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Piscataquis Project

Sporting Camps in the Piscataquis River Watershed

Section D

From Bangor to Greenville via access points to Sebec Lake, Lake
Onawa, Long Pond Stream and Long Pond, West Shirley Bog and
Indian Pond, and the Wilson ponds

March 2017

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Preface – Sporting Camps in the Piscataquis watershed

I started this research and writing project when I retired in 2010. My interest was in reading the history of Maine's wilderness through which Maine's Appalachian Trail passes between Monson and the West Branch of the Penobscot River. In sum, I found little written history about logging or trapping or sporting camps, the three major reasons why people were in this wilderness. Consequently, I began to look for what I could piece together.

After a year of work, I realized that the southern 50 miles of this wilderness was the Piscataquis River watershed and the northern 50 miles was the West Branch of the Penobscot River watershed. Then I turned my focus to the northern 50 miles and wrote articles on the West Branch watershed for *Appalachia* magazine and another appeared on the Fogler Library Maine Digital Commons Maine History site.

In 2014, I began to spend more time with the Piscataquis watershed. Life in the watershed revolved around hunters, trappers, wilderness farmers, loggers, tote roads, railroads, and sporting camps. The sporting camps, the primary focus of this text, began to slowly develop in the late 1870s and reached their heydays before the 1930s. This paper traces the development of these first sporting camps to the present day or until they no longer existed. It also includes those who had a private dwelling built before about 1930. The key focal points are the people, their transportation, their operation, their location, the evolution of their camp, and the nature of camp life.

The Piscataquis watershed is divided into four sections. The preface of each section is the same with the exception of the last paragraph where I name and thank those who have contributed to the section.

This history of sporting camps and early private camps in the Piscataquis watershed is a compilation of previously uncollected disjointed bites of information that are organized according to the first access routes and beginning with the earliest places to stay.

I gathered information from ten major printed sources and through conversations with people. Town histories and local historical societies provide information about the development of a community. The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad yearly publications from 1895 to 1952, titled *In the Maine Woods* after 1899, provide many sporting camp and proprietor names. The Maine Register, 1874 -, is another source for sporting camp and proprietor names. *The Maine Sportsman* (1894-1908) and *Forest and Stream* (1873-1930) provide information about specific sporting camps. Through newspaper search engines that include 19th Century Newspapers and

NewspaperArchives more information is available from papers like the *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*.

I attempted to locate information about every name that appears in the text. If a name appears with no other personal information, then I was unable to discover such. Information about the people comes from three primary sources, Ancestry.com, collections of family papers held by Fogler Library at University of Maine, and personal interviews. The Piscataquis and Penobscot county registries of deeds, the Maine Bureau of Public Lands lease office, and Maine's Unorganized Territories Tax Office helped track ownership in some cases.

The notes in all sections enable the reader to know, at a minimum, the general source of information and, in some cases, specifics. For example, where I provided information about a town, I listed the documents used in one note.

The maps are primarily for orientation. In that context, not everything in the text appears on a map. In terms of sporting camps, what does appear is the name of the first known owner.

I want to recognize and extend a most appreciative thank you to the following individuals who provided information for Section D. Your contributions certainly made the text much richer: Milton (Nick) Anderson, Mrs. Alfred Bauer, Desiree Butterfield (University of Maine Fogler Library), Tom Coy, James Draper, Frank Haley, John Leathers, Sarah Otley (University of Maine Library), Candy Russell (Moosehead Historical Society). Thank you for your support and generosity.

Thank you for your interest in this history. I would appreciate any thoughts you wish to share.

Bill Geller
Farmington, Maine

Sporting Camps in the Piscataquis River Watershed

Content of the sections

Section A: north from Bangor to Milo and Brownville to the eastern portion of the watershed, Schoodic, Upper Ebeemee, Seboeis, Cedar, and Endless lakes

Section B: north from Bangor to Brownville and Prairie, the Ebeemee ponds, and Katahdin Iron Works (KIW); South from KIW to Big Houston Pond and the bowl in the shadow of the Barren-Chairback mountain range; North from KIW to B-Pond, the headwaters of the East Branch of the Pleasant River, and West Branch Ponds, headwaters for the West Branch of the Pleasant River

Section C: north from Bangor to Katahdin Iron Works and west along the West Branch of the Pleasant River on the Pleasant Valley Tote Road to sporting camps on the river, the east end of Long Pond, Little Lyford Ponds, and Big Lyford Pond

Section D: from Bangor to Greenville via access points to Sebec Lake, Lake Onawa, Long Pond Stream and Long Pond, West Shirley Bog and Indian Pond, and the Wilson ponds

Reader's Note:

Each of the A-D sections has three subsections. The first subsection is the same for each of the A-D sections; it is an introduction to the whole of the watershed. The second subsection traces the development of the route from Bangor to the community that served as the departure point for sports traveling to a particular geographic area in the Piscataquis watershed. The third section has the history of the sporting and private camps on the waters accessed from the departure point. Any town name not followed by the name of a state is in Maine.

Section D

Piscataquis River Watershed:

From Bangor to Greenville via access points to Sebec Lake, Lake Onawa, Long Pond Stream and Long Pond, West Shirley Bog and Indian Pond, and the Wilson ponds

An Introduction:

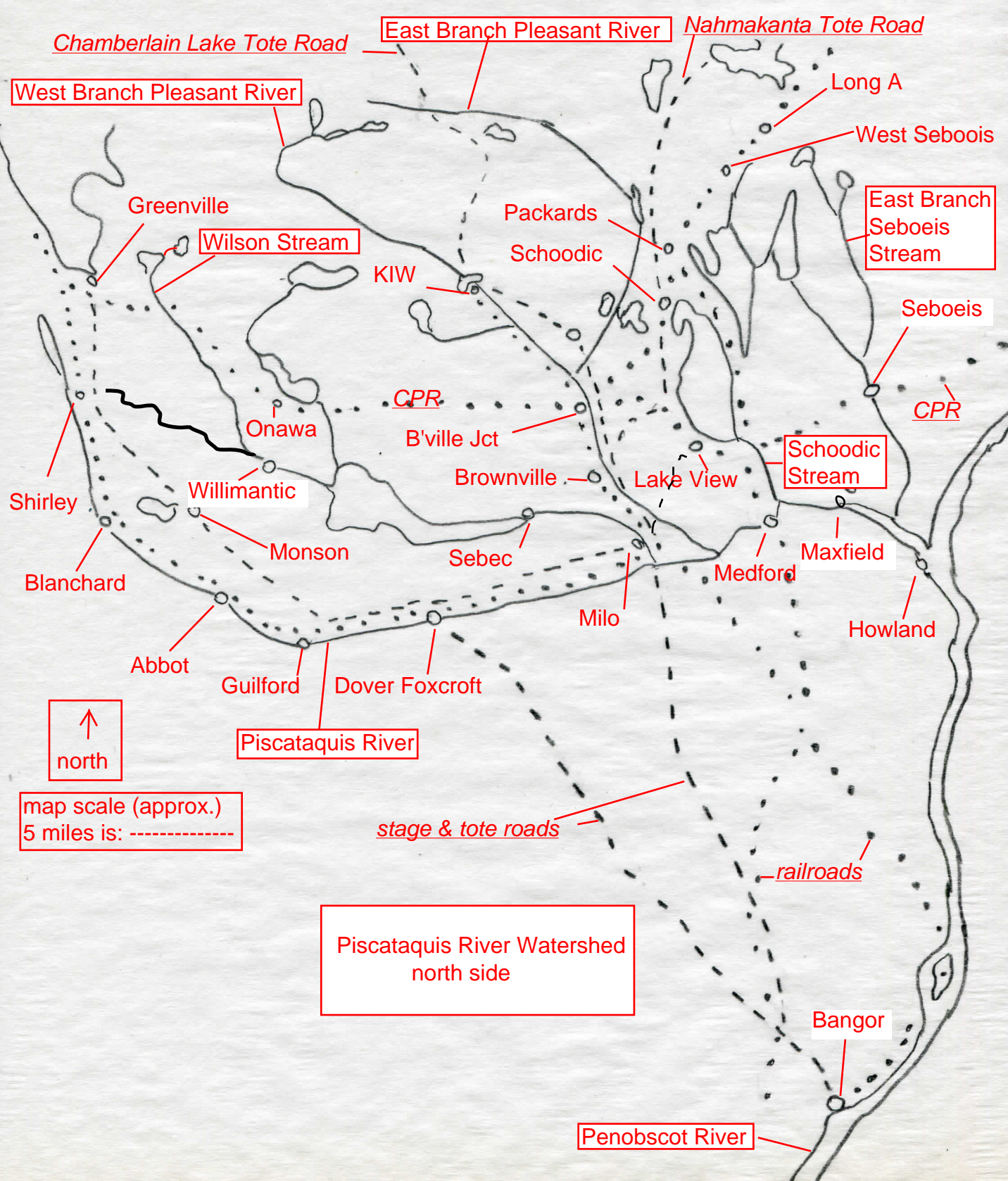
General access to and development on the Piscataquis River and its tributaries

