

The Camp Gricocq Journal

By Jim Crane

John and Agnes Agar purchased what is now Gull Point on December 2, 1896. Initial access was by water and a trail coming north out of Bartlett Carry through Wetherill's Clearing on the Bucknell Estate. Little is known of the beginnings of Camp Gricocq, but it is the name given to John Agar's estate on Gull Point that was built around 1900.

In 1939 George Packard, Jr. purchased Camp Gricocq and the surrounding 106 acres. For the next 15 years the Packard family owned the camp and during that time George Packard kept a journal of their time spent on Gull Point. I was fortunate enough to come across the journal and two photo albums quite by accident after inviting Anita Montgomery (Jr.) for lunch a number of years ago. She was the daughter of George and Anita Packard and spent her summers growing up at Camp Gricocq.

The Journal captures life on the lake from 1939 to 1954, where many of the families knew each other well. A number of those families are still here. It also captures the excitement that many of us have experienced when we first purchased our camps.

George Packard kept a meticulous 98 pages of their family's experiences, including how they got here from Villa Nova, Pa., what they did, where they went, who visited (including having his guests sign the Journal including notes and poems), where they hunted, and what the weather was like. He also shared his thoughts on the upcoming World War.

It is especially interesting for Chris and me because our camp is one of the original buildings (Servant's Quarters), where he discusses letting the building fall into disrepair and tearing it down. Fortunately he did not.

I have included the entries for 1939 and excerpted some additional entries. I attempted to translate the Journal into a word document verbatim from his (and guests) handwriting. In some places Chris and I had to guess what was written.

My sincere thanks to the descendants of the Packard Family in allowing this to be published.

Camp Gricocq
Upper Saranac Lake
Franklin Co,
N.Y.

Although we had heard that the property was offered for sale at low cost during the summer of 1938, when we made only a casual inspection, it was not until June 1939 that a real interest developed in Camp Gricocq.

On the latter date, H.C. and GRP Jr were at the Inn for the purpose of preparing Hohioken for summer occupancy and quite incidentally were taken down the lake to look at Gull Point.

From that time on our interest grew inversely with the selling price, leading ultimately to a down payment on September 2nd, 1939 and final payment with transfer of title on October 2nd.

The Camp was bought from the widow of the late John G. Agar who had bought the property from various interests participating in an old grant, about 1895. The buildings as standing were built by Mr. Agar for the most part at about that time.

H.C. and GRP Jr. came up for one day early in November 1939 – () to look things over and arrange for winter care by William Plumley who was to watch both Gricocq & Hohioken – remove snow and fill ice houses.

H.C. and GRP Jr. next came up on May 1st 1940 just for a day to review plans for certain improvements with Matt Otis.

It had been decided that the property would ultimately be divided between the Churches and the Packards – the latter taking over the part of the property where the main camp is located and the Churches the easterly half including the location where the caretakers house stood.

In addition to painting the main camp building and making certain minor repairs, work was immediately started in moving the former guide- boat house back from shore, and creating out of it a well- insulated all-season house with heating system and independent water. The Churches withheld decision on what they would ultimately do to their property and decided to start the summer by occupying as a family the winter house until quarters of their own were completed.

A.C.P. & GRP Jr came up June 2nd & 3rd, staying at Hohioken and worked hard both days at Gricocq for summer arrangements.

The number of things needed for family summer occupancy and the probable repairs confronting us were somewhat disquieting. But it was only necessary to glance at the camp on that fine sunny June day with the knowledge that it belonged to us to realize that the pleasure which it held in

store would finally far outweigh all difficulties. Had we known the year before of all the developments of European war we should probably not have gone on with our plans. Now, no one can foresee the future and we can only hope that Gricoq and the ability of our family to use it will survive the universally destructive forces which seem to be progressing at the moment to all corners of the earth.

If days of peace and happiness return, there can be little doubt that Gricoq stands ready to offer us all a full measure of that tranquility and pleasure to which were dedicated first “Hassonowanda”, then “Inthewa”, and then “Hohioken” by their owners on behalf of those of us who are now attempting to provide the same happiness for our children.

1940

July 3rd – 8th

Elizabeth Packard Church – “Ats in the battic, but otherwise everything tight and needy”.
Herbert C Church

July 12 – 15

Wm. J. Clothier ^{per A.P.C.!}
Anita Porter Clothier

July 20 – 21

Edward S. Knapp Jr. – “Better than Hohioken if that could be possible”
J.H.W. Thompson

July 20 – 24

Morris Cheston – “Marvelous Packard hospitality in a wonderful new setting”,
Caroline A. Cheston – “ditto! ditto! Anita & Giorgio”!

July 29

Deborah Nonn Rush
R. Stockton Rush

July 31st

Jean Sears Alexander
Annibal S. Alexander
Archie Alexander

Aug. 17th – 21st

Elizabeth A.W. Packard

Aug 15-25

Mrs. Clothier

Aug 26

Clarissa W. Pell “don’t let me get under you again, I don’t like it.” P.W.P.

Lewis M. Pell

Aug 3 – Sept 2

John L. H. Chafee “Many thanks for a wonderful time”

It is not easy to write up the details of this, our first full season at camp. Our days were full and a great deal has been accomplished. There still remains much to be done. But the tireless efforts of A. C. P. have transformed what we found into what we now leave – a perfect camp in all respects.

Paint is still badly needed on the Ice House – tool shed – woodshed and servants house. The last item, we shall leave untended as ultimately we may let it go entirely, using the rooms off the kitchen with the addition of a bath. The others we shall hope to work on gradually as time goes on. The roof on the main house is precarious but it will have to last for another few seasons. The same condition exists in the roof on the Winter House. Plumbing has been repaired and should last throughout the camp. – The Winter House stands ready for use in any season. Its heater has not been tried as yet, but the water system, etc., seems adequate and ready for use in the Fall or Winter.

The entire Packard family arrived by car (3 of them – Buick with family – Ford Station Wagon with Edson, 2 dogs & luggage – the couple, John & Susan in their own car.) on July 2nd, Tuesday at the Gilpin Bay landing at 8 P.M. – We were 14 hours on the road having made a bad move in trying the route through N.Y. and up the east side of the Hudson. Matt Otis took us across the lake in his “Chelm”.

Except for minor plumbing difficulties, the main camp was ready for us. Will Plumpley was there, living in self-made quarters in the main tool house. Work was still in progress on the Winter House which was

Not finished until about July 25th. The Churches then moved into it and stayed there during construction of their own camp on “Puffin Point”. The latter was finished & ready for occupancy about Aug. 30th. –

We kept the cars in two of Mrs. Meagher’s garages at the Gilpin Bay landing and transportation by boat and car worked out very well.

We had the Chris Craft (1930 – 6 cyl. – 20’) which came with the camp. It was commissioned in June by Frank Baker and ran beautifully all summer. Another old launch which came with the camp was put in service by the Churches & ourselves and did well all summer as a work boat for Matt Otis on both the Church and Packard jobs. We bought a 16’ Gibbs Skiff with 2 h.p. Briggs & Stratton motor which has been a great success. The Churches have had the “Hohioken” – now rechristened “Great Auk”.

We brought down from Hohioken one of the two old carrying guideboats, H.C. Jr’s little Hamner boat and our own similar one. We had Hamner repair one of the boats on the place & take another in trade for a new medium sized boat to be delivered next season.

We are leaving about 7.A.M. Monday morning Sept. 9th – by car as we came. The Churches stay another day and will help us across the lake in their out-board boat.

It has been a grand opening season.

October 19th

Arrived at the trail from the Wetherill road at 5:00 P.M. – A.C.P. & G.R.P. Jr. by car and H.C. & E.P.C. likewise in theirs about twenty minutes apart having left Vally Forge at 6 A.M. & Villa Nova at 6:40 respectively. The Churches got in first.

M.F.P.B had come up by train in the morning & after spending part of the day at Hohioken and with the Blagdens got herself into Gricocq with the help of Matt Otis and was here to meet us with a couple of guide boats at the Peccorini boat house.

We found the Winter House working well, having been opened by Will Plumley & Frances.

We arrived to find temperature about 25 degrees above zero with light snow on the ground.

October 20th

Fine, bright, clear morning, temperature about 28 degrees – we spent morning in and around camp – going over things with Will. The latter was slated for Grand Jury Duty on Monday, and although we tried to get him off by letters to the Judge, we were unsuccessful and he left us Sunday P.M. - M.F.P.B. and I went up the lake in the “Jiminy Cricket” in the afternoon to see if we could find ducks in Black Brook. Due to the delay in getting the motor started, we aimed for the marshes on the east side of Buck Island. We saw no ducks within range although a few at a distance. The grouse season was not open until the following day – but while going through the narrows, we saw a fine big one land on a rock on the lakeshore and ran in and to take a shot at him from the boat. We missed him.

Oct 21st Monday

We woke to find a miserable raw day, temperature 24 degrees above – spasmodic snow all day. It was not made to order for the opening of grouse season and proved no better than it looked. M.F.P.B. –A.C.P & GRP Jr. and “Jake” (in his first and probably last (due to age) effort) – set out by boat & then by car from Gilpin Bay to Hohioken. From there we walked the woods to Follensby – Green – Pollywog and up the Floodwood Road; - then back to Spring Pond & back around the shore of the lake to Hohioken. No birds – we met the Churches for lunch at Majors and finally back to camp.

Oct. 22nd

Tuesday was fine and clear. We did a turn around the roads on Indian Carry to the Axton Landing, but no birds were to be seen. Mr. & Mrs. Harry Blagden & Ben Blagden came to lunch and took M.F.P.B. up to their place afterward in a canoe for dinner and later to catch the train.

We are writing this after dinner prepared to start home early in the morning by car as we came. We have had a grand three days. I saw two grouse in all after a lot of hunting but missed them

both. They don't seem to be around but cold weather & snow did not help conditions. "Jake" did his best.

The trip demonstrated that the Winter House seemed to work; the trip by motor is economical and easy; - and particularly that Saranac and particularly "Gricoq" are good at all times and under any circumstances. -

Oct 23rd, Out AM.

1941

Winter Trip

Feb 18th

Henry James and G.R.P. Jr arrived by train Wednesday morning about an hour late – 6:45 A.M. Major met us at Saranac Inn Station & took us to his place for breakfast before taking us down to Gricoq where we arrived about 8 o'clock. Temperature about 5 degrees above zero – not a great deal of snow. Ice on lake good and no question about taking car over to camp from Gilpin Bay. Will Plumley was there and had things ready at the Winter House for our arrival.

Jim Large and H.C. came in the next morning.

Everything at the Winter House went well for this, our "shake-down" visit. The grates in the furnace broke the first day, but were quickly replaced by Matt Otis and Leonard Mussin. The kitchen stove was hard to get going quickly with coal, but we finally had success with wood. The hot water was not hot, but warm and sufficient for the needs of our four males used to no such luxury for many years at Hohioken.

Feb 19th Wednesday

James and Packard spent the morning fooling around the camp and getting things ship-shape – In the P.M. we walked around the camp boundary and looked for game of which there was ample evidence by way of tracks.

