The Breath and Breadth of the Maine Woods: An Annotated Bibliography

A Correct Table for Ascertaining How Many Feet of Boards May Be Had From a Log of Any Given Dimensions. Portland, ME: A. Shirley and Son Printers, 1848.
This small pamphlet like work is only a few pages long, sewn together, and one of the oldest pieces in my collection. It is of historical note as it is the type of guide that would have been stuck in the pocket of a log scaler of the past who was working in the woods of Maine. It is the sort of work that, although it has no long explanation of log scaling, nor anything except for the cover page and the tables, holds an important place in examining the ways in which men would have worked in the Maine woods and at the log yards. I was very happy to acquire it when I did.


“All Within One Week!” The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, September, 21, 1908. Personal Collection.
This advertisement put out by the Boston & Maine Railroad in 1908 and extracted from this newspaper is a fine example of the methods being used at the time to entice people from away into the Maine woods for recreation, especially hunting and fishing.
See photo supplement image 1. for image.

This is a phenomenal overview of Native American history and life in Maine. This book encompasses numerous subjects, including but not limited to the history, land use, treaties, and the land claims settlement, all of which had and have a lasting impact on Native and non-native peoples in the state of Maine and its forests.

This comprehensive book on the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad’s development and history is filled with black and white and color photographs. It details the building of the railroad into Maine’s furthest reaches, and the importance of the railroad in transporting people to and fro across the state. One of my great-grandfathers came to Maine in the early 1900s from Italy to
build railroads, and so this story of the railroad’s push into the Maine woods is particularly interesting to me. It is also of interest for the importance railroads would have on how the woods were accessed and used throughout the 20th Century.


This book was a monumental undertaking by Attwood. It encompasses data concerning the entirety of Maine, including place names, flora and fauna, rivers, lakes, forested lands, and maps. It is an absolutely invaluable book to the historian of the Maine woods, and encompasses its breadth far better than any book I know. Indeed, it is so influential and so detailed, and Attwood’s work so absolute, that it in part inspired the title of my collection. My copy is a 2004 reprint of the original 1946 edition and Attwood’s supplements of 1949 and 1953. While I would like to obtain originals, this edition is well done and serves my purposes for the moment.

This copy is a reprint of the 1948 original printing. This second printing was well done and this book is a wonderful reminiscence of Averill’s life working for Great Northern Paper and in the Maine woods. These first-hand stories of life in the Maine woods and working for the lumber companies are invaluable as both a source of entertainment, and as sources of historical information.

In 1974 Edward Ives received a letter containing a poem titled “Suthin.” No details were given, and through his research it became evident that the poem had to do with a logging operation at or around Little Musquash Lake, in Washington County, Maine. With the help of the other authors, and through historical research, they were able to put together quite the history of this poem, and all of the people and places, activities and more, that were mentioned therein. This book includes the poem, as well as photographs, stories, and historical notes about Mr. Grover Morrison’s logging operation. It is a delightful piece of local and Maine woods history.

This billhead is for 2 dozen chopping axes, sold to N.H. Bragg & Sons, a hardware concern in Bangor, Maine. The Bangor Edge Tool Co. was operated by C.A. and J.H. Peavey, grandsons of
the inventor of the Peavey, a tool vital to the Maine woods and its lumbering operations. This is an important piece of history in numerous ways, one in showing their Peavey Patent Cant Dog on the illustration to their billhead. These two were the first to secure a patent for a peavey, which their grandfather never did. It is also important as it shows the price of 2 doz, axes in 1885, which was vital to the woods operations of the day.

See photo supplement image 2. for image.


A modern and extensive non-fiction work that encompasses the historic nature of Maine’s woods from post-glaciation until modern times, and relies heavily on scientific as well as social analysis. This is a wonderful work for gaining a greater understanding on the long-term importance and scale of the Maine woods. This, along with Rolde’s *The Interrupted Forest* are probably the two best modern (21st Century) works on the Maine woods, and combined allow for a strikingly solid overview of the topic.


This book covers many themes in Maine folklore, from the sea, to towns, to lumbering. It is the lumbering, and forest lore, with which I am most concerned and for which I include it herein. The tales it tells, and tells about, are important to the history of the Maine woods and its people. It also includes a partial bibliography at the back, which is a useful source of information for further study.


This first edition is signed by the author to a Mrs. J.M.S. Hunter and dated October 14, 1908, at Augusta, Maine. A hard to find book, and the first in the Norman Carver series (I am still working to acquire the other two books in this series), it is a pleasing trip through the life of those in a Maine lumber camp. Writing for a younger audience, Burleigh nonetheless portrayed the area and lumber camp in an accurate manner. These Norman Carver books were instrumental in attracting a whole generation into the Maine woods, and I look forward to acquiring the second two in the series.


This easy to read book was written about all things Maine, and Caldwell’s life in the state. A series of short stories, it awakens an interest in the state and its woods, and allows the reader a glimpse into the manner in which people use the woods - from maple syrup, to firewood, and more.
This book covers a wide range of topics, from the Bingham Purchase, to the Somerset Railway, from hunting camps, to logging operations, and much more. This book draws on a number of primary sources for its written work, and includes plates with images from numerous sources and of many styles from modern photographs to reprinted maps of the 1830s. A really solid overview of the Kennebec area, as well as more.

