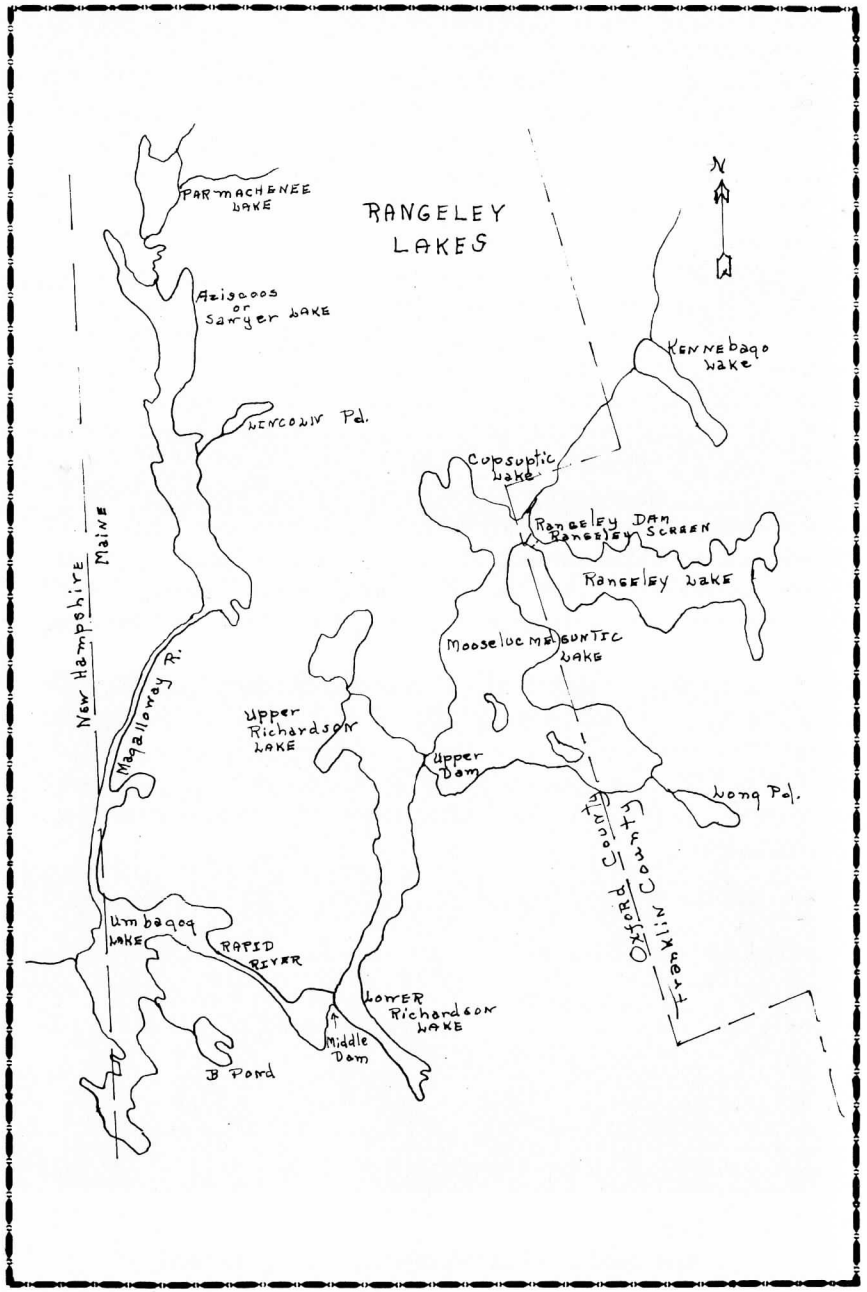


CHAPTER V
LAKES OF THE RANGELEY REGION

West southwest of Moosehead Lake, lie the Rangeleys. "The RANGELEY LAKES REGION is probably the most popular with the smelting fraternity. It is easy to understand why. With the number of lakes, ponds, tributaries, streams, and brooks in the territory, there is no lack of room in which to swing a net, and no lack of smelts."[18] The most frequented smelting sites are Greenvale Cove, on Rangeley Lake, and Mill Pond, on Upper Richardson Lake.

Through May, June, and July, the fisherman casts for bass, salmon, and speckled trout, the trout being the most abundant of the three. In fact, Rangeley waters are one of the last strongholds of the fighting brook trout and the Rangeley Region first acquired piscatorial fame throughout the nation by promoting trout fishing as a national sport. Use of live bait and plug, known as "still," fishing is prohibited by law. No weight other than the fly is allowed on hook or line in fly fishing waters.

A settler by the name of Richardson is supposed to have opened the Rangeley Region in the early 1800's. In those days an eight to ten-pound trout was not an unusual catch. Dams have inhibited spawning, however, and the size of the fish has decreased.

The Rangeleys are an early spring paradise for fishermen, and boats and guides are more than plentiful. The high altitude of the lakes also offers freedom for hay fever victims because of the amazing absence of pollen-bearing plants.

The six major lakes in the Rangeley Region had Indian names originally, some of which have been changed to more pronounceable words; but local people are quite apt to use the original names. Currently they are known as CUPSUPTIC, UPPER RICHARDSON (MOLECHUNKAMUNK), MOOSELUCMEGUNTIC, RANGE-

LEY (OQUOSSOC), LOWER RICHARDSON (WELOKENNEBACOOK), and UMBAGOG.

All six lakes are connected by narrows or streams, and form one continuous waterway for 50 miles, covering 77 square miles in aggregate in Franklin and Oxford Counties and terminating in Coos County, New Hampshire. Actually, they are only four distinct bodies of water because Cupsuptic and Upper Richardson are joined to Mooselucmeguntic and Lower Richardson respectively. A series of terraces brings the waters 250 feet down to the muddy level of Umbagog, lowest of the group.

CUPSUPTIC is the smallest of the major Rangeley Lakes. It lies farther north, crosses the Franklin and Oxford County line, and is considered by many people to be the prettiest of the group. Its name in Abenaki means "a closed-up stream." Indians have told that the "closure" was a wooden fish trap.

UPPER RICHARDSON, which lies in an extremely remote section of Oxford County, was named Molechunkamunk, according to local folklore, by a lumberman who thought of his Mary as "rotund of blooming cheek, his Molly of the chunky mug." Actually, it is an Abenaki term meaning possibly "stream in a deep ravine."

Camp Whitney, at Upper Richardson, was popular in the 1800's. Its owner, J. Parker Whitney, Esquire, intended it primarily for himself and his guests, although on occasion he did extend courtesy to the public.

One advertisement of the camp read, "There is also an excellent cellar," but surely its library was just as excellent, being large and worthwhile in its contents, an unusual commodity for those wooded shores. Whitney's personal guests included many noted intellectuals. He missed attendance at his camp only one year out of 23.

Whitney's steamer, the *Helen*, was the fastest one on the lake. It vied with those which served the neighboring camps, Birch Lodge and the New Boston Club Camp. The Boston Camp at one time closed its doors, but reopened in 1877 with 20 members and a new building called Aziscohos Camp.

A local legend, briefly stated, as regards the steamer *Molechunkamunk*, states that a caribou was seen far ahead of the steamer by means of a folding spyglass. The captain of the boat was given $5 to bring the steamer close enough for a shot at the animal. The captain "spit a few briny oaths" and told the engineer to go full speed ahead.

During the boat's progress, the captain rubbed salt pork at the waterline all around the outside framework. This caused the steamer to whizz through the water and eventually land high and dry upon the bank. Thereupon, "all aboard went after the caribou, carrying guns, hand-spikes, belaying pins, and feather-dusters." Closer and closer the hunting party came to the creature. Shots rang out at 25 feet. All missed their target. Shots rang out at six feet. Missed again. At this point of failure on the part of the would-be hunters, the caribou is said to have sneered at his pursuers and dashed out of sight.

MOOSELOOKMEGUNTIC LAKE, often spelled Mooselucmeguntic, Abenaki for "moose feeding among big trees," or "portage to the moose feeding place," has an area of sandy beaches and picnic grounds. The fish here are more plentiful than at Rangeley Lake, but not as large. Mooselookmeguntic, 1,485 feet above sea level, separated from Rangeley Lake by only a narrow neck of land, is 17 miles long, exceedingly irregular in form, and branches out in every direction. Of its 17 islands, the largest is Toothaker. The surrounding terrain, as expected, is definitely moose country.

The name Mooselookmeguntic has provided several instances of play upon words even to the suggested name of Mooselookmegun-BOOM as being more realistic.

The land overlooking RANGELEY LAKE, or OQUOSSOC, Abenaki for "a blue, slender trout," in Franklin County, was settled first by Deacon Luther Hoar. He arrived about 1815, and during the first year, with two companions from Concord, Massachusetts, felled trees to make a clearing for a homestead. The second year, Hoar planted potatoes, dug a deep pit for their storage, and in the fall put his crop into the pit for the spring arrival of his family.

April 1817 found Hoar and his household dragging their goods on handmade sleds across the lake to the homestead site. Little Eunice, smallest of the brood of seven children, was securely tied in a big bread-mixing trough. At the top of one hill, it was discovered that Eunice and trough were missing. Weary and footsore, the little band retraced its steps. Far down the mountainside, lodged snugly against some evergreens which had interrupted the course of the sliding tray, lay baby Eunice, sound asleep.