Feb 20th Thursday

We settled into a regular schedule – In the A.M. we ski-ed around the camp and in the P.M. we ski-jored behind Major's car – down to Indian Carry. Skied around the Golf Course and along the Axton Road.

Feb 21st Friday

Spent the day in Placid. Matt Otis joined us in Saranac Lake and we all met up at Mount Von Hoevenburg about 11:45 – We saw the end of some 2-man races and then we four did the half-mile and then the mile. We bowled after a late lunch and got in one ride on the Mirror Lake Toboggan run and came back to Camp via Major's. Matt Otis came along and supplied us with a "Blue Pond Stew".

Feb 22nd Saturday

Spent largely in ski work around the neighborhood and partly in trying to ski-jor behind Mr. Hathaway's truck. An orderly exit is in progress at time of writing with Will and Chas. Plumley Jr. helping us out. We are headed for a late supper at Major's and from there to the train.

The temperature varied from a minimum 5 degrees above zero to a maximum of 28 degrees above – There was a consistent west to west-southwest wind and it was snowing finely most of the time. The sun shone for about 2 hours at the most and then faintly.

Three casualties:

Large – a cold

James – a rib

Packard – (couldn't sit down)

Church – (couldn't fall down)

Henry S. James Jr (A Grate Trip) = “13th falls but always the 1st one up – a perfect trip – arrived too late & left too soon – The rookie member of the trip hopes he'll have the chance to be the veteran”.

James M Large “Somewhat **code** in head. Still the best bobsledder & ski-jorer. (Jorer)”

Herbert Church – “Hathaway, hathaway, hathaway onward – and downward – Puffin in all directions at once”.

George R. Packard Jr.

Attested: _____ “Major Dawson in Person Still on Ice”

Spring Trip

May 15 – 19

We arrived by car (new Chevrolet Station Wagon) about 5:40 P.M. - Thursday May 15. – exactly eleven hours and one half from Valley Forge – The Churches came in about an hour later having done the run from Villa Nova in ten hours and twenty minutes.

We found Will Plumley waiting for us with the old tub row boat at the Peccorini Landing and brought us across. The Winter House was opened, cleaned and ready through the efforts of Frances Ransome who had come in that same morning, and took care of us for our stay,

We found a most unseasonable and dangerous drought of several weeks standing. The woods had been closed for the fisherman and the dryness was terrifying for this time of year. They had been having frost at night, but hot dry days.

It was warm above normal when we arrived.

May 16th

Hot & dry – We spent most of the day in planting flowers brought up from home in flats & Matt Otis came down and plans for both “Puffin” & “Gricoq” improvements were discussed.

May 17th

A very welcome rain came in with a west wind. It cleared late in the evening with a sudden drop in temperature which went down during the night to 35 degrees above – No frost.

May 18th

Sunday came in fine and clear and gradually warmed up during the day. But a strong west wind made one seek shelter and keep off the lake.

We had accomplished all the things we had come up for by the time of writing. – (9 P.M. Sunday). Plans for summer improvements with Matt Otis were worked out. We started investigation about a strip of land in Gilpin Bay for purposes of landing and garage. This is to be worked out by Josh Billings with the present owner – Sekon Lodge (and mortgagee). We worked hard on the grounds and had three grand days. The place had wintered well.

5/19/1941

We were leaving early in the morning, Monday, with the expectation of a week-end trip in June to see that the camp will be ready for the summer. Many improvements are now being considered, but many things must be determined before we know if they can and should be done in the view of the frightful uncertainties before us.

June 14th Saturday

I arrived alone this morning by train – breakfasted at the Inn and got a ride down to camp with Matt Otis.

They still need rain although the drought broke since our last trip.

The following work has been done or is well underway – woodshed at Winter House – Maids House and Ice House painted – Main kitchen & pantry painted – docks repaired & creosoted – tennis court back-stops put up – maids bath room installed by main kitchen – Hot-water heating system installed in the rear of main kitchen.

A new “girls” cabin has been erected at “Puffin” and the top of the woodshed into a play room. Both look fine.

Will Plumley and Steve Ransome have both been on the job here since June 1st. They have cleaned the place up well and everything seems to be in good shape for summer occupancy.

I write this alone in my glory at the Winter House while pea soup and a canned chicken dinner heat slowly (very slowly) over the charcoal burner of the winter trip fame. I think I have never “kept house” up here alone before.

I expect Matt Otis to come for me later this afternoon and we are to meet Billings over at Gilpin Bay to try to work out the purchase of a strip of land there for landing and garage.

I have talked to Baker on the phone. His man Charlie will come again this afternoon to complete a job started yesterday in preparing the Chris-craft and the “Great Auk” for action.

I expect then to go up the line with Matt, possibly visit Major and then dine at the Inn and catch the night train for N.Y. & home.

G.R.P. Jr.

-Summer-

July 1st

We all arrived by car, Tuesday evening July 1st at Gilpin Bay at 6:35. – eleven hours and thirty-five minutes from Valley Forge – A.P.C., senior & junior – GRP 3rd - Parker & GRP Jr in the Buick; Edson, Clara, the cook, - Turk, Robby & plenty of baggage in the Chevrolet station wagon. Terribly hot until we hit the Adirondacks, but a successful trip.

William Plumley was at Mrs. Meagher's landing waiting for us. Matt Otis came a few minutes after our arrival to take us over in his boat which refused to start for quite a while but finally did its duty.

We found everything at camp in great shape with Steve and Frances both in residence to assist Will – and in addition Mary the waitress and Daisy the house-maid whom Frances had hired for A.C.P.'s household requirements. Frances will leave us for the Churches on the latter's arrival next week.

The improvements mentioned in the two previous entries have been completed and seemed to be all that we had hoped for. We look forward to a fine summer.

July 4-6

“With deepest regrets I leave after the most perfect three days – but having designed (?) “l---y” **nook**. I look forward to the next trip!!” Penny Goodman

“Three days in bathing suits, more perfect than ever before”. Stan Goodman

7/11/41

“Another glorious weekend gone too soon”. Wm. J. Clothier & Anita Porter Clothier

July 29th

“It is all too perfect”. Casandra Stewart Cassatt

“Terribly grateful for a perfect week-end and all sorts of kindness”. Alec Cassatt

July 11th – 27th

“Only the ripples rippled out in the Lake’s green-blue, Only the cloudlets quivered up in heaven to. No sound went up from the fir-clad banks over the silent lake, and it seemed to the eyes of the watcher, that the world would never wake.

She was rapt in a Mantel of slumber, quiet & cool & gray, By which all the hours of evil were peacefully swept away.

And there came o'er the heart of the watcher, a feeling of quiet & rest
And he felt that God was waking, & he knew that God knows best.
The blue-green of the Lake by a golden path was torn,
The sun sank to his rest, To be fit for to-morrow morn,
And the thoughtful watcher heaved a gentle sigh,
For nothing can last forever & even this beauty would die.
Then the peaceful silence, the beautiful evening hush,
Was smashed & shattered and broken by the carolling of a thrush.
And it seemed to the heart of the watcher that this was somehow wrong,
That this lovely hush of evening should be broken by even a song.
But as he sat & listened to the Lark's caroling free,
He knew that all was perfect, & just as it should be.
And this heavenly picture was deep on his heart impressed,
And he felt that God was working, & he knew that God knows best."

Roselle Lempriere Toland

8/1/41

"Have a slight inferiority complex in writing anything under This poem! Many, many, Thanks to Lis and George for everything They have done for me". Carolyn Clothier

8/14 – 8/19

A.P.C.

8/4 – 8/19

Mary Thayer
Eustis Thayer
George C. Thayer Jr.
Betsey Thayer

Aug. 29 – Sept 1

"The saddest day of the year - leaving "Gricoq". Can't wait till 1942 to come back".
Penny Goodman

Aug. 29 – Sept 1

"A perfect weekend. Gin Rummy first introduced to Camp "Gricoq". Many converts made".
Sam Goodman

Aug. 24 – Sept 2nd

"10th Anniversary of our honeymoon at Hohioken – and our nicest holiday together since that time. The Mayor of Upper Saranac and it's Queen gave us the most lovely week of all time".
Noreen (sic) Large, Jimmy Large Sr., Jimmy large

Aug. 20 – Sept 1

“Almost became a permanent neighbor and hope we may yet. Our visit to the Packard’s is always the high spot of the summer”.

Morris Cheston

Aug. 26 – Sept 1

“A lovely time as always and three cheers for the Cook”!

Caroline A. Cheston

Aug. 26 – Sept 1

“Had a wonderful time at Gricocq with the Packards. Everything was swell”.

Minky Cheston

The summer has been a good one. As to the weather, - July was perfect. August, although the writer was absent for most of it, turned on a good deal of wet and considerable cold. We ended the summer with a house full of visitors as recorded on the preceding page and unfortunately had a damp, cold Labor Day weekend.

Activities centered about the camp. A considerable amount of fishing was done with poor success. A.C.P. tried many times for Lake Trout but failed to land one. However, with “Priorities” preventing the purchase of copper (and other metal) spoons and other tackle, it was hard to do a proper job. We have seen the big fish in the Lake and next season we hope to take them.

It is felt that the Junior element has had fun. Baseball was played continuously and the children participated in practically every plan -

We close up with the usual feeling of depression. Gricocq has supplied everything that any of us could have hoped for and we leave it with complete thankfulness. The future grows more and more uncertain but we have stored things and put them out of harms way in the usual spirit of hope that we shall find them ready at hand for another season.

We leave by Chevrolet Station Wagon in the morning - The whole family & Turk & Robby, Marion & Claire, the cook went home by the day train Fri. – Sept. 5th – today -

Fall Trip

Sunday Oct. 19th

Arrived by train at Saranac Inn Station 6 A.M. and were met by Major and Matt Otis. Our party consisted of 4 – E.P.C. & H.C. - A.C.P. and G.R.P. Jr. – The Morris Chestons had planned to come with us but at the last minute couldn't make it.

It had rained hard during the night but showed promise of early clearing. We had breakfast at Major’s & we then took his car to Gilpin Bay where Matt took us over to camp in his boat.

We found Will and Frances with everything in readiness at the Winter House. The sun came out about nine o'clock and we were treated to Adirondack Autumn weather at its finest. Temperature

started at about 40° above and then what up to about 60° - but hot in the sun. We fooled around camp in the morning and H.C. & I went up the Lake after lunch in the “Jiminy Cricket” and had a look around “Hohioken” and “Innisfree” where everything was apparently in good shape.

We awoke too a still finer day. Temperature 30° when we got up with signs of ice in shoal water. H.C. and I got out about seven o'clock and walked around Gull Bay. We saw two grouse and I got the only one of these that I got a shot at. This was quite a feat as it was the first Ruffed Grouse I had ever killed up here or elsewhere.

We took the “Jiminy” up Fish Creek to the Stockade later in the morning for provisions.

In the P.M. we took a good walk along the Racquette River Trail west from Axton. It was a beautiful afternoon. Most foliage was gone, but enough here and there to make the country look wonderful. I had my gun along and got a shot at another grouse but he got away entirely unhurt.

