A Partial Bibliography of Early Sporting Information from the Magalloway River, Maine

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A Partial Bibliography of Early Fishing, Hunting, and Fur Trapping Information from the Magalloway River Watershed, Maine

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From the cover of Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper, 2 October 1875
The Magalloway River starts in the northwest corner of Maine, near the point where the borders of Maine, New Hampshire, and Quebec intersect. The Magalloway River drains south into Umbagog Lake, the last lake of the Rangeley Lakes chain. Within the Magalloway drainage is Lake Aziscohos (a.k.a., Aziscoos), a man-made reservoir constructed in the early 1900s and situated below Parmachenee Lake – a smaller, natural water body. Both bodies of standing water support brook trout and land-locked salmon; this later species being introduced in the early 1890s. The Magalloway drainage also has numerous streams and ponds, almost all of which support healthy populations of native brook trout.

One of the earliest commercial sporting camps in this region was Camp Caribou on Treats Island in the northern end of Parmachenee Lake. For an excellent history of this camp and the region, see Robert W. Cook’s 2005 book entitled *Chasing Danforth: A Wilderness Calling*. [Note: I thank Bob for his review of this bibliography.]. The main subject of Cook’s book is John S. Danforth. Danforth, and his partner F. C. Barker, trapped the upper Magalloway in 1876-77, and through the decades the two remained close friends. In 1880, Danforth moved his sporting camp from a floating barge in Parmachenee Lake to Treat’s Island in the north end of the lake. Over time he and his guides built outlying camps and developed an extensive network of cabins and trails throughout the upper Magalloway drainage, as documented by the following legend and map (from Cook 2005, p. 29):

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Distances from Camp Caribou on Parmachenee Lake to Outlying Camps & Key Places
The Outlet = 1 mile
The Dam = 2 miles
Big Eddy = 3 1/2 miles
Little Magalloway River = 4 miles
Long Pond = 2 miles
Moose Brook = 1/4 mile
Hatchery [at Cedar Brook] = 1/2 mile
The Inlet = 1 mile
Little Boy’s Falls = 2 miles
Rump Pond = 4 miles
Beaver Ponds = 3 miles
Arnold’s Bog = 8 miles
Suptic [Cupsuptic] Pond = 7 miles
Denniston’s Bog = 9 miles
White Cap Pond = 10 miles

Cupsuptic Carry:
From Camp Parmachenee on the Cupsuptic River to the mouth of Black Cat Brook on the Magalloway River just below Parmachenee Lake = 6 3/8 miles
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For additional information about Camp Caribou, the Parmachenee Club, and early sporting adventures in the Magalloway River drainage, see the resources below. The bibliography and endnotes, pages 128-151, of Cook’s (2005) book are also recommended as a source of information about the early people and history of the Magalloway region.
Books

Anonymous. 1975. *History of Wilsons Mills, Maine and the Magalloway Settlements*. Published by the Town of Wilsons Mills, Maine. [Chapter Pages 113-128 is a chapter entitled “Parmachenee Club.”].


Barker, Capt. F. C., and J. S. Danforth. 1882. *Hunting and Trapping On the Upper Magalloway River and Parmachenee Lake – First Winter in the Wilderness*. D. Lothrop & Company. Boston, Massachusetts. [A Maine woods classic that occurred from the fall of 1876 through the spring of 1877. The second edition, published in 1929, includes a map and photographs not included in the original.].

____________. 1903. *Lake and Forest As I Have Known Them*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company. Boston, Massachusetts. [Chapters 7 and 15 of Barker’s autobiography are entitled “On The Magalloway Drive” and “Camp Life As It Was,” respectively. Both chapters contain information about Parmachenee and the upper Magalloway.].


Hampshire. [Heywood published many dozen of articles and notes about the Parmachenee and the upper Magalloway – too many, in fact, to list herein. For those wanting to read Heywood’s work, see *Forest and Stream, Shooting and Fishing, and the Maine Woods.*]

Ingersoll, E. 1887. *Down East Latch Strings; or Seashores, Lakes and Mountains by the Boston & Maine Railroad.* Passenger Department, Boston & Maine Railroad. Boston, Massachusetts. [Chapter 19 is entitled “Umbagog and The Magalloway.”]


Perry, B. 1927. *Pools and Ripples – Fishing Essays.* Little, Brown, and Company. Boston, Massachusetts. [Frontis photograph shows the author, Bliss Perry, angling on one of his favorite fishing rivers, the Magalloway.]


**Parmachenee Club Map – 1897**

This large (39 3/8 X 28 4/5 inches), and rare, map was produced by the Parmachenee Fishing and Hunting Club. It shows the locations of the Club’s cabins and trails, and other natural and man-made features. The larger of the two legends, located in the map’s upper left corner, reads:
Map
of the
Rangeley Lakes
and Head Waters of the
Androscoggin.
Showing the Territory of the
Parmachenee Club
(Club Territory in red line.)
Upper Portion of Oxford County, Maine,
115,000 Acres

Parmachenee Fishing Log

“Fish Register Book #1” documents daily catches by members and quests of the Parmachenee Club, 1894-1937. This log book is one of many Parmachenee Club items (booklets, letters, photos, post cards, etc.) owned by the Maine State Museum, Augusta, Maine.

