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An Early Angling History of the Maine's West Grand Lake Region

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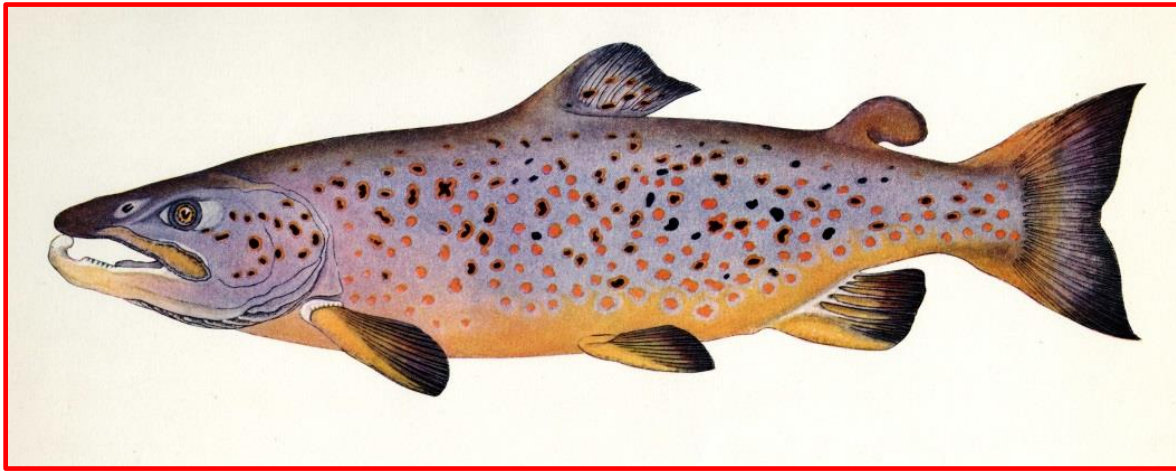


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Partial Bibliography of Early Angling Information About the West Grand Lake Region, Maine

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Grand Lake Stream, in the heart of Maine's Washington County, was known for exceptional sport fishing for landlocked salmon fishing as early as the late 1700s. By the 1840s, this stream and its salmon attracted anglers during spring and fall from Philadelphia, New York, Boston,



A male landlocked salmon from Grand Lake Stream painted by Walter H. Rich, November 1915. From Kendall (1935: Plate 10).

and elsewhere. One of these early anglers was Charles Hallock, founder and editor of *Forest and Stream* – a national sporting periodical based in New York City. Hallock, accompanied by a large contingent of friends from Houlton, Maine, fished Grand Lake Stream in 1859. Fourteen years later, in *The Fishing Tourist*, he described the stream while enjoying an “exhilarating” ride in a birch-bark canoe, and then continued:

This is the famous Grand Lake Stream, among whose rocks and eddies the land-locked salmon delight to dwell, and whose alternate reaches of rapid water and quiet pools, wooded banks and sandy shores, delight the angler. It is three miles long and connects Grand Lake to Big Lake below. Here, at the height of the fishing season, selected spots are occupied by dozens of cozy tents of anglers in full-blown costumes of latest cut and fabric – for there are fashions among sportsmen as well as beaux. Here are bifurcations of velveteen and corduroy set

in capacious leather boots and thatched above with hats of enormous brims, from whose crowns dangle flies of every hue and size. There are some with coats slashed with multitudinous pockets, and others with plain woolen overshirts; some with veils of gauze protecting face and shoulders, and others with blue goggles gleaming like saucers beneath their shaggy brows. The shores are dotted with knots of fishermen adjusting tackle, and the stream is lively with boats and waders, and the play of assiduous rods and whizzing reels. Here are parties returning laden with trophies, and others sauntering off to resorts less desirable but more retired. Far up the chain of lakes occasional boats are trolling for twelve-pound toad [togue], and here and there at isolated spots on Ox Brook or Sisladoobsis [Sysladoobsis] are camps of old-fashioned anglers who scorn the luxuries of tent life.

For additional views about Grand Lake Stream, adjacent waters, and angling in this region during times past, see:

Books

Adams, A. L. 1873. *Field and Forest Rambles, with Notes and Observations on the Natural History of Eastern Canada*. Henry S. King & Co., London. [The frontis maps shows Grand Lake and the stream. The book has a detailed discussion of the “silvery salmon trout” as well as the author’s fishing 1866 excursion to Grand Lake Stream.]

Atkinson, M. 1920. *Hinkley Township or Grand Lake Plantation*. Newburyport Herald Press, Newburyport, MA. [The definitive work on the early history of Grand Lake Stream.]

Boardman, S. L. 1903. *The Naturalist of the Saint Croix – Memoir of George A. Boardman*. Privately Printed, Bangor, ME. [Information about George A. Boardman and his friend, Charles Hallock. Both men fished and visited Grand Lake Stream a number of times. G. A. Boardman was an amateur naturalist and a wealthy lumberman from Calais, Maine. C. Hallock was founder and editor of *Forest and Stream* magazine.]