Tuesday Oct. 21st

A dull cloudy morning for our last day. I got up early again and hunted birds for about an hour out through the woods behind us but found nothing. A good dog would certainly be useful in this country, although old Jake couldn't find any last year. However, weather conditions were certainly against him then.

We put things away and generally checked over camp with Will the rest of the morning.

I am writing this just before lunch. We will close the House up shortly and expect Matt Otis and his boat to take us over about 4 P.M., including Will and Frances. Will will return soon to work on the wood.

We shall look at the lot in Gilpin Bay just acquired for landing and a garage. Matt Otis can make suggestions about these but we may or may not take any action this fall.

We expect to go down to Lake Placid for dinner and catch the train from there.

I refuse to record, for good reasons, an episode involving A.C.P. – Frances & Will - the old rowing tub - a home-made gaff hook and a flash light. I hope though that we'll always remember it, and I think we will.

1942

Tuesday June 2nd

We arrived by train – two Churches and A.C.P. and G.R.P. Jr. - Major met us at the Station and after breakfast at Mamie's who had her camp up open for a Decoration Day House party, he took us all the way down the lake & around by car to the Wetherill's whence we walked in & sent Will, who was in waiting, back for the luggage in a boat.

The Winter House had been opened by Will and was ready in good shape. The Camp had wintered well and beyond the usual spring work seemed to require no special repairs.

The wives did the cooking from Tuesday to Wednesday night. From that point Frances Ransome who had been tending the Billings camp came down to us & took care of us until our departure.

We found damp overcast weather neither hot nor cold, but not particularly conducive to far-a-field outdoor activity.

We spent the first day in camp - checking up and taking stock.

Wed. June 3rd

Same kind of weather with breaks of sun here and there. Got down to work fixing up winter damage on docks, etc. – M.F.P.B. with the Allen Crawfords came down for a cocktail before dinner. H.C. met them at the Gilpin Bay landing in the “Murre” and they brought Frances with them to remain with us. They left that night for home.

Thursday June 4th

Same dull weather, but considerably warmer, ending in a series of thunder showers in the afternoon & evening. More general work at camp - etc. Fishing in the evening for Lake Trout without success.

Friday June 5th

Glorious day - cooler. General camp work & up to the Inn in the P.M. to see what was going on. Fishing for Lake Trout in the evening with A.C.P. - again without success.

Saturday June 6th

Last Day - this being recorded the evening previously. We plan to close up without any real thought of returning. Will will stay on to look after the camp through this summer. The Churches hope to come in but they are somewhat uncertain also. The place is as generous with its joys and pleasures as ever and it is hard to believe while sitting here that the outside world is so filled with horror and uncertainty. It must be over some day and we can only look forward in the hope that we can return here then to enjoy what we find without reserve.

We plan to close up the Winter House to-morrow although as has been said, Will Plumley will stay on in his own quarters at the main camp. Major will transport us out and we contemplate dining en route to the station with Mr. & Mrs. Matt Otis at their new Church Pond Rough Camp.

Churches out-board “Murre” - one guide boat & one canoe were the only craft put out.

August

Although, has been entered previously, we did not expect to be back this summer, we found it possible to do so after all. Army plans did not materialize and we decided to come up for a couple of weeks at least. Anita Jr. had gone to Camp Merestead the end of June and George 3rd – to La Jeunesse early in July.

Thursday Aug. 20th

Parker and Marion arrived by train with "Uncle" Herb Church. Major met them at the station and Lisa in the "Murre" at Gilpin Bay. Parker and Marion took up residence in the Winter House. They did some housekeeping but boarded mostly with the Church family at "Puffin Point".

Wednesday Aug. 26th

A.C.P. senior and junior, Joan Church and G.R.P. Jr. arrived by train and were met by Major and H.C. at Gilpin Bay. The two girls had come down from Merestead the day before and we met them in New York. We took up residence along with Marion & Parker in the Winter House (Joan C. going to her camp with her family). We continued to do some housekeeping but eat most of our meals with the Churches.

Everything at camp looked fine. Will Plumley had been on hand all summer and had things in good shape.

The weather for the most part was perfect. We forrested around camp and made some more headway in thinning out the trees between the Main House and the lake which we started last year.

We (2 senior Churches & 2 senior Packards) had one grand trip on a glorious day - taking the "Cricket" and 2 boats to Harry Blagdens where we met Major & his truck. He took us & the guide boats to Hoel Pond whence we rowed & carried Turtle, Slang, Long, Floodwood & down Fish Creek.

We only had the "Cricket" by way of motor transportation and with no autos on account of gas restrictions, we never got far from base.

George 3rd came to one Sunday lunch but otherwise stuck pretty close to La Jeunesse.

The highlight of the summer was the wedding on Saturday, September 5th, of Mamie Billings and Ben Blagden. They were married in the Chapel by Dr. Phelps with a fine gathering of both families and many friends on hand. The Draytons had a grand reception afterwards at Hohioken.

Tuesday Sept. 8th

Anita, Anita Jr., Parker and Marion left by train along with 2 Church children. We got Captain George and the Inn Boat to take us all up the lake. We then had supper at the Inn & put them on the train. H.C. - E.P.C. - & I returned with Major to Gilpin Bay & back to camp in the Churches outboard.

Wed. Sept. 9th

I am closing up the Winter House to-day & going out with the Churches this P.M. in Will's car & down by train to night. The pouring rain adds to a general feeling of depression on account of the uncertainty of the future. We had a glorious two weeks here. May it not be too long before we will return to Gricoq.

Camp unoccupied

1944

January 11th

G.R.P. Jr. & G.R.P. 3rd (GRP 3rd stayed until Jan 13th)

Jan 13th – Jan 16th

Sydney P. Clark – “Oh for a game of Dominoes”!

H.C. came with Clark on Jan. 13th

Jan 14th – Jan 16th

Daniel C. Donoghue Jr. – “When you got to glow you got to glow”.

Jan 19th,

H.C. & G.R.P. Jr. left camp -

On Tuesday, January 11th, GRP Jr. and 3rd arrived by train, were met by Major and taken to the latter's place for breakfast and later down to camp across the ice from Gilpin Bay. H.C. and Syd Clark came in with Major in time for breakfast on Thursday, Jan.13th. GRP 3rd was put on the train bound for home that night at Tupper Lake. Dan Donoghue came in for breakfast on Friday, Jan.14th. On Sunday night, Jan. 16th, Clark and Donoghue were put on the train at Lake Clear Junction. H.C. & GRP Jr. went down from Lake Clear on Wednesday night, Jan. 19th, leaving Will Plumley in Camp to cut ice.

We found the snow as deep as we had ever seen it - about 3 feet or more with no crust and no drifts. It lay so deep even on the Lake that the trip across in Major's truck from Gilpin Bay was difficult and required plowing almost every trip. Leaving the plow off the truck when Clark and Church were brought over on Thursday morning resulted in their walking the last mile in city clothes with the temperature below zero.

The weather was typical for most part. Light to heavy snow fell more often than not and the temperature ranged from 20° below to 30° above zero. There were periods of fine, clear sunshine and two entirely clear days.

Travel in the woods and even on the lake was almost impossible without skis or snow shoes, especially for GRP 3rd, who practically disappeared without his snow shoes on which, after some practice, he navigated very creditably.

None of the party felt particularly ambitious in respect to hard work as exercise. Considerable time was consumed in the preparation of meals with short work-outs morning and afternoon. We had a good trip to Placid in Major's truck and spent a pleasant day there but found no sporting events to watch and activities greatly curtailed by the war.

With the rest of the party gone by Sunday night, H.C. and GRP Jr. spent the balance of the time getting Will underway with his ice cutting, helping him haul lumber over the lake from Gilpin Bay in his sledge and seeing Bert Moody start work on repairs to the Gricocq Ice House, the interior of which had rotted away.

It was a grand winter trip, - especially because it had been wholly unanticipated. Until discharged from the Army, I had no thought of seeing Gricocq again until after the war. The place was generally in good shape and the pleasure it afforded was as complete as ever.

Spring Trip

Friday May 26

HC and GRP Jr. met by Major and brought to Gilpin Bay where Major had his out-board boat in the water for us to take over to camp. Will Plumley and Frances were in camp and we dug into the Winter House with Frances taking care of us. The 1st day was spent in choring around camp and checking equipment. The Winter House pump motor refused to work but was soon put to rights by Lee Gladd who came up from Saranac for the purpose.

Sat. May 27

H.C. and GRP Jr. rowed down to Saranac for provisions. We had a fine trip on the river where birds were plentiful (saw one deer) and black flies and mosquitoes were not bad. Major met us in his truck after we had done our shopping & brought us back with our boat to Gilpin Bay.

Sunday May 28th

Spent around camp doing various jobs such as towing logs off shore, etc. - Frances & Will went lake trout fishing in the Cricket with us after supper without success.

Monday May 29th

Burt Moody appeared and took GRP Jr. lake trout fishing most of the day. Burt caught one ten inch fish which he threw back and otherwise no luck. E.P.C. arrived by train and she & H.C. spent the day around camp.

Tuesday May 30th

E.P.C., H.C. & GRP Jr. took a fine trip up to the Racquette Falls. We towed a guide boat behind the Cricket to Indian Carry, carried to Spectacle Ponds & down Stony Creek and up the Racquet River. We reached the falls just 4 hours from camp. The river was very high with very strong current. It took us 2 hours rowing on the River to get to the Falls. The country was beautiful, birds of all kinds in great quantity were all around and we saw two deer. Mr. Morgan was in his camp and everything at that fine old spot was as beautiful as ever. We came down the River with the help of the current in little over an hour and the Churches walked from the lower bridge on Stony Creek while GRP Jr. rowed the boat up the Creek through the Ponds to the carry.

Wednesday, May 31st

Spent the day around camp preparing to leave in the evening for home.

It was a fine stay. Six gloriously clear days, hot summer weather by day and fine and cold at night. Bugs were bad in spots but could be avoided and in no way marred our pleasure or prevented us from doing what we wanted.

Everything seems to be in fair shape. The water lines at the big house are clogged up from 2 years lack of use. Professional assistance will be needed to fix them up for the summer. Otherwise no real trouble has been found and we are leaving things ready for later family use this summer. A.C.P. kept at home by family problems, was sadly missed this trip.

July 3rd to July 5th

A week's visit had been planned for four Packards - Anita senior & junior & GRP 3rd & GRP Jr.

- We were to have left George 3rd for the opening of La Jeunesse on July 8th and the rest of us were going home on about that date. On Sunday morning, July 2nd. Anita Jr. & George 3rd came down with mumps having been exposed previously by Parker but being considered out of danger if safely through that Sunday.

A call to H.C. that morning produced results and he and I set out by train from Paoli Sunday P.M.

Major met us at the station, had his out-board at Gilpin Bay and we found Will in camp (having been there since June 1st), and Frances with everything ready for us in the Winter House.

We chored around camp for the most part and found that all the items found out of order on our last trip such as water lines in the big house, etc., were now in good working order.