Parmachenee Club Booklets

Designed for club members, these booklets discuss mostly the club’s operating policies. The booklets also contain information about the Club’s conservation rules and their building and operating of one of the first fish hatcheries in Maine. (see photograph below.).


________. 1898. Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Parmachenee Club of New York. Publisher not noted. [Includes a list of local place names.].

________. 1902. Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and List of Officers and Members, 1902 – Parmachenee Club. DeVinne Press. [Includes a list of local place names, and mentions that a map of the Club’s Territory can be obtained from the Club’s Secretary.].

________. 1916. Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and List of Officers and Members, 1916 – Parmachenee Club. Rumford Press, Concord, NH. [Includes a table documenting the number of trout taken by seasonal periods from 1905 to 1915. A second table shows the weight of the brook trout taken each year during this period.].
The fish hatchery east of Parmachenee Lake (Author’s collection). This massive structure was apparently built to keep the waterfalls, whose water was the hatchery’s lifeblood, from freezing in the winter. For additional information about this hatchery, see below and page 60 in Cook (2005).

**Periodicals**

(not all early journals searched; e.g.,

*Amateur Sportsman, American Angler, Gameland, & Phillips Phonograph*)

Anonymous. 1875. Trout-fishing on the Magalloway River, Maine. *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*. Page (Nov. 2) [Cover illustration and short article on page 55.].

__________. 1882. Scene on the Magalloway River, Maine. *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* (Oct. 2). [Cover illustration and article on page 570.].

__________. 1888. Among the Androscoggin Lakes – Scene at the end of a “carry” on Lake Parmachenee – A fishing camp (title of cover illustration). *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, (July 28). [Cover illustration and article on page 378.].

_______. 1924. *The Parmachenee Club – Certificate of Incorporation, Constitution, By-Laws, And Rules*. Publisher not noted. [Includes a brief Club history.].
___________. (probably the editor, Ralph Greenwood). 1889. John S. Danforth. *Shooting and Fishing*, 6 (1): 6 (May 2). [This biographical sketch includes a woodcut of John S. Danforth sitting in a chair with his axe, rifle, and a leather backpack he invented – the Danforth pack.].

___________. 1890. Chum. *Shooting and Fishing*, 8 (22): 427 (Sept. 25). [Parker Gillmore claims to have introduced brook trout from Parmachenee Lake into Great Britain “between the years 1867 and 1869.”].

___________. 1901. From the Connecticut Lakes to Lake Kennebago. *Forest and Stream*, 61 (1): 15-16 (Jan. 5). [A detailed account that includes a map of the route taken down the Magalloway River.]

Cheney, A. N. 1888. Parmachenee Lake - Part I. *Shooting and Fishing*, 5 (8): 166-167 (Dec. 20); Parmachenee Lake - Part II. *Shooting and Fishing*, 5 (9): 166 (Dec. 27); and Parmachenee Lake - Part III. *Shooting and Fishing*, 5 (10): 186-187 (Jan. 3). [A. N. Cheney was a professional fisheries biologist employed by New York State. He made two or three personal fishing trips to Parmachenee Lake.]


Greenwood, R. 1893. Greenwood’s gleanings. *Shooting and Fishing*, 14 (23): 445-446 (Sept. 28). [At the end of the article Greenwood mentions “Fifteen hundred landlocked salmon have recently been added to the stream near Parmachenee lake, some of these fish being three inches ling. They were procured from the state hatchery in Auburn.”].
Greenwood, R. 1893. My summer outing – Part IV. *Shooting and Fishing*, 14 (23): 448-489 (Sept. 28). [At the time, Ralph Greenwood was the editor of *Shooting and Fishing* magazine. His article describes a visit to Camp Caribou, and the article includes a photograph of John S. Danforth].


Heywood, D. E. 1894. Parmachenee Lake notes. *Shooting and Fishing*, 16 (10): 187 (June 28). [Four years ago salmon were planted. Smelt were stocked this spring, and work started on the trout “hatching house.”].

_____________. 1894. Parmachenee Lake notes. *Shooting and Fishing*, 16 (20): 389 (Sept. 6). [The trout “hatching house” was nearing completion, and a new buckboard road had been completed].

_____________. 1894. Parmachenee Lake notes. *Shooting and Fishing*, 17 (5): 87 (Nov. 22). [“I have never before seen deer so plentiful around this locality as they are at the present time.” Heywood worried that perhaps the deer would become too abundant for their own good].