The Native Americans traveled up the Penobscot River, north into the Maine wilderness, from their community not far above the ocean's tidal effects.¹ They paddled past their villages at Olamon and Passadumkeag. At Piscataquis village², they either continued north or turned west into the mouth of the Piscataquis River and carried around the waterfall. Those on this westerly route traveled the waterway to the mouth of a substantial stream flowing from the north. Their travel on this stream brought them to a lengthy east-west running lake, Sebec (large body of water), which they paddled through to its northwest cove with a short stream to another lake, Obernecksombeek (Onawa), at the foot of the mountains. From here, they portaged along a stream that cut through the mountains to another long narrow lake and then did a series of portages and small pond crossings to reach Sebem³ and Kineo their

¹ Bangor is the current name of this community.

² Howland is the current name of this community.

³ Moosehead Lake



source of flint. For centuries, the Native Americans used this route and their encampments dotted the waterway.

Colonial trappers and hunters also used the waterways as their roads. Settlers, who came to farm in the growing seasons and log in the winter, followed in 1800 and by 1824 had formed new communities at just about every waterfall, their source of power to mill lumber, grind grain, and, later, weave wool and cotton.⁴ Those who owned the land along these waterways, where towns formed, were willing to sell and have the area develop. However, landowners away from the river did not sell land; they held it for logging and their initial source of loggers were those who moved into the settlements.

In 1802 and 1803 a number of settlements began to spring up on the Piscataquis River.⁵ Medford was 12 miles from the Penobscot River and Dover and Foxcroft⁶ were 30 miles west of Medford. Three years later and eight miles above Foxcroft, farmers started Guilford and, 5 more miles upriver, Abbot. By 1824, families reached the headwaters of the Piscataquis River near Shirley, and Little Wilson Stream at Shirley Corner, and Big Wilson Stream east of Greenville. Shirley

⁴ All town names appearing in the text are Maine towns unless otherwise noted.

⁵ The early dates cited for settlements indicate when the first settlers began clearing land.

⁶ Foxcroft was on the north side of the river and Dover was on the south side. They merged in 1922 to become Dover-Foxcroft.

developed as it did around the foot of the East Bog, because the landowner's strategy was to settle the east side of the township and leave the west side for logging.⁷

Development on the tributaries flowing into the north side of the river also commenced in 1802-1803. Settlers left the Piscataquis River on the Sebec River to establish Milo at the two-mile mark, half way between Medford and Foxcroft, and Sebec at the mouth of Sebec Lake, another six miles up river. On the west end of Sebec Lake at the mouth of Big Wilson Stream, other families settled Willimantic by 1830.⁸ In 1806, more settlers passed north through Milo to form Brownville five

⁷ The following books provide the history of these communities.

Bennett, Wayne and others. *A Centeseptquinary History of Abbot, Maine 1827-2002*. Greenville, ME: Moosehead Communications.

Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*. Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.

Phillips, Allen H. *Shirley – The People and Their Town*, 2009.

Stevens, Louis E. *Dover-Foxcroft: A History*. Somersworth, NH: New Hampshire Printers, 1995.

True, Emma J. Editor, *History of Greenville 1836–1936*. Augusta, ME: Augusta Press, 1936.

White, Charlotte et al. *Guilford Maine Sesquicentennial*. 1966.

⁸ Blanchard, Dorothy A. *Old Sebec Lake*. Dover, NH: Arcadia Publications, 1997.

Conservation Commission. *Willimantic, Past & Present*. 1976.

Milo Historical Society. *Milo, Brownville and Lake View*. Portsmouth, ME: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Sawtell, William R. *The Bowerbank Story*, c.2000.

Wright, Shirley Nason. *History of Sebec Maine 1812-1987*. Presque Isle: ME: Print Works,

miles to the north at the first falls on the Pleasant River. Eight years later farmers came from Sebec and Brownville to settle around Silver Lake at the foot of the White Cap and Barren-Chairback mountain ranges on the West branch of the Pleasant River. By 1840, folks referred to the community as Katahdin Iron Works (KIW).⁹ In 1816, a farmer went north of Abbot through the woods and settled at the east end of Lake Hebron, Monson. Settlers continued northeast from Monson in 1824 to the fertile intervale of Long Pond Stream at the head of Lake Onawa, but a village never developed here.¹⁰

While settlers originally navigated a waterway, roads quickly connected them. The land route was necessary, as the waterways did not always have sufficient water for consistent transportation, particularly in the late summer and fall. In 1824,

1987.

⁹ Gerrish, Judson, and Henry Gerrish. *Brownville Centennial Book*. Dover-Foxcroft, ME: F.D. Barrows, 1924.

Sawtell, William R. *K.I. III*. Bangor, ME: Furbush-Roberts Printing, 1988.

Sawtell, William R. *Katahdin Iron Works and Gulf Hags: Before and Beyond*. Milo, ME: Milo Printing Company, nd.

Sawtell, William R. *Katahdin Iron Works Revisited*. Self published, 1983.

¹⁰ Anderson, Ken. Profiles in Rural Maine: Onawa, Maine. allmainematters.com

Bennett, Marilyn Temple and Kermit Colson Bennett. *Vaughn's Elliot[t]sville*. Wiscasset, ME: The Copy Shop, 2010.

History of Monson Maine 1822-1972.

Sawtell, William R. *Onawa Revisited*. Milo, ME: The Paper Pusher, 1989.

the first stage line went from Bangor directly to Milo, where it split with one fork leading north to Brownville and the other fork following the north side of the Piscataquis River to Foxcroft and two years later reaching Greenville.¹¹ By 1833, a tote road and stage line went directly from Bangor to Foxcroft and on to Greenville, saving loggers costly miles and time. At the same time, loggers extended the other fork, which lead to Milo and then Brownville, to points farther north with access to the east side of the Piscataquis watershed and the West Branch of the Penobscot watershed. For the next 50 plus years, the tote roads to Greenville and Brownville north were the two main arteries loggers used to supply their operations. The number of men on anyone night involved with toting supplies could range from 10 to 40 men at one of their stops. In general, logging operations to the north grew year by year and as a result so did the commercial operations along these two major arteries.

Each of the towns on the river became a center of commerce. The community's farming families grew the food staples needed by the loggers and their oxen, and later horses (post-1890). In the winter, their men folk turned to logging, trapping and hunting. Each community had at least one enterprising farm family that opened an early hotel that served loggers and teamsters headed to the logging camps, housed those cutting nearby and cared for river drivers in the spring.¹² As saw and grain mills developed, some families built boarding houses for the growing work

¹¹ For the first few years the Greenville settlement was on a flat area about half way between the foot of Moosehead Lake and the Wilson ponds.

¹² Information identifying hotels comes from the town histories and *The Maine Register*.

force and, as these workers began to build their own homes and travelers on the stage line increased, the boarding houses gradually morphed into hotels that still served boarders.

By the late 1860s, the level of commerce, as it pertained to farm and wood products, and travelers, was sufficient enough to bring the railroad north from Bangor to the Milo area near the confluence of the valleys of the Piscataquis and Pleasant rivers. Here the rails swung west along the north side of the Piscataquis River. In 1869, Milo became the supply hub for loggers using the major tote roads north. That same year the supply hub for points west shifted to Foxcroft, the end of the rail line for the next two years.¹³ Guilford served as the hub until 1874, when the rails ended at Abbot, where southbound trails picked up a new commodity, slate, from the Monson mines (c.1870). Two years later, the line reached Blanchard and then Greenville in 1884.