We drove Major's car to Saranac and got our gasoline & kerosene rations for the summer - 45 gals. gas for Winter House pump - 75 gals. gas for the "Cricket" and 10 gals. kerosene. H.C. put in for the big pump along with his outboard.

I fished for an hour with Burt Moody who caught 3 big lake trout while I got a small one about 3 lbs.

Weather fine and hot all three days. H.C. went down by train Tuesday night and I on Wednesday. Camp is ready for family summer occupancy August 1st. -

Summer

July 28th

Anita, Senior and Junior, Parker, Patsy Kellett and GRP Jr. arrived by the morning train at the Inn Station where we were met by Major. We had no accommodations on boarding the train but acquired two uppers and a lower which were shared by the five of us. H.C. who had arrived with his family the evening before, met us in Gilpin Bay in Major's boat.

We have obtained from the ration board, 75 gals. gas for the Cricket & 45 gals. for the pump motor; - the Inn is delivering supplies by boat; - the mail route is operating by Archie; - so that

we are entering into what should be a fine month at camp with practically no difficulties and these and the war seemingly very far away. We are most fortunate!

Frances and Will are in attendance with a young helper in the House named "Millie". The camp is in perfect order.

July 27 - Aug. 15

"I wish that I could write a poem in which I could express
To me you've made this seem like home with joys and happiness"

"The clear, cool water rippling by, the soft green mossy shore,
With graceful fir-trees standing high, these things I do adore".

"I love your games and pranks and jokes, the many things you do.
You really are the grandest folks, and I'll be missing you".

"And so, dear Packards, to every one, my thanks I do extend.
For these grand weeks of so much fun; it's sad to have them end".

"With many thanks and lots of love", Patsy Kellett

Aug. 29 - Sept 1

James M. Large Jr.

Aug. 13 - Sept. 1

"I walk on the forest floor at dawn, to watch and breathe and listen, and to feel the cobwebs cross my face".

"I stop on a wooded slope at sunrise, to hear the leafy dew cups spill, and to snap last years twig on sodden leaves".

"I tiptoe past a mossy rock, to follow deer which drank at starset, and to breathe the scent of waking tern".

"A thrush throbs and lights on a fallen birch, and I watch - in awe and prayer".

"Such communion cannot last for ever, ahead a clearing bathes green in the sun, and I leave the forest once more in peace".

NiNi Alony

Aug.1 - Sept. 1

"I landed at Gricoq, all "agoq", and I must admit somewhat in a fog.

I soon found out it was a grand place to be, and nice to be with the Packard family".

"They're the finest group on all the lake. On this I'm sure we'll all shake.

So Good-Bye to you all, and thanks for the fun, the boat is coming so I must run".

Lillian Fitz

The last three guests above, the two poetesses and Mr. Large, left with the entire Packard family except the writer on Friday September 1st. Some went up to the lake on the Inn boat, others got a

ride with Jamie Billings in his boat and A.C.P. and I went up with the luggage in the "Cricket". We all had supper at the Drayton's & got to the station with the help of Major and the Blagdens in their two cars. I returned to camp for the night, spending Sat. Sept. 2nd in putting things away. The Blagdens & Molly and all Churches had supper at Gricoq, the latter being taken up the lake afterwards by the former in the Cape Cod launch on their way to the station. I spent Sat. night alone at Gricoq and shall be rowed over to Gilpin Bay by either young Stevie Ransome or Will to be taken by Major to the day train south on Sunday morning September 3rd.

This has been a most successful season. The weather has surpassed all records for heat and sunshine. It has been perfect for us as vacationists but the drought is serious.

We have had more than enough gas for our needs for both the "Cricket" and all water pumping. Conditions have kept us close to home and I believe everyone has enjoyed it. We have taken several trips and Lake Trout fishing has been pretty good especially for A.C.P. with the help of Bert Moody who took her out a half a dozen times.

Having left for home a few days after our opening of camp, I return on Aug. 13th, so that I am completing three good weeks at this time. Each day such news as we get, produces more optimism in respect to the progress of the war, and as I sit here alone, I dare to predict that Germany may be a beaten team by Columbus Day, next October 12th. - Having had such fun as in my opinion can only be found here at Gricoq, I return with a certain feeling of guilt to the routine grind and daily realization of what is going on in the world around us.

George III joined us from La Jeunesse on Aug. 15th. It was good to have him here and it made the first holiday for our whole family to-gether since before I get in the Army in 1942.

G.R.P. Jr.
Sept. 3rd. 1944

Fall 1944

Oct. 17th

A.C.P. and I arrived by train and met by Major who had his boat at Gilpin Bay for us. The Churches (H.C. & E.P.C.) came on Friday Oct. 20th and stayed until Sunday night Oct. 22nd. A.C.P. and I closed camp on Monday Oct. 23nd and will have dinner with Ben & Mamie before catching the train.

We have had for the most part fine Fall weather. Only one day of rain and the rest clear & cold. Temperature varied from a low of 28° to a high of 66°.

The grouse season having opened Oct. 1st. We did a lot of hunting in the many sections of the country but they were pretty hard to find. I saw seven in all and got only two. We had a fine trip by boat through the ponds to Floodwood and down the creek. In walking back from Coperas to Big Square I was within pistol shot of one big buck and a doe. It was the day before hunting season opened, however, and I only had my 20 gauge gun with me.

Ben and Herb and I walked up to the Narrows Hill on Sat. P.M. Oct. 21st. It was pouring rain and Ben and I decided to still hunt that section. The deer season had opened the day before, I shot a small buck on the way home. He had no horns and hence was illegal but he tasted mighty good. On the opening day Ben and I hunted all morning with Harry Blagden & Bill Dewey driving the section around Harry's camp without luck.

Will & Frances have been attending to us in the Winter House and it has been a glorious week. Everything at camp seems fine.

1945

Winter Trip

Feb. 17th

Geo C. Thayer, GRP 3rd and GRP Jr. got off the morning train at Saranac Inn Station, were met by Major and taken to the latters for breakfast. Temperature about 10° - weather fair with occasional snow flurries. Took car to the Loeb camp in Gilpin Bay and walked across the Lake from there to camp on borrowed snow shoes and hauling our gear on a borrowed toboggan. Found Will at camp with the Winter House ready for us and we spent the balance of the day housekeeping and walking around camp. More than 3 feet of snow made travel anywhere impossible except on skies or snow shoes. The lake had a layer of water between the ice and snow so that neither horses nor trucks could get on it and no ice could brought in up to now.

Feb 18th

Sunday, generally fair with occasional snow - snow shoed through the woods and stuck around camp.

Feb 19th

Monday went to Lake Placid but found no special activities. Beautiful clear day - GCT and GRP 3rd went down on the night train.

2/17/45 – 2/19

George C. Thayer

(G.C. Thayer Jr. who was to have been one of the party, developed German measles the day of our departure, so to the regret of all could not make the trip.

Feb. 20th

Tuesday morning, overcast with light snow all day - temperature about 10°. Bill Almy, **FRD** and H.C. were brought in by Major about 8:00 A.M. coming across lake as described above. Major insisted that if we were to get any ice at all, a field would have to be cleared of snow immediately in the hope that the water would freeze up underneath and be ready for Will Plumley to work on when he came back at the end of the week. He, accordingly got us all out with shovels and we cleared our field by lunch time. Fooled around camp in P.M.

Feb. 21st

Fine clear day - temperature around 20° . We took a good walk on skis and snow shoes to Bartletts Carry in A.M. – Church, Drayton and Packard sweated another several hours in P.M. clearing new fallen snow of the night before off our ice field and enlarging it some eight or ten feet on one side. The Mayor of Paoli remained dormant on the Living Room couch.

Feb, 22

We had planned a trip to Placid but awoke to find a downpour of wind-driven rain so called it off. Many leaks developed in the living room from the up stairs porch and cause considerable difficulty and annoyance. With the rain stopping, we walked across the lake and met Major who took us up to inspect Hohioken and Innisfree where everything seemed in good order.

Feb. 23

Last day - mild and cloudy - cleaned up house in morning. Will arrived about 11 o'clock & we plan to shut the house & get across to meet Major about 5:00 P.M. Will is not going to stay but will leave with us and return later when weather is colder to try to get the Ice House filled.

Wm. L. Almy
Herbert Church
Frederick R. Drayton
George R. Packard Jr.

June 1945

June 8th

G.R.P. 3rd and G.R.P. Jr. arrived by train on Friday morning and got to camp as usual with the assistance of Major who, before our arrival, had come over and taken the “Jimmy Cricket” across the lake where it was waiting for us after the motor had been tuned up by Lee Gladd. It was working beautifully. Frances Ransome had the Winter House open and ready and stayed to keep house for us. Will had been in camp cleaning up since about June 1st.

Cold, wet weather throughout May had delayed the season and water was high. The Black Fly population seemed as large as ever but strange to relate were much worse around camp than in the woods.

The docks were in bad shape and we spent a good deal of time fixing them up. Otherwise, with the exception of the water back on the range in the main house which was broken, everything was in fair shape.

E.P.C. and H.C. joined us on Sunday, June 10th. We traveled around some - Round Lake, Weller, Fish Creek – Horseshoe - Big & Little Pollywog, Follensby and Green - We had good weather and a grand time.

June 12th

We are leaving (4 of us) this evening after supper via Major’s boat to Gilpin Bay.

Summer 1945

Will Plumley had been at camp off and on since our June trip and had everything ready for occupancy by mid July. Due to curtailment of railroad facilities and gasoline rationing, however, our plans for the summer remained doubtful until about July 24th, when the Ration Board granted 25 gallons of gas to take up the car.

July 25th

Accordingly the whole family motored up on Wednesday, July 25th, and arrived at the Pecorini camp at 5:15 P.M. after an uneventful twelve and one half hour run from Valley Forge.

We found Mrs. Bond in charge of the kitchen and Norma as a helper. The former, however, soon proved to be entirely incapable of cooking, and departed the camp after a few days. This meant that A.C.P. became cook as well as general manager and we are still hoping that we can find relief for her –

To help out the Commissary Department which faced a serious food shortage, A.C.P. shipped 24 hens to camp. They are being gradually killed off but add to the egg situation before their demise.

George III's new Labrador, "Abe" arrives safely by express and seems to enjoy his first introduction to Gricocq.

We have stored the car at Majors - and are making out all right with what seems to be sufficient gas for the "Jiminy Cricket" and the pump motor.

July 26 – August 6

"After reading the talents of many, I feel I should hide my head; But I'll try my luck, - if any. And hope I'll not bore you dead".

"At first it was really terrific, The Packards I knew not at all. It was like wandering the huge Pacific, with the lakes and the mountains tall".

"However I knew then by nightfall, as my mama done told me I would. They're really a grand old family, and I love them all I could".

"Mr. Packard, he reminds me of old pa-pa, while the mrs. is the spit of ma-ma. And Georgy and Sedlitz and Anita, and please don't forget Abe – Ha"

"Poor Anita m'love, she suffered the most, tho' my stay was only ten days. To bed we would go – it was only a boast, and so in the doghouse she stays".

"Mrs. "P" she worked like a bee, while I stood around looking silly. The cooks they left one, two, three, but what do you expect when they had to feed me".