Hallock, C. 1873. *The Fishing Tourist: Angler’s Guide and Reference Book*. Harper & Brothers, New York, NY. [“The Schoodics,” pages 190-110, are devoted to the land-locked salmon, the Grand Lake Region, and includes a wonderful description of Grand Lake Stream.]

Hallock, C. 1913. *An Angler’s Reminiscences. A Record of Sport, Travel, and Adventure. With Autobiography of the Author*. Sportsmen’s Review Pub. Co., Cincinnati, OH. [Pages 1 and 28 describe Hallock’s 1859 trip to Grand Lake Stream.]

Kendall, William Converse. 1935. *The Fishes of New England. The Salmon Family. Part 2 - The Salmon*s. Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol 9. No. 1. Boston, MA. [Pages 150-154 about the landlocked salmon of Grand Lake Stream, including data from the fish taken for the hatchery work, 1875-1930. Plates at the back of this book include two full-page illustrations of male and female landlocked salmon from Grand Lake Stream in spawning colors.]

Kidder, F. 1867. *Military Operations in Eastern Maine and Nova Scotia During the Revolution Chiefly Compiled from the Journals and Letters of Colonel John Allen*. Joel Munsell, Albany, NY. [Footnote at bottom on page 122 mentions fishing at Grand Lake Stream.]

Prouty, L. 1883. *Fish: Their Habits and Haunts and the Methods of Catching Them, Together with Fishing as a Recreation*. Cupples, Upham and Company, Boston, MA. [Includes three chapters about eastern Maine: “A Day on Grand Lake,” “Two Days at Skiff Lake,” and “Trip to Schoodie Lake in 1882.”]

Rollins, A. M. 1905. *Eastern Maine Practical Guide*. The Lakeside Press Co., Portland, ME. [A guide to outdoor recreational opportunities, especially canoe routes, in eastern Maine. This book was distributed free by the Maine Central, Washington County, and Boston & Maine railroads. See below for more promotional materials published by the railroads.]

Samuels, E. A. 1890. *With Fly-Rod and Camera*. Forest and Stream Publishing Co., New York, NY. [Includes photographs of the hatchery at Grand Lake Stream, and a description of spawning fish there.]

Stevens, C. W. 1881. *Fly-Fishing in Maine Lakes; or, Camp-life in the Wilderness*. A. Williams & Co., Boston, MA. [This book, while wordy in style, has useful descriptions of the northern route to eastern Maine via Winn and Duck Lake, and the southern route via Princeton and Big Lake. Chapters specific to Grand Lake Stream include “Grand Lake” and “Tomah Joseph.”]

Whitney, J. P. 1906. *Reminiscences of a Sportsman*. Forest and Stream Publishing Co., New York, NY. [Includes a detailed description of an 1864 spring fishing trip to Grand Lake Stream.]

Wilson, D. A. 2000. *Images of America: Glimpses of Maine’s Angling Past*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC. [Chapter 4, entitled “Down East,” includes some early and interesting photographs of Grand Lake Steam.]

Periodicals

(not all early journal searched; e.g., *The American Angler*, *Amateur Sportsman*, *Phillips Phonograph/Maine Woods*)

A.L.S. 1902. One thousand miles for rest. *Forest and Stream*, 59 (4): 64. (July 26). [A short article about a canoe trip through eastern Maine, including West Grand Lake.]

Anonymous. 1888. Untitled. *Shooting and Fishing*, 4 (6): 60 (July 26). [Information about fishing Grand Lake Stream, including an early description of Grand Lake village.]

Anonymous. 1899. Woods and waters of eastern Maine. *Cambridge Chronicle*. July 29 (online at Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts). [Includes a list of Down East sporting Camps.]

Anonymous. 1900. Washington County Game. *Bangor Daily News*. Bangor, ME., p. 5. [Miss Cornelia T. Crosby (a.k.a., Fly Rod) took a two week fishing and hunting trip to Washington County, Maine. She fished the last day of season at Grand Lake.]

An Old Angler (J. Harry Venning). 1869. Sporting Sketches in Maine and New Brunswick. Land-lock salmon on the St. Croix. *Stewart's Literary Quarterly Magazine*, 3: 13. [Includes information about fishing West Grand Lake and Grand Lake stream.]

Clark, J. S. 1903. The Salmo Tomah or Togue. *Maine Sportsman*, 10 (198): 233 (July). [A Calais angler presents estimates of the number of land-locked salmon caught in Grand Lake Stream in 1901 and 1902, based on records kept by a local store keeper.]

F.C.P. 1880. Syseledobsis and Passadumkeag. *Forest and Stream*, 14 (15): 1 & 284 (May 13). [An account of an extended fall canoe trip through eastern Maine.]

