Dike

Millinocket Station

Rush Mill

Fowler

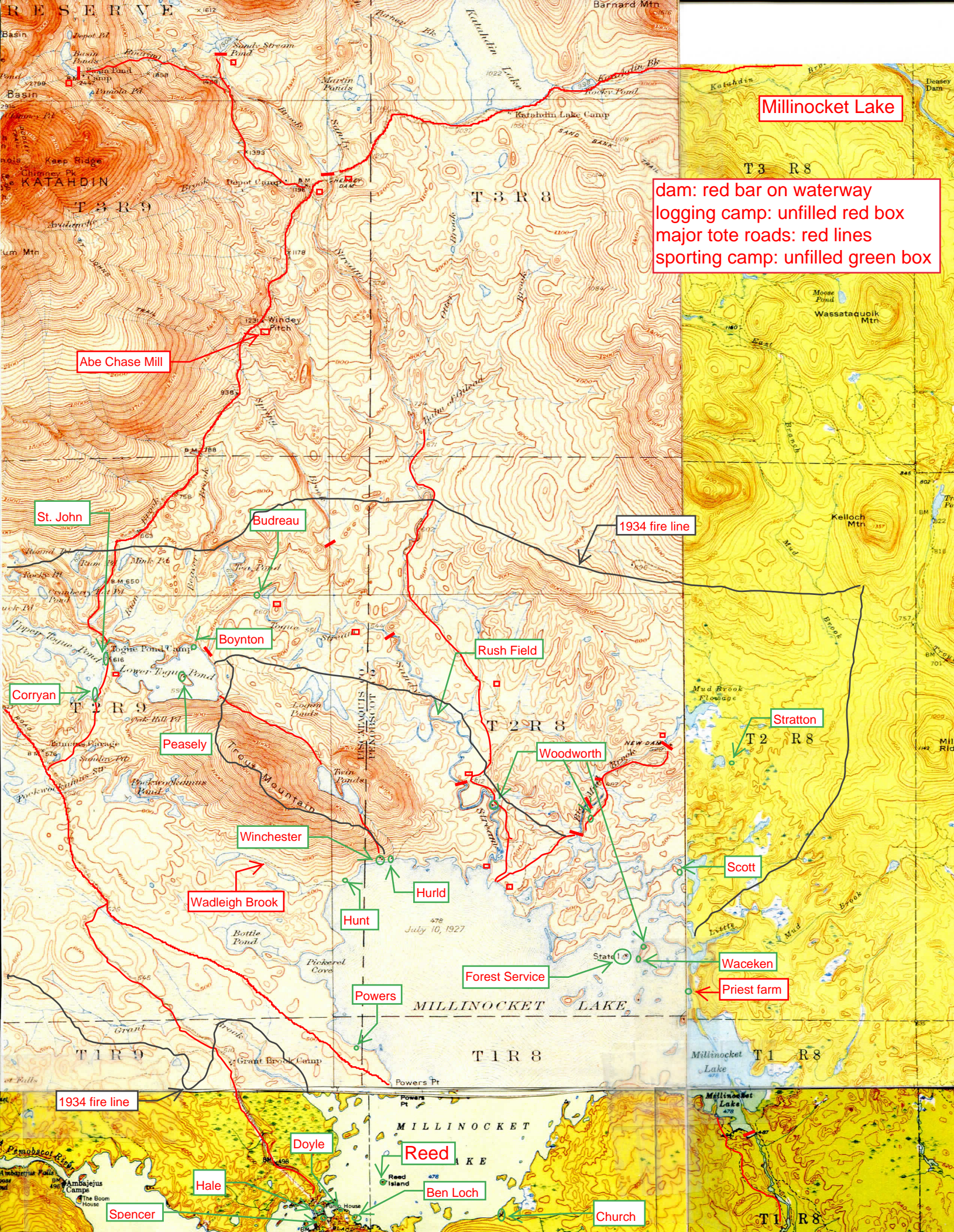
MILLINOCKET

Fowler

Fowler carry

HOPKINS ACADEMY





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

Peasely

Woodworth

Stratton

Winchester

Wadleigh Brook

Hunt

Hurd

Scott

Forest Service

Waceken

Priest farm

1934 fire line

Doyle

Reed

Ben Loch

Spencer

Hale

Church

T1 R8



up the West Branch and Millinocket Stream. Beginning in 1894, he took the train to Norcross and then the steamer to Ambajejus dike. In 1898, he and his son Louis built a new two-story cabin that they perhaps connected to an original structure. They also had an ice house and stable. In 1899, they hired John Otis Hale of Medway to manage the camp as a sporting camp, and the 1899–1902 advertisements listed the camp as “Millinocket Lodge,” which accommodated twelve guests.<sup>4</sup> The Churches may have first met Hale when they crossed the river on the Medway ferry where he was the ferry master.<sup>5</sup> After Frederick’s death in 1900, his son assumed ownership, continued Hale’s employment, and came every summer for a month or so with four to twelve guests until 1924.<sup>6</sup> Louis became disenchanted with the site because of the radical decline in once-excellent fishing and hunting and began going to Canada. He died in 1943 and his wife Sally sold the camp to the Elmer Woodworth ten years later.

Two years after Frederick Church first built, Victor Scott, who was likely a trapper, guide, and woodsman built his camp on a point west of the Millinocket Lake dam. He used the same route to the lake that Church did. Scott sold the camp to Abraham (Abe) V. Marston in 1901.<sup>7</sup> Scott also had a camp nearly a mile above State Island on the east shore. Whether this was the hunter’s camp loggers found in fall 1888 on the point at the mouth of Mud Brook is unknown. Scott operated this camp through 1909, after which it was apparently abandoned. Scott may have been Arthur V. Scott, who resided in Millinocket in 1904 when he married Ada M.