“The weather was fine, all joking aside, the sun I was glad to see. The boats and the waves I love to ride, But now it’s goodbye to three from me”.

“I was never much for saying goodbyes, I’m afraid this’ll have to do; But I’ve had such a wonderful time, as I’ve had with all of you”.

“There’s really no point in trying to say just “thanks” because no words in this language could express my feelings and deep gratitude for the exquisite time both you and Mr. Packard, and of course dear Sedlitz, George, and Anita have given me”.

“Thank you all anyway”

“Loads of love”

Lisa Cresswell

August, 1945

“I only write this rhyme below because you ask me to, and so When later on my scroll you see, Don't murmur who in the ____ was he”.

For I'm the boy whose name is Teddy, Whose always hungry when lunch is ready. I've been having a wonderful time, And want to thank the Packards in this little rhyme”.

For all the fun they've given me, Which makes me happy as I can be.
I have enjoyed the picnics and all, and shall think of it often this coming fall”.

“So again I say thanks to all of you, now I must 1-2-3 skiddo”.

Teddy Fitz

“Many thanks for a perfectly wonderful time. I'll not ruin the masterpiece above by adding my scrawl too but I must say that this has been the happiest two weeks of the year”.

Lillian Fritz

Aug 29

NiNi Almy

Aug. 21-29

1945

Bill Warden

Many things have changed since the preface for the summer of 45 was written early in August. The end of the war on Aug. 14th completely revolutionized all our thinking, plans and actions. I was in Philadelphia during that week of agonizing expectancy. Here, the news came to camp rather slowly and spasmodically and they were spared the tenseness of false rumors and premature press and radio releases. However the occasion was ultimately duly celebrated with a

joint gathering of all Churches, Plumleys and Packards who were present with champagne etc. - around the campfire.

Digressing for a moment from the subject which alone stands for the summer of 1945 and returning to the season's recorded opening in this record, the Plumley family again as in the past rose to the occasion and took care of our housekeeping problems. Mrs. "Plum" herself came to cook for us and was assisted by her granddaughter "Penny" Ransome. With Norma, things went as smoothly as could be expected for A.C.P. who nevertheless had her many problems with food-rationing, young guests, etc.

Nearly everyone under twenty cut their feet or suffered some minor injury. Little Anita is ending the summer now with an infected heel which causes some concern. We hope to get her home safely where she can get such surgical attention as may be needed. The end of gas rationing about Aug. 16th, created a very different situation here. Motorboats appeared on the lake again almost over-night and with our car up here, we moved around with considerably more freedom. This season was too late, however, to commission the Chris craft after 4 years of being laid up. So we simply loosened up with the "Jimmy Cricket" and the Chevrolet and made out finely.

There was little "Saranac" activity all summer. The young did considerable intercamp visiting with mostly tennis, base-ball and swimming as the features. With A.C.P. pretty well tied down with the smallest fry, I devoted most of my time to exploring and really getting to know the big country behind us from the Narrows to Weller Pond. It was good sport (lots of deer) and interesting. A good deal of time was also spent in studying the serious threat of the State in extending the Fish Creek Ponds Camp Site. We are working hard and trying to discourage this misguided project and are hopeful of success.

We close the summer without the usual nostalgia - primarily because the war is over, - and on that account we leave the Winter House almost open with plans to return about October 12th for the grouse season, the Deer season and the best holiday week of the year in Saranac.

Aug. 31 – 1945

Expecting to leave by car from the Pecorini Camp tomorrow morning 8:00 A.M. by car.

GRP Jr. 10:00 PM 8/30/45

Autumn 1945

Friday Oct. 12 –

E.P. Church

H. Church

A.C. Packard

G.R. Packard Jr.

arrived by automobile at about 5:00 P.M. at the Pecorini landing, having left Valley Forge at 4:35 A.M. & Villa Nova (where we picked up the Churches) at 5:10 A.M. – A.C.P.'s 1942

Chevrolet had only run about 11,000 miles throughout the war years and its tires and general condition were fair enough to bring us along without much worry.

We arrive to find rain pouring and wind blowing. Lumbering operations at the Wetherill property had made a morass of the north end of their property and we got well stuck in the mud getting in. Will Plumley appeared with 2 guide boats at the Wetherill camp and he and H.C. rowed in with most of the equipment while the rest of us walked.

And Frances Ransom had the Winter House open and ready for us and we settled down for a holiday that had been planned and looked forward to for many months.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday turned on nothing but rain, snow, sleet, wind and misery as far as weather was concerned. We weren't confined to the house but weather conditions were horrible. We covered many miles looking for grouse, etc., but no birds were seen anywhere, although deer signs were plentiful and we saw a few.

The Churches had to leave on Wed. Oct. 17th and as fate would have it, the weather cleared that morning and was ideal from then until to-night before we leave tomorrow.

Oct. 22

The Larges arrived by train on Thursday morning Oct. 18th - and we are preparing to leave by car tomorrow about noon, Monday Oct. 22nd, stopping in Albany for the night on the way down.

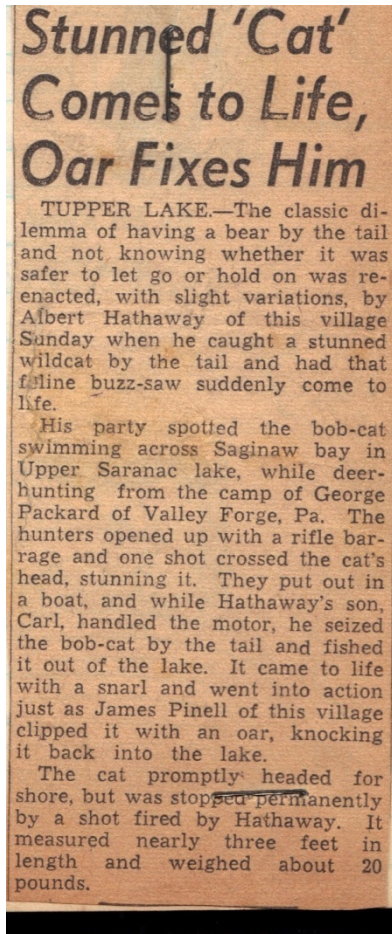
We have had a great fall holiday but from the standpoint of grouse hunting we were skunked. Some say the trouble is foxes, others weather, - I think and hope it is just the low end of a cycle. We used plenty of legs and tried all kinds of country but the birds were not.

Deer were plentiful but unless I add a P.S. tomorrow morning we are taking home no meat nor mounting any specimen heads. We joined up for the most of our two days hunting beginning the opening day, Sat. Oct. 20th, with Hathaway and a vast company of cohorts. On Saturday the party saw 12 deer, shot at five and bagged none. We drove, Agar hill, Buck point, Saginaw bay head, Sunset point, etc. The only feature of otherwise poor sport was finding a bob-cat (Lynx) swimming from the south to north shore of Saginaw Bay and finally destroying him after several ineffective broadsides from about eight guns. He, according to the best authorities present was a current years kitten, so it is disturbing to think that he has a family and a den on our Gricoc mainland.

Aside from our ineffectual hunting which consume most of the daylight hours, we accomplished some useful chores. We got three guide boats, the old varnished boat, the utility blue painted boat and Will's old Nicholson boat over to Gilpin Bay and loaded on Hamner's truck and trailer for winter repairs - A.C.P. engineered the transportation of a great weight of upholstered furniture for a Mr. Gerow to pick up at Gilpin Bay for winter repairs also. - We discussed plans with Matt Otis for various repairs and improvements particularly the clearing of our Gilpin Bay lot and the erection of a landing and garage.

We close up with regret but look forward to a winter visit –

Oct. 18 – Oct. 22
James M. Large
Sarah Morris Large



Winter 1946

Saturday Feb. 9th
James M. Large
Frederick R. Drayton
Herbert Church

The above three and the writer arrived by the day train (night pullmans being not yet available) on Saturday about 5:30 at Tupper Lake where we were met by Major.

We found Mrs. Hathaway at the Winter House with supper ready on our arrival. Frances whom we had expected was prevented from being on hand by the arrival a week before of a new baby - Miss Susan Ransome. Will Plumley was at camp with a helper having just gotten in the ice and remaining thru our stay to cut wood and haul it with his team.

After supper Saturday night, Mrs. Hathaway went home and the four of us settled down to a regular Winter Trip schedule. It was in the nature of a reunion to have Large back after his long absence on account of Navy service.

Sunday Feb. 10

Beautiful clear day, thermometer in the twenties. We skied around the home territory and settled down to housekeeping.

Monday Feb. 11

Temperature at 9° below when we got up. We crossed on foot to Gilpin Bay & found Major there to take us to Placid. The lake was impassable for a car on account of a wet slush surface in some places, although Wills team crossed successfully in bringing us over from the Wetherill camp where Major brought us the first night.

Lake Placid had finally been converted to a peace-time resort and winter sports had opened up in full swing. We went first to the Bob Run and since Church and Packard had their old waivers stamped "Whiteface" with them, they were allowed to start at the mile run - whereas Drayton and Large without evidence of having done so before, were made to take the ½ mile run. We each only went down once and returned to camp in the afternoon after lunching in Lake Placid.

Tuesday Feb 12

Fine weather and not quite so cold. A sleigh ride in the afternoon to the Racquette River via Bartletts was a pleasant innovation. Will had a fine team of greys and a good sledge for the event. James Large took the night train down from Lake Clear.

Wed. Feb. 13

Our last day was warmer and threatening and ended in rain in the P.M. We went to Saranac and saw Hamner - Hohioken, Saranac Inn - Matt Otis who had gotten underway with our garage at Gilpin Bay - we plan to go out Thursday morning through the Wetherills as we came in and catch the day train down.

A fine trip in all respects.

GRP Jr

Spring 1946

June 2

The Churches (E.P.C. & H.C.) and G.R.P. arrived by train Sunday morning June 2nd. Major met us and lent us his boat to get across to camp where we stayed in the Winter House and were looked after by Frances who also had her newest addition to the family with her, - Susie aged about 4 months. Will was on hand and had some summer work started. Outside of a couple of busted pipes everything was in pretty good shape.

Matt Otis was slowly completing the work on the road, garage and dock at our Gilpin Bay landing. Lee Gladd delivered the Cricket while we were here newly painted and overhauled. We

put the Chris craft in the water with solvent in the engine which was frozen tight after its five year war lay up.

We worked around camp most of the time with little time off for recreation.

June 5

We left the way we came on the night train, Wednesday, June 5th.

June 22

GRP 3rd & I arrived by train Saturday morning this date and received breakfast, land and water transportation from Major.

It was our hope to have Lee Gladd put the Chris craft in operation for us but he did not come up until Monday our third and last day and then we found that a new ignition system would be required. Therefore she could not be operated until our return for the summer.

Will was at camp but we did our own housekeeping in the Winter House, which occupation in addition to many camp chores, repairs and cleaning up prevented most other activities. The weather was good for the most part and the flies were not too bad.