F.G. 1904. Days in Maine. *Shooting and Fishing*, 37 (4): 65-66 (Nov 3). [An article about a September canoe trip through the West Grand Lake region in May 1897.]

Fly Rod (a.k.a., C. T. Crosby). 1897. Salmon fishing at Grand Lake, Maine. *Shooting and Fishing*, 22 (5): 87-88 (May 20). [About Crosby's visit to West Grand Lake and Grand.]

Hamlin, A. C. 1869. Salmon-fishing in Maine. *Lippincott's Magazine of Literature, Science, and Education*, 3: 486-497 (May). [Augustus C. Hamlin was an artist, author, mineralogist, and a Bangor doctor. He was also a naturalist, being Maine's first expert on sea-run and land-locked salmon.]

Hamlin, A. C. 1903. The landlocked salmon of Maine. *Maine Sportsman*, 10 (118): 1, 198-201 (June). [A "must read" for early information about fishing in eastern Maine.]

Hunt, A. 1904. A trip to Grand Lake Stream. *Maine Sportsman*, 11 (130): 199-200 (June). [Discusses some of the early visitors to Grand Lake Stream, along with his experiences.]

Lanier, H. W. 1903. The gamest fish that swims. The landlocked salmon of Grand Lake. *Outing Magazine*, 42 (4): 463-470 (July). [A detailed article about fishing West Grand Lake and adjacent waters. Reprinted in Maine Central Railroad. Undated (~1905). *Canoe and Paddle in Washington County Maine*, Portland, Maine.]

H.B.C. 1898. Maine landlocked salmon. *Forest and Stream*, 50 (25): 490-491 (June 18). [An article about fishing Grand Lake Stream.]

Merrill, J. T. 1903. With quananche – interesting letter about the salmon fishing in the famous St. Croix System. *Maine Sportsman*, 10 (118): 203 (June).

Montinus. 1897. Salmon fishing at Grand Lake. *Shooting and Fishing*, 22 (6): 107 (May 26). [A critique of Fly Rod's earlier article about her May 1897 visit to Grand Lake.]

Reade, P. 1909. Quananche and Grand Lake Stream. *Forest and Stream*, 73 (24): 939-940 (Dec. 11); and 73 (25): 980 (Dec. 18). [The articles are about a September fishing trip. Philip Reade, a Federal fish hatchery employee, may have used the first streamer fly ever at Grand Lake Stream (courtesy Don Wilson).]

R. R. 1874. Land locked salmon: the Grand Lake Stream. *Forest and Stream*, 2 (21): 322 (July 2). [“My record was for the eight days, two hundred and three, not counting the little yearlings of course. Of my two hundred and three (,) fifty were returned to their native element. I will say here that I took all but one of my fish with a fly ...”]

Railroad Pamphlets

(only a small sample of what the railroads published)

Boston and Maine Railroad (B&MRR). 1902. *Fishing and Hunting*. B&MRR Passenger Department, Boston, MA. [Has a large, fold-out map of the fishing and hunting resorts of Maine, and includes a chapter entitled “Washington County, Me.”]

Maine Central Railroad (who took over the Washington County Railroad in 1903). ~1900 to 1906 or so (an unknown number of annual editions issued at the turn-of-the century). *Canoe and Paddle in Washington County, Maine*. Publisher unstated. [Includes information about fishing the West Grand Lake and descriptions of the major lakes and waterways in eastern Maine. Pamphlets include a large, fold-out map showing the waterways and the locations of the sporting camps.]

Washington County Railroad. 1899. *Woods and Waters of Eastern Maine, "Bar Harbor to Quoddy Head."* R. A. Supply Co., Boston. [Detailed information about fishing and hunting in eastern Maine, including West Grand Lake and Grand Lake Stream.]

Washington County Railroad. 1899 (July). *Washington County Railroad Monthly – Official Time Table*. Publisher unstated. [Includes a list of the guides of eastern Maine, including 20 guides in Grand Lake Stream! Also has a description of the Atlantic salmon pool at Calais, Maine.]

Washington County Railroad. 1902. *Washington County Railroad Guide to Maine's Big Game and Game Fish and to Eastern Maine Coast Resorts*. Publisher unstated. [Includes detailed information about fishing and hunting in eastern Maine, gives lists of guides and places to stay.]

Washington County Railroad Company . ~1909. *Vacation Days in Washington County, Maine*. Passenger Department [of Maine Central Railroad], Portland, ME. [Includes detailed information about fishing and hunting in eastern Maine, gives lists of guides and places to stay.]

Grand Lake Stream Village May 1901



A photograph taken by George H. Cook, Sr. near the end of his canoe trip through Down East Maine in the spring of 1901. Use of photograph courtesy of Robert W. Cook.