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<sup>4</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>5</sup> Beathem, H. C. *History and Genealogy of Medway Maine for the Centennial Anniversary 1875–1975*. Bangor, ME: Burr Publishing, 1975, and Loring, Amasa. *Medway Records 1848–1868*. Special Collections Fogler Library University of Maine.

<sup>6</sup> “Pockwockamus: A Month on Millinocket.” *Forest and Stream*, 56, no. 4 (January 26, 1901): 63.

<sup>7</sup> conversations with Erv Marston

Smith.<sup>8</sup> He was a wood dealer and lumberman through at least 1920 and his father was a hotelkeeper in East Millinocket. In 1898, a William Scott had a camp on the lake, but no other information is available.

Following Victor Scott in the mid-1880s were brothers Irving O. and Lyman Hunt, trappers and guides, whose grandfather opened and ran the Hunt farm on the East Branch of the Penobscot River. Given the distance from either their grandfather's farm or their home in Lincoln, they probably came to the lake via the rivers and Millinocket Stream. Their first advertisement for sports was in 1894, the year the railroad reached Norcross and Millinocket Stream.<sup>9</sup> Although they never revealed the camp's location, they met their guests at Norcross and that suggests their camp was at the west end of the lake. A possible location, given a circa 1900 map's two unlabeled buildings, was immediately north of the mouth of Wadleigh Brook under the southeast corner of Trout Mountain.<sup>10</sup> Travel to this camp would have been protected from the strong northwest winds that make lake travel difficult. The Hunts used the camp through 1897, and in 1898, they opened a camp at Indian Pitch on Nesowadnehunk Stream and one a year later at Kidney Pond.<sup>11</sup> Whether anyone took over their Millinocket Lake camp is unknown.

After 1894, either the Norcross Station or the Millinocket Station was the rendezvous point for those traveling to the Millinocket Lake. From Norcross, the sports took the steamer through North Twin and Pemadumcook lakes into Ambajejus Lake's Spencer Cove where they

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<sup>8</sup> Generally detailed individual's information like birth, death, spouse, marriage, children, employment, residences came from ancestry.com

<sup>9</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>10</sup> Millinocket Lake, available at Millinocket Historical Society

<sup>11</sup> Herbert, Whitney. "Builder of the Hunt Trail on Mt. Katahdin." *Lewiston (Maine) Journal Magazine* (October 17, 1936).

disembarked, walked to Millinocket Lake, and canoed to their destination. In the early years, a horse and cart provided a ride over the portage. From Millinocket Station, the sports took a six-mile buckboard ride to the cove west of the Millinocket Lake dam where they switched to boat travel.

The probable first person to take advantage of the steamer stop at the Ambajejus dike carry was Charles A. Hale, who had a camp at about the middle of the carry.<sup>12</sup> Hale was a guide and woodsman who married Caroline (Carrie) Caswell in 1899, and they lived year-round at the camp through at least 1910. From about 1911 to 1915, Hale was the clerk at the Debsconeag depot camp on Pemadumcook Lake. How long the Hales operated the camp is unknown, but in 1920, Caroline and one son were boarding in Portland where she was a private housekeeper. At some point, Charles moved to Norcross. Then about 1936, he made a raft of boom logs, placed his Norcross home on the raft, and towed it up through the Lower Chain Lakes to a new lease site east of the old sawmill at the north edge of Ambajejus Lake. It took twelve hours in dead calm weather to move the house. The day after it was secure at its new location, gale force winds drove down the lake. The camp burned in the 1941 forest fire.

Charles E. Powers and his two sons, John A. and Charles W., opened a camp on the lake's west side in a cove at the northeast corner of T1R9 W.E.L.S. two miles from the carry by 1897.<sup>13</sup> They met their sports at either Norcross or Millinocket Station. The family logged, trapped, and farmed in Medway beginning in 1850. Charles E. died in 1903, but his sons continued the operation for at least another two years. Charles W., who was not married, died in

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<sup>12</sup> *In the Maine Woods* and conversations with John Hale

<sup>13</sup> *In the Maine Woods*



1907, and John then seems to have abandoned the camp. Powers Point, about a mile south of their camp, might have been named for the family.

At about the same time (1897) and presumably at the other end of the lake, Llewellyn J. Boynton advertised a camp.<sup>14</sup> He may have operated from a camp owned by Fred M. Peasely near the dam. Peasely sold his place at the dam sometime before 1918, but retained his leases at nearby Lower Togue Pond until mid-1927.<sup>15</sup> Between 1918 and 1927, Peasely paid for two leases at Lower Togue Pond, his and Boynton's. Peasely, perhaps acting as other proprietors did with their guides of many years, took care of Boynton during his last years. Boynton, a sharpshooter in Company B of the First Maine Battalion in the Civil War, died March 22, 1927, in Millinocket where he is buried.

Peasely's new neighbor in 1899, Frank (Alex) and Nancy Rosignol, advertised a six-mile buckboard ride from Millinocket Station to their camp near the dam.<sup>16</sup> Alex was a hunter, trapper, and logger. In at least 1912, he stored firefighting apparatus at his camp for Chief Deputy Bert Haynes, who wanted such a site for this remote area. The Rosignols' 1918 lease for lot 7A was for a private camp, and they held it until at least 1923.<sup>17</sup> During the winters, they boarded in Millinocket. In the 1940s, Alex was living at Togue Pond Camps where he likely guided for many years.<sup>18</sup> About 1953, camp proprietors Joe and Clara Bartlett could no longer take care of him and he went to a nursing home.