This is a great little booklet on threatened and endangered species in Maine’s wooded lands. It has good information, is well laid out, and for any person who is interested in or spends a lot of time in the Maine woods this is a very useful book in getting to know the more uncommon of our flora and fauna, and being able to recognize them when one comes across them.

Thirteen Moons is a wonderful collection of historical poetry, delving deep into Maine’s native and colonial past, deep into the Maine woods. It does so through the re-telling, in poetical form, of native experience in the woods of Maine and in the early colonial years. In side-by-side English, Passamaquoddy, and French, this work holds a special place in Maine poetical works for its range and richness.

The Kennebec was clearly very important to Louise Helen Coburn, as is evidenced by her poetry here, and her history of Skowhegan below. These poems are wonderful early 20th century glimpses of Maine and the Maine woods.

This two volume work is an impressive collection of Skowhegan history. I include it herein as a fine example of a town history, both in its scope, and in its discourse related to the Maine woods and the town’s relation to the land. My copy is in particularly good condition, and I was very excited to acquire it when I did, at a small antique shop in Farmington, Maine, as I had been looking for a good copy for some time.

Though mainly having to do with the Pleasant River, it is clear in reading this book and of the author’s adventures along that body of water, that the river and forest are intertwined. Indeed, the ecosystems of the forest and river are important and both benefit one another.
This is a comprehensive work covering everything from early wars between the French and Native peoples to legislation in the 19th and 20th Centuries. It covers logging practices, tree insects and diseases, land ownership, public lands, game animals, recreation, education, weather and geology, and forestry practices. Its scope is broad, but that does not prevent it from being very well-researched and detailed. It is good for its depth, and fits into the collection nicely for that very reason.

If ever there was a collection of poems about the lives of loggers in the Maine woods, this is it. The title poem speaks to the old days of river driving, the one before it addresses Thoreau’s Maine journals. There are poems of Katahdin, and bears, and of the author’s father disappearing into the woods for days to hunt. These poems tell of the depth of the Maine woods, from subject to subject painting pictures through words.


This, like other town histories in my collection, offers an examination of a specific locale and the ways in which people have used the resources of the Maine woods therein. Solon is well into the Maine woods, and the forests of Maine were valuable to the residents.

This early novel of the Maine woods and its characters features such well-known, real-world characters as Larry Gorman (whose biography is also in my collection). Written for a young adult audience, this book is a classic representation of the Maine woods and lumbering.

This very large and extensive volume was limited to 1600 copies. In his introduction to the book, Henry D. Kingsbury states: “Early local history is, at best, but a collection of memories and traditions, with an occasional precious bit of written data.” If that is true, which I do believe it is, then the contributors to this tome found copious amounts of such precious data, for it covers a host of topics, from native peoples to early settlement, and from detailed histories of each town
to the manufacture of paper, and from shipbuilding enterprises to biographies of important individuals. This book holds in it a wealth of knowledge about all things Kennebec County, and having been written a bit closer to that history than we are today, is a trove of knowledge about the manner in which the Maine woods shaped the county, and the ways in which people used the resources of the Maine woods to their benefit and the growth of the towns.

This edition is a reprint of the original 1908 edition published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston of New York. With illustrations by George Loh, it captures the majesty and metaphorical depth of the Allagash River and the woods within which it flows. From anecdotes about Moses Greenleaf, Maine’s first mapmaker, to the quotation of old lumbering songs, and from Thoreau to the stories of the tools that cut and moved the lumber out of the area and to the sawmills, this work traverses the Maine woods; it is well representative of the breadth of the Maine woods, and the many meanings it has to the varied people of Maine.

This checklist, or guide book, to the vascular plants of Maine is important for anyone spending long periods of time in or around the Maine woods, and allows for a greater understanding of the flora of the state. Having a knowledge of the various species inhabiting the woods is important to an understanding of how ecosystems, humans, and other factors interact to create the forest we have today.

A sense of place is important. By sharing the place names of a large segment of Maine in the native languages of Maine Eckstorm creates a work that broadens the understanding of Maine as a whole, and how it got to be the way it is today. Indian place names are still much used in Maine, from Katahdin to Macwahoc, and from Passamaquoddy to Wytopitlock, these are still vital to the Maine woods and our understanding of it.

An absolutely phenomenal collection of the ballads and songs of 19th century Maine, with a particular focus on those of the woods and loggers. Many later books on Maine folk song and lore, including Beck’s *Folklore of Maine*, take their information in part from this work.
This, like all of Fannie Hardy Eckstorm’s works, is extremely well done, and a valuable piece of Maine’s writing history. This is a 1980 reprint of the original. This is important for its examination of native life and allows for a greater understanding of native life in relation to the Maine woods. Combined with the mythologies of the Maine woods, and other books about and by natives peoples of Maine, it creates a segment of my collection that gives a good overview of that experience.