Back in Milo and at about the time the rails reached Greenville, crews laid another set of tracks from the rail line's turn to the west below Milo village through Brownville and up the West Branch of the Pleasant River valley to KIW (1882); the junction became known as Milo Junction (or Derby). Influencing this financial commitment was the activity of the iron works and tourist traffic to KIW's popular Silver Lake Hotel. This moved the logger's supply hub for the tote road that went

¹³ Much of the railroad information in this document is from: Angier, Jerry and Cleaves, Herb. *Bangor & Aroostook: The Maine Railroad*. Littleton, MA: Flying Yankee Enterprises, 1986.

north to the West Branch of the Penobscot River to Brownville and for the southern portion of the tote road to Chamberlain Lake to KIW; the northern portion's hub was now Greenville.

Between 1870 and 1883, the addition of these rail lines, which provided a more comfortable and attractive means of travel, began to lure north more adventuresome sports interested in hunting and fishing. Enterprising writers and map makers recognized an opportunity and the first Maine tourist guidebooks and maps for this area, published between 1875 and 1893 by John Way, Charles Alden John Farrar, and Lucius Lee Hubbard, described canoeing routes into the Maine wilderness with the key rendezvous point being Greenville. They promoted the wilderness hotels at Moosehead Lake and the hotel at Silver Lake, and described those areas' attractions. As tourist guides, they offered no information about the territory east of KIW and Brownville, because the area had no communities and no Native American canoe route, and consequently no current canoe route, crossed the area in moving east to west or north to south.¹⁴

¹⁴ Farrar, Captain Charles A. J. *Farrar's Guide to Moosehead Lake and North Maine Wilderness*. Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1890.

Hubbard, Lucius L. *Hubbard's Guide to Moosehead Lake and Northern Maine*. Cambridge, MA: Author, 1889 and 1893.

Way, John M. Jr. *A Guide to Moosehead Lake Region and Northern Maine*. Boston: John M. Way Jr., 1874.

Cook, David S. *Above the Gravel Bar: The Indian Canoe Routes of Maine*, 2nd edition. Milo, ME: Milo Printing, 1985.

The residents who lived in the communities on these two rail lines in the 1880's also noted the increased sport activity and quickly took advantage of it. They made their hotels more attractive. Enterprising farmers and woodsmen began advertising their guiding services and took a sport or two at a time to one of their trapper's camps, a tiny four wall shelter that provided some protection from the weather. Their scattered trapper's camps were usually on the shore of some body of water that they had to themselves. The landowners had no objection to these men fishing, hunting, picking spruce gum, trapping, and cutting a few trees for their tiny cabins. Most of these men also logged or surveyed or cruised timber and the landowners knew they would take care of the land from which they derived their livelihood.

By the mid-1890s, the sporting camp business began to blossom and the number of sporting camps grew rapidly. Enterprising trappers and guides gave up their small trapper's cabins and built more comfortable structures. Other guides and loggers seeing the influx built new sporting camps, some large enough to sleep 12 or more people and others put up a small cluster of sleeping cabins with a common kitchen and dining center.¹⁵ They started small and grew over time. With this change, landowners began issuing commercial leases in the 1890s to guides for a few dollars

¹⁵ A reading of all the issues of *The Maine Sportsman* and *In the Maine Woods* leads to this conclusion.

a year.¹⁶ One major reason for landowners providing leases scattered about their lands was for fire protection; no loggers were in these woods during the summer and early fall at the height of fire season. Terms for some leases specifically included a condition that the holder would report intruders and rogue camps, and watch for fires and help put them out, and not build outdoor fires. After about 1910, when loggers began stringing miles of phone lines to connect their camps, they consciously included the sporting camps.

Contributing to a final growth spurt was the 1893 opening of another rail line from Brownville north to Aroostook County.¹⁷ From the initial opening, the freight line provided passenger service to the eastern portion of the Piscataquis watershed, Schoodic and Seboeis lakes and Norcross at the foot of the Lower Chain Lakes (Elbow, North Twin, Pemadumcook and Ambejejus lakes). Also at this time, the B&A began to play a major role in attracting people to the Maine woods. In 1894, they hosted a Maine booth at the first annual New York City Sportsman Show. They also participated yearly in a similar show in Boston. For these shows, they hired popular Maine guides and proprietors of many of the developing sporting camps.

¹⁶ Copies of camp leases are found in lumbermen's family papers of which a large number are available at University of Maine Fogler Library.

¹⁷ The rail line that began inching north from Bangor and following settlers along the Piscataquis River was the Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad, and the line from Brownville to Katahdin Iron Works (KIW) was the Bangor and Katahdin Iron Works Railroad. These two lines merged in 1891 to form the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad's Piscataquis Division, in this text the B&A.

The display often included a full log cabin along with pictures and taxidermy work that include large fish and animals.

In addition to the sportsman shows, the B&A advertised, distributed small promotional brochures, and printed a yearly booklet of up to 200 or more pages promoting the north Maine woods as accessible from its rail lines. The first year of publication was 1895 and, starting in 1900, its yearly title was *In the Maine Woods*.¹⁸ Another popular publication devoted to Maine hunting, fishing and sporting camps and printed between 1893 and 1908 was Maine publisher Herbert W. Rowe's *The Maine Sportsman*,¹⁹ a monthly magazine. Its seemingly endless stream of pictures of long strings of big fish and game suggested everyone was successful.

Writers like Captain Charles Alden John Farrar, who spent summers in Rangeley, and Holman Day, a Mainer, wrote numerous articles and popular books pertaining to adventures in the Maine woods. Day, who began writing about the Maine woods in the mid-1890s and through the first two decades of the 20th century, was a prolific writer.²⁰ Some of his novels used the men and women he met on his excursions in the Maine woods and some of them lived near his camp on Long Pond on the west side of Chairback Mountain. Cornelia Thursa (Fly Rod) Crosby of

¹⁸ By using the resources of The Maine State Library and Internet Archives one can find a nearly complete set. The New York Public Library has the first issue in 1895.

¹⁹ A combination of the resources at Bangor Public Library and the Maine State Library provides a nearly complete set.

²⁰ Two books Day wrote at Long Pond are: *Squire Phin*, New York: A.S. Barnes, 1905; and *King Spruce*, New York: A.L. Burt, 1908.

Phillips, Maine's first registered guide and another well-known spokesperson for Maine's wilderness, was a prolific writer for the numerous sportsman type magazines at the turn of the century. She was often the organizer of the Maine booth at the yearly Boston and New York sportsman shows.

Most sporting camps did little, if any advertising. However, what they did do through their guides and cooks was provide every sport an exceptionally rewarding experience that caused them and their families to return year after year and encouraged their friends to join the fun in Maine. As a collective, the guides knew what they did could draw more people to an area or cause them to seek another, so they made sure people had a good time and were successful in fishing or hunting or seeing the sights. The cooks, often the wives of the owners, prepared amazing meals. The daily breakfast was the equivalent of the modern day Sunday brunch and the daily lunch and supper were each like Sunday diner.

In terms of the interests of sports,²¹ Greenville, Monson, Foxcroft, Milo, Brownville, and KIW developed into the main rendezvous communities on the west, south and east sides of the Piscataquis watershed. These towns provided access to the Piscataquis watershed wilderness that has always been the domain of trappers, loggers, and sports. Each of these communities was on one of the loggers' major tote roads from Bangor and served as a hub for other winter logging tote roads that reached into the wilderness and that guides and their sports used.

²¹ "Sport" is a term that refers to a person who hired a guide for a wilderness experience.

Access from Greenville into the Piscataquis watershed did not develop until c.1890 and it was not until c.1917 that sports began to use it. The logger's tote roads did not at first enter the headwaters of the easterly flowing Piscataquis River tributaries of Big and Little Wilson streams and the East and West Branches of the Pleasant River. The loggers cutting in the Greenville area prior to 1900 were working for the mills in the Kennebec River system, which flows west and south.