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<sup>14</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>15</sup> 1918 GNP chart of leases

<sup>16</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>17</sup> 1918 GNP chart of leases, GNP Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

<sup>18</sup> Hall, Lester. *Katahdin Comrades*, Brunswick, ME: High Point Graphics, 2010

In 1899 when the Rosignols built at the dam, brothers Fred D. and Albert J. Spencer became Charles A. Hales's neighbor at the dike carry. The Spencers, perhaps with a vision of the hub of activity that would develop at the carry, built Camp Eureka's five structures on 6.75 acres on the east side of the cove. The camp was their year-round home. Albert died in 1922. In 1924, Fred and William H. St. John advertised Camp Spencer as all new and having a garden, chickens, and cow. Fred either sold out or had another person running the camp in his stead as he had moved and was operating a smaller sporting camp at the other end of the lake in 1930.<sup>19</sup> St. John, a Millinocket druggist and part owner of nearby Togue Pond Camps, died in 1929, leaving his widow Crystal and young teenage daughter Natalie. The camp remained open, but whether the two women operated them is unknown. By 1933, Robert J. (Johnny) Given with his wife Harriet and two young children were the proprietors. He had previously been a yardmaster for the railroad.

The Givens used Ralph Dorr and Elmer Woodworth as guides and for various jobs at the camp. Dorr, who lived in the area, went south one season to work on the Merrimack River in southern New Hampshire.<sup>20</sup> He met Woodworth on the river, was impressed with his bateau skills, and convinced him to come north to the lake. Woodworth moved around 1930 at eighteen years of age, and nine years later, he took over the lease and renamed the camps, Millinocket Lake Camps.

Over time, Woodworth and his wife Eleanor expanded the operations by adding three camps. In the early 1950s, they created a trading post on the Nesowadnehunk Tote Road near Ambajejus dike. Elmer moved a portion of the original structure back when a new road from the

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<sup>19</sup> deduction based on advertising in *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>20</sup> conversations with Ray Woodworth



Millinocket mill, the Golden Road, came through in 1968–1969. Their dock near the Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) dock on Ambajejus Lake at the dike served both private and commercial camp owners on the Lower Chain Lakes as well as those in the Debsconeag lakes and Nahmakanta Lake areas.

Camp owners in the area relied on the Woodworth icehouse until the 1950s. Young men of the area, including son Ray, used to help cut and store the ice. Ray Woodworth and Shorty Budreau, who worked for Elmer summers in the early 1940s at two dollars per day plus room and board, used a rowboat to deliver ice to camps. Each camp took a 40- to 50-pound block. The sawdust used in the icehouse came from the old Abe Chase mill a couple coves to the west. The ice business died out as electricity began to reach the area camps.

One of the Woodworth family's early summer homes was on Reed Island in Millinocket Lake. Elmer acquired the old camp about 1938 and rebuilt it with lumber he saved when tearing down the White House Landing buildings on Pemadumcook Lake. Captain Edwin A. Reed, who ran the nearby sawmill, may have originally built the camp. While Reed was building the dam at Lower Togue Pond in 1874, he lived on the pond's island. Elmer soon swapped his Reed Island camp with Dean W. Ambrose for his camp, formerly the Sammy N. Smith place, near Minister Cove on Third Debsconeag Lake. Matthew Polstein currently owns the Reed Island camp.

After the swap, Elmer's family lived on the island near the Ambajejus Lake dike. In 1941, when a forest fire burned through the area, Elmer sprayed water on his camp's buildings and saved them, but lost his home on the island. The family then made the camp their year-round home and hired a person who took care of the children. When the children became school age, they boarded with friends in Millinocket until Elmer bought a home in town and hired a person to care for them.

Elmer was an ardent trapper whose camps and trap lines extended from the foot of Mount Katahdin to Tumbledown Dick Pond. Where he did not have a camp, he used one of his colleagues' camps. His camps in the Millinocket Lake area included two on Mud Brook, another on an island near the mouth of Mud Brook, and two together on Sandy Stream. In the early 1930s, he spent a great deal of time at the smaller of his two Sandy Stream camps. For many years, he did all his trapping by foot travel and was often gone a week at a time. When Chink LeGasse began flying in the late 1940s, Elmer joined with him in trapping for a few years. Elmer also used these camps as branch camps for fishermen and hunters staying at his Millinocket Lake Camps.

Eleanor and Elmer passed the lease for the camp and store to their son Ray and his wife Muriel, who ran it until 1974. Bob and Frederica (Teddy) Boynton bought the lease and eventually sold the trading post in 1981 to Erwin and Maureen Bacon.<sup>21</sup> The Boynton's daughter and son (Laurie and Bruce) currently run the operation, now named the Big Moose Inn. The five camps built by the Spencers and the three by the Woodworths are still in use. The Boyntons incorporated a portion of the original trading post into the front room of the current Big Moose Inn.

When the Spencer brothers first opened, the main route to the camp was via the water. During the next twenty years, the Nesowadnehunk Tote Road steadily improved, but it was not substantial enough until soon after 1923 for the area to attract any camp owners from Millinocket's ballooning population other than the Ben Lock Club in 1901 and Frederick E.