When the reunited family finally arrived at the homestead, their

first chores were to build a fire and go to the dugout for potatoes. Consternation was complete. Only a few of the vegetables remained, left for seed use. The Indians had apparently enjoyed the crop of firm, hearty spuds. Once the Hoar's food supply was gone, the family had to subsist on ground nuts, called Pun-nuk, until the fall crops matured. They must have scraped the region well, for never again was a ground nut found in that section.

When Joseph, one of the older boys, was 17, he was sent to get "Old Mis' Dill" to serve as midwife for the first white child of the township, Lucinda Hoar. A year later, Old Mis' Dill and her husband came to settle for good in the vicinity, and she became the first white woman to be buried there at the age of 70 or more. She had started one day to visit some folks in Madrid and, apparently tired en route, had sat to rest under a big white pine, where she froze to death.

Esquire Rangeley, a florid, hearty, pleasant, well-to-do, eccentric Englishman, came to the lake region in 1824 direct from land speculation in Virginia where he had bought 70,000 shore acres at 50c an acre. His idea was to found a feudal dynasty over the jewel-like waters of Maine, but to retain a portion of his Virginia holdings. He secured several thousand acres of property with the thought of an empire in mind. To this land he brought his two lovely daughters and two rugged sons. Thereupon, he settled down to dream of ducal powers.

According to one story, he immediately hired some natives to do his chores. They were fond of his food and his wine, but not of his aristocratic ways. When the first spring came and the food supply was diminishing, they left.

A more favorable tale about Squire Rangeley is that he came to find gold and was pleased to encounter people with whom he could mingle. Being an exceedingly kind individual, he was beloved by all.

His house was built with brick walls between the clapboards and plastered walls inside. The cellar was hewn out of solid rock. The floor above it was of punkin pine, and when one looked upward he could see a scalloped ceiling. The Squire had a small red chapel erected in his forest paradise for the score or two of families who followed him. He apparently never attended services, which were in the Episcopalian faith, but his daughters attended regularly.

The Squire did not recognize the United States economically

and traded exclusively with England. Since ships were not on a dependable time schedule, he once ran out of salt for his sheep. He decided to let them lap his hands to allay their bleating. Once he had entered their yard, however, all the creatures jumped upon him, and only the intervention of friends saved his life. He later commented, "You couldn't put a pinpoint on my body but their damned hoofs hev been there." He must have been embarrassed because he is pictured as being an extremely neat man, allowing no "hawgs" near the house and insisting that all refuse be deposited far from his dwelling.

It was his belief that a rubber coat would keep out the heat. He habitually wore such a coat in hot weather, and wondered how people wearing only thin shirts and lightweight trousers could possibly endure the horrid heat that was sweltering him.

Squire Rangeley was involved in many lawsuits, one with a Mr. Burnham of New Hampshire. In August, 1841, the Squire went to Portland, met with Burnham, and sold him the Township of Rangeley, indicating that he, the Squire, intended to move. It is quite probable that in addition to settling a suit, the untimely death of his cherished daughter Sarah in 1827, when she was but 19, hastened and augmented his desire to depart.

From that date on, there are divergent tales about Squire Rangeley. One says that he literally dropped out of sight; another, that he lived at 99 State Street, Portland, Maine, for a while, in the house occupied by U.S. Senator Hale from 1901 to 1963. A third version has him return directly to Virginia and his 150 slaves, where he spent the rest of his life. All of these stories have one common factor; not one of them states that he ever returned to England.

A big freshet in 1869 washed away Sarah's grave and thus obliterated from the locale all trace of the Rangeley family with one exception, if horses may be considered "family." By 1880, the environment was known for a special breed of horses produced from the Squire's imported herd on the northern shore of Rangeley Lake.

Mr. Burnham (no one ever honored him with the title "Squire"), who succeeded Squire Rangeley, was known for his cruel and complete indifference to mankind. He once took a featherbed from under a dangerously ill woman because her husband owed him money. He had half the roof of the house of another debtor sawed off and removed in the month of March. In Rangeley, one needs the

roof of one's house in the month of March.

He won a suit to send a man to prison for his debts to the Squire. The man pleaded that his family needed him, and that he would go into exile in his cellar for four months, not once coming out, so that he might still be of some help to his family. Possibly it was the uniqueness of the proposition or possibly Burnham had a moment of weakness; but whatever the reason, he concurred.

The prisoner kept his word, never raising his head out of the cellar door for four long months of cold, damp, chilly surroundings. At the end of the agreed-upon period, white and blinking, the victim came out into the sunshine. Burnham happened to pass by and saw him, commented that he himself had not been appropriately notified of the man's release, and forced him to return to the cellar for another four months.

Such actions resulted in anger against Burnham. One day he found a slow-burning powder fuse under the seat of his gig. On another day he was riding among some workers whose patience had reached an end, and Burnham was taken from his horse and flogged seriously. No witnesses appeared during the ensuing trial, and the men were excused.

Burnham's chief goal in life, evidently, was to make more and more money, and to achieve this purpose he traded colts and cattle. Nevertheless, he did not make a financial success and eventually was jailed in Portland for his debts. There he stayed for 11 years.

Two versions have been printed about the transfer of his land during this period of confinement. One says that his brother, who was carrying on the business during Burnham's absence, died and the land deed came to the brother's heirs, who sold the township. The second version is that after his arrest, no taxes were paid (he would not admit to owning land and pleaded bankruptcy when arrested), so various men began paying the taxes and in time took over the township, allowed by Maine law under such circumstances.

Whichever version is correct, it is true that upon leaving prison Burnham really was landless. Never divulging his age under any circumstances, he had the appearance of an old, tired man; but he was restless and still energetic, so he took on the job of stage driving. When the time came for the stage to leave according to its schedule, he left, even if a passenger were puffing within a few feet of the coach, to board it.

On one trip, when a woman passenger reached her destination, she could not find her parasol. Burnham, when questioned, said, "It fell out a couple of miles back."

"Why didn't you tell me?" queried the passenger.

"I ain't paid to look after passengers' parasols," he replied.

Another example of his independence occurred when Burnham rode the mail-passenger stage with the driver. It was a warm day for winter, and while crossing the ice the horses' hoofs splashed water and snow on Burnham's face and coat. Once across the lake, the driver discovered that the mail bag was missing. Burnham commented, "It fell off back at Greenville, but I didn't suppose you could bother to get it, you seemed to be in such a darned hurry." That reply was in retaliation for the splashing, as Burnham was a meticulously neat man, constantly washing his feet, even in outdoor streams, weather permitting.

He did make a dependable employee, though; and at his death had managed to acquire and hold on to what was known as Burnham Pasture, on the shore of Dodge Pond, a location later occupied by Mitigwas, a summer camp for boys.

At his death, Burnham's estimated age was nearly 100 years.

Another personality with close association to Rangeley Lake is Fred C. Barker. He was still in his teens in the winter of 1870 when he came looking for work at Upper Dam where Lake Moosehookmeguntic spills into Upper Richardson Lake.[19] After doing some logging at Bemis, Barker turned to full-time guide work at which he earned $6 a day for rowing 24 miles. For an additional fee, at night he rowed forgetful fishermen to retrieve their gear or apparel left at various fishing spots.

Barker was one of the first to use the so-called Indian Rock boat (also termed the Rangeley boat). This water craft, because of its size and double end, was seaworthy in choppy waves on the great lake.

Wearying of this work, he purchased a steamboat, the *Oquossoc*, the first of seven steamers which he operated at various times on Rangeley Lake. From this enterprise, he became known as "Captain of the Rangeley Lakes."

Not satisfied with his water enterprise, he built camps, the best-known and perhaps most outstanding one being The Birches, on Student's Island, in Lower Richardson: a compound of 28 camp

structures and a central dining room. A fire in 1925 claimed most of this complex.

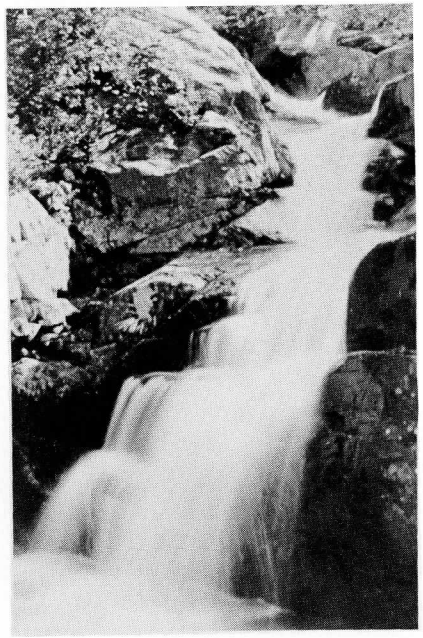
There remains little doubt, however, but that Captain Barker had foresight because in 1902 he opened the Barker Hotel, realizing the impact that the influx of railroads would have on the vicinity. Following his idea at The Birches, there were several cottages in conjunction with the three-story hotel. When local activity declined with the discontinuance of the railroad line, the Barker Hotel was doomed. After the Captain's death, in 1937, descendants kept the hotel open with a small clientele until its final closing in 1966. The building was razed, but not the memory of Captain Barker who lives again in two books in which he tells of his personal experiences in the northwestern wilderness of his beloved Maine.[20]

Frederick S. Dickson, Philadelphia lawyer, self-made botanist and industrialist, was another personality still remembered in association with Rangeley Lake as he bought Ram Island, largest one in the lake. Here he established an estate of considerable size, starting from a single-room cabin expressly for his own pleasure and ending with a three-story, ten-bedroom-suited family dwelling, a tool house, a boat house, a guides' house, stables, and additional real estate in the area.