This is perhaps one of the best and most important books ever written on the history and life of river-drivers, the men who moved the logs from the woodlands downriver to the mills. Eckstorm is well known among a particular segment of the population, those concerned with the history of logging and the Maine woods. I own two copies of this work, both first editions. It is an attractive book with a red cover showing an image of a log with two peaveys on either side standing upright. This work is oft-cited, and ever important in studies concerning first-hand accounts of Maine’s lumbering past.

This magnificent historical magazine, published by students from Kennebunk High School, portrays the river drives and logging history of Maine through interviews and personal stories of those who lived and worked in the Maine woods. With photographs and written word paired, this is a testament to the importance these loggers and river drivers had on the lore of the Maine woods, and on its history.


The Forest Trees of Maine was first published in 1908. I own six editions. The first I was given when I participated in the Junior Maine Guide program in 1999 and is the 1995 12th edition. Over the years I have acquired other editions. Although very similar until the 14th edition, there
are some interesting changes to note, including the removal of the Norway Maple between the 1932 and 1951 editions, which we now know to be an invasive species. I am always looking through used bookstores and antique shops for additional copies from years I do not yet own.

This billhead is a letter from Frank Noyes to the company Whitcomb, Haynes & Co. The letter concerns the price of wooden staves and the condition of a mill, amongst other things. It is important in showing the ways in which the wood products from the Maine woods were important to and used by people at the time.
See photo supplement image 3. for image.

This billhead receipt for 1 Aroostook Cant Dog and 1 Orono Cant Dog is important because the logs would not go very far in the woods of Maine after being cut if there were no cant dogs. Like the peavey, these tools were vital in moving lumber downriver and to the sawmills where it was made into every imaginable wood product necessary for life at the time.
See photo supplement image 4. for image.

Signed by the author, this collection of stories is in journal form, and includes illustrations, mainly of wildlife. From stories of beavers, to stories of cutting wood, and from tourists to hiking trips, Girvan expresses his love for the Maine woods and his experiences exploring it. This is a good example of personal experience in the Maine woods, and differs from many of my other works in its journal form.

Given to me by my maternal grandfather before his passing, this book is a sometimes humorous, and consistently fascinating look at the dialect of Maine, the words and phrases native to the Maine woods, shores, and people.

The paintings of Alden Grant, and the writing that goes along with them in this wonderful little book, are an impressive portrayal of the Maine woods and its natural beauty. The paintings are a clear example of how the Maine woods are inspirational to people, and the logging and woods scenes represented in them a testament to the importance of this history to Maine people.

This is an absolutely stunning work put out by Great Northern Paper Company, one of the largest and historically important of the logging and paper companies in the Maine woods. It includes poetry and writings paired with photographs of the Maine woods, logging operations, and related scenes therein.

“Great Northern Paper Mill and Log Pile, Madison, Maine.” Circa 1940s. Personal Collection. This photographic postcard shows one of Great Northern Paper’s mills as it was in the mid-1940s. It is a good representation of the volume of logs that were running through such mills at the time, driven down the rivers from the woods where they were felled. See photo supplement image 5. for image.

Greenleaf, Moses. *A Statistical View of the District of Maine; more especially with reference to the value and importance of its interior*. Boston: Cummings & Hilliard at the Boston Bookstore, No. 1, Cornhill, 1816.


I have a signed, first edition copy of this book. To read Helen Hamlin’s tales of living as the schoolteacher at a lumber camp and with her husband, who was a Game Warden, in the far recesses of the North Maine Woods is to step back in time. Her portrayal of woods life, and of the forests and people and their livelihoods is a fascinating expedition into that area and age of lumbering. This book is a fine work, highly regarded in its time and now as a classic. I was lucky enough to acquire this signed copy a few years ago.


This collection of poetry, subtitled *of Maine and Devoted to all its Interests*, is an attractive book with poems that traverse Maine from coastal Boothbay to inland locales such as Weld. It addresses the woods, the people, the sea surrounded by wooded lands, and is a solid representation in my collection of the inspiration authors get from the woods and lands of Maine.


In 1975 Heinrich purchased 300 acres of cutover forest in Maine. He then set out to restore this woodland to a sustainably managed forest, with biological diversity. This work examines the
Maine woods from that perspective, an interesting and more modern approach to the forest than is seen in many of the other works in my collection.

The Penobscot River was vital to Maine’s logging industry and the manner in which people utilized the Maine woods. This work details independent and cooperative efforts to drive logs down the rivers and the wholesale building of dams during the through the mid 19th Century. A well-written and organized work, it is important, as are others in my collection such as Argyle Boom in understanding this process that was so vital to the way humans have shaped and altered the Maine woods.

Tom Hennessey, a well known outdoors writer in Maine newsprint for many years, put together this finely bound collection that comes in its own case. It is a selection of essays and tales of hunting, fishing, and exploring the Maine woods. My copy is signed. It is a well-written dive into a more modern Maine, and one in which people continue to maintain and use the natural resources of the Maine woods responsibly. Like George Smith’s book, and like Randy Spencer’s *Where Cool Waters Flow*, this is a set of entertaining anecdotes about recreating in the Maine woods and adds to an understanding of how important the Maine woods are to people today.