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<sup>21</sup> conversations with Maureen Bacon



Doyle by 1917.<sup>22</sup> By the time Elmer took over Millinocket Lake Camps, he realized and took advantage of the opportunity he had to serve nearby residents plus his own guests.

The Charles A. Hales's and Spencers' first neighbor was George W. Stearns and the Ben Lock Club. The camp was outside of and a few lots to the east of the cove at the carry and in use as early as 1901. Stearns came to Millinocket as a general practice lawyer in 1900, by 1920 was a land agent for GNP, and in 1930 was selling real estate. The club, which was primarily a group of GNP mill engineers, built the camp for use by their members and guests. The camp, a two story building, had eight sleeping rooms, a large living room and a kitchen. A Franklin stove as opposed to an open fireplace provided the heat. To reach the camp folks took the boat from Norcross; the cost was one dollar plus freight charges in 1905. Each member had exclusive use for two weeks except on weekends when any member could come in to stay. For guides they relied on hiring those serving the nearby Spencer Camps. Members did their own cooking. It disbanded at some point, perhaps around 1923, when a James Sewall Company survey indicated it needed repairs.<sup>23</sup> Herbie Johnson eventually owned the camp.<sup>24</sup> Owners of Twin Pine Camps and Cabins incorporated some of the old camp into the existing structure of the Lake House.

The next resident in the dike area was Frederick E. Doyle, who either built or moved into a camp between the Spencers and the club by 1917. Doyle grew up in Millinocket, went away to study, and came back by 1910 to live and practice law. He eventually became a judge for the community.

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<sup>22</sup> 1918 GNP chart of leases, GNP Papers, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

<sup>23</sup> Sewall, James W. Field Explorations for Township T1R9, 1923.

<sup>24</sup> conversation with James Robinson

The most distant Doyle neighbor, the Church family, was two miles east along the shore at the foot of the north slope of Hammond Ridge where the lake's edge flattens and turns north. Camp Rhodora sat behind a 100-yard beach with a painter's view of Mount Katahdin. About 1905 John Otis Hale, the Churches manager, passed his job to his son and daughter-in-law, Eugene O. and Hattie M. Powers Hale. Eugene was a guide, Hattie was a lumber camp cook, and they lived in Medway. They may have given up managing the camp by 1918 because they had their own sporting camp at Passamagamet Falls in 1917, and advertising for Millinocket Lodge ceased.<sup>25</sup> However, because Louis Church and his wife Sally only came for a month or so each summer and hired local guides and a cook for each visit, the Hales may have continued to serve the Churches until his last visit in 1924. By 1923, the Hales were managing a second camp at Rainbow Lake. They gave up their leases to the camps at Passamagamet and Rainbow lakes in 1928. By 1930, they were living in Greenville where Hattie cooked in a hotel and Eugene guided.

The Hales met visitors at Norcross where they boarded a Norcross Transportation Company steamer. They got off at Ambajesus dike and either rode the portage service or walked to Millinocket Lake. At times, the lake's roughness caused the Hales to use a rowboat and tow a canoe. At some point about 1920, Louis Church acquired a fashionable 32-foot boat that he stored near Spencers'.

Once the Hales left, the camp may have been unused. However, between about 1928 and 1931, Fred D. Spencer, at nearly seventy years of age, along with a cousin and another man, operated a sporting camp in this general area and they lived at a camp year-round.<sup>26</sup> Spencer

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<sup>25</sup> *In the Maine Woods*

<sup>26</sup> deduced from advertising in *In the Maine Woods*



might have used the Church camp that was otherwise not in use at the time. Following Spencer's death in 1931, Abner McPheters of Old Town might have used the Church camp for a time. He advertised a camp in 1932, but did not reveal the location. Previously he guided for area proprietors such as Seldon J. McPheters at Camp Wellington at Ambajejus Falls in 1898 and probably the Spencers and Hales, and was part of the group who represented Maine Guides at the New York City sportsman shows. By the early 1940s, Elmer Woodworth was watching the camp, but was not authorized to do yearly maintenance until 1946 when he replaced the roofs with the help of Jeremiah S. Black Jr., Louis Church's only nephew. Jeremiah had just returned from serving in the navy in World War II. Woodworth continued to look after the property until Louis's widow Sally sold it to him in 1953.<sup>27</sup>

Over the years, Woodworth and his family restored the structures, and in doing so, found paperwork and wall carvings that confirm the Hales managed the camp. A portion of the original 1879 structure is still a part of a wall. Woodworth's son Ray and his wife Muriel now care for the camp and live in a home they built on 1.13 acres of the original Church property. Their son and his wife live in the former icehouse. Guests stay in the main lodge or in one of three private cabins or two enclosed lean-tos.

While the Hales, Spencers, Powers, and Churches were engaged in sporting camp activity and development at the dike, activity of a somewhat different nature was taking place 11 miles down the lake in the southeast most corner near the dam and the end of the six-mile tote road from a quickly growing Millinocket. Abraham (Abe) V. Marston moved into Victor Scott's camp in 1901, built a large camp and another small one, and began a sporting camp.<sup>28</sup> Some

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<sup>27</sup> Penobscot County Registry of Deeds

<sup>28</sup> conversations with Erv Marston

years, he and his wife Martha lived year-round at the camp. They met their guests at Millinocket Station and provided a buckboard ride on the tote road along the west side of Millinocket Stream. The condition of the road varied dramatically over the years until it was regularly drivable by car in the late 1950s.