Monson was the rendezvous point for sports traveling 12 miles to Long Pond Stream in Bodfish intervale, where they had access to Long Pond, the west side of the Barren-Chairback mountain range, and Lake Onawa from 1873 to the present day. The stream flowed south from Long Pond, and carved easterly through the southern slopes of the Barren-Chairback mountain range, passed through the intervale and emptied into Lake Onawa. The tote road from the intervale to Long Pond was not always passable, even with a horse and cart. A short side road from the Bodfish intervale farms led to a landing near the upper end of Lake Onawa. Loggers drove Lake Onawa's rugged outlet stream, Ship Pond Stream, to Sebec Lake, but a route never developed from Sebec Lake up along the stream to Lake Onawa.

At Dover and Foxcroft, tourists and sports departed the stage from Bangor and went a short three miles by foot or carriage to Blethen's Landing, later renamed Greeley's Landing, at about the middle of Sebec Lake. Bateau and canoes called at the landing for those going west on the lake to Willimantic and east to Bowerbank and Sebec. By 1861, the lake had a steamboat capable of handling 300 people. Its proximity to Bangor made the lake a popular summer destination for tourists.

From Milo some sports continued west along the Piscataquis River, others turned north to Prairie and then northwest to KIW. Beginning in 1883 some took the tote road to the foot of Schoodic Lake and continued on to a sporting camp on the lake or those on Seboeis and Endless lakes.

At Brownville, the route north split and the left fork, the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road, continued north to Prairie and the Ebeemee lakes where it shifted westerly to reach Silver Lake. The right fork, the Nahmakanta Tote Road, went northeast over Searles Hill, then made an arc to the north, crossed near the foot of Norton Pond (also known as Peter's Pond) well above the Schoodic Lake shore, and went straight north across the high land to the northwest corner of Schoodic Lake where it continued on to pass on the east side of Upper Ebeemee Lake and ended 10 miles further north at South Twin Lake's southwest corner. Trappers, hunters, guides and sports headed to the east most portion of the Piscataquis River watershed, Schoodic, Seboeis, Endless, and Cedar lakes' area, used the road to reach a major side road from the Norton Pond area to Schoodic Lake.²²

The community that developed at Silver Lake became known as Katahdin Iron Works (KIW) in the 1840s and was both an early destination and rendezvous location for loggers cutting on both the east and west sides of the Barren-Chairback

²² Hubbard, Lucius L. Map of Moosehead Lake and Northern Maine, 1879, 1883, 1891, 1894.

Piscataquis County Maine Map. Houlton & Dover, ME: George Colby, 1882.
 Walling, H. F. Map of Piscataquis County, Maine. New York: Lee & Marsh, 1858.
 Walling, H.F. Map of the State of Maine. Portland, ME: J. Chace Jr., 1862.

and White Cap mountain ranges. KIW's Silver Lake Hotel served tourists from c.1870 to 1913 when it burned; its best years were in the 1880s. While its popularity waned in the 1890s, an increasing number of sports came through the community on their way to a sporting camp. Those headed to a sporting camp in the Big Houston Pond watershed, the east side of the Barren-Chairback mountain range, took the tote road from KIW south to Big Houston Pond. Others bound for a sporting camp on the west side of the mountain range took the Pleasant Valley Tote Road from the head of Silver Lake and continued along the West Branch of the Pleasant River, through Gulf Hagas that split the mountain range. Another group took the tote road north from KIW through Big White Brook valley to the sporting camps at B-Pond, Yoke Pond and those in the headwaters of the East and West Branches of the Pleasant River.

In 1894, the railroad was the only reasonable and comfortable way to get within perhaps 20 miles of some of these developing sporting camps. The final leg was by horse and wagon or canoe or foot or any combination thereof. Logging roads were exceedingly rough except for winter, when snow filled in around the stumps and rocks, so many preferred walking. By the early 1890s, the tote road north from Brownville became so rough that what used to take a day for a horse with a cart full of sportsman type dunnage to reach South Twin Lake now took two. The condition of a side road was a function of where loggers were going to cut or had recently cut. Since loggers abandoned the roads after they cut, access to some sporting camps changed based on an available road. Most proprietors spent considerable time keeping roads open. For many proprietors ownership necessitated having a horse.

The mix of people who visited the sporting camps changed over time. Up through the 1890s sports were generally men and Mainers, many from the towns on the Piscataquis and Penobscot rivers, and particularly the Bangor area.²³ As conditions at the sporting camps quickly improved, men from all over New England, New York City and northern New Jersey and Philadelphia started arriving. Beginning about 1900, the B&A publications began to advertise for women and by 1910 wives and children were also coming for summer stays of a month or more. They came year after year and in some cases, like at Yoke Pond Camps, the proprietor let them leave trunks of material for their visit the following year. Some prevailed upon a proprietor to build them their own camp on the proprietor's lease and a few built a camp for their personal use on leased land.

By the mid-1920s, the often-used sections of the loggers and stage roads had been improved and more people were buying cars.²⁴ For example sports could now drive from Foxcroft to Greeley Landing on Sebec Lake or from Monson to Bodfish Intervale at the head of Lake Onawa. Ridership on the trains began to decline and

²³ This conclusion is based on reading sporting camp guest books.

Big Houston Camps guest register 1896-1939. University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

Long Pond Camps / Dean Register 1895-1919. University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

Onawa House Guest books 1897-1904. University of Maine Fogler Library, Special Collections

²⁴ A general description of Maine's road development appears in: *A History of Maine Roads 1600-1970* by State Highway Commission, Maine Department of Transportation. The document is online:

digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=mdot_docs

service to KIW stopped in 1922. Sports continued to come, but they still had to rely on the camp proprietor to get them the last miles to the sporting camp.

The number of sports and families at the sporting camps began to decline in the 1920s. Many of the camps had remained rustic; for the most part business was not sufficient enough to generate the revenue at most sporting camps to make the needed upgrades or in some cases even basic upkeep. The food was excellent and plenty of it, but it was plain with little variety and some sporting camps struggled kept pace with people's broadening tastes. The developing popularity of the car opened up other travel opportunities for families and led to declining numbers of train passengers. Consequently, connections on the lines to the north-country were no longer as frequent or convenient. The depression resulted in fewer sports coming north. During the early 1940s, some sporting camps closed or scaled back as a result of the war. By 2010 the number of sporting camps in the Piscataquis River Watershed that opened before c.1930 had dwindled to three, and only one of these is still family owned.

Being a sporting camp proprietor was a way to sustain a cherished life style and share it with others. The early farmers and loggers who initiated this business did so in order to keep their property or lease and sustain their families. These men and their families cobbled together a living in these woods by farming, foraging, logging, picking spruce gum, guiding sports, guiding for other sporting camps, trapping, hunting for the city markets when it was legal, building and caring for telephone lines, surveying, cruising timber, scaling timber, building private camps for others, and acting as winter caretakers. Many early proprietors turned their sporting camp

over to family or sold to a loyal long time guide or a friend in their community, often with the right to live out their years at the camp. Ownership of the sporting camps continued to be predominantly local Mainers through the 1940s, but then began to drift away from such owners as costs started to rise, exceeded their means and sales began to involve bank loans. Those private individuals who run the last remaining commercial sporting camps continue to have that passion for the life at a camp and have preserved a Maine tradition.

From Bangor to Milo, then west to Sebec, Dover-Foxcroft, Guilford, and Abbot

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.²⁵ 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

²⁵ *The Maine Register* and the following books provided information on places to stay. Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*. Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.

Milo Historical Society. *Milo, Brownville and Lake View*. Portsmouth, ME: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

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 taken them to a destination.²⁶ 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 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 Village

²⁶ Guide lists appeared regularly in the Bangor and Aroostook publication *In the Maine Woods* and in the magazine *The Maine Sportsman*.

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.²⁷ 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 blue berry picking and fishing around the lake. In 1861, the first 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

²⁷ Blanchard, Dorothy A. *Old Sebec Lake*. Dover, NH: Arcadia Publications, 1997.

Sawtell, William R. *The Bowerbank Story*, c.2000.

Wright, Shirley Nason. *History of Sebec Maine 1812-1987*. Presque Isle: ME: Print Works, 1987.

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.²⁸ 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.