_____________. 1895. Parmachenee Lake notes. *Shooting and Fishing*, 18 (10): 87 (June 27). [The first land-locked salmon ever, about 6 inches long, was taken in Parmachenee Lake. The trout hatched successfully at the hatchery, but problems were encountered with raising the fry so the young fish were released].

_____________. 1896. Parmachenee, Maine, notes. *Shooting and Fishing*, 20 (13): 247 (July 16). [The crib, or large tank, below the hatchery building held the adult trout used for breeding. The hatchery house contained 125,000 brook trout fry, and 25,000 salmon fry. “All seem to be doing well.”].

_____________. 1896. Parmachenee notes. *Shooting and Fishing*, 21 (6): 247 (Nov. 26). [Brook trout raised in a hatchery grow faster if given more room. The hatchery has a successful season, with 200,000 young trout released in the tributaries].

“The hatchery has been improved … by a succession of ponds, through which the water flows in a series of cascades, thus reusing it as it has become purified. In this way the disadvantage of having a small allowance of water is practically eradicated. … some 200,000 yearling fry are to be kept over (the winter) until next summer”.

J.A. 1874. A winter camp on the Magalloway. *Forest and Stream*, 2 (4): 50-51 (Mar. 5). [“The head waters of the Connecticut and Magalloway Rivers have been a good hunting ground for moose and caribou [sic]…”].


Monatiquot. 1884. Up the Cupsuptic. *Forest and Stream*, 23 (18): 343 (Nov. 27).

Ompompanoosuc. 1891. The big trout of the stone dam. *Forest and Stream*, 37 (6): 312 (Nov. 5). [Based on a two week trip on the Magalloway during the summer of 1890.]


S. H. B. 1881. The Magalloway country. *Forest and Stream*, 17 (2): 26 (Aug. 11). [The author had visited different parts of the Magalloway region during the past 8 years. “I have discovered a gold mine this season in the way of hunting and fishing. Large game is very plenty … moose, caribou and deer.”].

Stanley, H. O. 1906. Reminiscences of the Rangeley Lakes in the ’40s (i.e., 1840s). *Carleton’s State of Maine Sportsman’s Journal*, 1 (1): 8-10 Jan.). [Henry O. Stanley was a long-time State of Maine Fisheries Commissioner, serving under thirteen governors from 1872 until his retirement in 1905.].


Symonds, C. W. 1894. Through the Androscoggin Lakes and Magalloway River – Part I. *Shooting and Fishing*, 16 (6): 108-110 (May 31); Part II. *Shooting and Fishing*, 16 (7): 126-127 (June 7); Part III. *Shooting and Fishing*, 16 (8): 146-128 (June 14). [A detailed account with some wonderful photographs, especially in Part III.].


**Railroad Pamphlets**

(A sampling of the railroads pamphlet that promoted the sporting opportunities of the Magalloway Country.)


Haynes, G. H. 1887. “Sportsmen’s Paradise.” Rangeley Lakes, Parmachenee, Kennebago, and Seven Ponds, via Boston & Maine, Maine Central Railroad, and Sandy River Railroad. Journal Press, Lewiston, Maine. [Seven editions, each with slightly different titles, were published between 1886 and 1892; all very rare.].

**Photographs**

Edwin R. Starbird (1853-1921) was a professional photographer who visited and photographed the wilds of western Maine on a number of occasions during the 1890s. These visits resulted in a set of black and white cabinet photographs published in a series he called “Starbird’s Rangeley Lakes Views.” With this series was a subset of 44 photographs from the upper Magalloway entitled “Parmachenee.” Many of Starbird’s Parmachenee photographs are of the cabins mentioned in Daniel E. Heywood’s Parmachenee Diary (1891) and are shown on Cook’s map (see above). Titles of Starbird’s Parmachenee photographs are as follows (from the back of a Starbird photo):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARMACHENEEN.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Caribou from Wharf.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“ “ “ opposite Shore.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stone Chimney at Camp Caribou.</td>
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<tr>
<td>John S. Danforth and a group of his Guides.</td>
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<tr>
<td>View down the Lake from Camp Caribou.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View across Lower End of Lake, showing Bosebuck Mt, and Bull Ridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danforth's Ravine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Beanhole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ Parmachenee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrasher's Wallow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rump Pond and Mountain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp at Rump Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billings Falls.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moose Bog Camp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowman's Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barker's Lake.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp at Barker's Lake.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Black Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp at Upper Black Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Branch Camp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Black Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp at Lower Black Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Ding Dong.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bog Camp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Scene on the Bog.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bog Stream.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Beaver Dam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Beaver Dam in process of building.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Crow's Nest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denniston's Bog.</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Cap Camp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“ “ “ Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suptic Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Wickett at Suptic Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beaver Ponds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Scene on the Meadow at Beaver Ponds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beaver Ponds Camp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Pond from near the outlet, Rump Mountain in the distance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Pond from near the inlet, Boseebug Mountain in the distance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Scene at the outlet of Long Pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Wigwam at Long Pond.</td>
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