As was typical of the times, the whole family, children included, worked in the operation, which included a large garden. The camp catered to fishermen and hunters and those interested in climbing Mount Katahdin. The Marstons took hikers by boat across the lake to Sandy Stream where they walked the tote road to the Basin Ponds area to connect with a trail to the top of the mountain. By 1910, Marston was working as a millwright at the paper mill in the off-season. One of his sons, Chester, who came to live in Millinocket and work at the mill during the winters, helped run the camp in the summer. Before 1917, Abe Marston sold one of his small cabins at the edge of his large lot (31A) to Chester. The Marston family still holds the lease to lot 32A. One of the original structures has been repositioned and enlarged.

Abe operated the camp into the 1920s, and there were times when the family simply rented them to sports. By the time Abe died in 1932, the family had a noncommercial lease. Martha sold the camp to Millinocket residents Roscoe and Glenna Burrell in the early 1940s. The subsequent owners tore down the original camp, built a new one, and let the one original shed stand. The Robert and Hope MacDonald family has held the lease on the camp for the past twenty years.<sup>29</sup> Sometime after their purchase, they saw two older women walking the shoreline. They invited them in, learned they were Marstons, and heard that when they were children, the turtles came and laid their eggs in the sand. Turtles still come to the shore to lay their eggs some

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<sup>29</sup> conversations with Robert MacDonald

eighty years later. The MacDonalds at times feel the haunted presence of someone, perhaps Abe Marston.

The Marstons' neighbors were private camps of mainly Millinocket residents.<sup>30</sup> The Peaselys and McDougals were closer to the dam. When they first came to the lake and whether or not they were their camps' original builders is unknown, but they were there in 1918, and both families were early Millinocket area residents. The McDougal camp, which is still standing, remained with the family through Dan McDougal, who sold in his later years. McDougal worked for the Charlie Steeves family who had a plumbing and hardware business. McDougal was also a fine carpenter. Fred Peasely may have sold his camp (c. 1918) to the Steeves family. Some residents believe Steeves once worked for Peasely, who ran a number of stores and a plumbing business in Millinocket and East Millinocket until about 1912. Steeves's son Ernie took over ownership from his father and later sold.

Across the cove from the Marstons on the long point that reaches north from the dam were two other early neighbors.<sup>31</sup> Part way out the point was the Thomas camp. Millinocket's Dr. Thomas was the probable original owner. What became of the camp is unknown other than about 1950 McDougal, with the help of Shorty Budreau, built a camp on what is likely the site, given the remains they found. Nearby, Budreau noticed a huge old pine stump that looked like it had a hollow under it. He dug in and discovered three corked one-gallon liquor jugs. From the Steeves family, Budreau learned that one of their family members used to bring in liquor from Canada and hide it before selling it in town.

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<sup>30</sup> 1918 GNP chart of leases

<sup>31</sup> conversations with Shorty Budreau



Arthur Weed lived in the camp on the end of the point about 1902, but Ed Carr, his grandson, is not sure whether Weed built it.<sup>32</sup> Upon Weed's death, his son Ernest (Tim) Weed took over the lease. He sold it to the Dumas family, which did not alter it before selling to the Baker family, who invested in fixing the structure. The original building was still in use in 2013.

By 1917, the Marstons, Steeves, Weeds, Thomases, and McDougals had four other neighbors: Scott E. Haggerman, George Burton, Frank Cympher, and Mrs. Bessie Clifford. With the exception of Burton, for whom no information is available, these individuals lived in Millinocket where they worked. The precise locations of the camps are unknown other than Clifford's, which was on lot 62A west of the dam on the point west of the long narrow point.<sup>33</sup> She was a widower and owner of a tenement house in Millinocket. She probably sold to Fred Davis of Millinocket. He brought in a pump organ, the notes of which echoed across the lake when he played. The Klimas family, the current owners, bought the camp from Davis in 1951–1952. Over the years, the camp has undergone renovations that have retained the original structure.

All these early camp owners knew the difficulty of boat travel beyond the protective coves near the dike or the dam given the strong winds, the lake's expanse, and many rocky shallows. These might be factors in the minimal camp development elsewhere on the lake. The rest of the lake in the early days was the domain of Ralph Dorr, Kirk Winchester, and Elmer Woodworth, and they all worked cooperatively.

Dorr was a woodsman, lumberman, guide, camp caretaker, and trapper. He was married and had a home in Millinocket, but spent little time there. From 1922 to 1925, Dorr either ran or

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<sup>32</sup> conversations with Ed Carr

<sup>33</sup> conversations with Erv Marston

was proprietor of the Katahdin Lake Camps on Katahdin Lake. Beginning in the late 1920s, he guided for William Tracy, nephew of Foster Tracy and proprietor of Tracey's Camps on Russell Pond. In the early 1930s, Dorr guided for Johnny Given and then Woodworth, and built camps in the area, including one for the Clark family on Clark Island in Lower Togue Pond. Dorr spent considerable time at Woodworth's camp where he shared a room with Elmer's son Ray, who had trouble sleeping because of Dorr's loud snoring. Dorr died in Milo in 1960 at eighty-three years of age.

Winchester, a carpenter and farmer, built his year-round, two-story camp singlehandedly at the uppermost northwest corner of the lake, four miles from the dike, under the shadow of Trout Mountain and west of the mouth of the stream from Twin Ponds. His access to the site was only by boat, and that never changed.<sup>34</sup> He arrived in Millinocket in either 1914 or 1917 having come from Ashburnham, Massachusetts, with his belongings in either a wooden wagon or a wheelbarrow. Area folks who knew him believed that he moved to the area for health reasons and knew the camps as "Winchester's." Ralph Brown served as his boatman and handy man.