June 24

We went out as we came on Monday night June 24th. –

Summer 1946

July 12

George III and Parker having preceeded us by a few days, the former getting the latter. Started at La Jeunesse, A.C.P. senior and junior, Lisa Cresswell and I motored up with a loaded trailer in tow (including Abe) and arrived at the Gilpin Bay landing at 6:15 P.M. after a twelve and one half hour run from Valley Forge. George III met us in the Cricket and came back to camp with us. All was fine at camp where Will was on hand as well as the following: Mrs. Plumley as temporary guest pending the Churches arrival for whom she will cook; Frances to run our household; her daughter Erica and Penny to help out; and Susie now 6 months old and Sharon, Erica's baby of about the same age. Carl, another Plumley grandson was also visiting and helping with the chores.

Lee Gladd came our second day at camp and put the finishing touches on the Chris craft but at this writing about a week later it is still in bad need of attention in respect to a slipping clutch and a temperamental fuel pump.

The Gilpin Bay landing was disappointingly unfinished. The dock, however is satisfactory and the garage is usable but needs finishing details and the road needs a lot more fill and surfacing.

The outset of the summer has been marred by a sudden and severe attack of pneumonia by Parker. He has already spent a week in the Saranac Lake General Hospital and we can only hope now for his early improvement which up to now has been disappointingly slow.

July 18

Bill Almy

July 23

Buchety Almy

July 30 to Aug. 5th

Lily Cresswell – “Have had the most perfect time, “nuances” & all”!

July 12th – Aug. 5th

“Well after being asked for two weeks and staying for four, I think it’s time at last to say goodbye. It’s been out of this world and I know E-town will never compare to my “July Visits – Chez Madame Packard. Thank you all again for a wonderful time and that “float-away” mattress. Bestest love to you all” – Lisa Cresswell

“P.S. Sorry for the lack of poetry this time, but it just don’t “come naturally”!

July 30 Aug 6

Anita Porter Clothier

“A glorious week. Glorious to me with my children glorious to see Parker so fine”

July 30 Aug 6

Carolyn Clothier – “Don’t think I don’t feel “sprightly” after the departure du General-e”, because I don’t. Another wonderful week at Saranac has passed all too quickly, but Elmer is waiting – Many Thanks for all the good fun, laughs, & as usual generous hospitality. Best love ‘ a bientot” -

Aug 9 Aug 12

“Wish I could stay forever – Really, I’ve never had such a terrific time in my life. I never can think of anything witty to say on the spur of the moment; so all kidding aside I’ll expect to see all the Packards down in Bellport soon. Love to all”, “Footie”

Aug 4th Aug 12th

“Dear Lord – let there be reincarnation & let me be that little white throated sparrow that sings so plaintively - & if I can’t be that I’ll settle for one of those unsuspecting chickadees that also sing so plaintively. Anything to linger on at Gricoq. – The Squire? Thats for me”!
Pickett Randolph

I can never never thank you enough George and Anita! I wonder if that little black and white warbler knew how lucky he was to have gotten beneath this roof”?

?????

Aug 9th Aug 16th

“Well. I leave Gricoq and all its wonderful peoples in much sadness, the remains of “poor Mr. Smith” and the wierd memories of these Zombies. It has been such fun. I’ll never be able to thank you all enough. Much love to all ze folks”

Phoebe Taylor.

Aug 19 - Aug 24

“Such a short week – but a wonderful one to dream of before a Winter’s fire. Many, many thanks to the Mayor of Upper Saranac and his lovely lady”.

Jimmy Large Sr.

Norrine Large

Aug 6 Aug 28th

“There are so many things I’ve done, That have been just so much fun.

The swimming, the boating, the campfires too, I’m just so sorry it’s all through.

Thanks a million to the Packards each one, For these past days of such fun.

For many a day, I’ll remember this time, And this is the end of my little rhyme”.

Lillian Fitz

Ted Fitz

Aug 19 – 28

“I had a great time and lots of fun”

Jim Large

Beureau Bowe

Aug-23-29

“Wonderful fun & very jolly peoples whom I muchly love”.

Clarence P. “Mitch” Mitchell

Aug 18 – Sept. 3

“Thanks for a nifty time”!

NiNi Almy

The summer season came to an end on Wednesday September 4th, two days after Labor Day. The weather during most of August was very bad, - cold and wet. We are leaving by car on a glorious day, about the first we have seen in a long while. Nini Almy was to go later in the morning by train to Vassar but due to an ankle, sprained the night before, she came with us by car and Anita Jr., was left to go down by train with the Drayton twins. The Churches who were not leaving until the following day, helped us out to the landing with their two boats.

The summer was highlighted by post war returns. Herb Jr. got back in time for a summer at Puffin, the newly-married Dodges appeared at Hohioken and the about to be married F.R. D. Jr. had a couple of visits with the Draytons from Harvard. On the other side of the Ledger, Parker's illness as entered here earlier was a real set-back for everybody. He got out of the hospital in 2 weeks which relieved the serious constant transportation problem, but had to go very slowly

even after returning home. Fortunately all seems well with him now and his recovery is fortunately about complete.

The weather prevented much guide-boat work and tennis and sailing were the principal activities.

The landing at Gilpin Bay was at long last completed by Matt Otis and proved adequate. We are leaving Will Plumley here to close camp and stay on cutting wood, etc., while Bert Moody undertakes the painting, roofing and 2nd floor porch alterations on the Winter House. We have left the "Cricket" in the water for Will's use now and ours on a planned October trip. Lee Gladd is to fix up davits at the Gilpin Bay landing and a dolly to get her into the garage over there for the winter where Will will also leave a guide boat on his last trip out. The Chris craft is also still afloat for our use in the Fall. We plan then to have Gladd take her down for the winter storage & overhaul her completely. The Churches have put the "Auk" up at the Earl camp for the winter since the Gricoq launch house appears to be on its last legs and a decision must be reached whether to tear it down or fix it up at considerable expense.

Sept. 4 1946

Main Camp Closed

Out of Season - 1946

Friday Sept. 20th

On account of some work ordered on the Winter House and because I wanted to be there anyway, I left N.Y. on Colonial Airlines flight from LaGuardia at 2:00 P.M., and being met by Major at the Saranac Lake Airport, and by Will in the "Cricket" at the Gilpin Bay Landing, I was at Gricoq at 4:30. I had been in the office at a quarter to eleven that morning. It was a beautiful flight on a warm clear, summer haze day - with foliage at a superb height.

Burt Moody had progressed on schedule with the Winter House. The roof was replaced with composition shingle, and the balance of the work was well under way. It had been found necessary to repair a leak on the second floor porch. Rather than spend time and money on re-fixing the appendage with the constant probability of further trouble, we decided to enclose it and thereby enlarge the two front rooms. After this operation, the house to be painted, the color scheme to be changed by a green trim instead of white.

The Chris craft, having been left in the water, started up in good shape and I went up the lake in her to the Blagdens at "Innisfree". They took me in for the night and I had a grand visit with them.

Fritz Drayton Jr. et up on their honeymoon were in residence at "Hohioken" and came in for cocktails with us. They had a week of superb Indian Summer and what apparently had been a grand stay.

Sat. Sept. 21st

The weather broke for the worse today and by noon when the Blagdens and I were cooking lunch in the woods it started to rain. We had a good day anyway and went up after lunch to their hide-out, fixed up and grand shape for the hunting season.

We took the Chris craft back to Gricoq where Will took us over to Gilpin Landing in the "Cricket". A real sea was running and I found out later that when he got back to Camp after leaving us, he decided to stay there instead of going home as anticipated. He made the return to Camp safely, however, in spite of justifiable nervousness, and battoned down there for the night.

Mamie & Ben took me back to "Innisfree" for the evening. They had left their car at the Landing in the A.M. We had a fine time having dinner with Fritzie and Edie at "Hohioken", (their last evening there) and then after a long sit and a pleasant one at "Innisfree", the Blagdens took me to the station and I left for home.

GRP Jr.

Fall 1946

Friday Oct. 11th

A.C.P. and I left Ambler station at 5:00 P.M. and had a good dinner and spent the night at the Penn Stroud at Stroudsburg. We had with us in the 1942 Chevrolet coach, one setter "Corky" bought and educated as a grouse dog.

Saturday Oct. 12th

We set off about 7:45 A.M. Sat. and arrived at Gilpin Bay at 4:45 P.M. after an easy, rainy and uneventful trip. - where Will met us in the "Cricket". As was the case in the last entry, the lake was at its roughest. I have seen it as bad, probably, but certainly never worse. We got over safely but wet. Frances with Susie (age about 9 months) was in attendance and the Winter House looked fine with its new roof and paint (See previous entry). The enlarged front rooms were a real improvement.

Sunday Oct. 13

It poured rain after we got in for most of the night. Sunday broke clear but doubtful with the temperature when we got up at about 38° above. I took the Chris craft out in the A.M. and went up to check in with Major. Looked for birds without success where they had been reported around the Inn Dump on the way home. In the afternoon A.C.P. and I went up to Green Bay, landed at the Button camp and hunted Moss Rock Point. "Corky" flushed one bird which landed in a tree and I missed it when we scared it out. The foliage was too thick to make grouse shooting any easier but it was beautiful and we were glad not to have missed it. A premature snow storm about two weeks ago had caused havoc in the forest. Brush from broken trees will be a nuisance for some years to come.

Monday Oct. 14th

We took both Chris craft and "Cricket" over to Gilpin where Lee Gladd & helper fixed up our davits to haul out the "Cricket" and a dolly to roll her into the garage. The job was completed except for the fabrication & installation of ring bolts fore & aft in the "Cricket" to make it easier

to lift her. This is to be accomplished before we leave. While this operation was in progress, ACP & I walked around and up Beauty Hill ending up at Mrs. Lewisohn's old observatory. Weather & foliage were glorious with warm sun requiring shirt-sleeve walking, but cool in the shade. We put up one or more birds in thick brush on the mountain but I never saw a feather. Monday, P.M., we took the car up to the head of the lake and while A.C.P. did certain chores at the Inn, etc. I hunted the Green Pond, Follensby, Pollywog area without seeing or hearing a bird.

Tuesday Oct. 15th

On our way to Saranac for shopping, with a picnic lunch on the way, weather still warm, but showery in the afternoon, we saw and missed a bird on the Moss Rock Point Road. I walked down the road back of the Fish Hatchery and flushed one on the edge of the woods and got him. We spotted another one from the car on the Forest Home Road and missed him. On the way home I walked down to Little Clear Pond back of Major's and saw one get up out of gun shot and finally we saw one from the car by Green Pond but could not find him. In all, five birds seen that day with only one in the bag.

Wednesday Oct. 16th

The most beautiful clear, warm day yet. Will Plumley, who had gone home Sunday to dig potatoes came back in the morning. He had left the big St. Lawrence blue boat at Gilpin and had rowed himself over. He took me down in the Cricket to the Stanley camp where Fred Derby was on hand cutting wood. I hunted back the road to camp but disappointingly found that choice area barren. In the afternoon ACP & I motored down to Axton. We crossed the (to me) new bridge over the river since no reservation posters appeared on the south side, where a tremendous lumbering operation was in progress although no activity was going on where we entered. We finally encountered a native who informed us it was the Barbour tract of which he was an employee. I offered the fact that I attended Princeton and SPS with the co-owner Staunton Barbour, and eased rather than rushed us off. It looked like fine bird country, and I shall try it another year if I can get permission. We then took the Trombley Landing trail to the south along the river but no birds.

