

April 12, 2021

Dear Mr. Hall,

I am writing to you as an owner of Jones Pond Camps on Jones Pond in T4R3 NBKP. The Maine Unorganized Territories Tax office provided your name and address.

I'm in the process of writing a history of the West Branch of the Penobscot River watershed west of its mouth at Chesuncook Lake and am interested in your assistance.

One chapter includes the commercial and private camps that dot the landscape. The other chapters pertain to the log driving era (c.1840-1971).

Enclosed is the information I've written about your site at Jones Pond; a result of my research. You'll note I have some early history prior to its probably becoming private. I would like to include more of the camps' history.

I am happy to share the whole of the chapter devoted to commercial and private camps and any other information in which you might be interested. Another two chapters pertain to logging on the South Branch.

In retirement I have written books pertaining to the log driving era and sporting camps so as to capture Maine's history. My other works are all available at no cost on line through the Raymond Fogler Library Special Collections Digital Commons. This book will be the same.

I would enjoy either having a conversation with you or communicating through writing and answering questions. (I will be away from home, but reachable by e-mail between April 16 & 21.) *(my answering machine will be on)*

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill

Bill Geller
108 Orchard Street
Farmington, ME 04938
207-778-6672 (home phone)
geller@maine.edu

One early group of sports passing over the carry to use either the river or the Old Canada Road to the Fork was headed to Camp Pocahontas a few miles up the Main Branch. Lucius Hubbard in 1877 recorded the presence of the camp; it was one of the earliest such camps, public or private, but was in ruins by 1893.⁵

Once guides and sports reached the Fork they either continued west up the South Branch valley or north up the North Branch valley.

Camps in South Branch valley

From the Fork a guide using the waterway could get his sports up the South Branch a couple miles before carrying around Canada Falls on the Old Canada Falls Road. Paddling the river above Canada Falls as far as about Penobscot Brook was possible. Here he could pick up the Old Canada Road again, to follow Penobscot Stream north. No known commercial or private sporting camps were on this route until post-1912.

Jones Pond Camps: The South Branch valley was also entered via its western end. In some unknown year before 1898 some Jackman guide engaged in work at a camp at about the mid point of the west side of Jones Pond. It was a horse-cart ride all the way. The proprietor of the operation in 1899 was James A. Kennedy.⁶ Kennedy, born in the British Isles in 1850, arrived at Falmouth, Maine in 1866, married in 1873, worked and

⁵ Lucius L. Hubbard. *Hubbard's Guide to Moosehead Lake and Northern Maine*.

Cambridge, MA: Author, 1893.

⁶ Bangor an Aroostook Railroad, *In the Maine Woods*, 1900; Maine State Register and Yearbook had no listing between 1896 and 1899

lived in Holeb in 1880, and moved to the Jackman – Moose River area and worked as a carpenter and guide by the later 1890s. Before 1910 he and his wife Nancy had sold the Jones Pond operation to Allen J. and Lizzie A.W.H. Moore, but he continued as the manager. Moore was a lumbering operations manager and guide, and active in the Jackman community in 1910. In 1910 four side by side porched sleeping cabins were part of the compound.⁷ James died in 1915, but Moore continued the operation. Moore died two years later; a causality of WWI.

The camp operation continued, but under whose direction is a matter of speculation. The last entry of the camp in the *Maine State Register and Legislative Handbook* was in 1917. A year later a short note authored by Harry R. Wellman had the phrase “the Jones Pond Camps organization.”⁸ The camps apparently continued to operate for the camp organization had a stocking program for five area ponds. The 1938 James W. Sewall township assessment noted a cluster of seven camps as privately held leases under the name Jones Pond Club Camps. At this time the route to the pond was the Jones Pond Road that followed the old lumber rail line north from Jackman Station; a 16 mile trip. The 1953 USGS Penobscot Lake Quadrangle included the camps. The camp compound was still well cared for in 2020.

Camps on Canada Falls impoundment (post-1912)

With the 1912 building of the Canada Falls dam at its current site the huge impoundment attracted noncommercial leaseholders. Both the 1919-1920 GNP lease list and the Sewall assessments of the late 1920s provided an early picture of activity on the

⁷ as viewed on a c.1910 Jones Pond Sporting Camps post card.

⁸ *Outing: Sport Adventure, Travel Fiction*, vol.71, p.162, 1918

toters to tote their game out to the Jackman railroad station. They also used their own small trapper's camps or abandoned logging camps, and some logging camps welcomed a hunter or two with a guide.

C6 12a, C6 12b through C6 12e

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