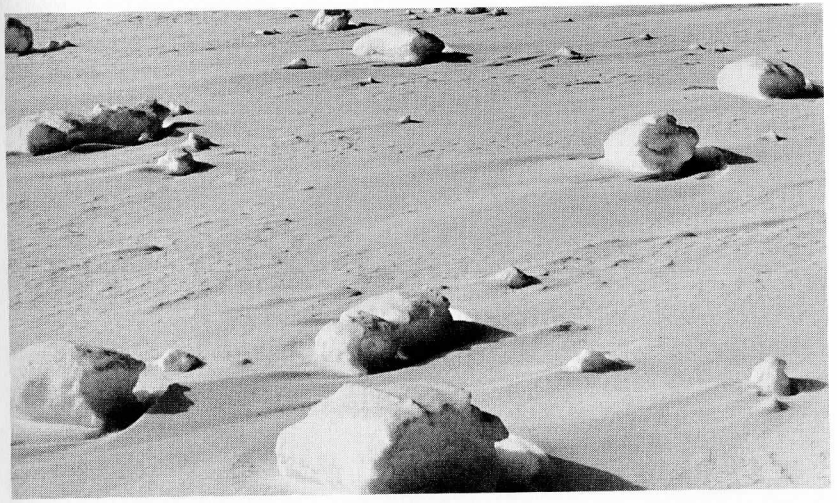
He named his home Maneskootuk, Abenaki for "Place of the Big Trout." Where goats once grazed, he cultivated enormous exotic flower and fruit gardens which now run rampant. His 4 mph *Florence Percy* ranged the lake and emitted shrieks from its piercing whistle, blown upon arrival at or departure from his wharf. Guests at Maneskootuk frequently included celebrities, as singer Max Heinrich, gourmet J. Olney (Poss) Norris, Dr. Munyon, Alexander Woolcott, and Maine's Senator William Frye. He quite discredited the local superstition of ill omen because some said that Old Mis' Dill had died on his island. His ever-rising success in various fields was adequate proof that the superstition was foundless.

A rather complete story of this ingenious Rangeley Lake settler and his family is told in biographical form by a granddaughter, Elizabeth Foster, in *The Islanders.*

Squire Rangeley's Township, edited and annotated by Barbara A. Bruce, 1970, contains material concerning Zenas T. Haines, a pioneer in the Rangeley Region during the 1830's and '40's. His life is outlined, his acquaintance with Squire and Mrs. Rangeley is confirmed, and his reminiscences, written originally in 1895-96 for

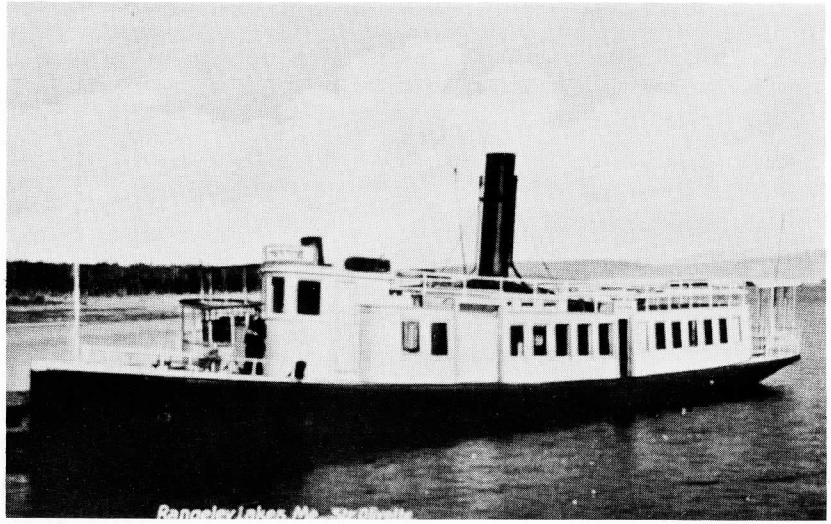


Rangeley Cascade.



Snowballs on Rangeley Lake, 1971.
Courtesy of Waterville Sentinel.

Barker House, Mooselookmeguntic Lake.



The Steamer Olivette.

the newspaper *Rangeley Lakes*, are included. It is a book of portraits of Rangeley men and women of the 19th century in particular.

J. Sherman Hoar's *Pioneer Days* contains many interesting legendary stories told through the years by local Rangeley Region residents. Among these are "The Hunted Trapper," "The Legend of Pedlar Pond," "Gold," and "Adam's Rhymes."

Mountains near Rangeley Lake are covered with birch, beech, maple, ash, hemlock, spruce, fir, cedar, and pine. These have served as the source of many a timber drive. Within a short distance is regal Mt. Aziscohos, from the top of which the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Magalloway Region are visible. One other identifiable mountain is Tumbledown on which is situated one of the natural wonders of the State of Maine. It is a veritable "Lake in the Clouds," being 2,400 feet above sea level and holding the distinction of being the highest lake in Maine. Close to the base of Tumbledown is a large chasm which provides entrance to a cave of many exploratory possibilities.

LOWER RICHARDSON LAKE, or Welokenebacook, in Oxford County, once sported a floating hotel, rent free and tax exempt, for it was anchored in mid-lake. Guests caught trout from their chamber windows.

On this lake is Devil's Den, a large U-shaped excavation formed in granite rock by the violent action of water during spring freshets and downpours of electrical storms, and once the site of a mill. The mill wheel was hung in the den near the precipice over which the water fell.

As expected, many legendary tales exist about the misfortunes and the endurance of early hunters and trappers around Lower Richardson and their experiences with the hunting of wolves.

Lower Richardson had Lakeview Cottage at the southern section, an accommodation unequalled at the time except for Lakeside at Umbagog. Both hotels had been constructed by the Androscoggin Lakes Transportation Company with the unusual boast that all but two rooms were corner rooms; and that although rarely needed, a mosquito canopy surrounded the entire bed in each room. Rooms were $2 per day; dinner was fifty cents.

Angler's Retreat, also on Lower Richardson Lake, at Middle Dam, advertised "handsome bedsteads, woven wire springs, and 40-pound hair mattresses." It was a true retreat for "idlers . . . amid

the fir, spruce, and pine forests, whose balsamic odors carry life and health to all around them."

Hard-Scrabble, a rough-looking point covered by huge boulders, dominates one section of the lake. It is extremely difficult to pass this point in a rowboat against the frequent strong winds. To do so requires a "hard scrabble."

UMBAGOG LAKE, also known by the Abenaki as Wambighe and Umbagoog, is in Oxford County. The name infers "great waters near other" and "clear lake." Most of the published facts about Umbagog come from Charles Farrar's *Androscoggin Lakes* (1887). In one 1813 geography school textbook the lake was listed as being in York County, in the Androscoggin Chain. In the same book, Sebago Lake was noted as being with Umbagog, "the other of the two lakes of importance in the State."

Lakeside Hotel was built on Umbagog Lake in 1883 and had the usual roomy piazzas, croquet and tennis courts, and expansive lawns. Because of its height, it caught all the breezes of the lake and was almost always cool, even on the hottest of days. Hay fever sufferers found it a true haven, and the stiff winds kept insects away. Advertisements pointed out that the hotel had the "best hair mattresses to be bought" in every "sleeping room." The steamer *Parmachenee* landed near the hotel and was on a regular schedule for daily excursion trips.

En route, the steamer connected with those for Rangeley and Kennebago Lakes. Describing her course, Farrar wrote:

> Heading north-west at first, the steamer passes B Point on the right and soon afterwards the Big Island on the left. Should she continue her present course, she would bring up in Heywood's cornfield.

As far as is known, she always made the sharp turn to the left in time to avoid the cornfield.

Metallak, a local Indian, gave his name to Metallak Pond, Metallak Point, Metallak Brook, and the *S. S. Metallak*. Son of a famous Indian chieftain, he was well educated, crafty, handsome, six feet tall; and skilled in wood crafts, in the construction of moccasins and birchbark canoes, and in the use of weapons. It was he who laid out the route of the Atlantic & St. Lawrence R.R., later known as the Grand Trunk Line. His daring included a fantastic ride on a wild moose and more than one bare-hand encounter with bear and cougar.

In a book on the early settlers of Andover, Maine, Agnes Blake Poor confirms that Metallak, when in his teens, wed an Indian maiden of 15, Mollyeunice, whom he called "Molly Molasses." She was unstable, irresponsible, and untutored; but in spite of her many failings, Metallak married her in a three-day ceremony, following which Mollyeunice, predictably, brought nothing but confusion and shame upon her husband. Not long afterwards, Metallak shot both Mollyeunice and her lover, buried them both in the same mound, and covered them with rocks.

In Andover, Metallak was uncustomarily friendly with Moses Merrill, and to him the Indian often spoke affectionately of Molly Molasses.[21]

As would be expected of such an outstanding brave, he later married the fairest of maidens, a shy girl named Keoka. They had a son and a daughter, of whom Metallak was exceedingly proud.

Finally, he became chief of his tribe. Within a short time, along the shores of Umbagog Lake, "the frown of the Great Spirit was dark upon his people," and one by one both warriors and tribeswomen sickened and died. Metallak watched and mourned. By then, he was the father of two more sons, Paramagummet and Anawilumpi. The family of six was spared. In gratitude, Metallak vowed to the Great Spirit that he would stay there in his own surroundings until he himself should be called to the happy hunting grounds.