Winchester generally was a quiet man who liked solitude, maintained a large garden and farm animals that included goats and chickens, and did some guiding. He built two smaller cabins for guests he picked up at Ambajejus dike. People from around the lake such as Elmer Woodworth and Ralph Door guided for him at different points in time. A clever and inventive individual, Winchester piped spring water into his buildings and had his own small hydropower plant to generate electricity.

On November 12, 1960, Winchester died in a boating accident on the lake. He and his dog crossed the lake to the dike to get supplies before it began to freeze. The wind was blowing

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<sup>34</sup> Information on Winchester provided by Betty Hopper, Reinier Beeuwkes, Ray Woodward

hard and the lake was rough. Ray Woodworth, Elmer's son, filled Winchester's boat's gas tank just before he left. Someone found his boat on the lake and his dog at the camp, but they never found his body. After his death, the structures fell into disrepair until purchased. Ralph Zimmerman is the current owner of the large camp Winchester lived in. The Vincent Ireland family owns the camp on the shore farthest to the west, and the Steeves family has the other one on the shore.

Winchester built or helped build two other camps on the lake.<sup>35</sup> Sometime before 1922, he put up the camp near the mouth of the stream from Twin Ponds, not far north of his place, for a Mr. Dunn, a college professor, who lived in Boston. Dunn sold to Elmer Woodworth, who passed it on to his friend Danny Hurld, who was from Massachusetts and had previously come to stay on the lake several times. The subsequent and current owner is Reinier Beeuwkes whose relative, Thomas Welcome Clark, a GNP engineer who led the rebuilding of the Ambajejus dike in 1905 and first came to camps on Lower Togue Pond in 1908. The camp is known as "Back of the Moon." Another year, Winchester built a camp near the mouth of Little Mud Brook with Mr. Lufkin, and Earl Dowe used it as a trapper's camp for nearly twenty years beginning in the 1940s. The camp is no longer standing.

Woodworth, being the inveterate woodsman and trapper that he was, was involved in some way and at some point in time with nearly every other of the area's remote camps. His outlying Sandy Stream camp was about a mile up the stream on the left or a ten- to fifteen-minute walk from the old bridge abutment. When Woodworth bought the lease, the site had one camp, a small trapper's camp, which Dorr probably built. In March 1926, a Boston area group led by J. Ashton Allis stopped at the camp on the group's way up the old Sandy Stream Tote

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<sup>35</sup> conversations with Reinier Beeuwkes



Road to Chimney Pond and referred to the camp as Dorr's. Woodworth built the second camp in the early 1940s.<sup>36</sup> He eventually sold, and both camps are still in use.

The extensive Mud Brook drainage that flows into the northeast corner of the lake was one of Woodworth's trapping areas. In this area, he used a camp that was at the north end of State Island. The camp may have been a logging camp supporting the booming operations for logs that came out of Mud Brook, whose main channel flows along the island's west side. It was still standing in 1952, but no one was tending to its upkeep. The Waceken family has a more recent camp farther down the island.<sup>37</sup>

About 1952, Woodworth bought the Fire Island camp that an unknown person built before 1922. He used it before his purchase and wanted to keep it up after the state of Maine abandoned it, so he had an emergency shelter in case either he or his guests were caught on the opposite side of the lake in bad weather. When a watchman first manned the Trout Mountain fire tower in 1930, the individual walked from Millinocket to Millinocket Lake and paddled a canoe to the island and spent the night. The following day, he continued his paddle to the far side of the lake to the trail to the warden's camp and the tower. This camp was no longer used when a passable road reached the narrow strip of land between Upper and Lower Togue Ponds about 1933, but the Maine Forest Service continued to use it to store firefighting apparatus. The camp was also on the phone line from Millinocket to the fire tower; the line crossed the water to the northwest with the help of a pole in a rock crib. Shorty Budreau was on the island in the early 1940s with forest service employee Tom Perrow. They could see plenty of daylight through the walls and shared the evening with mice and chipmunks. James Robinson owns the current

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<sup>36</sup> Allis, J. Ashton. "March Days on Katahdin." *Appalachia* 20, no. 4 (December 1926): 509–512.

<sup>37</sup> conversations with Richard Waceken

private camp, which was built by his grandfather for the local Boy Scouts about 1980 and was part of Twin Pines Cabins before he sold the business.<sup>38</sup>

Ralph Dorr used a trapping camp he built with Winchester on Mud Brook about halfway between the lake and New Dam. When he stopped using it, Woodworth bought the lease and held it until the late 1970s before he gave it up to Frank Stratton.<sup>39</sup> Woodworth's camp no longer exists, and Stratton built a camp on the nearby pine knoll looking up at Mount Katahdin. Stratton also has a lease his father took in the 1950s on a camp Frank no longer uses that is on the east side at the head of Mud Brook flowage. Woodworth also used this camp. When Dorr, Winchester, and Woodworth first came into the area, their only route to these camps was by boat across Millinocket Lake to Mud Brook and then up the brook.