Lemuel Cotton was one of Maine’s premier axe handle manufacturers, as well as a manufacturer of baseball bats. He built a very successful business by using the products of the Maine wood, and this receipt to him is an important piece of history in relation to the Maine woods and the business who thrived because of it.
See photo supplement image 6. for image.

This book deals with the details of how rough pulpwood operations worked in a specific time period where technologies and practices had changed rather drastically from the years previous. Included are sections on the preliminary work such as setting up camps, choosing locations, and toting with horses, a section on cutting, a section on landing pulpwood, and on driving pulpwood. With 66 illustrations, and fold out maps of the areas in question, it is an invaluable resource.

Though covering northern New England generally, this book deals mainly with the Maine woods, and for good reason. As it states: “It was no wild fancy of local pride in Maine that designated it the Pine Tree State...The genesis of the lumber industry in North America was a water-driven sawmill on the Salmon Falls River in South Berwick Township…” This collection includes appropriate illustrations, which add to a sense of understanding of the text. The text itself covers all manner of life and operations in the lumber camps and river drives, and is a firsthand foray into the world of lumbering in the north woods.


This is the first survey of the Aroostook region, done in 1838, the printing of which was ordered by and done for the Maine State Legislature.


This copy is signed by William B. Krohn.


This first printing copy of *Fly Rod Crosby* is a particularly interesting work detailing the life of the woman who would become Maine’s first registered guide. As Edward Ives, whose contribution to the study of the Maine woods was immense, said: “It’s hard to imagine how the State of Maine could have had a harder working or more imaginative advocate for its outdoors…” Cornelia T. “Fly Rod” Crosby advocated for Maine as a wilderness hunting, fishing, and recreation destination in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, bringing Maine’s woods, especially those of the Rangeley region, to the popular imagination of untold numbers of people nationwide. This book, punctuated by a slew of photographs, explores her life in the Maine woods and promoting it in such cities as Boston and New York.


Fay Hyland was born in 1900 in Portland and worked as a botanist in Maine with the University of Maine, Orono. His works, including this, were a vital and comprehensive look at the flora of Maine from a scientific perspective. Conifers are ecologically and economically vital to Maine, from *Pinus strobus* to *Picea glauca*, they are the source from everything from timber to pulp, spruce gum to material for wreaths (quite the industry in Maine).

This work examines the woody stemmed plants of Maine, from a botanical perspective, and is a guide to those species. This, and other similar books, are important to a scientific understanding of the Maine woods and its flora.


Historian Edward Ives details the Argyle Boom, an area of the Penobscot River within which logs were collected for the mill. This historical examination is an important contribution to an understanding of the lumbering industry and the manner in which Mainers of yore used the woods and its resources.


While Larry Gorman was Canadian by birth, he is an honorary Mainer. A lumberjack who came to the woods of Maine to work, he was a singer, songwriter, and storyteller whose legacy lives on even today in the tales and songs of our state. This book, the first, and to my knowledge only, work about his life is filled with collected songs known or said to be originally written by Larry Gorman. These songs, most often about the Maine woods and the people who lived and worked within them, are a glimpse into a now gone past when lumbering ruled the land. He is mentioned in numerous other books in my collection, and is a character in Holman Day’s *King Spruce.* Written by Edward Ives, well-known Maine woods historian and author or contributor to a number of books in my collection, this book is an important contribution to the history of folk song and logging lore in Maine.

Kimball & Sanford to Mr. R. Ayer, Esq. July 10, 1872.

This letter from Bangor saw manufacturers Kimball & Sanford to Mr. Ayer of Lincoln regarding the size of their saws, sending him a 24” saw as opposed to the 25” he requested, and “hoping it will suit.” is an interesting historical note, and important in that these types of saws were vital to the operations of sawmills at the time. These mills, of course, milled the wood that was felled and driven down river or hauled by train to central locations for processing. This company is the successor to Gibson, Kimball & Sanford, for whom there is a billhead in my collection.

See photo supplement image 7. for image.

In this work Mitch Lansky examines forest protection in Maine from a sustainable forest management perspective. It is a well-researched book on the forests of the northern U.S. with a focus on those of Maine. From an ecological perspective, Lansky approaches management, policy, and land use, amongst many other topics. This fits into my collection as an example of new ways in which people are thinking about forest use and misuse.

This billhead from Portland, Maine lumber dealers LeGrow Brothers for the sale of windows, trimmings, and other items to W.M. Nash & Son is an important historical item for the same reason as other billheads in my collection, they show the use of Maine wood products at that time, and their cost. This is valuable in gaining an understanding of what, exactly, was being done with all those trees being felled in the Maine woods.
See photo supplement image 8. for image.

This photo postcard shows men driving logs on the Machias River, likely in the early half of the 20th Century, though no date is given. This is a prime example of the river drivers, and like other photographs and postcards important to the collection as a sample of the ways in which Maine’s woods were utilized.
See photo supplement image 9. for image.

This is a comprehensive, early history of Piscataquis County, including of the early grants and surveys, boundaries, and of each town. Town histories provide information on early settlers, incorporation, technologies, growth, and prominent individuals and families.