One son was not pleased with this arrangement. He wearied of the lodge and left to mingle with white people, an almost unprecedented act. The daughter, Parmachenee ("Smiling Waters," or, in Abenaki, "across the usual path"), entered the Mission at St. Francis where she was wooed and won by a young Indian brave who met an early death. She then married a Canadian gentleman, Mr. Moulton. They lived in contentment on the shores of Lake Parmachenee.

The misfortunes of her father, Metallak, whom she frequently visited, began when he lost an eye while closing a moccasin. Soon followed the death of his beloved Keoka, killed by a wolf pack according to E. G. Kimball.[22] Metallak conformed to the customs of his tribe by placing her body in a canoe, paddling to an open expanse of ground, and there burying her. He then spent three

days of mourning beside the grave and built a hut close by, which he left only to get food and water.

In time, overcoming his grief, he met Oozaluc from a lower tribe and married her. This union gave him two more sons, Olombo and Wolumpi. At this point in his life, he and his family moved to the shores of Richardson's Lake at what is now Metallak Point.

He obtained supplies from Andover, Upton, and Rumford, Maine. Reportedly, he had again found happiness when tragedy returned and Oozaluc died. It was winter and the ground was frozen, so Metallak followed the Indian custom of building a birch-bark container, placing the body of Oozaluc within it, tying it well with leather thongs, and suspending it low over the opening of his lodge so that the smoke from his fire might embalm her. In the spring, he buried Oozaluc, spent the traditional three days of mourning at her gravesite, and then moved to a place about 12 miles from Aziscohos Falls, where he dwelt for 12 years.

A third deep tragedy then struck Metallak. A twig, flying up from his fire, put out his remaining eye.[23]

In his bewilderment, he crawled to his bed where he lay for days without food or water. He was found by a man whose life Metallak had once saved, a trapper named Leavitt, who sent for Parmachenee. She came to take her weak and totally blind father to her home in Canada.

When his strength returned, Metallak went home to his lodge on Umbagog Lake. Eventually, he was housed at Stewartstown, New Hampshire. As a public charge, he was bid off in March, 1840, to a Howard Blodgett for $48.25. Each year, Metallak was on the bidding block. Blodgett, Fellows and Brainard families were involved through the years. The Fellows were apparently the most kind, and it is comforting to know that he was with them at the time of his death in February, 1847, at the age of 120.

In 1915 a gravestone was erected, bearing the inscription "Lone Indian of the Magalloway," one whose home was the entire Androscoggin River Valley. It is Metallak who dominates the fresco mural in Rangeley Post Office, done in 1970 by Robert W. Bruce, publisher of the weekly "Rangeley Highlander."

Recent concern around Lake Umbagog has been to mine dictomaceious earth from the bottom of the lake, a proposition made in 1968 but blocked by the New Hampshire Legislature in 1971 on the premise of bad ecology for bald eagles and ospreys.

Three Dams — Upper, Middle, and Lower — control the lakes. The outlet at Umbagog has the lowest one. Middle Dam mail was addressed to "Middle Dam, Oxford County post office, via Bethel." Tugboats, from the foot of Mill Brook, used to tow pulp booms across both Upper and Lower Richardson Lakes to Middle Dam. Upper Dam, the largest, extends 1,500 feet and is especially useful in the spring to impede the flow from the upper lakes, thus retaining force to drive logs down the Androscoggin River on schedule. The dam is nearly central in the Rangeley Region, and crosses between Mooselucmeguntic and Upper Richardson. It is made of timber, rock, and iron. The surrounding scenery is spectacular.

Upper Dam and smaller ones supply the force for many factories and industries, particularly those in Lewiston, Maine. In 1877, the city bought the dams and rights for a paltry $350,000. In 1882 the Union Water Power Company of Lewiston opened a hotel which emulated all others of the era, with an address of "Upper Dam, Oxford County, Maine."

One camper at Upper Dam claimed to have put three flies on his leader and to have caught three trout simultaneously, all of which, by skillful use of the net, were boarded.

Concerning the art of fishing, a surprising comment was included in a brochure of the times which alleged that the catches of the ladies compared favorably with those of the gentlemen.

It was while living at Upper Dam that Carrie Gertrude Stevens, wife of the local game warden, conceived the idea in 1924 of the still famous trout lure, the Gray Ghost, a streamer fly dressed to imitate a smelt. At her first cast of the fly, she landed a fish of a weight and measure that took 20 years to better, and she remains the champion of women fly casters. In succeeding years, she created 30 streamers, but none could match her record of 103 strikes on one Gray Ghost. Although designed for casting, today it is used also for trolling, being tied tandem or with two hooks instead of one.

A plaque was dedicated to Mrs. Stevens on August 15, 1970, and was attached to a fixed stand at Upper Dam, near her former home. She died early in 1972, at the age of 88. Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis proclaimed August 15 of that year as "Carrie Stevens Day."

Another pioneer sportswomen was Cornelia ("Fly Rod") T. Crosby who died in 1946. She was a licensed Maine guide, fish-

erman, hunter, and writer, and has been credited with having shot the last legal caribou in Maine. Her articles are considered as Maine's first publicity attempts.

One of the smaller lakes in the region is high-altitude PARMACHENEE, headwaters of the Androscoggin River, and source for a popular trout-fishing fly, the Parmachenee Belle. A popular resort on Treat's Island in the lake was Camp Caribou. Nearby, at Little Boy Falls, a plaque was dedicated in 1970 to commemorate the spot where President Dwight D. Eisenhower rose his first Maine brook trout and landlocked salmon, June, 1955.

The publicity of the dramatic conflict in State Legislature over the 1907 Rangeley Water Bill, the discussion of which, from January 5 to March 7, reverted to old Roman and even Egyptian laws, will probably never be surpassed. This controversy over lowering the Rangeley Lake system by dredging, suggested by the Union Water Company, brought nationwide headlines and created the biggest lobby yet known in the Maine State Legislature. A minority report was carried by 16-13; the Union Water Power did not get its dam; the lakes' beauty remained unblemished.

Maine's first narrow-gauge railroad, the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes R.R., made the region accessible from Farmington, whereas a branch of the Maine Central R.R. extended from Rumford to Oquossoc. The peak of prosperity of the narrow-gauge was just prior to World War I.

The Rangeleys offer some of the smoothest canoeing and sailing advantages in all of New England, although a brisk wind can swiftly rise and create unbelievably rough water. The Rangeley Lake Steamboat Company, founded in 1901, ran three steamers, the *Irene*, the *Mollychunkamunk*, and the *Florence Percy*, at one time. The last two were for charter use. This fleet was in operation in 1877, the same year in which the first telephone line was connected to the Rangeley Lake House, free from any toll charges.

The *Mollychunkamunk*, which had various spellings, was captained by C. W. Howard. It connected at Indian Rock and at Haines Landing with Barker's *Oquossoc*. The *Irene* was used for regular trips from one point of the lake to another. The *Olivette* ran to Haines Landing.

Other water craft included the tugboat *Enterprise* which took booms sluiced in from Long Pond and carried them out of Greenvale. Frances Barker Lamb states that the *Rangeley* and the *Chauncey M. de Pew* were one and the same boat, which entered service about 1913.[25] A sister ship, the *Moosehead*, was built in 1911. The *Diamond* was another steamer in the area.

Steamboat service was discontinued eventually, but plans for revival were made in 1967 by a new Rangeley Lake Steamboat Company, Inc., a subsidiary of the S.S. Noyes Company, Inc. The old Lower Richardson Lake steamer, the *H. P. Frost,* was remodeled to have a flat top, to serve for automobile carrying. Sidewheels were removed and the name changed to the *Betsy Bemis*. Ferry service was arranged between Toothaker Island in Mooselookmeguntic and the south shore mainland of Lower Richardson, a six-minute trip.

Under these plans, the remodeled *Diamond* would serve Umbagog Lake, and the *Rowell* would serve the Richardson Lakes with connections at Echo Landing for the *Wolokennebacook*. *The Diamond* and the *Rowell* would run solely on passenger service basis. At the time of this writing, the project was partially undertaken.

Other than these lakes, the best known in the region are the KENNEBAGO, LITTLE KENNEBAGO, and AZISCOOS. Kennebago, Abenaki for "long pond" or "large lake," is known for the local lore of Skedaddlers' Cove, "skedaddle" being a name applied to draft dodgers of the Civil War about the time when the Rangeley region was first exploited. Ed Grant's sporting camps, some of which still remain, were erected about the time of the War, and he is credited with being the first Maine woods character to lure guests, or "sports," from the city into the undeveloped woodlands. He would often regale his guests with the story of his land-trained trout that fell into a brook and drowned.

It was at Kennebago Lake, in 1912, that a group of engineers, including C. A. Plumly, spent a rainy afternoon consulting a home-made Ouija board. Presumably, this board told them of a young girl's murder, Theresa Cunningham, which had occurred in 1822, and gave directions to the grave. An hour's work unearthed deteriorated bones.

The Aziscoos, Abenaki for "small pine trees," made by flooding the Magalloway River by a dam at Wilson's Mills, is unique because it extends 13 miles and yet is never more than two miles wide. In addition, it has a fringe of twelve inlets. Ice has been known to form three feet deep around some of the small islands in the lake.

Two other small lakes in that section are MINNEWAWA, whose name means "the sough of the winds through the pines and

spruce," and MUDWAYWAUSHKA, whose name means "lapping of the waves made by the north wind on the pebbles of the shore of the lake." The exact location of these two lakes was not determined by the author.

