

Magalwak-Agum

H. E. Lamb

Maguerrowoc Ridge of rock and land has had, and is having a great amount of influence in the City of Calais. Few will think about it because they are so accustomed to it. What they do not realize is what it has done to us.

Starting with Maguerroaroe Mountain that steep ridge runs the whole length of the City. The first thing it did was to force the people to build close to the river. When you want to leave the City you have to go to Baring or Robbinston or across the river into foreign country. Your side roads in Calais are dead end roads. Many of them were simply logging roads to get the logs away from the ridge. This forces most traffic over Route 1. North and Baring streets take an awful beating.

The first road laid out was from the Washington mills in Milltown to the Union mills.

There is a branch of Maguerrowoc Ridge that runs to the Union. It was some time before the road was put over DeShone's Hill. How the six horse teams had to pull when they had a wet load to get over that.

The ridge breaks down to let the river through but on the other side starts and runs into the country and parallels the river and forces St. Stephen people to build their stores out into the river and make their main street very narrow.

Sometimes it is called Dover Hill and Buchanan's on the street. Now if some of you good folks, when you are in both St. Stephen and Milltown at one time, in other want if you will stay at the mouth of Boundary street and look up river, you can get the idea that in some past geology age, like the ice age about 25,000 years ago, that the ridge at the Union and the one at your feet were connected, and that the land above was one vast lake with the Salmon Falls the last remains of the ridge.

Some years ago when they dug a ditch across Garfield street for a sewer, one of the men brought me a piece of clay that was full of small shells, something like clam shells. and about as big as finger nails. I went down and saw that strata of clay. It was not very thick, but it slanted like the edge of a pond, and how it did stink. The foul gas was still there after the centuries.

Benjamin Gardner, the civil engineer, told me that some years ago a well was drilled for water on the Academy grounds. They struck water alright but the water had such an odor that it could riot be used. He said that the same thing happened down at his place an the River road. What kind of a place are we built on anyway?

The Valley

The Valley of Maquerrowoc is of peculiar physical construction, if you will take a moment or two to think about it. Down in Robbinston and Red Beach there is a whole bunch of lakes and ponds. Here is one list: Money Maker, Rand, Beaver, Flowed Land, Bogue, Carson, Vose, Nash, Howard, Berce.

Here is another list that Mr. Gardner gave me. He did not include Money Maker as that is in Robbinston and not Calais: East Maguerrowoc, West Maguerrawoc, Vose, Beaver, Shattuck, Pine, Hope.

If you have any other names please send us a card and not stop us on the street and say. "you made a mistake," and that will be your mistake.

Please remember that a lake is not "a body of water nearly surrounded by land." It is a wide, deep place in a stream. Every one of these lakes has one or more streams or brooks running into it.

The mighty heave that lifted up Maguerrowoc Ridge raised the land in Robbinston and Red Beach. The lakes are about a mile and a half or two miles from the River St. Croix, and yet the water of Money Maker, for instance runs through a part of Robbinston, through Red Beach and through Calais and makes a gigantic loop of perhaps 25 miles to get that mile and a half. That is, while the River St. Croix is running just about southeast, Maguerrowoc stream parallels it but runs northward and empties its waters into the River St Croix.

Still the highest lands are out there. Mount Seall (what a name) is 517 feet in the air. And Shattuck is 531 feet. These figures were given me by a Geodetic surveyor.

Snakes

Some of these lakes used to be the abode (a term much used in England) of snakes--water snakes. One man said he was at one lake that was full of stumps and on top of every stump there was a water snake curled up. In some years B. C. (before cars) a man came to Calais with a wash tub in his express wagon, and in the tub was a water snake that almost filled the tub.

Early Ideas

Plans have been made quite often to use Maguerrowoc Valley. Once some lumbermen thought of putting mills down at Bog Brook and drive logs up the stream and have a winter port there. But they found the lake from which they were to run the logs was lower than the lake they had to go into, and water would not run uphill even for those old lumbermen.