Dover and Foxcroft

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

²⁸ The Maine Sportsman, Vol. 10 no. 110 (October 1902): 18.

lake's access point for those coming from Dover and Foxcroft²⁹ By the time sports and tourists were coming north through these communities, the stage line came on a direct line from Bangor. It was not until 1870 that the first 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. Tileston purchased and ran it for four years before he sold to Arthur P. Stacy, who was the proprietor through at least 1947.

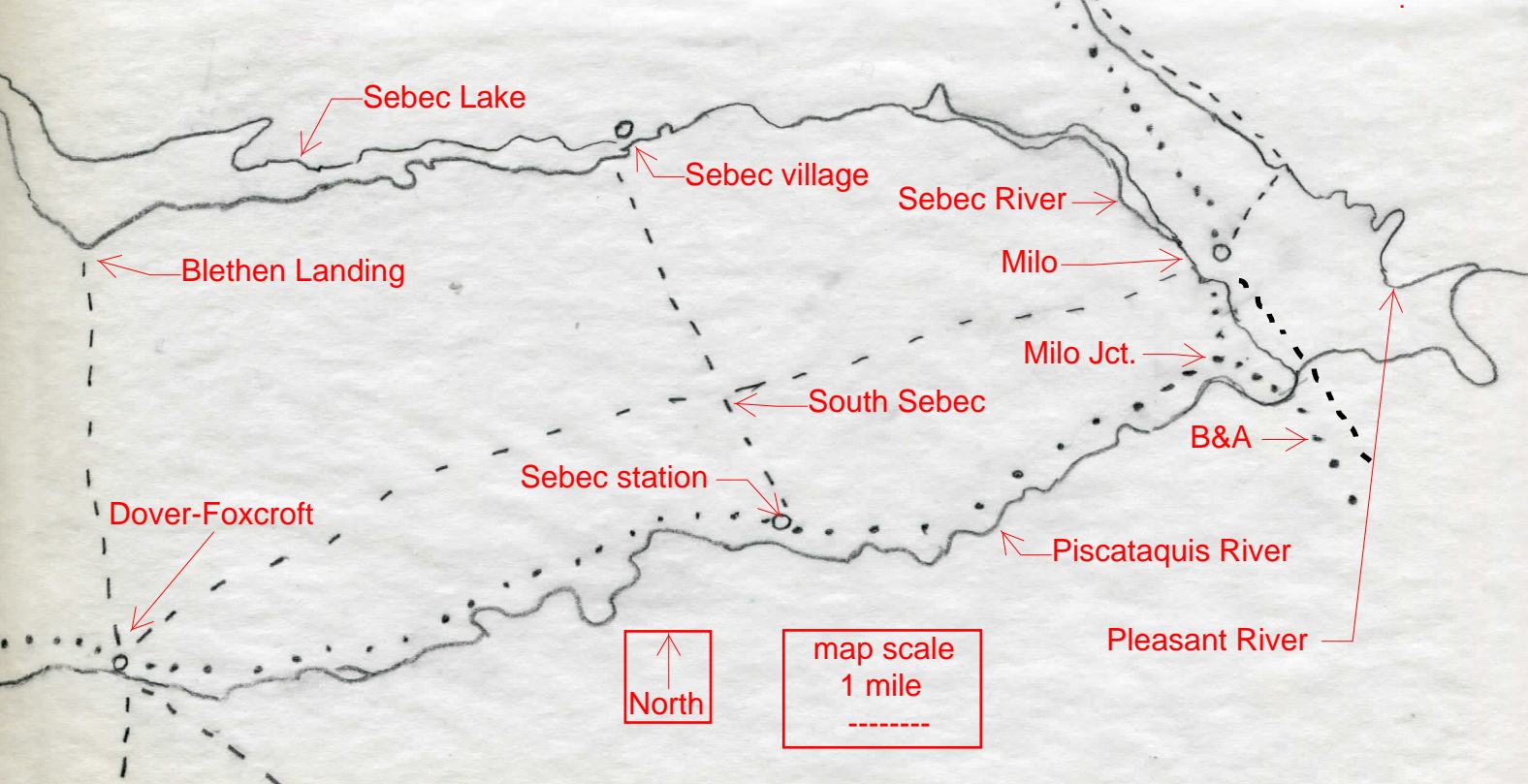
Between 1872 and 1930, the two towns had five other hotels. E. Sanford ran the American House for another ten years before it closed in 1882. H.N. Greeley

²⁹ Dover-Foxcroft history books and *The Maine Register* provided information.

Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*. Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.

Rainsford, Stephen. *Around Dover-Foxcroft*. Portsmouth, NH: Acadia Publishing, 2008.

Stevens, Louis E. *Dover-Foxcroft: A History*. Somersworth, NH: New Hampshire Printers, 1995.



Sebec Lake

Sebec village

Sebec River

Blethen Landing

Milo

Milo Jct.

South Sebec

B&A

Sebec station

Dover-Foxcroft

Piscataquis River

Pleasant River

North

map scale
1 mile

operated an establishment for a year (1872) and James Crommentt operated another for five years 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 1930.³⁰ The Dover House opened about 1888 with J.K. Robbins as proprietor, but then 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 residents 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

³⁰ Fred Ferris apparently opened it in 1913 and managed it through 1921, when he sold to Alexis O. Robbins. The hotel perhaps closed in 1927.

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 may have run until they closed at his death in 1917.³¹ 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

³¹ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 2 no. 21 (May 1895): 5.

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 Crocketts sold to Burton Marlborough Packard.

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 1899.³² 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.

³² 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.)

The hardwork of the Packard family and their guides paid off in an increasing numbers 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 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 1917.³³

³³ Other information pertaining to Packards came from the following three books: Arlen, Alice. *In the Maine Woods*. Hallowell, ME: Letter Systems Hallowell, 1994.

Arlen, Alice. *In The Maine Woods: An Insider's Guide to Traditional Maine Sporting*

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 operation and Jerry managed the twenty-five cabins and campgrounds the family owned in other locales. By 2003, Jerry and his daughter Laura were running the sporting camp that included fifteen 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.³⁴ 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.³⁵ Then, in 1903, about the time the mill closed, William ("Bill") L. Earley, bought the hotel and the

Camps. Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 1998.

Arlen, Alice. *Maine Sporting Camps*. Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 2003.

³⁴ Conservation Commission. *Willimantic, Past & Present*. 1976.

³⁵ 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.

accompanying farm. Like his neighbor B.M. Packard, Earley, who was born in 1880 in Somerville, Massachusetts, 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.³⁶

Guests at the hotels and sporting camps on the lake engaged in activities other than just boat cruises, berry picking, fishing and hunting. They had a number of options for hiking. One hike was a two-day trip (c.1913); trappers 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

³⁶ Between 1945 and 1963 Oscar and Helga Peterson ran a sporting camp, Petersen's Ledge Camps, on the lower end of the lake. Sullivan's Ledge opened about 1965 closed about 1978. Law's Camp opened in 1979 and closed by 1982. Specific locations are unknown.

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.