The Rangeley Region has never lacked for overnight accommodations. The Rangeley Lake House, originally on Haley Pond, was an elegant three-story structure, with broad piazzas on two sides and a cupola rising well into the heavens. It had about 40 rooms when Eben Hinkley served as its early proprietor. The building was moved in 1895 to a sloping cape on the shore, and at that time was enlarged to accommodate 250 guests. Exclusive in clientele, it charged a top price of $4.50 per day, whereas other such establishments were asking only $2 to $3. The name was changed to Rangeley Lake Hotel in 1928.

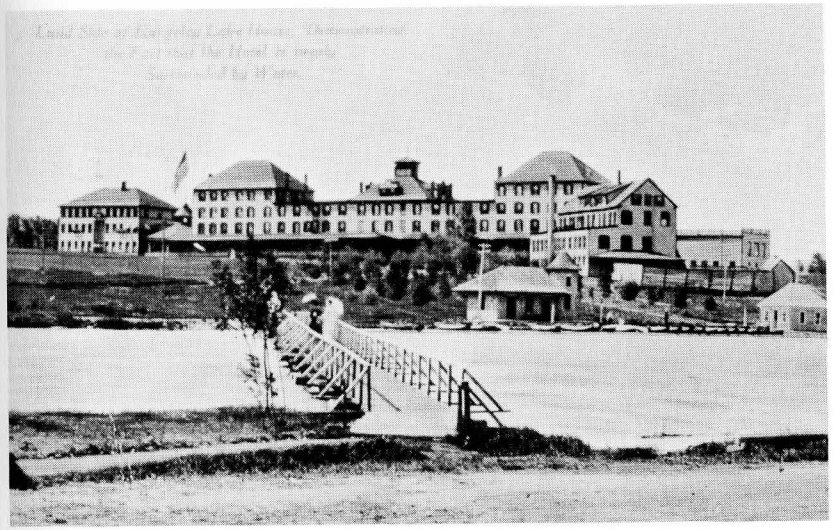
Another accommodation was the Mingo Springs, built by Dr. Munyon, a name associated with and famed for the nationally known "Paw-Paw Pill," a popular all-round remedy for nearly everything in the early 1900's.

A third hotel was the Kennebago House which offered "all the comforts of a first-class hotel . . . a daily mail from Rangeley; everything for the excellent tables coming in fresh each day and the Richardson Brothers, the proprietors, who will entertain you right royally." The brothers also had camps scattered at various points along Kennebago Lake for "rough camp life" of the primitive style. An additional inducement was the opportunity to take a steamer to see a genuine beaver dam and watch the animals at work.

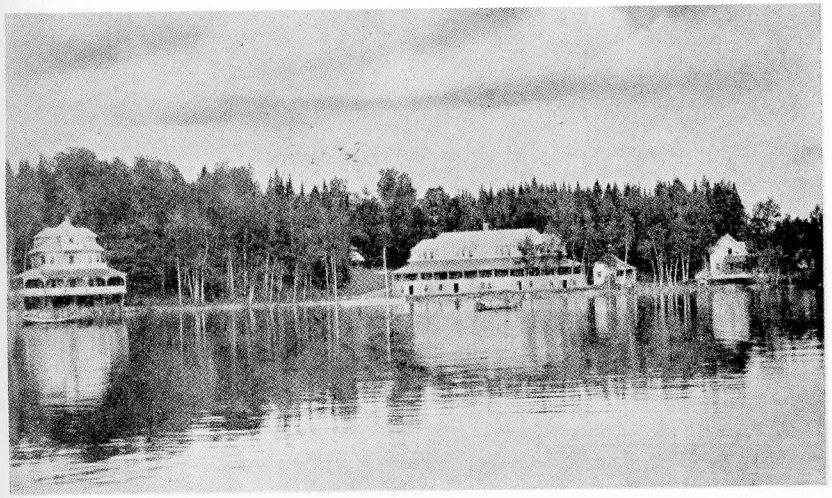
A fourth lodging was Mountain View House, which had its own steamboat wharf situated at the outlet of the lake and connected to the hotel's piazza by a plankwalk, making it convenient for rowboats as well as for pedestrians.

Directly opposite the Mountain View was Squire T. L. Page's Lake Point Cottage. Squire Page was a scientific fisherman whose goal was to protect and propagate trout. The "Hatching House" was his headquarters.

The Mooselucmeguntic House, at Haines Landing, in the central part of the lake chain, offered an extensive and attractive vista. Guests had two mails daily from Boston in 1898, plus telephone and telegraph connections. A broad piazza ran around the ground floor and another one went around the second story. The waters practical-



Land side of the Rangeley Lake House.



Mingo Spring House and Cottages.

Kennebago Lake Hotel and Camps.

Mountain View House, Rangeley Lake.

ly lapped the lowest stairs of the three sets of steps leading to the verandah.

The Oquossoc House, run by John F. Herrick, had only two stories and 20 rooms; but it did have just about the best possible view of the Rangeley Lakes and the surrounding hills.

The main lodge of the popular Dodge Pond Camps was destroyed by fire in November, 1966, after a life span of 75 years.

Most of the shoreline of the Rangeley Lakes is rocky. A familiar headquarters for all fishermen was Indian Rock, a big burly ledge, situated at the junction of Kennebago River and Rangeley Stream. Sixteen trout were once taken there by two men in less than one hour, and the fish weighed in at an even 100 pounds. A group of six fishermen claim proof of having taken 200 trout from the vicinity of Indian Rock.

The grounds around the Rock were controlled by the Oquossoc Angling Association, established in 1868 by a group of "Boston and New York gentlemen." The 32x83-foot clubhouse was "constructed expressly for gentlemen." As for the ladies, "a few small camps, neatly 'fitted up,' accommodate a very few female guests." Closing the famous Indian Rock tributaries in 1967-68 because of excessive littering eliminated spring smelting there. A petition to reopen the spot was presented in 1968, but no action had been taken by the spring of 1971. The 1972 season showed an increase in the size of salmon in the area.

Interesting names of ski slopes at Rangeley are Little Inky Boy, Dusty Miller, Candlestick Grey, Squirrel's Tail, Sneaky Pete, Grey Ghost, Royal Coachman, Blue Devil, and Peachy's Peril.

One annual event that draws a complimentary number of entries, termed "staggering" in 1968 and numbering over 50 teams in 1971, is the Rangeley Lakes Sled Dog Race. In 1972, contestants came from as far away as Virginia. Trophies and cash prizes amounting to $1,000 are awarded to the team winning over a 15-mile course, a race run on two consecutive days. First prize money is $300. The average time determines the winner. Huskies and malamutes predominate the field, but Irish setters, hounds, and various other breeds are not uncommon.

The first touring ski race, the "Rangeley Ramble," an eight kilometer cross-country event, was inaugurated in January, 1972.

The purity of Rangeley air has led to many tall tales. According to one, "Once the town of Rangeley went twenty years

without a death, so it had no cemetery, so in desperation a native son went out and shot somebody just so the town could boast that it now had a burying ground."

Another yarn is about an incurably ill man who remembered Rangeley's pure air and wanted to go back there once more. He sneaked out of the hospital, fell in front of an automobile as he tried to stagger across the street, and landed by the car's front tire. The sudden braking of the vehicle caused that tire to blow. The air came straight into the prone man's face; he revived; he breathed normally from that time on. The driver of the auto had just returned from a stay at Rangeley Lake, and the tire contained health-giving Rangeley air!

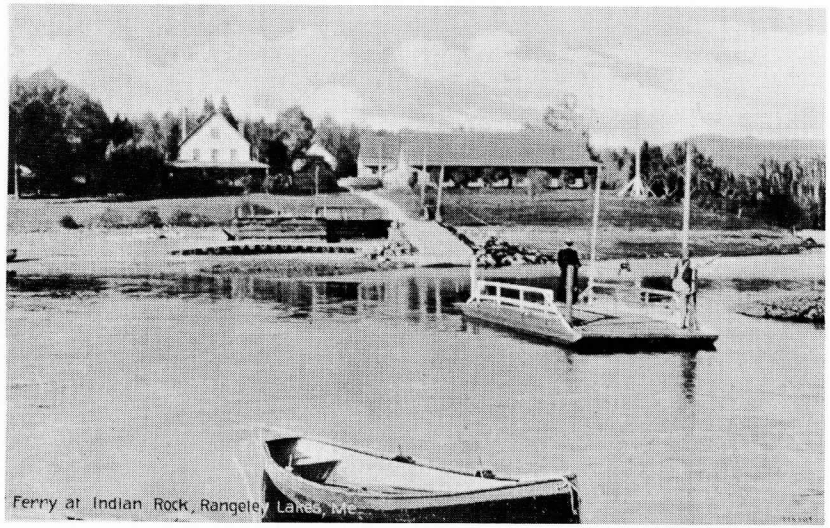
In 1936 the region suffered a double blow when the Rumford Branch of the Maine Central Railroad and the Phillips and Rangeley Lakes two-foot narrow gauge railroad from Farmington to Rangeley were discontinued.

