

the
Lakes of Maine
A Compilation of Fact and Legend

by
Daphne Winslow Merrill

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PREFACE

Kenneth Roberts once wrote, "Maine is too big a state to learn more than a little about in one short lifetime." The same premise applies to Maine's lakes.

The basic purpose of *the Lakes of Maine* is twofold. First, it is intended to present facts, legends, original naming, personalities, and anecdotes associated with those lakes for which such data is available and thus contribute to posterity their place in Maine's heritage. With the exception of a few inclusions, this knowledge extends through 1971, only.

The second purpose is to list all inland bodies of fresh water known as "lakes" although possibly referred to as "ponds" at times. The several, sizable fresh water bodies which exist in wilderness areas and are known only by numbers, are not included. Lakes which extend from one county into another are listed under both counties if a substantial portion of the lake is present in both.

So varied are the legends and spellings, so interchangeable are the terms "lake" and "pond," so endless is the changing of facts, that no one book could possibly assume the distinction of accuracy or completeness in the vast area of Maine lakes and their environments. The material used in this text has come from presumably acceptable, authentic sources or from personal interviews and letters. It is the devout wish of the writer that the book will promote further investigation and interest in the study of Maine lakes, one of the major glories of the State.

The current fever and fervor of ecology and the contemporary status symbol of the back-yard lake, presage good news for the lake situation in Maine, but do prevent up-to-date accuracy. Some lakes are springing anew; others are becoming mere bog land. Fortunately, organizations for cleaning and preserving Maine lakes are growing in number.

The extensive source material used for this text precludes a complete bibliography. Only those sources of reading matter and of personal contacts which contributed most in either quantity or quality are noted, but appreciation and credit is extended to all.

Librarians who cooperated were from the Maine State Library, Maine Historical Society, Edward Little High School, and the public libraries at Auburn, Camden, Lewiston, Lovell, Norway, Porter-Kezar Falls, Portland, Rockland, and South Portland. I also owe a word of gratitude for the interest evidenced by the Oxford County Economic Development Commission.

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Daphne Winslow Merrill

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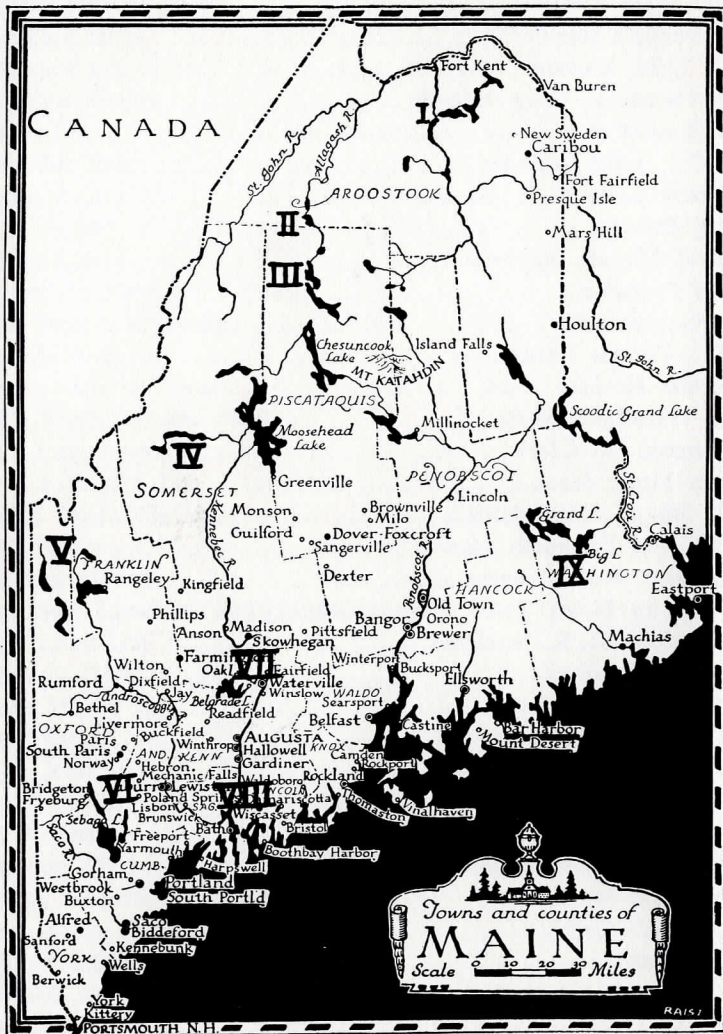
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the Lakes of Maine

The Roman numerals indicate the region for the corresponding chapters.

A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature. The . . . trees next to the shore are the slender eyelashes which fringe it, and the wooded hills and cliffs around are its overhanging brows.

Henry David Thoreau

MAINE'S LAKES

Maine is royalty
wearing a regal crown
of fir, cedar, spruce and pine,
ever, ever green;
a crown studded by
amethyst lakes
sending off slivers of diamonds
when the wind ruffles the sun-drenched surface;
giving off glows of gold
where the full moon cuts a swath.

The crown is beautiful;
the jewels are rare
and lovely.