Spencer, Marston, Winchester, and Woodworth all took advantage of the extensive blueberry area at the east end of the lake. Forest fires in 1926, 1928, and again in 1934 kept the area open and berries grew in abundance. Native Americans from Old Town and others from as far south as Bangor came to spend a few days harvesting. These men all provided boat transportation to the area. Pickers paid \$1.50 per night at the Marston camps and 99 cents for a ride in the Marston's 23-foot boat that towed a bateau with the berry boxes. Commercial pickers from Bangor set up temporary canning sites. The berry picking was in force during the 1920s and 1930s, with some remaining after World War II.<sup>40</sup>

Camps at Millinocket Station, Togue Ponds, Togue Stream, and Sandy Stream Drainage

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<sup>38</sup> conversations with James Robinson and Shorty Budreau

<sup>39</sup> conversations with Frank Stratton and Ray Woodworth

<sup>40</sup> conversations with Erv Marston and Ray Woodworth

Down Millinocket Stream and a little east of where the railroad crossed it was Millinocket Station, the departure point for those sports and camp owners going to Lower Togue Pond, Nollesemic Lake, and the West Branch of the Penobscot River below North Twin Dam. Living at the station in 1898 was Almon B. Reed along with seven or so section railroad men, all the inhabitants of yet to be Millinocket town.<sup>41</sup> Reed was proprietor of Hunter's Camp and guided sports through the area. His guiding work quickly gave way to a lunch counter business with the building of the Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) mill in 1899. For a time, he had the only establishment in the area where one could buy a meal, which for 25 cents included beans, biscuits, and tea with no cream or sugar. By 1910, he had sold or closed the business, married and moved to Lincoln where he farmed and worked as a lumber camp cook for at least the next thirty years.

In 1903, Fred M. Peasely took the tote road from the station to Millinocket Lake, crossed it to the outlet stream of Twin Ponds, and hiked the trail along the stream to the ponds where he paddled across and continued on the trail over the height of land to the east shore of Lower Togue Pond.<sup>42</sup> The camp he built in 1903 was at the north end of the island. Peasely was not the first to inhabit the island, however. In 1874, Captain Edwin A. Reed spent a logging season living on the island and cutting its trees for the Lower Togue Pond dam.<sup>43</sup> In June 1906, Peasely bought both the camp on the north side of the pond and the one on nearby Spring Brook from squatter Llewellyn Boynton, a Civil War veteran. Boynton continued to use the camp on the

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<sup>41</sup> Lavery, Dorothy Bowler. *Millinocket Magic City of Maine's Wilderness*. Freeport, ME: Bond Wheelwright, 1973 and Duplisea, David R. *Millinocket*. Portsmouth, NH: Arcadia Publishing, 2008.

<sup>42</sup> conversations with Tom Schafer

<sup>43</sup> Daggett, W. P., "Hersey and Reed Operation," *Bangor Daily Commercial* (June 23, 1917).



north side of the pond and resided there until his death in March 1927, the year Peasely sold the lease. What became of the camp on Spring Brook is unknown.

Although Peasely did not run a sporting camp, he rented the island camp in 1908 to the Thomas Welcome Clark family.<sup>44</sup> Thomas Clark, a GNP engineer in charge of rebuilding the Ambajesus dike beginning in 1905, lived at the Ben Lock Club on Millinocket Lake near the dike. In a letter he wrote that May, he described hitching up a team after work at 5 p.m. and driving 13 miles to Millinocket, which he reached at 7:30 p.m. He attended the dance, which was over at 2:30 a.m., and at 3:20 a.m., he started back to the dike, which he reached at 6:02 a.m. He went right to work; the crew was ready and waiting for their assignments. The time they missed in the morning they made up that evening.

In 1911, Peasely signed a formal lease with the landowners for the island camp and the camp Boynton was using on the north shore of the pond. The lease made no mention of the camp on Spring Brook. The Clarks continued their yearly summer stays. A note in the family's log book made in 1918 indicates that children, presumably of Millinocket, lived in a tent camp on the island for the summer, perhaps to keep them quarantined during the 1918 flu pandemic.

Beginning in 1902, an alternate route to Lower and Upper Togue ponds began to develop when John B. Ross cut the first tote road north from the Nesowadnehunk Tote Road to the narrows between Upper and Lower Togue ponds. This was a winter road and probably not passable at other times of the year. In winter 1905, Peasely, his wife, and two children used the new road to reach the pond where they walked across on the ice. As more loggers used the road in the following years, it improved. By 1924, the Clarks reached the pond by this road.

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<sup>44</sup> The Clark family papers are privately held.

In 1927, the Clark family acquired the lease from Peasely, and the Clark family heirs purchased the seven-acre island from GNP in the 1960s. Over the years, family members preserved the old camp and constructed another cabin in 1930, three sleeping cabins (two in the 1950s), and a third home in 1971. They have attempted to maintain the ambience of 1903.

When the Clark family obtained the lease from Peasely in 1927, it included the Boynton camp in which they had no interest. The family does remember that at one time (c. 1955–1960), some entity used the site and advertised the camp as an “Invitation to Adventure.” The camp operated for several years, and then the lease remained unpaid. In 1979 or 1980, Bob Pelletier, superintendent of Millinocket schools, secured the lease for the school system so teachers could use the area in conjunction with their teaching.<sup>45</sup> The building on the property at the time was a 12- by 12-foot cabin (not the original structure), which the teachers renovated. In 1992, when Bowater Incorporated bought GNP, the Millinocket school department was able to purchase the land with the stipulation that if they no longer wanted to own it that it reverts to Baxter State Park Authority.