Nevertheless, by the middle of the twentieth century, privately-owned cottages, high-powered motorboats, tourists, and sportsmen made the region popular, although somewhat commercialized. Numerous picnic grounds, campsites on Beavers Isle, Lincoln Brook, and Twin Brook, three separate camping areas on Big Birch Island in Cupsuptic, and a fine campsite on Student's Island in Lower Richardson, increased the attraction of the locale. A State Park, established at a cost of $150,000, opened in 1967, by which time a local seaplane and an airport base were functioning, and the roads in the vicinity were of the best. The Park covers 691 acres, extends along one and a half miles of shoreline, and has facilities for bathing, camping, picnicking, and boating. Rangeley State Park has at least 51 campsites and 40 picnic areas.

Near Saddleback Lake, in the Rangeley Region, looms Saddleback Mountain which contains gold particles according to the tale of an ancient Indian woman, Tincook. Today the gold might be symbolized by the rise in the development of the Saddleback Ski Area, which has a 4,500-foot double chairlift and a 1,400-foot double chairlift which lure skiing enthusiasts. In 1967, four new features were added to Saddleback Ski Area: a 3,000-foot T bar, a J bar, a new beginner's slope, and a new base lodge. The complete compound was featured that same year by the Eastman Kodak Company in a display of three Maine scenes as a mural for Grand Central Station, New York.

Mooselookmeguntic House, Haines Landing.

Bald Mountain Camps, Rangeley Lakes.



The Ferry at Indian Rock, Rangeley Lakes.

Lake House at Umbagog Lake, Upton.

Among additional lakes in Oxford County which offer a bit of local history is CHRISTOPHER LAKE, also known as Bryant Pond, and probably named for Christopher Bryant. It is extremely pretty and lies close to the Greenwood Ice Caves which were fashioned by landslides of large boulders. Ice forms in these caves even in mid-summer.

It was on the railway between West Paris and Bryant Pond that a strange occurrence took place. The daily train had reached the steepest part of the grade when the cars began to slow down and finally came to a halt. Passengers, neither seeing nor hearing anything to explain the stop, started to leave the train. To their surprise, around the wheels of the engine and tender were thousands upon thousands of caterpillars. Those crushed beneath the train made the tracks so greasy that it was impossible for the wheels to gain momentum. The engineer finally succeeded in backing the train down the grade. Men helped him clean the tracks and throw sand upon them. Thereupon, the passengers resumed their respective seats, the engineer climbed into place, and the train proceeded to Bryant Pond Station.

Purchase of shore frontage at this lake was approved by the 1972 State Legislature for establishing a boat ramp site.

WEBB LAKE, in Weld, Franklin County, is named for Thomas Webb, whose name was carved on a tree near the ruins of a cabin. In 1941 the lake was one of the few in Maine which had no islands, according to a state map. In 1969, Camp Lawroweld was established by the Northern New England Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, and 31 six-to-sixteen-year-old underprivileged children from the Portland-Saco area were given a week's stay, studying health, cleanliness, responsibility, crafts, games, and religion. Present-day attendance exceeds 200.

In 1971, a soils information survey was done for a 1,300 strip around the lake to determine the suitability for construction of camps and cottages, road fill, and septic sewerage disposal.

LOBSTER LAKE, six miles long and crescent-shaped, is named for innumerable small shellfish, resembling shrimp rather than Maine lobster.

WILSON LAKE, in Wilton, has over 190 acres, is more than 175 feet deep at one place, and is a remarkably warm body of water year-round. In the winter of 1969, the first annual automobile Ice Race on Wilson Lake featured a four-hour endurance race open to

both men and women drivers, and in 1970 there were more than 50 competitors.

PENNESSEEWASSEE LAKE (once called Natick, meaning "a strange, shining-then-fading light"), in Norway, is among those lakes totally confined within Oxford County. Known in 1787 as The Great Pennesseewassee, in 1886 it had been abbreviated to Great Pond. The longer name was that of an Indian tribe that once inhabited what is now Norway Center. Long before the influx of white men, the Pennesseewassee tribe had forsaken their loved haunts. No one apparently knows exactly why.

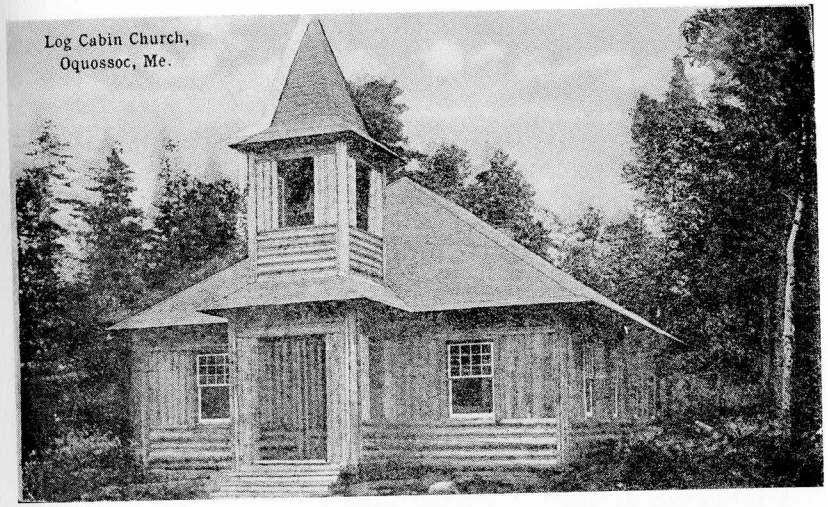
A commonly accepted theory is that the tribe, under Assacombit, district chief of the Anasagunticooks, left because of the downfall of the French in Canada and the coming of English settlers, although other obscure reasons have been suggested. Whatever the cause, there must have been a mass migration and none of the tribe ever returned, although Pequakets are known to have fished at the lake long after the original tribe had gone.

Pennesseewassee means "lake where the men died" according to one historian, and history between 1791 through 1916 bears out this theory with nine deaths by drowning in the lake. The meaning has also been given as "place where land slopes toward clear shining water."

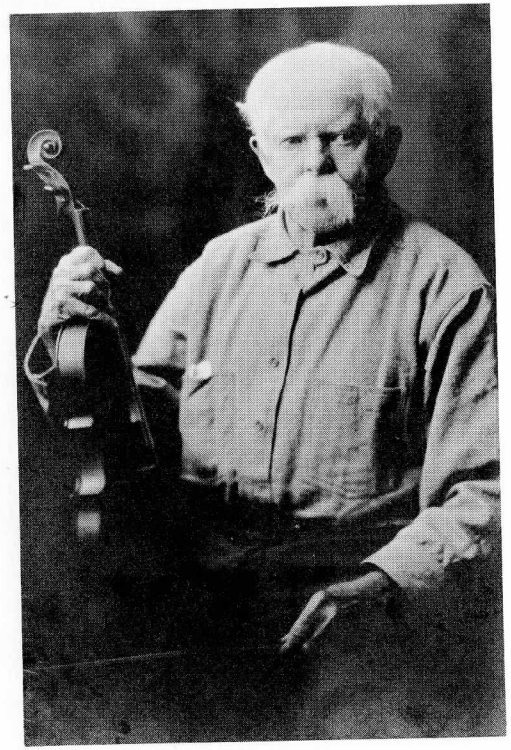
At the outlet, the saw and gristmills of Captain Henry Rust started the first commercial and industrial foundation of the Town of Norway. The original town dwelling was erected by the lake shore, and the power for the town's important industries of today still depends upon the same falls that served Rust's mills.

Summer colonists have long been attracted to the region, even to the extent of having a boxed heading for special lake news in the local newspaper, the *Advertiser-Democrat*. It was in this newspaper office that the famed American humorist, Artemus Ward, of Waterford, Maine, gained his knowledge of journalism; and that a future Vice President of the United States, Hannibal Hamlin, became experienced in newspaper office technique.

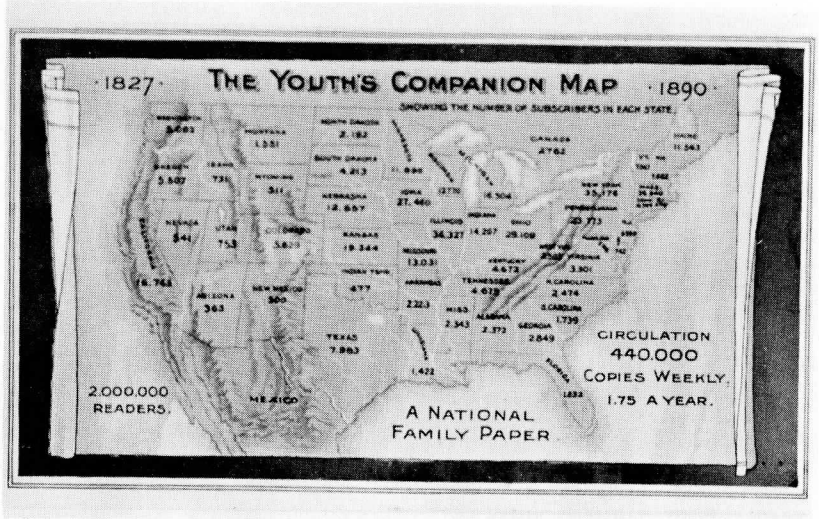
A popular event connected with the lake, known for its large bass, is the annual guessing contest as to the exact moment that the ice will go out, a contest supported by local merchants who supply the prizes. The earliest recorded date of the ice starting is April 6, 1910; the latest, May 13, 1874, which is also the first recorded date.[26]



Log Cabin Church, Oquossoc.



Mellie Dunham and his fiddle.



Distribution of magazine with which C. A. Stevens was so closely associated. Note No. 477 was not yet the State of Oklahoma.