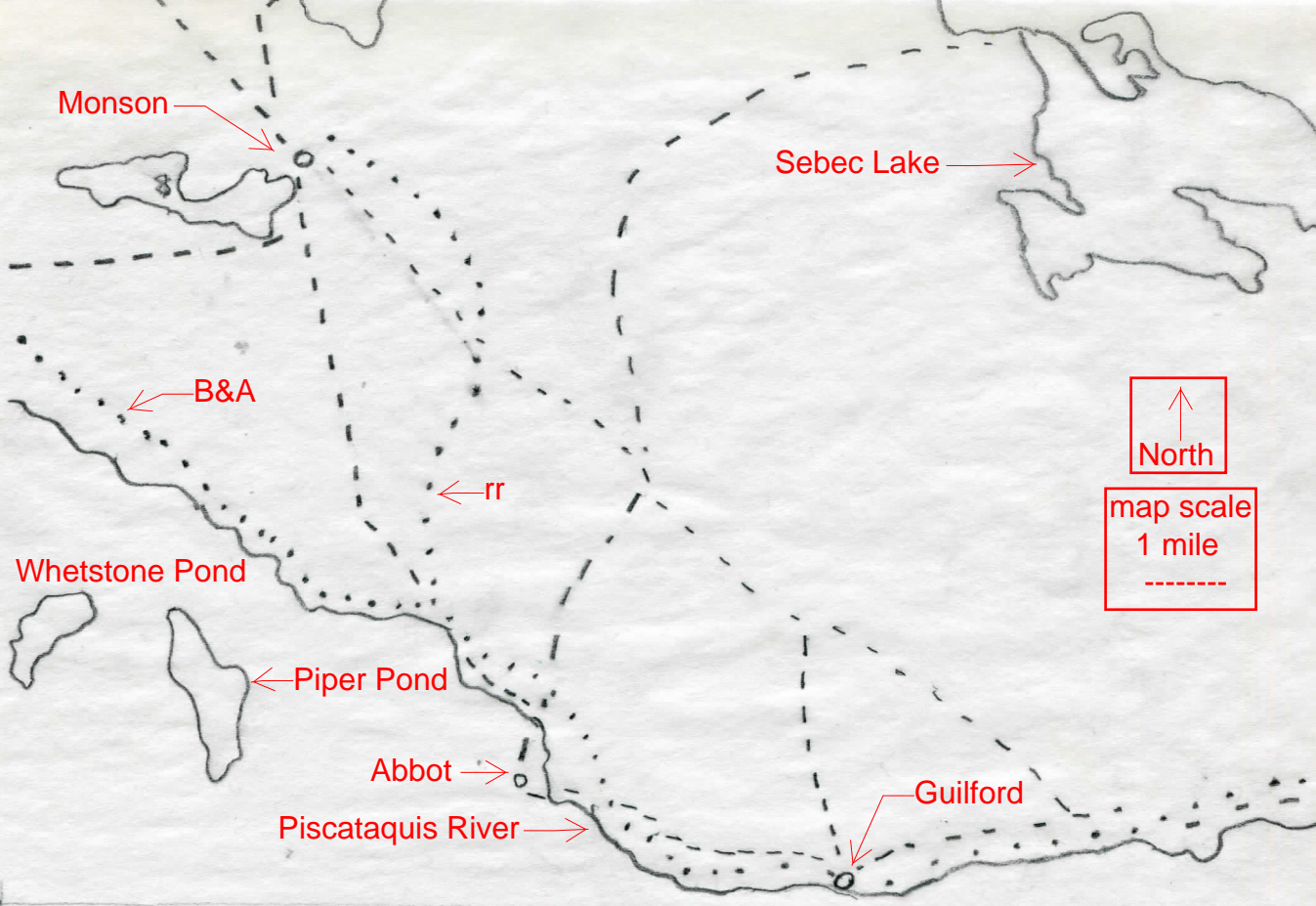
From Granite Peak one could look into the northwest most cove of Sebec Lake, Buck's Cove, and the mouth of Ship Pond Stream. The Native Americans, early loggers and miners, and trappers followed this stream to reach Lake Onawa. Only a few small sporting camps opened on Lake Onawa prior to 1889, when 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 the Lake Onawa.

Guilford and Abbot

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.³⁷ Commerce in Guilford increased notably between 1871 and 1874

³⁷ *The Maine Register* and the following books provided information on places to stay. White, Charlotte et al. *Guilford Maine Sesquicentennial*. 1966.

Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*.



when the town was the railroad's terminus. Here loggers off loaded the supplies and teamsters toted the material on to Abbot, Monson, Shirley, and Greenville.

While the community never developed as a rendezvous point for guides and sports, it did have at least one 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.³⁸ 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

Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.

³⁸ Information on Abbot is from *The Maine Register* and Bennett, Wayne and others. *A Centeseptquinary History of Abbot, Maine 1827-2002*. Greenville, ME: Moosehead Communications.

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 1932³⁹.

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. In 1927, L.J. Muraness opened Sporting, Hunters House that he ran through 1930, when B.B. Mitchell and Son bought the business and also opened a restaurant, all of which appears to have closed about 1933. 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.

Monson⁴⁰

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

³⁹ S.J. Morse, D.H. Foss, F.G. Hayden, and Silas Huff

⁴⁰ The information on Monson is found in *The Maine Register, History of Monson Maine 1822-1972*, and Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*. Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.

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 1846 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.

A new stream 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 Wilkens' place served these 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.

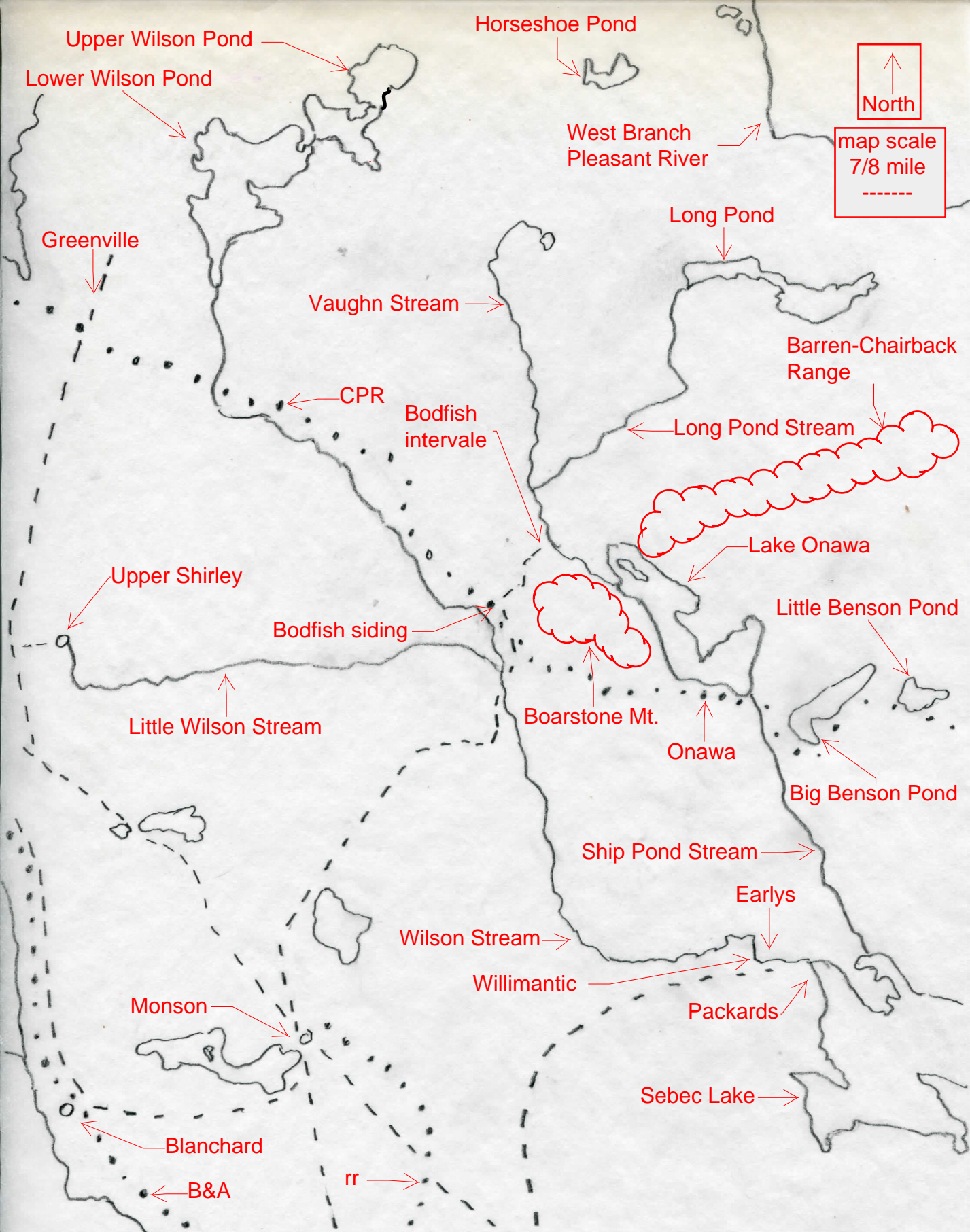
Monson to Bodfish intervale, Long Pond Stream, and Lake Onawa

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.⁴¹ The road ended on the west side of Long Pond Stream where it formed a junction with the tote road between Lake Onawa 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 which 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 he 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.