Then the first survey of the Washington County R. R. was run up the valley and perhaps touch the back of Red Beach and Robbinston. There was a big lawsuit when the contractor ran it where it is now. The Court said that his contract simply called for a line from the St. Croix and Penobscot to Ellsworth and did not specify any particular route.

Then it was suggested that the Cooper Dam pump a lot of water into the Maguerrowoc region and run it back when the tide was low. But there were no footings for the dams.

Stories

The story of the killing of Deputy Sheriff, John T. Downs by Ebenezer Ball at Money Maker Lake would be well known and treasured in any other place but Calais. And Ball was the first man to be hanged to Maine.

Then there is the story of the Wild Man of Maguerrowoc and how a naked insane man managed to survive thru a cold winter.

Then there is Maguerrowoc Cave which is at the bottom of a boulder that is said to have come down from Labrador in the Ice Age. Perhaps some day some one will take hoes and shovels and find out how large a space there is in there.

Then there was the balanced rock which people could sway until some very "smart" boys took some levers and rolled it down the slope.

The gate near the bridge let into Gates' Pasture and many cows were pastured there and the boys got ten cents a week for driving them. Of course a boy had more than one cow to drive and he also had other boys to help him.

There were several farm houses on the side of the Ridge and the remains of cellar walls and front steps can be found as well as lilac bushes. Nearly every home had lilac bushes. There was a house on the knoll above the Higgins house and a school house just across the road. Ross Lane had several families. The town Pound was in the rocks and bushes at the bend of Furlong Brook.

The Bridges

The first bridge over the stream was built in 1829. The only way to get across before was by fording. The first bridge was mostly corduroy of logs. When the present bridge was built we

do not understand why engineers did not built it big enough and high enough to take care of high water. But they always build bridges and sewers in the summer time, when there is little water. It doesn't seem as if the stream could be any more crooked between the road bridge and the railroad bridge which was built in 1852.

The Photograph

Perhaps you never saw a photograph taken just like this before, but illustrates what we have been writing about. In the background is Maguerrowoc Ridge which has had such an influence on our City. Forcing it close to the river and giving us no back country that was easy to get at. And if you want to leave Calais and stay under the Star and Stripes you have to go to Baring or Robbinston which are about 14 miles apart.

In front of you are the Maguerrowoc meadows and the waters from the many lakes and ponds which that ridge has caused to flow about 25 miles in loop of get the mile and a half to the River St. Croix.

Years ago they used to cut the hay on these meadows and stack it on high platforms out of the way of water and haul it in the winter. In the spring you could hear the bang of guns, especially at the R. R. bridge as the boys shot at mushquash. Many quarts of cranberries were picked here. They were pretty good, but more bitter than the real Cape Cod.

For many centuries the grass has grown here and died and dropped in the water, still the bottom is quite near the top as the current must have taken most of it away, but the whole meadow is soft when wet.

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

This is the correct name for what you call the Game Refuge. It consists of 18 thousand acres out on the Charlotte road and six thousand at Edmunds. It is in charge of Merton Radway of New York State.

Some folks used to say that this section should be given back to the bears and Injuns, but their refuge seems to be going back to the deer and ducks.

That shovel in the picture started to make a dent across the stream to make a pond for the ducks to feed in. But it slid off the foundation that it was on and there was a struggle to get it upright again. As we understand it there will be several dams making two or three shallow ponds where the ducks can feed. These ducks are not divers and they need shallow ponds. These dams are not to be like dams for mills, but strong enough to hold a certain amount of water.

No--you must not go duck hunting out here, but you can drive out along the stream and the Charlotte road and watch the different flocks when the idea has been worked out.

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The title of this piece is taken from Wallace Brown who said that this was the Indian name of East Maguerrowoc Lake and means "Caribou lake" and it is from this that the name came, Wallace Brown was Indian Agent here at one time and his wife had a great knowledge of our South Western Indians and wrote a book about them. "And ever old, grim Maguerrowoc Uplifts its ice crowned head of rock."