Steamer Pennesseewassee at the Wharf.

Among the noteworthy characters associated with Pennesseewassee Lake is Mellie Dunham, maker of the snowshoes which Admiral Peary wore when he planted the American flag at the North Pole. These snowshoes are now in the Smithsonian Institution, bearing Mellie's name burned into the heels. In 1925, at age 72, he was named Maine Fiddler at a Pageant of Progress held in the Lewiston, Maine, armory. Sponsored by magnate Henry Ford, Mellie later won, against 38 other contestants, the title of World Champion Old-Time Fiddler by playing an original composition, "Rippling Waves." This success was followed by performances on the Keith-Albee theater circuit and in nightclubs.[27]

Another well-known individual whose huge rambling house, "The Laboratory," used to overlook the lake at its southern end, was C. A. Stephens, author of several children's books, of *Old Squire Tales,* and of the *Camping Out Series*.[28] He was also noted for his long association with *Youth's Companion*, holding various positions on the magazine from 1870 until its discontinuance in 1929.

His characters were taken primarily from real life acquaintances. His plots were oriented toward science, but never science fiction. He once used the pen name Wilhema Smith for an article based in Nebraska and received four marriage proposals from Nebraskan farmers. In addition to the over 2,500 stories he contributed to the *Companion,* usually while enjoying his rocking chair, he wrote a weekly health column for the newspapers.

The proceeds from the sale of the Laboratory and a fund left to the community in his will, established the Stephens Memorial Hospital in Norway. Since then, his Laboratory home has been razed.

In five-mile-long Pennesseewassee Lake are four dark green islands which once served as stopovers for Captain Ames' steamer *Pennesseewassee*, for which a wharf was constructed at the outlet and a special arched bridge was built to eliminate the bother of lowering the hinged smokestack. The steamer, a side-wheeler, single-smokestack boat, with a seating capacity for 100 people on its 62-foot length deck, was discarded in 1816. The ship's old whistle may still be in use by a Norway factory where it has served for years.

The ten-mile trip around the lake included a stop at Goat Island and another at Schoolhouse Grove. The Bass Island Club used the lake for transportation to its meetings.

Across Lake Pennesseewasee, portions of New Hampshire's Presidential Range are visible: Washington, Madison, and Kear-

sage. Camps, cottages, homes, public camping grounds, and a swimming facility have done little to mar the dark green borders of this charming lake where fishing, boating, and swimming find unparalleled conditions. An organized recreation waterfront activities program was initiated in 1967, and even during inclement summer weather up to 150 youngsters attend daily.

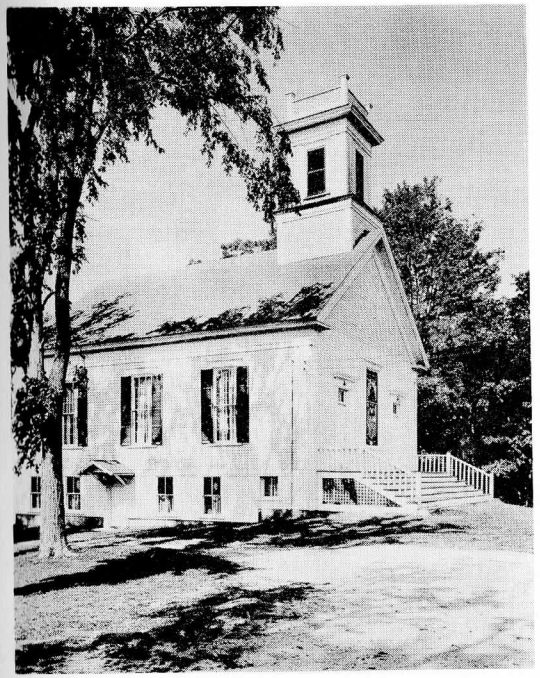
Ownership of the beach at Schoolhouse Grove has remained unestablished, but the cooperation of SAD No. 17 and of the Town of Norway has promoted an excellent summer program with float, life guards, and a waterfront director.

KEZAR LAKE (spelled Keezar in 1888), within the boundaries of Oxford County, was named for George Ebenezer Kezar of Brownfield, the first trapper and white settler on the shores. Known as a "bit of transplanted Switzerland," Kezar Lake has a backdrop of green foothills topped by three ranges of the White Mountain chain on the west, and pine-covered sloping hillsides on the east. *National Geographic* once referred to it as "one of the three most beautiful lakes in the world." Douglas Volk, in his *The Hundred Most Beautiful Lakes in the World,* rated Kezar fifth. It has no treacherous currents nor deep drop-offs.

The first cottage on the shores of Kezar was owned by Benjamin E. Brown, who built there in 1897. Later he expanded his building into a summer lodge, and rented a line of boats for fishing or pleasure trips. To the present, his name is a tradition to those familiar with the lake. When Brown's camps burned in August, 1934, the property was bought by William and Harold Severance, and Severance Lodge emerged, largest in the area and famous for its outdoor smorgasbords.

Farrington's Lodge has the largest natural sand beach on Lake Kezar. The Lodge was once a single building and some tents, the main structure having been built at Pleasant Point around 1910 by William H. and Della Farrington. Expansion has included eighteen separate cottages, a recreation hall, help's quarters, stable and garage, and various outbuildings.

Families return in toto year after year, and their children and friends follow them. Guests of prominence have included band leader Meyer Davis, singer Phil Harris, columnist Rudolph Elie, Judge Lottie Barron, pianist Guy Maier, soloist Caroline Hudson Alexander, the "Plywood King" Lawrence Ottinger, Senator Richard Ottinger (N.Y.), and Judge Fuld of the New York Supreme Court.



The Church by the Side of the Road near Lake Kezar, Center Lovell.

Bass Island, Lake Pennesseewassee, Norway.

The Big House, Brown's Camps, Kezar Lake.

Farrington's Lodge, Center Lovell.

The Lodge has been handed down from generation to generation, the latest transition being from Mrs. Albert S. Genaske (nee Theona Farrington), to her son, Edwin Sargent.

Probably the most widely known Kezar estate during the 1930's was that of Rudy Vallee, Maine-born radio, motion picture, stage, and TV personality. He referred to his estate in *My Time Is Your Time* (1962) as "one of my memorable pads." In a 1969 letter to the author of this book, he wrote, "I spent ten happy years there."

In 1930, Rudy bought 300 acres and had a Cape Cod bungalow-style building erected, known simply as "The Lodge." There followed the construction of two smaller lodges of similar design, an enormous boathouse with float, and three smaller buildings. A road was cut from virgin land for a distance of over a mile off the main road. Each room in the grey-shingled lodge had its individual color scheme and was named for a song or a tune associated with Rudy Vallee. His own room he called "Vagabond Lover."

Rudy and his wife, the former Faye Webb of California, used to entertain in the big knotty pine playrooms, which could accommodate 90 persons each; or at the bar, which seated 20 people easily; or in the glassed-in porch known as the Christmas Room because it had for wall decorations Christmas cards from many famous personalities. It was an annual event to entertain entire bands and their wives, and Rudy has stated that only twice during nine years was the weather inclement for any one of these events.

Personal guests have included Edgar Bergen and his Charlie McCarthy, and Eddie ("Banjo Eyes") Cantor, whose facial caricature enlivened the bow of a launch that he gave to Rudy.

Other famous property owners on the lake have been McLellan Barclay (artist), Newton Newkirk (columnist), Judge Frederick W. Dallinger (author), Eva Paisley (author), Douglas Volk (sculptor), and Don Dickerman, owner of the Heigh-Ho Club in New York, where Rudy had his first singing job.

Among additional camps around the lake, prominent ones have been Boulder Brook Camps, Quisisana, Camp Mudjekeewis for Girls which is the oldest such establishment at the lake and which opened around 1900, and the now extinct Camp Kinapic for Boys, which opened in 1908. Camp Rod and Reel caters primarily to parents of youngsters enrolled in the camps of the area.

Folklore tells that the lake was first stocked with bass through the deception of an Indian guide, "Old Jim." When asked directions by the driver of a fish load to be used to stock a different lake, Old Jim pointed to a nearby landing on Lake Kezar, fully aware of what he was doing. Other well-remembered guides around the lake have been Jesse Adams, Puss Bartlett, Roger Brown, George Stearns, Ralph McAllister, Jim Vance, and George (Steve) Stevenson, who was exceedingly adept at canoe handling, adept at boat-building, and said to have been the first constructor of the canvas canoe in the United States. Arthur Fox, Sr., once ran motorboat trips around the lake, which voyages ended with hot biscuits and fish chowder which he prepared.

In addition to the main body of Kezar waters, five small tributaries run between Waterford and Lovell. On Little Kezar, which flows into the Saco River, two canals were once in use for driving logs.

Lower Bay is sufficiently separated from the main lake to be a unit by itself, thus creating two nearly equal, but varying, lakes. The Bay has practically no rock formations, is predominantly muddy, has a maximum depth of 17 feet, and a majority depth of less than 11 feet. During summer weather, therefore, the water is too warm for trout or salmon; but the main lake makes up for this problem with its cool maximum depth of 155 feet.