Following the Peaselys and Clarks, Tom Corrigan built a camp in 1914 at Upper Togue Pond’s southeast corner where he had a beautiful view of Mount Katahdin.<sup>46</sup> Corrigan family members believe it was the first camp on the pond, excepting perhaps the warden’s camp. Corrigan and his brother moved to Millinocket from Calais, Maine, in 1906 and built Millinocket Foundry and Machine Company, which did the milling for GNP. Another family member built a nearby log cabin in the early 1920s; it was hit by lightning in the 1990s, but rebuilt on the same site. The third camp in the cluster, built in the late 1950s, was probably a home kit sold by the

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<sup>45</sup> conversations with Bob Pelletier

<sup>46</sup> conversations with Fred Lewis

W.T. Grant Company. These camps have always been private camps used by the Corrigan-Lewis family. The family company, now named Millinocket Fabrication and Machine Incorporated, still operates in Millinocket with Fred Lewis, one of the camp owners, as its president.

Ten years later and less than a mile north of the Corrigans along the shore, two other Millinocket businessmen, William H. St. John, a Millinocket druggist, and Henry N. Walls, a GNP employee, built Togue Pond Camps. The year before, they cut Mount Katahdin's St. John Trail that left the Sandy Stream Tote Road a few miles above their camp. The camp was accessible via the rough tote road their neighbors the Clarks and Corrigans used. Ralph Bragdon Sr., a younger brother of St. John's wife Crystal and a watchman in the Double Top mountain fire tower when he was a high school student, used to hitch up the horses and ride them in, stay overnight, even before the camp existed, and then go on to the mountain where he stayed for two weeks at a time.<sup>47</sup> From the Daicey and Kidney ponds areas, his route amounted to no more than a horse trail. In 1927, St. John became the sole proprietor and sold two years later to Reginald and Ina Crawford. In 1934, they had leases for three outlying camps—one at Basin Ponds, the second on Nesowadnehunk Deadwater, and the third at the mouth of Katahdin Stream at the West Branch of the Penobscot River.<sup>48</sup>

Their Basin Ponds camp was either the Fred A. Gilbert camp, a private camp of the GNP woodland operations head, or the GNP No.3 camp, which the company built in 1921 and used until about 1923. Harry F. Ross, son of John B. Ross who logged the area about 1901, owned the land and a logging camp, which he left open and unattended for hikers to use on a first come, first served basis. The ponds and camp were a staging area for those climbing Mount Katahdin

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<sup>47</sup> conversations with Ralph Bragdon

<sup>48</sup> Neff, John W. *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*. Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 2006.

from the south and east. Harry asked that anyone wanting exclusive use to write him first. A small crew saved both these camps during the 1923 Basin Ponds' forest fire. In 1925, the camp's roof had fallen in, but someone repaired it because a hiking group from the Appalachian Mountain Club led by Marjorie Hurd used it for a week in August 1928, the Robert Underhill party used it in 1930, and Harry Brook noted its use during his 1932 trip.<sup>49</sup> The logging camp burned in 1936, and no one replaced it, perhaps because of the evolving camping facilities at Chimney Pond.

Gilbert likely gave up his camp about 1929 when he left GNP. What became of his camp is unknown, but this was likely the one for which GNP offered the Crawfords a lease. During this era, the route to Mount Katahdin through Togue Pond Camps was a popular one because of the developing access roads.

In 1949, the Crawfords sold all but the Katahdin Stream camp to two women, Mildred Van Riper and Marjorie Winfield.<sup>50</sup> After three years, they sold to Jerome Smart and Bernard Rush, who sold a year later in 1953 to Joe and Clara Bartlett. In 1966, they sold to Joe Van Dyne, who died suddenly and never opened the camp. Laurent "Lonnie" Pingree and her brother operated the camp until the Baxter State Park Authority bought it in 1982 and soon destroyed all the structures. The old site is next to the 2014 Baxter State Park Visitor's Center.

The Crawfords probably spoke to Shorty Budreau, who had worked for Elmer Woodworth and other camp proprietors, when he drove by their camp and turned right on the road to the east across the north side of Lower Togue Pond and down the stream to an old GNP

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<sup>49</sup> Hurd, Marjorie. "New Rock Routes at Katahdin." *Appalachia* 22, no. 4 (December 1928): 118–124; Underhill, Robert L. M. "Various Notes: Rock Climbing Katahdin." *Appalachia* 24, no. 4 (December 1930): 188–189; and Harry, Brook. "Katahdin Week-end." *Appalachia* 26, no. 4 (December 1932): 235–240.

<sup>50</sup> See footnote 48

logging camp built by Charlie Glaster about 1910.<sup>51</sup> It was on Togue Stream three-fourths of a mile below the Lower Togue Pond dam between a no-name pond and the stream on the north side. Loggers last used it in 1934–1935 during a timber salvage operation following the 1934 fire. Tom Schafer's father, a member of the Clark family, worked at the camp as a young man. Budreau and his friends used the camp from the early 1940s until 1964 when Baxter State Park Authority canceled the lease and burned the camp. GNP provided Budreau another lease to the east on GNP lands.

The tote road to the narrows between Upper and Lower Togue ponds, worked on by a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crew in 1933–1934, improved to the degree that one could be reasonably assured of traveling in by vehicle from the dike. The crew's camp was at the west end of the lower pond near the narrows. A year later, crew members continued the roadwork on past the new Katahdin Stream Campground to Nesowadnehunk Stream. After they left, the Maine Abenaki Girl Scout Council leased the site in 1937 and established Camp Natarawi. In 1970, the council purchased the site from GNP and continues to operate the camp.

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<sup>51</sup> conversations with Shorty Budreau and Tom Schafer