Though missing its cover, and disheveled with tears and wear from 28 years of use, this is one of my most important pieces. It belonged to my father before it belonged to me, and it is the representation of the physical travels in Maine that parallel my adventures in the history and writings of the Maine woods. With notations from both my father and I, as well as a highlighted map of the civil divisions of Maine showing everywhere I have traveled, it is the connective tissue between my interest in traveling the state and my collection of Maine related books and ephemera.

This continuously growing collection of Maine Axe Labels is both physically attractive and an important historical examination of the companies that made the axes that felled the woods of
Maine in the late 19th and 20th Centuries. The artwork found on the axe labels is impressive, and is often representative of the way axe makers and users viewed the forests of Maine, as a challenge to be overcome. These labels are original paper axe labels that were intended to be put on finished axes before sale, and which, for some reason, were never applied to an axe. This collection includes axe labels which specifically state from which company they come, as well as many that do not, and a selection of hardware store labels that were made for hardware stores nationally and applied to axes made in Oakland, Maine for those various hardware stores. There are hundreds of these axe labels in my collection.

See photo supplement image 10. for images.

This is a fine, small map of Maine that shows railroad lines throughout the state, as well as counties and many town names. Very simple, well done, and allows for a greater understanding of the scale of railroad development into the state by that point, which was prior to the big push into the northwoods by the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad, detailed in my collection by the book by Angier and Cleaves.
See photo supplement image 11. for image.

This signed copy is a well-written history of the Kennebec River valley area. It includes details about the Maine woods from early settlement, and native life. Though the perspective is that of the 1950s, and therefore rather outdated and inaccurate, as we now know, it is valuable to see how earlier generations viewed the natives of the Maine woods. This book also covers daily life in the Kennebec region from food, to schooling, to the lodging, political life, and more. As a more general history it allows a greater understanding of the entirety of life in Maine than do many Maine woods specific histories.

Alfred Martin was a naturalist, and his writing shows his discerning observations of woodland creatures. A forthright book, with entertaining tales that tell of Maine’s woods and recreating, observing, and living within them, Martin’s work is enthralling and timeless in its representations of the natural world of Maine.

This is a well-researched history of the town of Masardis in Aroostook County (known to us Mainers as The County). Maureau tells the tale of Masardis from its founding onward. Maureau
spent four years researching and writing the book, and it shows, with interviews, historical images, and well documented tales of the travels and tribulations of the founders of the town.

This collection of tales from the Micmac, Maliseet, and Penobscot, explores the collective mythology of Maine’s native peoples and the tales which explain much of their historical worldview and the manners in which the land came to be, and came to be inhabited by their ancestors.


This biographical work details Don Mitchell’s life, mainly living and working in the woods of rural Maine. It is a sometimes humorous, often telling, and always entertaining collection of stories of life in the woods, and adds to the collection as a representation of a life spent working and surviving in the woods of Maine.

*Mr. Lane at Campsite.* Feb 15, 1930. Photograph. Personal Collection.

*Mr. Lane in the Maine Woods.* Feb 11, 1930. Photograph. Personal Collection.

*Mr. Lane Snowshoeing.* Feb 15, 1930. Photograph. Personal Collection.

*Mr. Lane Writing in His Notebook.* Feb 11, 1930. Photograph. Personal Collection.
This series of photographs, found in Maine, and without a doubt in the Maine woods based on both vegetation visible in the photographs as well as provenance, are a wonderful set that show recreating in the Maine woods in 1930. Photographs like these are wonderful sources for the historian in examining very directly the ways in which people used the Maine woods at this time. See photo supplement number 12. for images.

Wallace Nutting spent his childhood in Maine, and had a great affinity for the state. In these pages he combines written word with illustration and photographs to entice the reader into just such an affinity.

This book of photographs and poetry is a nicely done, short, booklet that deals with the woods of Maine and the things you may find there. From split rail fences to stone walls to a lone elm, the poems twist along the landscape of Maine. This copy is signed by the author.

This personal narrative of life growing up in Milford, Maine, in the 1930s, a town well into the depths of the Maine woods, is powerful. It tells of days gone by in the Maine woods, and a childhood of exploration into such places as Seboomook down private logging roads owned by Great Northern Paper, stories reminiscent of my own early forays into the forests of Maine. It is included in this collection as a fine example of both the written word and an example of the ways in which people at that time related to and connected with Maine’s forested lands.

This book, given to me by a friend who shares my love for the Maine woods and its lumbering past, is a finely written history of logging in the Maine woods. It is a classic on this subject matter, and although my edition is not a first edition, or in the best condition, the fact that it was gifted to me is important. Full of numerous photographs of logging camps and log-driving, as well as 275 pages of text and a glossary of lumbering terminology at the end, it is invaluable to an understanding of the economics and past of the Maine woods.

Eric Pinder’s work consists of an examination of Katahdin and its importance, historically, to adventurers and explorers such as Thoreau as well as its development as a wilderness destination. It is important to the collection in that it looks both at the past and the present of the region in human history, mythologically, and through natural history to shed light on how its present came to be.