A 1939 statistical report of Middle and Upper Bays presents this table:

860	acres	of bottom area	are	0-25	feet in depth
567	acres	of bottom area	are	25-80	feet in depth
287	acres	of bottom area	are	80-120	feet in depth
112	acres	of bottom area	are	120-155	feet in depth

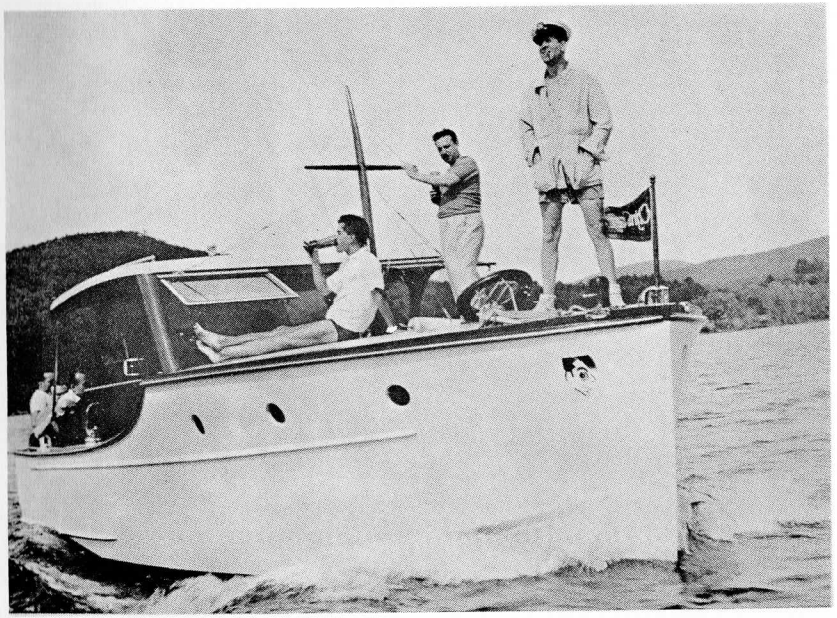
In shallow areas, both bays are muddy, but they also contain much sand and rocky terrain.

Although the location of Kezar is favorable for Indian lore, the only known fact is that Indian Chief Sabattus once lived in the vicinity. Which of the various Indians by that name is meant is not known because his tribe has never been established.

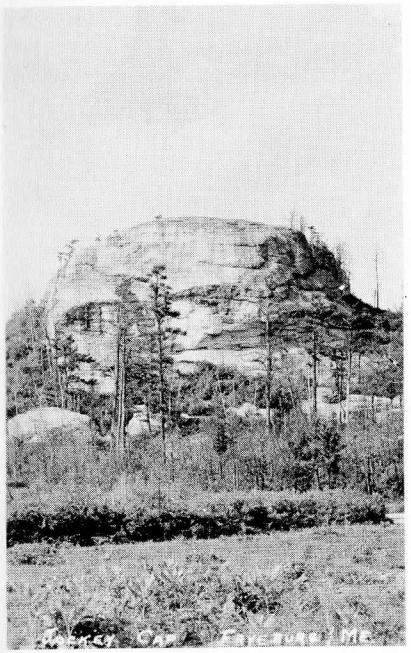
In the 1800's, 11 white swans visited a cove of Lake Kezar and stayed for six days of unseasonably mild November weather. On the seventh day there was frost in the air and a hint of winter arrived in a strong northeast wind, spinning down from the mountains. Nine of the unusual visitors left for warmer climes; the other two

Severance Camp, Center Lovell.

Rudy's Camp.



The Skipper Rudy on the Boat.



Jockey Cap, presumed to be the largest boulder in the world. Overlooks Lovewell's Pond in Fryeburg.

had been killed, by special permission from the State, as proof and trophies of the phenomenon.

The two slain birds measured 76 inches from tip to tip and were placed in the State House Museum at Augusta. The other nine seemed to ignore the gunshots aimed at their companions. They scattered for a moment but quickly returned to their feeding. The following fall, eight swans returned to the feeding grounds for a one-night stay, and that was the last sight of Kezar Lake's swan family.

In August, 1967, the Maine Recreation Authority announced a $3,000,000 loan for developing a year-round vacation resort at the base of 1,600-foot Mt. Adams at Stoneham, in the Kezar Lake region. In November 1969, plans had been finalized for the Evergreen Valley resort condominium with an initial expenditure of $4,550,000 and a possible ultimate investment of more than $15,000,000 for the 2,000-plus acreage. In November, 1970, the inn, which will serve as the ski lodge in winter and the golf and tennis clubhouse in summer, was closed in to house a restaurant, lounges, banquet facilities, game rooms, saunas, exercise rooms, lockers, and showers. The first fifty condominiums were to be connected to it, and as many as 750 additional units, plus a 200-unit motel, were in the plans.

The ski area, on the northeast face of Mt. Adams, just behind the inn, and sloping to Lake Kezar shores, opened for business in December, 1972. Future plans call for a 1,600-foot frontage marina, six trails, and three double chair lifts, with an estimated 8,600 seats.[29]

If completed, it should be one of the largest and most important recreational developments ever attempted in New England. It would include an 18-hole golf course, heated swimming pools, three tennis courts, horseback riding trails, scenic chair lifts, shops for equipment rental and sales, and a snack bar, in addition to the dining area which will accommodate 235 people. From March, 1971, to date, financial problems have stopped almost all progress, and future completion is in abeyance.

In January, 1972, 130 acres of land with 2,700 feet of shore frontage on Lake Kezar were sold to the Land Vest Properties of Boston for $400,000. At the time, there were 23 existing buildings on the property. The Land Vest plans are to develop a high-status

second-home community with a vast recreational center.[30]

KEEWAYDIN LAKE, near Lynchville, in the Lovell area, was named for Virginia Keewaydin, wife of a Coast Guard director. In Chippewa it is translated "north wind."

TROUT LAKE, in Stoneham, has Trout Lake Camp, where Apollo 11 astronaut "Buzz" Aldrin spent ten of his summers.

LOVEWELL POND, in Fryeburg, is not listed as a lake in the County Commission records, and has rarely been known as such in the past. It is included in this work, however, because of its historical importance to Maine for the battle waged upon its shores between white men and Indians in May, 1725. This conflict, termed Maine's most severe battle, finally quelled proud Paugus, leader of the Pequaket tribe and terror to the English.

One hundred pounds was placed on the scalp of Paugus by the General Court of Massachusetts, and Captain Lovewell was granted 32 "King's men" to achieve the end of this menace whose tribe numbered over 80. Barrow's *Fryeburg* relates the combat, and a tablet marking its site stands embedded in a granite slab at the northern end of Lovewell Pond, where Captain Lovewell was victorious. This lone spot is currently the only public property at the pond and does not even give access to the shore.

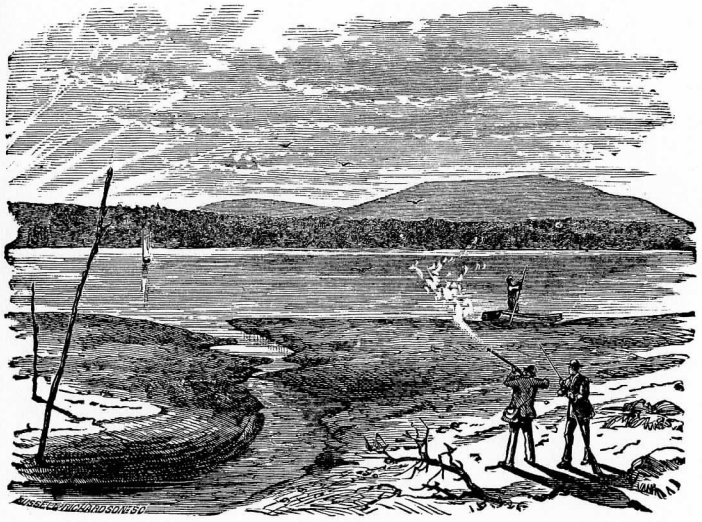
Lovewell's fight was the theme of Longfellow's first published poem.

In high water months, the beach at Lovewell disappears and water damage to cottages is not uncommon.

KEOKA LAKE, a lake of reasonable size in Waterford, has an unusually shallow maximum depth of only 42 feet. The Abenaki meaning has been given as "where they get red earth for pots." The recently-formed (1971) Keoka Lake Association is dedicated to oversee the rebuilding and operation of the dam at the outlet of the lake.

MIRROR LAKE, also in Oxford County, is the site of the Pennesseewassee Chapter of the North American Family Campers' Association. Two acres of wooded land bordering the west shore of the lake, which is one of a chain of four small lakes, constitute a camping ground and sports area for chapter members who come primarily from Norway, South Paris, Lewiston, Auburn, South Portland, and Scarborough. Sixty-five of the proposed 70 or more lots were

"Island Farm," on Lovewell's Pond, established by the first settlers in the region, the Walker Family, in the 1600's.



Battleground of Maine's biggest battle.

ready for location by the beginning of 1972, and 238 families were enrolled. More land is to be leased for additional families. The town of Oxford gave help with its road equipment; otherwise, the families themselves have prepared the grounds, including the making of a fine sandy beach, installations for electrical equipment, and an approximately 20x45-foot meeting hall.

Among the other well-known lakes in Oxford County are LONG, CRESCENT, CRYSTAL, ANASAGUNTICOOK, and KIMBALL.

Marker at head of Lovewell's Pond, commemorating the most memorable Indian battle in Maine. The opening sentence starts

TO MARK THE FIELD OF LOVEWELL'S FIGHT ON THE 8TH DAY OF MAY 1725

At one time, the pond was visible behind the marker. Longfellow wrote an ode on the fight and read it in Fryeburg on "Paugus Day," May 19, 1825.

Fryeburg Village watering trough and Main Street.