⁴¹ Bennett, Marilyn Temple and Kermit Colson Bennett. *Vaughn's Elliot[t]sville*. Wiscasset, ME: The Copy Shop, 2010 and Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*. Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.



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 interval 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.⁴² None of the other lot owners lived here. By 1860, two of Samuel's now grown children had their own farms in the interval 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 Shirley to farm, Hellen'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 Onawa 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

⁴² Piscataquis County Register of Deeds and lot maps.

were partners in running the farm business. Rodney married by 1920 and he and his wife had their own farm in the interval, but gave up it by 1930 to move to Haddonfield, 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.⁴³

When the sporting camp and private camp era commenced in the 1890's, 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.⁴⁴ 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

⁴³ Interview with James Draper.

⁴⁴ Maine Appalachian Trail guides.

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.⁴⁵ 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 1894.⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁷

One of Trustim’s frequent visitors was Maine writer Holman Day.⁴⁸ 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

⁴⁵ Information about Brown is from: Ancestry.com; writing of Holman Day (*Forest and Stream*, January 4, 1902); Sawtell, William R. *Onawa Revisited*. Milo, ME: The Paper Pusher, 1989.

⁴⁶ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 2 no. 16 (December 1894).

⁴⁷ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 1 no. 2 (October 1893).

⁴⁸ Sherman, Ivan Cecil. *The Life and Work of Holman Francis Day*. University of Maine thesis for Master of Arts in English, 1942.

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 1896⁴⁹ 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 premise and keep a horse at no expense to him for as long as he wished.⁵⁰ With the \$600 from the sale, Trustim took a trip back to 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.⁵¹ From here they used canoes and boats to

⁴⁹ *The Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, February 17, 1899, p. 8 issue 41. *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 3 no. 33 (May 1896): 12.

⁵⁰ Piscataquis Registry of Deeds.

⁵¹ 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.

reach their desired destination 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 1896.⁵² 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

⁵² *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 3 no. 34 (June 1896): 25 and Vol. 5 no. 51 (November 1897): 21.

the foot of Lake Onawa, had a branch cabin on Long Pond (c.1903); perhaps it was this 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 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 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 them for the next four years. About the time he purchased the sporting camp, he was a Great Northern Paper Company employee working at Lilly 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 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 by-pass 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.⁵³

The same phone line through which hikers used to make arrangements probably saved Dore's life in one incident. Through at least 1931, Dore toted 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.

⁵³ Maine Appalachian Trail guides.

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 field stone 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.⁵⁴ 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.

⁵⁴ Considerable information about the sporting camp came through conversations with Frank Haley and Milton (Nick) Anderson, a member of the Leeman family tree.

Reaching the site on Long Pond via Bodfish intervalle was never an easy or relaxing door-to-door ride. In many years, some found it more comfortable to walk than ride. The Leeman's access was an 18-mile horse drawn buckboard or wagon ride from Monson through Bodfish intervalle 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 intervalle 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 intervalle. Dore also advertised access from KIW (by team & 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 interval, before he had to give it up and come in from Greenville on the KI 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 interval, they turned easterly on the Long Pond Tote Road and went to the landing leading into 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.⁵⁵ The previous year J. A. Thompson,⁵⁶ 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.⁵⁷ 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 interval.

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

⁵⁵ Thompson, J.A., "Onawa in Seventy-Two," *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 12 no. 136 (December 1904): 53.

⁵⁶ J.A. Thompson is Joseph A. Thompson. Typically his name appeared as J.A. Thompson.

⁵⁷ Sawtell, William R. *Onawa Revisited*. Milo, ME: The Paper Pusher, 1989.

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.⁵⁸ 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.⁵⁹

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, Onaway House, which opened on the lake's edge in 1884, was below the station. Loggers frequented the area during the winter cutting season and

⁵⁸ 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.

⁵⁹ Much of the Onawa information comes from the following sources: Anderson, Ken. Profiles in Rural Maine: Onawa, Maine. allmainematters.com and Sawtell, William R. *Onawa Revisited*. Milo, ME: The Paper Pusher, 1989.

The Bauer family papers that include unpublished history.
 "Memories of Donald F. Philbrook regarding Onawa," Maine, April 1973.

at the time of the log drive. The Onawa House that was near the station was ready in 1890 for 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 Monday, 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 Onaway 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.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ The Bauer family currently owns what is left of the former sporting camp and has amassed considerable information on its history.

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 16x30 feet (no longer standing) and some sleeping rooms, rested among the pines on the low knoll above the water. Two were on the point and 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 than two feet apart still stand 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 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.⁶¹ 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.⁶² 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,

⁶¹ In 1948, Paul began an 18-year career serving in Washington, DC as one of Illinois' United States senators. Douglas, Paul. *In the Fullness of Time: The Memoirs of Paul Douglas*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace Javanovich, 1971.

⁶² Land transaction information around Onawa Lake is from Piscataquis Registry of Deeds.

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. As 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 1898.⁶³ 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 Young 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. 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.

⁶³ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 7 no. 183 (July 1900):13.

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 the remaining two land parcels, which enlarged the Buxton 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 October and directed them to come by train.⁶⁴

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.⁶⁵

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

⁶⁴ Assorted camp brochures held by the Bauer family.

⁶⁵ Bauer family papers contain information in this paragraph.

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 Sherrerd'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, Chichadee 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 Esterly, 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 sporting camp for less than 10 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 children. 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.⁶⁶ By 1899, F.N. Spencer owned the house, charged two dollars per day, and served up to 10 guests. The facility not only served sports, but also transient workers of the hard wood bar mill, granite quarry, lumber camps and railroad. Between 1905 and 1909, the house went through a 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.⁶⁷ Emil J. Gans of Groveton, New Hampshire 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

⁶⁶ *The Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, July 26, 1898, p.8. North Brownville was also known as Prairie.

⁶⁷ Advertisement of the sale held in the Bauer family papers.

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.⁶⁸ He built his private cabin on the prominent east side 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 out grown 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.⁶⁹ The 16x40 feet hotel had hot

⁶⁸ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 1 no. 2 (October 1830), and *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 5 no. 52 (December 1897).

⁶⁹ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 10 no. 116 (April 1903).

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 McKenney 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 out grew 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 remains 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.⁷⁰

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 interval. In the mid-1930s members of Minnie Tatem's family, who looked forward to these excursions,⁷¹ 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,

⁷⁰ From the Bauer family papers: Tatem, Marion P. "The Story of the Alfred A. Burke Memorial Chapel," c1974; Hemman, Mary Hempstead. "The Story of Religious Services of Onawa Lake," August 13, 1989.

⁷¹ From the Bauer family papers: Pennypacker, Marion, "Paradise Enough," July 1935.

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 10 or more grandchildren, who relished their visits. As other summer visitors, they enjoyed boating, canoeing, and 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.⁷² 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. Hartshorne 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 remains in the family in 2016.⁷³

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 commitment 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. Moore⁷⁴ 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.

⁷³ From the Bauer family papers: Moore, Terris. "Borestone Mountain: its early history, present status and far future."

⁷⁴ Robert Moore was a well-known ornithologist and noted poet, and an associate professor of invertebrate zoology at California Institute of Technology.

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.⁷⁵

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

⁷⁵ In 1940, Robert leased the large cabin to Thompson L. Guernsey of Dover-Foxcroft so he could entertain his guests from his lodge on Sebec Lake.

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.⁷⁶ 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.⁷⁷ 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 others, spent time at a cabin on Benson Pond, probably Little Benson given Charles W. Page, one of their guides, had a cabin on it.⁷⁸ Their other guides included Dan Small, Arthur Pearl, John I. Bodfish, and Billy (Big Moose) Foss.

⁷⁶ Greenan, John T., *Way Down East in Maine*. Morristown, NJ: The Compton Press, 1958.

⁷⁷ *The Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, September 13, 1898, p. 8.

⁷⁸ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 10 no. 113 (January 1903): 91.

At some point in time, the Moores moved to Big Benson Pond. Oral history indicates the Moore family began coming to Big Benson and Noisy Brook (the 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 northern most end of Big Benson Pond.⁷⁹ 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 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.⁸⁰ 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.⁸¹ In 1906 Charlie stopped by to say hello to the group and their guides Arthur

⁷⁹ Piscataquis Registry of Deeds.