Arthur Pratt worked at Gate Two, or the Nesowadnehunk Gate, into Baxter State Park, Maine’s most well-known state owned public land. These are his stories of people, bears, woodchucks, and moose, as well as his poems of swallows, ravens, beavers, and the northern lights. Amongst many other topics, he examines life in this remote outpost of Maine’s woods, and writes of it all in an enjoyable, albeit brief, book.

Fred Ranco’s autobiographical book includes some interesting sections on plant and hunting lore, which connect to his Penobscot culture, way of life, and ways of land use and viewing the natural resources of the Maine woods. His life of growing up on the Penobscot Reservation, where he was taught the old ways of his tribe has much to offer the reader in showing the ways the woods provides for people to this day through basketmaking, canoe making, and other ways of making a living.

“Ripogenus Dam. 700 ft long, 65 ft high 45 ft wide / Third largest in U.S.” Circa 1920s. Personal Collection.
This postcard, circa mid-1920s, shows a view of the Ripogenus Dam (finished in 1916), which was historically important to the operation of the mill in Millinocket, providing it with hydroelectric power.
See photo supplement number 13. for image.

This well-researched book examines the role of the saw mill in Maine history, and gives the reader a peek into the world of such facilities, their development over time, and related aspects of the wood industry. So many of the trees felled and driven downstream ended up in sawmills for lumber that to ignore the workings of the saw mill is to ignore a largely important industry of the Maine woods.

This large and thorough history of the town of Levant in Penobscot County is particularly important to me, not only for its prescient look at land-use and change over time in the community, but also for the fact that it makes mention of my great-great grandfather, William Henry Steen, and his sale of a parcel of land. I find the intersection of family history with that of the history of the Maine woods and its uses to be particularly fascinating, and although much of this work examines other aspects of the history of the town, where it does focus on the forests and their importance it is invaluable in painting a picture of the ways in which the Maine woods was consequential to early settlers.

This immensely satisfying read is a long-scale look at Maine and its woods. From geologic time to the present, this book examines the events, characters, and companies, laws, treaties, and more that have shaped the Maine woods over time. With eighteen maps and a great ability to tell a story Rolde illustrates this Maine history. This is one of the best and most comprehensive of the

This billhead for various wood products made of Maine lumber is, like all billheads in my collection, important in showing the practical uses of the wood products coming out of the Maine woods over time. In this case, windows and other items.
See photo supplement image 14. for image.

This is the only book I have by Sawtell, who has written close to 20 as far as I am aware, all having to do with Maine history. I would love to acquire more of his works, as this particular one is a nice examination of the Katahdin Iron Works area, its history, development as an Iron Works, and more. The Gulf Hagas area, right nearby, is a fascinating natural feature, and one I oft enjoy visiting myself. To read of its history, and know of its importance as a recreational area, is quite interesting.

This book is a jewel indeed. It tells the tales of the Richardson Lakes, renowned for their sport fishing, and the camps and people that sprang up around them through the glory days of Maine as a hunting and fishing destination until modern times. Its elucidating look at these lakes and the forests that surround them, their history, their people, and their legacy, is as fine a local history as you will find written about any area of the Maine woods.

Sibley, John Langdon. *A History of the Town of Union, in the County of Lincoln, Maine, to the Middle of the Nineteenth Century; with a Family Register of the Settlers before the Year 1800, and of their Descendants*. Boston, MA: Benjamin B. Mussey & Co, 1851.
An early first edition history of Union, now in Knox County (which was formed 9 years after this book’s publication), Maine. This book is a valuable look at the many ways in which the people of this area used the woods, from building log bridges, to burning forested land for corn planting, and far more. It is particularly useful to the historian in examining the use of Maine’s woods, and the manners in which towns built themselves up through the use of forest resources.

David Clayton Smith’s sequel to Richard George Wood’s lumbering history is a spectacularly detailed study of the logging industry in Maine, starting where Wood’s history ended and
continuing until 1960. This work is particularly important in examining the manners in which logging had and continued to affect the Maine woods until the mid-20th century. Smith organized his work in an easier to understand manner than Wood, and while both are important, Smith’s is probably the more valuable in many respects due to its organization.

First edition hardcover of 165 pages in blue-green paper covered boards with a brown cloth spine strip with paper label title on spine, as issued. Printed for the bibliophile group, the De Burians, this being copy number 146 of 201 copies, with an introduction by Samuel Land Boardman, president of the De Burians. With 10 plates and an additional plate of Greenleaf laid in.

George Smith and I met at a reading and book-signing of his in Portland in 2014 shortly after this book came out. There was a small crowd, and I was able to spend quite a bit of time speaking with him about the Maine woods, our favorite spots, and writing, fishing, and other endeavors. I spent the following few days reading this book in, appropriately, the woods. His book is a series of entertaining and enthralling anecdotes about fishing, hunting, and exploring the Maine woods. It is inscribed by the author “To Alex, another guy who lives life outdoors. Enjoy! -George”

This book is a tremendously detailed history of the area, with many anecdotes and much historical information. It is important in my collection for its consideration of the importance of the trees and timber to the settlers and their descendants. In this book’s chapter “The Early Years, Part 1,” a wonderful explanation of “a method for felling trees known as ‘driving’” is described. It is also important to note that this area and its environs are the site of the sole National Park in Maine, which is vital to Maine’s recreation economy based on the enjoyment of the Maine woods.