Thursday Oct. 17th

Overcast and considerably colder, about 43° above. We shipped "Corky" home by express. The heavy foliage made it hard hunting so I can't say he will never make a grouse dog, but I doubt it. There was certainly no use in keeping him here. The hunting was much easier without him. Only a top dog could help much. After getting him off we walked about 2 miles out the Conservation Department Road to Fish Pond. No birds, but the weather was threatening and that probably accounts for it. It settled into a cold, rainy afternoon, turning to snow for a while. About sundown, I walked out to the spring brook deer run on our N/W boundary and "stilled" for about an hour but saw nothing. The deer season opens next Sunday, so our minds are now turning in that direction.

Friday Oct. 18

H. ^{and} E.P. Church arrived on the morning train amid a torrent of rain. The Ben Blagdens came on the same train, but went to Major's for breakfast and then on to their own domain. In spite of weather, I tried for grouse while Herb and Anita went to Saranac for supplies in the morning. - No birds - We fooled around camp in the afternoon.

Sat, Oct. 19

Weather improved but still uncertain. Bill Goya and Bert Moody arrived about 8:00 A.M. and we “scouted” the home grounds for deer. There seemed to be few at home. In the afternoon, the Churches and ourselves motored around some side roads for exercise & partridge & found considerable of the former but none of the latter.

Sunday Oct. 20

With 7:00 A.M. signaling the opening of the deer season, Will Plumley, Bert Moody, Bill Goya, Herb Church & I found ourselves in the Chris craft at Buck Island Point at about 6:00 A.M. - We drove most of the North Shore of Saginaw Bay and some of the south shore without anyone sighting a deer. It was a gloriously beautiful day and to be out so nobody cared except for those who wanted and needed meat.

Monday Oct. 21

A fine clear day with temperature at 26°. We are closing the Winter House up and taking the Cricket over to Gilpin Bay by noon we hope in order to get off to Saratoga for the night where we believe we have accommodations at the Gideon Putnam Hotel.

Lee Gladd is to meet us at Gilpin Bay landing to finish up the work on the gear to haul the “Cricket” out and store her in the garage for the Winter. He is also going to load the Chris Craft on a truck at the Inn and take her down for a complete winter overhaul.

Frances having unexplainably left us on Friday night, E.P.C. & A.C.P. have been doing the house work for us. Will will go out with us and leave the big blue guide boat in the garage along with the Cricket.

So we close 1946

Oct 18th to Oct 21st

Uncle Father (Church)

Elisabeth (Aunt Mum) Church

1947**March 14-15**

No winter occupancy this year, but H.C. Senior & Junior and GRP Jr. came up for two days and stayed at the Lake Placid Club. GRP 3rd was to have been with us but got chicken-pox on his return from SPS for this spring vacation. We came over the ice to camp both days, having a picnic lunch in the Winter House. We brought Leonard Mussin to inspect the place for a combination gas & wood range and a larger hot water heater. More snow than we had ever seen.

—

June 8-9-10

E.P.C., H.C. and GRP Jr. came up by train and stayed in the Winter House with Frances and Will both in attendance. We launched the Cricket at the landing and had two threatening & partially rainy days and a fine hot one - the last.

The new stove and water-heater work splendidly in the Winter House - Will is now going to stay on for the most part preparing the camp for summer. Lee Gladd came up to work on the main water pump. Finding a badly worn shaft, he had to leave and will have a new one made and installed well before our return early in July. Everything else seems in good order. The lake is as high as it has ever been due to snow & constant rain. Most launch house walks including ours and docks are well underwater.

Out with Major as usual.

Summer 1947

Monday July 14

GRP Jr. & 3rd, Abe and Casey arrived at Gilpin Bay after a 14 ³/₄ hour Jeep and Trailer ride from Villa Nova - via Kingston, Albany, Long Lake, etc - 420 miles. That night we heard that Parker had been taken from La Jeunesse to the Saranac Lake Hospital in charge of Dr. Brumfiel with a temperature of a 104° & nothing to account for it. It looked ominously like the pneumonia bout of last summer but turned out to be a strep. throat & a bad ear. We got him back to camp, on Friday 7/18 and hope he will soon return to La Jeunesse for the balance of the season.

Tuesday July 15

A.C.P. Senior & Junior with Lisa Cresswell, Edson & Josephine arrived in the Chevrolet. Will, Frances, Penny and Susie were in camp. Mrs. Plumley was at Puffin.

Edson stayed through the week until Sunday 7/20 and did powerful work in shaking things down for the summer. A new Roebing rotary power mower which was sent up in the Spring does good work in cutting grass. The Chris Craft functions well so far after a thorough overhaul during the Winter by Lee Gladd who also made repairs to the main water pump with good results. The "Cricket" towed the Jeep over from Gilpin Bay on the scow borrowed from John McAllup on Eagle Island and we landed it without difficulty on the Main Dock. The Jeep has done fine work since on the tennis court, with a harrow borrowed from the Wetherills, getting in the sail boat with its winch, hauling coal, etc. - We also brought up our circular saw up from home and expect the Jeep to cut lots of wood before the summer ends.

July 16 - 28

Can't think of anything to write because I don't have any time.
Beauveau Bowe 4th (i.e. The "Latin Scholar")

July 16 - 28

"I had a swell time except for seeing too many of my relations (i.e. the frogs)"
"Toady" Jim Large

Aug 3rd

“It is pretty hard to be clever at 7 AM especially when you're being hurried on as always. Being at Gricoq with the Packards is the “High Water Mark of the Confederacy” for the Randolphs”.
Pickell Randolph

Aug 3, 1947

“This is the most perfect time I've ever had. Leaving here is like the end of summer”.
Elliot

July 15 – Aug. 4th

“P.S. asked for one week and stayed four - ! Another wonderful three weeks (sorry, mistake above) with the Packard family has passed and every year gets better - this one with its Latin scholars, toads, duchesses - not to mention of course the ??? ??? has excelled them all. I can't even express how superb it's all been and I hope I can pay you all back what with supporting my future husband G-e-o-o-r-g-e and, of course, his family. Goodbye dear Packards, I hope I haven't been too much of a bother (don't answer that please). My best love to you all”

Lisa Cresswell

Tues July 29

“I've been to the seashore, I've heard of the plains, But I'll take Gricoq even when it rains. There's always plenty doing, no matter what the day. There's lots of canoeing and always something to play”.

“Thanks again to all of you. I had such a wonderful time and someday I hope I'll be able to write a much more inspiring rhyme”.

Mrs. (July 29 to July 30) Fitz and Ted

Mon. Aug 11

“Back at camp Gricoq after 6 long years. I'm ready to fly back to Denmark on September 1st after having spent the happiest days of my summer at the camp with the dear Packards. Many, many thanks and best love to all from me”

Caroline Neussel

August 5 – August 19

“Excuse bad hand writing, punctuation, spelling and everything my English teacher has flunked me for”.

“After ten swell days any body is bound to go away feeling alot better than when he, she, or it came. Or on the other hand one can go away with cuts, headaches, stubbed toes and so forth. In my case, I go away with both. From playing tennis with Anita to going to the inn to raise a little hell with George. I want to thank every body and every thing for a swell time and four stubbed toes”.

D.D.T.T.

Alexander Cassatt

(A.JC Senior was here from the 5th – 6th)

Mon Aug 18 – Aug 20

“A glorious visit with sad and happy moments. I missed you, George, but found the rest of your family absolutely delightful. Here's a grand finale to your summer. Many thanks for everything”.
Ma-iu Paw

Tuesday 26 Aug – Thursday 28 Aug

“This book has just been sprung on me out of the clear blue, so I can't possibly come up to the other entries. So I'll just say prosaically (spelling ?) that I had a very, very enjoyable visit with the Packards, and much too short. Thank you all very much”.
Ted Thayer Jr.

August 15 to August 29

“Writing in this is worse than thanking somebody for a gift which you don't know what to do with. - I don't think I have ever had more fun any place that I have ever been, so I will just thank all of you for the fun that I have had in the last two weeks”.
Hugh Brock

Conclusion

Referring to the preamble, Parker did return with reasonable promptness to La Jeunesse only to be taken sick again about Aug. 15 and cause considerable concern. He had what several other fellow campers had, and it lasted 2 weeks with high temperature & coughing. He got back here on Friday, Aug. 22 - and rapidly recovered.

The Jeep hauled several cords of wood, felled & cut by the boys, Will & the writer - We counted on our return this week to attach the power saw and make stove wood – However, difficulty encountered in detaching the winch and attaching the pulley drive, postponed the wood-cutting effort until October. We are leaving the Jeep here and hope to get a day or so before the “Partridge” season to finish up the wood. Leonard Mussen came over last evening and presumably put the Jeep in good shape for that.

The summer has been uneventful except for the weather - Rain all July - Heat all August.

Thurs. 8/28

Abe left Saranac Inn Station with 4 trunks – “Cricket” put up in the garage at Gilpin Bay -
Chriscraft put up in Launch House (still commissioned)

Frid. 8/29

(Anticipated) A.C.P. – A.C.P. Jr – P.W.P. – Grp Jr leave by Chevrolet for Villa Nova – (taken across by the Churches). G.R.P. III & Hugh Brock leave by night train - by help of Churches and Snodgrass –

“Summer '47 FINIS '47 Summer”

Fall 1947

Oct. 12

ACP & I arrived by train this Sunday morning. We had a long anticipated at least a two-week's stay, but complications at home made that impossible. We planned to stay five days and did. Major took us to "Innisfree" where we found the Blagdens, Churches & Draytons in bed. They were all on hand to inspect various improvement operations connected with the sale of a part of "Hohioken" from one to the other and work was in progress. We had a good breakfast in spite of what appeared to be a lot of Indian talk that evening before, and the Churches, who had motored over from New England, took us down to Gilpin Bay where Will met us with the "Cricket". - He had launched her the day before and taken Frances & Ida over to camp where all was in readiness for us at the Winter House.

This trip was designed primarily for two purposes – 1.) to cut the wood on the power saw not connected for reasons set forth heretofore – and 2.) to get the Jeep back to Villa Nova. Both were accomplished – H. Church is due a thousand thanks for pitching in as he did for wood cutting and lots of other chores. Everything worked beautifully - All camp motors and other utility units worked to perfection. We ended up with about 15 cords of wood ranked in the wood shed (Stove wood). Never before have we encountered weather like this week of completely ideal, perfect "Adirondack" weather. Too warm for the season and very dry, but nothing to be desired for us city dwellers who were looking for a reason to be out of doors.

Sunday 10/12

On arrival, launched Chris craft which had been left commissioned but up on slings and set up Jeep & saw. In P.M. - H.C., Will and I sawed most of the wood brought in during summer. Everything worked well except the governor on Jeep motor, but it took the load well anyway.

