

Exploring the Meduxnekeag Watershed

"Maliseet aboriginal territory consisted on the entire region drained by the Saint John (Wulastog) River in Maine and New Brunswick. Despite an international boundary that divided their land into American and Canadian segments, Maliseet occupation of their aboriginal home represents an unbroken continuum."
"A journey from Grand Lake to Northern Maine could have been accomplished by canoeing up monument stream portaging to the South Branch of the Meduxnekeag River where downstream travel could have been taken on to the St. John River." ~ The History of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians in Aroostook County of Maine, Preliminary Report by James Wherry, June 1979
"Not only was Houlton the first American settlement in Aroostook, but for many years there were no others nearer than the districts around Bangor and Calais, and there were no roads connecting Houlton with any other part of Maine until 1827. There were two avenues of communication from the rest of the state. The easier was by salt water to St. John up the St. John to Woodstock and thence overland to Houlton. The other was up the Penobscot and Mattawamkeag Rivers and the Baskahegan Stream and Lake to a point near Danforth, by portage to Grant Lake, by lake and portage to Eel River, down Eel River the St. John, and up that river to Woodstock." ~ Aroostook, The First Sixty Years, Clarence A Day, 1989

MAP LEGEND

- RIVERS AND LAKES
- WETLAND AREAS
- FORESTED AREAS
- AGRICULTURAL AREAS
- WATERSHED BORDERS
- POLITICAL BORDERS
- ROADS

HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS

WOODSTOCK FIRST NATION

1 0 3 5 MILES
1 0 3 KILOMETERS



▲ Swamp fly-honeysuckle
Spring Flowering in
Monticello near head Stream
▲ Fall with berries in Lt. Gordon Manuel
Wildlife Management Area

▲ Cut-leaved toothwort
Hammond woods area
Fork Brook

▲ White Adder's Mouth
Boggy Area in
Hammond
▲ Showy Lady Slipper
A Patch found in Cary
Plantation Wetland



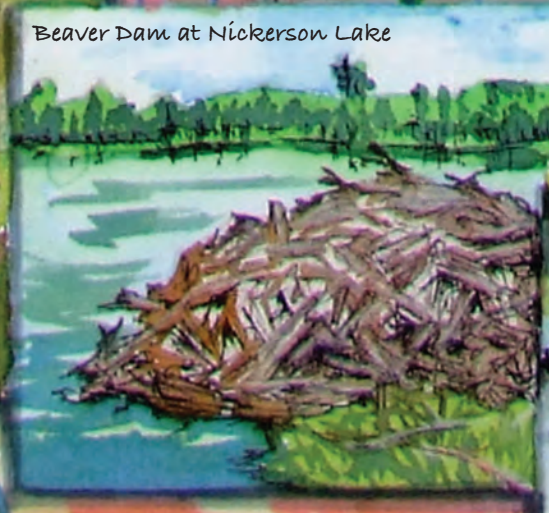
Maliseet Tribal Member Nora Estabrook
with Maliseet Ash Potato Basket
"In 1828, Congress made
provision for a military road
from Bangor to Houlton, which
was completed in 1830.
This dispute precipitated the "Bloodless" Aroostook War
(aka "Lumberjack's War"). "... the rich loamy soils of the
eastern boundary area also drew comments from
explorers, and by 1831 several agricultural settlements
had encroached upon the wilderness."
Aroostook: A Century of Logging in Northern Maine,
Richard W. Judd, 1989.



Black Bear seen in Dudley



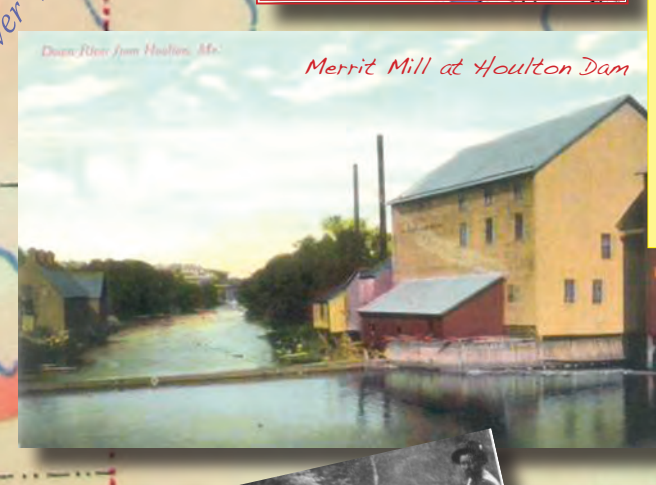
Lynx seen near
Westford Hill



Beaver Dam at Nickerson Lake



Beaver near Payson Lake, Canada



Meritt Mill at Houlton Dam



Beavers also change the watershed
creating dams making new wetland
areas, and small ponds.

- Locations of Maine's Historic Mills**
1. J. Powers Saw Mill
 2. Sharp's Starch Mill
 3. Sharp's Saw Mill
 4. S. Mill
 5. F. W. Titcomb's Shingle Mill
 6. R. J. Baker Cabinet Factory and Shingle Mill
 7. Woolen Mill
 8. Merritt Mill
 9. Gatchell's Foundry
 10. Aaron Putnam's Mill
 11. R. S. Clough Flour Mill
 12. Mansur Starch Factory
 13. Cheese Factory
 14. Lumber Mill
 15. I. B. Merriam Saw Mill
 16. Shephard Cary's Mill
 17. Capt. Moses Drew's Mill
 18. S. & G. Mill
 19. Iron Mine
 20. C. C. Hutchison Saw Mill
 21. Shingle Mill
 22. Carding Mill
 23. Grist Mill
 24. Shaw's Tannery
- Left: Houlton Mills at the Dam on Meduxnekeag

**Changes in the Watershed:
Settlements, Dams, Logging & Natural Influences**
"Twenty mills and factories were established in the area from 1810 through 1884. Seventeen remained in operation as of 1895. They included saw, flour, lumber, and woolen mills; starch, furniture, and sleight and carriage factories as well as electric light plant, steam planning mill and foundry and machine shop."

"The first dam in the Maine portion of the watershed: "In the summer of 1810 Aaron Putnam had built a mill dam..." By 1877, an Aroostook County atlas indicates at least 22 dams existed in the watershed.
from *Story of Houlton*, by Cora Carpenter: Putnam 1958

"Major changes in the watershed began with the arrival of Loyalist settlers in the mid-1780s" ... "over the following fifty years, the appearance and ecology of much of the watershed was transformed ... in transporting timber downstream, tributary streams were altered with temporary "driving dams"; boulders were removed or demolished with explosives"
Meduxnekeag Watershed Condition Classification Project
George Peabody, Simon Mitchell, 2006