⁸⁰ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 12 no. 137 (January 1905).

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.⁸² 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.⁸³ 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 transportation 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.

⁸¹ H., F.A., "Our Annual Hunting Trip to Maine," *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 13 no. 149 (January 1906).

⁸² This information is based on advertising and information in *The Maine Register*. The Coy family heirs had no further information.

⁸³ Blanchard, Dorothy A. *Old Sebec Lake*. Dover, NH: Arcadia Publications, 1997 and Rainsford, Stephen. *Around Dover-Foxcroft*. Portsmouth, NH: Acadia Publishing, 2008.

From Monson to Blanchard, Shirley, and Greenville

Blanchard⁸⁴

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 Camps was three miles from the village in 1906. The

⁸⁴ Weymouth, Dorothy Folsom. *History of Blanchard Maine 1831-2006*. Monson: DWEL Publishing, 2006.

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

Pleasant View House, one and a half miles away, with G.H. Bartlett as proprietor, was open for business in 1917, as was the River Side House, a half-mile from town and owned by Mrs. F.M. Worcester, who was still advertising in 1924. What became of these places is unknown, but most listings ended in the 1921 edition of Bangor and Aroostook publication, *In The Maine Woods*. Some of these establishments advertised blue berry picking on Russell Mountain, which residents burned each year in the early 1900s in support of the local economy.

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 Whitestone 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 then, 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.

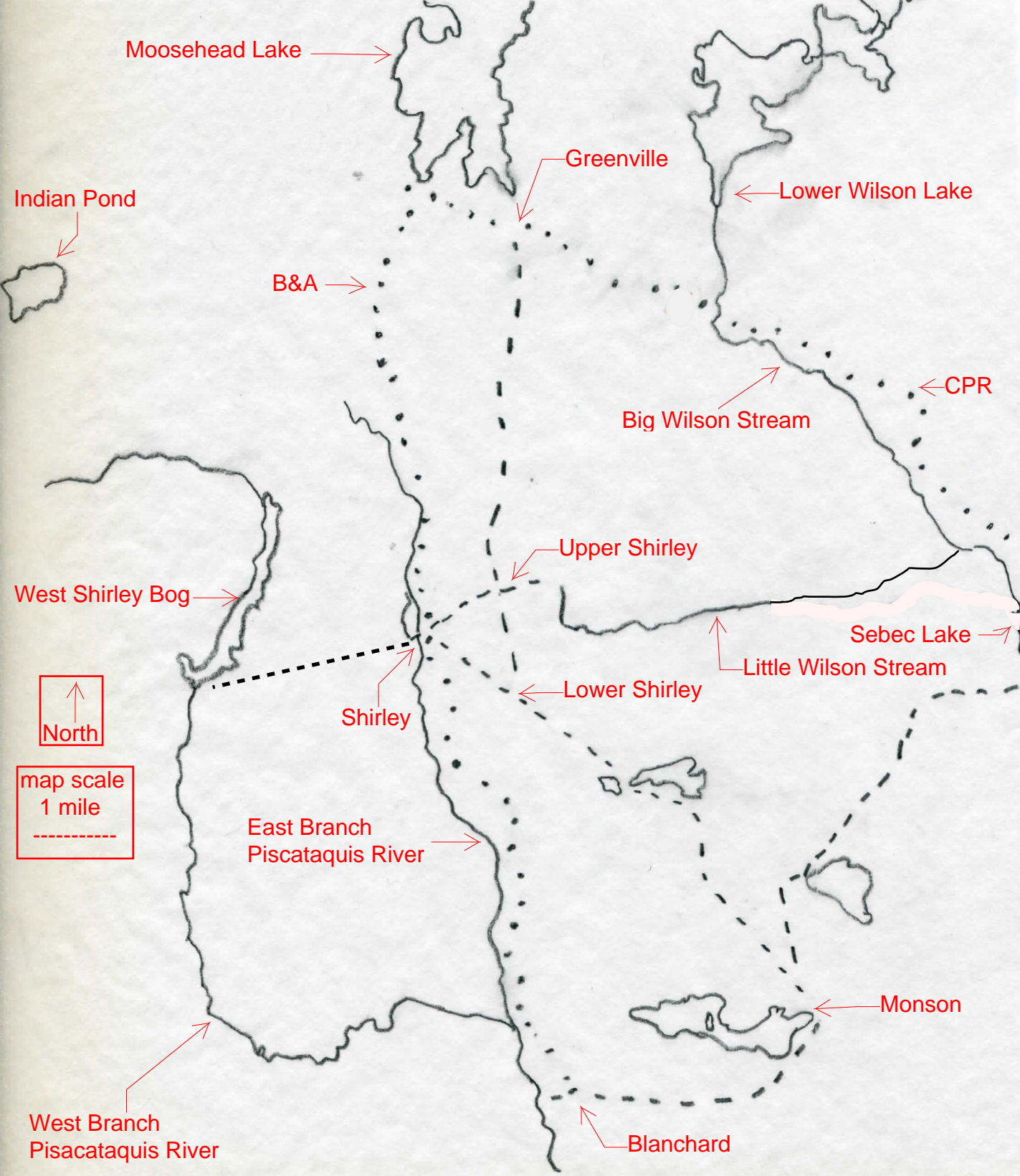
Shirley⁸⁵

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

⁸⁵ Phillips, Allen H. *Shirley – The People and Their Town*, 2009.

Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*. Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.



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 Loch 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, but 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. 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.⁸⁶ 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 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.⁸⁷ Guests traveled by team to these sporting camps. They advertised consistently through about 1927, when Littlefield died. In 1928,

⁸⁶ *A Guide to Maine and Aroostook County* (1895) by the B&A.

⁸⁷ Sporting camp information came from *The Maine Register* and the B&A's yearly publication *In the Maine Woods*.

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 may 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.

Greenville⁸⁸

⁸⁸ True, Emma J. Editor, *History of Greenville 1836–1936*. Augusta, ME: Augusta Press, 1936.

Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*. Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.

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 lake front knoll immediately west of the town center. In 1884, the railroad reached the community and the Mount Kineo House opened half way 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 Allagash River, East Branch of the Penobscot River, and the West Branch of the Penobscot River.

Greenville was also the access point for spots interested in the Upper and Lower Wilson ponds, which are the head waters of Big Wilson Stream, a tributary of the Piscataquis watershed that flows into Sebec Lake. The short stream between the two ponds is steep in places with rapids. No access road ran along Big Wilson Stream from Sebec Lake. In 1874, neither of the Wilson ponds had a sporting camp, but proprietors of Greenville's hotels brought folks over for the day to fish and then returned. By 1884, some one built a crude cabin that folks could stay in at the landing. Dr. V.A. Cooper, a Boston minister and superintendent of The Little Wanderer's Home in Boston, had a cabin on a predominant birch point on Upper

Wilson beginning c.1900.⁸⁹ A year later, the Moosehead Inn in Greenville had cabins on the pond for their guests.⁹⁰ 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, and the other was on a point on the southeast side.⁹¹

Sports headed to the Wilson Ponds and beyond 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.⁹² 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.⁹³ From Bartlett's cabin they had a half-day walk to Horseshoe Pond where they camped or, if raining and available, used a

⁸⁹ Stone, F.A., "A Trip to Horseshoe," *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 14 no. 162 (February 1907): 104-106.

⁹⁰ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 8 no. 90 (February 1901).

⁹¹ 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)

⁹² Stone, F.A., "A Trip to Horseshoe," *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 14 no. 162 (February 1907): 104-106.

⁹³ Pattison, Harold, "The Wilson Ponds," *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 13 no. 154 (June 1906): 199-200.

cabin on the other side. In 1927, someone had a sporting camp on the west shore of Upper Wilson Pond and two cabins were on its north shore.⁹⁴ 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 influenced by its close proximity to Moosehead Lake and its many attractions and places to stay.

⁹⁴ TWP. 8 R.10 N.W.P. Piscataquis County, as explored 1927, James W. Sewall Company. *Atlas of Piscataquis County Maine 1882*. Houlton, ME: George N. Colby Company, 1882.