This collection of recollections of life in the forests and lakes of downeast Maine is a finely written look at the ways in which the Maine woods are still vital to recreation and the tourism economy in Maine. Master Maine Guide Randy Spencer’s work is important in my collection, as are all more modern books of recreating in the Maine woods, in that it speaks to the
long-standing tradition of Maine’s woods and the waterways within them as sources of adventure and of making a livelihood.

Spencer, Wilbur D. *Pioneers on Maine Rivers*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1973. This is a reprint of the original, published in 1930 in Portland, Maine. It is a finely organized book all about the earliest settlers of Maine and its woods. Its title comes from the fact that early settlers in the 1630s and beyond often settled beside the rivers of Maine. But they were still firmly in the forested lands of Maine, as well. This book holds particular interest for me as it mentions, on numerous occasions, my ancestors Ambrose Bouden and his son John, who settled in what is now Scarborough in the 1630s.

Spotted Elk, Molly. *Katahdin: Wigwam’s Tales of the Abnaki Tribe*. Orono, ME: The Maine Folklife Center, 2003. Molly Spotted Elk, born Mary Alice Nelson, was a Penobscot Native from Indian Island, Maine. She retells stories passed on to her, often through work-trade, such as splitting kindling for an elderly woman in trade for a story. She gathered these native tales from Penobscot and other tribal peoples of Maine, and they include tales of Katahdin, how mice became small, of deer, and of the first seal, as well as How Gluskabe Made the First Man. These stories reflect on an earlier time, and a time when such mythology served to explain life and the forest. Like *Giants of the Dawnland*, these tales bring forth a view of the ancient forest and Maine before colonization. The back includes a good partial Penobscot/English dictionary.

Springer, John S. *Forest Life and Forest Trees: Comprising Winter Camp-life among the Loggers, and Wild-wood Adventure: With Descriptions of Lumbering Operations on the Various Rivers of Maine and New Brunswick*. Somersworth, NH: New Hampshire, 1971. This is a finely done reprint of the original. This classic work on logging and the Maine woods was originally printed in 1856. It is one that is well-known as a quality description of life in the lumber camps, and holds in its pages many anecdotes of life at that time. In addition, there is a detailed section on trees in America, and a number of illustrations which add to the overall usefulness of the book as a look at Maine’s historic lumbering past.

Stanton, Don C. *A History of the White-tailed Deer in Maine: Game Division Bulletin No. 8*. Augusta, ME: Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, 1963. I recently acquired this unique little history from the discarded books at the Unity College Library. While the library saw fit to get rid of it, perhaps because it is over fifty years old, I saw an opportunity to add it to my collection. It is a short bulletin that details historical information on the white-tailed deer in Maine, an important game species and one of the largest modern draws to the Maine woods. Hunting is a vital aspect of Maine’s tourism economy, and through
the changes brought on mainly by humans to the Maine woods, white-tailed deer have been able to colonize more and more of the state.

This collection of poems swings with the rhythm of the Maine woods, from poems of lumberjacks, to poems of fir trees and their transformation into the very paper you are reading, Malcolm Stark takes you through the Maine woods and its environs. It is poetry inspired by a love for Maine and its forests, and it is that same love and care for Maine’s woods that has inspired all of the works within this collection.

This book is a fine example and representation of a trade that used the lumber from the Maine woods more than most. The wooden shipbuilding trade up and down the Maine coast used a large amount of lumber, and after being built, many ships, such as the Henry H. Chamberlain, often hauled lumber to far off ports themselves. This book is a brief but solid collection of the memories of a shipbuilder, and stands testament to the varying trades and breadth of uses of the Maine woods.

This town history, like the others included in this collection, works to show how settlers interacted with the land, and the woods of Maine. With descriptions of 13 mills, carriage manufacturers, and other business, it is evident the woods and woods products were vital to the early history of the town of Unity. Miss Muriel Chase’s centennial poem, included herein, is a wonderful example of praising the land. It includes much mention of the woods, and woods ways, axes, and settlement of the land.

Templeton, Milburn. *Lines from Maine*. Columbia, ME: Self-Published, N.d.
This short collection of poems is a delightful foray into downeast Maine, and though it has no date I imagine it is circa the 1970s or 1980s. Templeton’s poetry is based in a love for Maine, and is similar to much of the other poetry in this collection in that respect.

This small book has no direct author attribution, and no publishing date, though it mentions that the Lion, a train engine built in 1846, is 129 years old as of the publication of the book. This would put the publication at or around 1975, which fits with other details mentioned in the text (namely, in a footnote the authors state that in 1975 the Lion was taken from storage and set up at the University of Maine, Machias campus in preparation for the bicentennial). This work is a
short but well detailed history of the very first railroad ever built specifically for the purpose of hauling lumber from the woods to the mills. It was the beginning of a long history of Maine railroads being used in the logging industry in Maine and its woods.

Thoreau, Henry David. *The Maine Woods*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1972. Originally published in 1864, this is one of the most classic and well-known books on the Maine woods and its nature. Thoreau’s early forays into the Katahdin and north woods regions of Maine were important in spreading the word about their natural beauty. My copy is a nicely done reprint by the Princeton University Press, without dust jacket.

This postcard shows three men holding Peaveys, tools invented by Joseph Peavey, of Stillwater, Maine. As I write in my in-progress *A History of the Cant-Dog and the Peavey*: According to Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, in a retelling of a story told to her by a descendent, Joseph Peavey stood on a bridge over the Stillwater River, and watched the men with their inefficient swing-dingles working the log drive. He thought about what could be done to make their work easier, and when he returned to his smithy he set to work immediately upon his idea. These tools are vital to the history of the Maine woods, and this photographic postcard a good period example of them and the men who used them.
See photo supplement image 15. for image.

Edna Worthley Underwood wrote these magnificent sonnets, all pertaining to Maine in some fashion, often to the Sandy River, Phillips, and surrounding regions, where it seems she spent much time. Her sonnets paint a picture of western Maine and its lands, and her connection to those forested spaces.

A well organized bulletin from the University of Maine Orono regarding all manners of species of Orchids native to the state of Maine and its forests and lands. This is an old but wonderful field guide allowing for a greater understanding of the flora of Maine.

This four volume set is one of 44 copies ever printed, between both the first and second edition. The second printing was to be the final printing of these volumes. My set is from the second edition. Exceedingly rare, there are believed to be no more than six copies in private hands, the
remainder being in institutional collections. Intended to amass every utterance and written
document of Governor Percival P. Baxter relating to Baxter State Park, its purpose was to
provide material for guidance of those making decisions for operations of the Park, including
Park staff and the Board of Directors. It is an invaluable collection of original documents,
painstakingly collected and annotated by Howard R. Whitcomb.

1978.

Wilkins, Austin H. *Ten Million Acres of Timber: The Remarkable Story of Forest Protection in
the Maine Forestry District (1909-1972)*. Woolwich, ME: TBW Books, 1978,
Written by a former employee of the Maine Forest Service, this book covers decades of forest
protection work. From spruce budworm outbreaks to forest fires, and detailing history and
important details about Maine’s woods, this is a particularly nice volume for anyone interested in
the subject matter. With three separate maps in a sleeve in the back, it adds additional dimension
to the study of the Maine woods. Maps include a reproduction of a map by Moses Greenleaf,
Maine’s first important mapmaker, a map of Maine’s Public Reserved Lands, and a map showing
the view from the fire lookout at Mt. Kineo. An important volume for its level of detail,
reproduction of maps, photos, and historical documents.

Wood, Richard George. *A History of Lumbering in Maine, 1820-1861*. Orono, ME: University of
This seminal work is a reprinting of the 1935 original, with intact dustjacket. The work itself is a
detailed and well-written description of all things related to the lumbering trade and the Maine
woods from statehood until 1861. With an introduction by David C. Smith, author of the follow
up to this work, *A History of Lumbering in Maine, 1861-1960*, it lays out detailed information on
land use, lumber operations, log driving, railroads, and the towns and cities important to the
industry, amongst much else. The first book to cover the history of the logging industry in such
detail, this work was and remains a groundbreaking achievement and vital to any study of the
Maine woods.

This photographic postcard shows the Woodland, Maine mill, an important mill throughout
Maine’s history and one of the few remaining open today. This is important to the collection for
the view it gives of a mill at this critical time period in Maine’s lumbering past.
See photo supplement image 16. for image.

Wormser, Baron. *The Road Washes out in Spring: A Poet’s Memoir of Living off the Grid.*
Baron Wormser, former Poet Laureate of Maine, wrote this erudite memoir of off-grid living in the woods of Maine. His experiences shine a light on the back-to-the-land movement and its practitioners forays into the Maine woods, which have helped shape and rejuvenate this area in the past 50 years. The writing is superb, and the perspective different from any of the other works in my collection.

Yeaton, Donald G. *Axe Makers of Maine*. Rochester, NH: Self-Published, N.d.

Yeaton, Donald G. *Axe Makers of Maine*. Rochester, NH: Self-Published, N.d.


I have three copies of Yeaton’s *Axe Makers of Maine*. The first is a smaller early printing, self-printed by Donald Yeaton at his home in Rochester, NH. The second is a larger photocopied version, also printed by Mr. Yeaton. The third is an edition updated by Art Gaffar in July, 2015 after the passing of Mr. Yeaton.
Supplemental note on the citations:

In citing my collection I chose to use Chicago style, as it seems the most fitting. I chose Chicago style as opposed to MLA8 because it shows the town or city of publication of each work, the majority of which were published within the state of Maine. I find this noteworthy, and think that citing them in a manner that eliminates that location information is less impressive. It is impressive, I think, that so many of the works herein were published in Maine, and goes to show just how important Maine and its woods are to the people within this state, both historically and today.

Supplemental Note on the Images:
I have included images for all of the ephemera, including the Billheads, Axe Labels, Map, Photographs, and Postcards. I have not included images of every book. However, I am glad to supply such images upon request by the judges. These images are included in a separate file title Koch_ABAA_Contest_Image_Supplement due to file size.