Monday 10/13

Bill Goya arrived to help with the wood-cutting. We finished up the old pile & Will & Bill felled & started processing a huge maple for further power-sawing. The Churches & Packards laid off about noon & took the Churches car up to Long Pond for a Picnic lunch. I got two grouse in ten minutes on the Long Pond - East Pine Pond Trail right after lunch. We called to inspect the Blagden - Drayton operations in the afternoon & they came to supper with us, all leaving by train that night.

Tues. 10/14

Goya, Plumley, Church and I finished our wood cutting by noon. It was rugged work. We baled out the sunken Eagle Island Scow & took the Jeep successfully back to Gilpin Bay after lunch. We closed the day with a walk along the Racquet River but no birds.

Wed. 10/15

Work done, we took it easy – Hunted about an hour in the P.M. in Saginaw Bay but no luck.

Thur. 10/16

The Churches left from Gilpin Bay - 7:20 A.M. An hour's hunt on Beauty Hill without success. Lee Gladd came at 9:00 A.M. and put up the Chris-craft in our launch house. ACP and I took the Jeep up the line for a day's outing only to find that the woods were declared closed on account of drought at ten o'clock this-morning. We therefore decided against hunting except in case we

should see a stray bird on the road side. We had a picnic lunch on Hoel Pond and the day was too hot for pleasure at this time of year. We came back to camp as though on a summer day and put everything at rights to close the season and probably the year. A.C.P. is leaving to-night on the train rather than brave the Jeep with me tomorrow. She was willing but I was not.

Fri. 10/17

Plan to leave in Jeep after taking Frances, Ida, Will and Bill over with camp closed up. We will put the "Cricket" up carefully in the garage at Gilpin Bay.

1949

April 22

Mamie and Ben Blagden & GRP Jr. arrived by train this Friday morning. A.C.P. is visiting in California and we are here to open up the Winter House for the season & see what the camp looks like after nearly two years laid up. We also came equipped for some trout fishing.

The weather was fine & warm on arrival but from noon the first day it has been blowing & showery ever since. Temperature mild - No freezing.

Leonard Mussen came over with us on arrival. Major and Lee Gladd had commissioned the Cricket at Gilpin Bay. Leonard fixed up the Pump motors & as soon as he left, the Winter House Water tank fell through its supports & under the generalship of Ben we spent the P.M. rebuilding its foundations. Will was here on our arrival but we took him up to Major's to go home Saturday morning. After that, the only trouble we found was a leaking toilet & an oil leak in a bearing on the pump motor. We are leaving the Cricket in the water at Walter Darling's - (former Loeb camp) and leaving keys with Major to have Leonard come over in the next week or two to make repairs.

Saturday we spent up the Lake & had a fine lunch on "Nature Girl" - Too wet to fish - Sunday, we are having lunch here & plan to leave right afterwards & fish up at Forest Home if not too wet. Probably will have dinner at Placid & catch train there.

April 24-

Fine trip, thanks to Major's planning & his truck, but particularly to Mamie for her superb house work & cooking &

May 16

A.C.P. and GRP motored over from S.P.S. on Monday and as per plan, met the Townsends who had motored up also in their own car, at Majors.

We had two fine hot days on Tuesday and Wednesday but had no luck in finding any trout anywhere.

We stayed at the Winter House with Frances in attendance and had a very pleasant visit in spite of no fish.

On Thursday we set off in our two cars for Pohoqualine where we were to spend a couple of days with the Townsends.

May 19

Charles C. Townsend
Ethel Townsend

Friday Aug. 12

The summer season opened with the arrival of G.R.P., A.C.P., GRP 3rd, P.W.P., Marsalla Walter, Abe, Rosie in two cars - 12 hrs. from Villa Nova leaving the ladder at 5:15 A.M.

Little A.C.P. was in the west, & George R.P. 3rd had just returned thence - with P.W.P. tutoring hard to advance into the second term at S.P.S. - Accordingly it was designed as a short summer here.

Will had been here & everything was in pretty good shape. The Churches have been in residence since late July, so we were helped into camp by them with lots of boats. Most of us lived in the Winter House & eat our meals there. George 3rd & older guests slept in the big house without hot water.

Aug. 12 – 21

John L Heckscher - a wonderful camp with many new surprises

Aug. 20 – 21

“ - Where the angels fear to tread” – Cresswell

Aug. 22 – 25

– Frank and Sis Pell – “Played a new game – “find the fishing rod” invented by Parker Packard, met the professor & fondled Rosie’s furnace belly. A wonderful visit”!
“Agreed” - Clarissa W. Pell (Tennis. 2-6, 6-6 - ?)

Aug. 25 – 26

– Lewis M. Pell

Aug. 27-28

Charles W. Thayer – “ate drank slept here”

Aug. 18-20

Nelson G.T. Thayer – “a wonderful camp, a wonderful family, and an extra wonderful time”.

Our short stay was remarkable for wonderful, clear, hot weather for the most part. We have never seen the lake lower due to lack of rain and it caused some difficulty in landing boats, etc. The well at the Winter House went dry and we had to pump from the lake.

A.C.P. and Parker went down by train Monday night Aug. 29th. GRP 3rd took Marsalla, Walter and the dogs down by car Tuesday, Aug. 30. GRP stayed to close things up through Wednesday

Aug. 31. He leaves this afternoon to go up the lake for the night with M.F.P.B., planning to meet GRP 3rd on the early morning train and motor with him to Canada for a few days fishing at the Louisville Club.

Aug. 31st Wednesday - 1949 Summer Season

Closed

1950

Although several visits were made to camp since the last entry, no one actually spent a night here until July 1950. G.R.P. was here in October 1949 in the hunting season, but was in residence at the Blagdens. No grouse but one pretty good buck, the head of which was mounted for the Winter House. A.C.P. Jr. and G.R.P. came to Lake Placid a few days late in February and came across the ice to visit camp one day. The same occurred when G.R.P., GRP 3rd, and P.W.P. were here in March.

July 13th

G.R.P. & P.W.P arrived by train. G.R.P. 3rd had motored up with Hugh Brock a couple of days before & stayed with the Blagdens. We came across the lake in the Cricket which had been in the Gilpin Bay garage and took up residence in the Winter House where Frances was presiding and Will was at camp as usual. We had acquired the "Peter Pan" during the winter & she had been commissioned by Charlie Keough when G.R.P. was up with the Draytons for Memorial Day. The old Chris craft had been stored at the Wetherills for the winter since we demolished our launch house and Keough had also commissioned her. She has had carburetor and other troubles, however, but we hope she will be in order in a few days. The first two weeks is designed primarily for a work program for George & Hugh to accomplish some badly needed repairs and improvements.

A.C.P. Jr. and Marion Pew arrived by car from Canada rather unexpectedly on Sunday P.M. July 16 - They lend a happy touch to our bachelor existence and plan to stay most of this week before departing for Maine.

July 17

Parker & I return to-night by train. We have had a pleasant taste of the place and have seen George, Hugh, and Will do lots of good work. I plan to return for next week-end.

July 16 – 21

"I have just witnessed Hugh Brock murder a poor innocent little mouse which upset me terribly, but aside from that, everything here at "Gricoq" couldn't possibly have been better, from rescuing (sp?) girl sprouts from sunken sail-boats to freezing hands around cold chicken and tin cups on Whiteface. Many, many thanks to all the Packard family for a wonderful time
With love," Marion Pew

July 28-29

"What a long stay I had. Maybe I can stay longer than a day next time, and go water skiing".
Bill Brookfield

Aug. 25

“With many plans changed, Parker and I returned by train for the week-end, beginning Sat. July 22nd - A.C.P. Jr. & Marion had left for Maine the day before and the company consisted of Hugh Brock, George – Parker & George - The boys had worked hard with Will - The Winter House Dock & Shelter for the “Cricket” had been completed - - - much wood had been cut - all three boats were working - and we leave the place in good shape for the return of the entire family early in August. More detail will be recorded then. We four, leave early this day by car for home”.

“Writing in this book draws to an end a very pleasant two week stay. During these weeks much work was planned - some of this was done, but I am afraid much of it wasn't”.

“Camp Gricoq has many qualities which fine places in this country have. Besides being nearby, it is very beautiful surroundings and above all the people connected with it are tops in all respects”.

“I feel a note of sorrow every time I leave here and I shall always look forward to coming back. It is then with many thanks to all the Packards for a most wonderful stay that I sign here”.

Hugh Brock

Aug. 10

Two Anitas, Parker, Pete Bissell and I arrived by car from Villa Nova at Gilpin Bay about 6:15 P.M. – G.R.P. 3rd had preceded us by about half an hour having motored himself from Bar Harbor, Maine. The Churches helped him across from the landing and he, in turn, met us in the old Chris craft. We had tried a new route recommended by AAA through Wilkes Barre and Binghamton. The roads were fine but the trip was 424 miles or about 30 miles longer than the old way and accordingly not so good.

Frances was here with a helper and we settled in to both the big house and the Winter House, eating in the former. Will is it home haying, so the boys are doing the Chores. At the moment, all equipment is working - undoubtedly too good to last.

August 18-22

A most glorious visit with a new and special interest! Glad Elmer was here also. Missed the head of the house. Weather gave proof of its great virtue even tho' it wanted to show that rain could fall. Have enjoyed every minute.

Anita Porter Clothier

August 19-31

“Again, as always, my stay at Gricoq has been wonderful. The long planned house party (heard talk about it aprox 2 years ago), although 1/2 in size, lived up to all expectations. in fact it was much better - Again with many thanks to every one in the Packard family I sign –“

Hugh Brock

Aug 25

Although my husband Globbie hasn't been a very enjoyable guest, my stay couldn't have been more fun. Globbie, dear boy, became quite objectionable on the dance floor at the Marcy and at meals. Hope the Packard family will forgive him. I am very sorry to leave having a wonderful vacation”.

Susie Thayer

August 25, 1950

“Being a new member of the family is more than I can articulate. My stay has been wonderful, and I hope the Packards have enjoyed me as much as I have them”.

Tad Montgomery

September 2, 1950

“First of all, I simply do not intend to apologize (as Susie has done in the above) for my “constant” Ralph Head - he goes to my head - Wow **BRUSH FIRE! o-o-o-o!** but, I do want to apologize for the innumerable number of **gaskets** that have been shot forth on my account.

Last of all (cheer up – Blabber mouth is almost thru!), I couldn't have had a more enjoyable time possibly -

I's thru'! Whew! As my dear father would say - It's a terrible death to be talked to death –

Audrey Cresswell

Audible

September 2/50

“It is hard to express the wonderful time I have enjoyed at Gricocq. I'm afraid I drove you crazy with my gossip”.

Walter (Pete Bissell)

Saturday Sept.2

We leave by car early with the help of the Church Fleet. The summer will be memorable on several counts: - Everything worked perfectly; the weather was frightful; no one was sick nor seriously hurt; and above all, we had a pleasant opportunity of mutual exposure with Tad, the new “friend of the family” and the Packards and all their friends quickly filled with pride in his willingness to join the league.

There was little “Adirondack” activity - water skiing seemed to climax outdoor events and the old chris craft endured it with reasonable success.

This was our first season without the launch house which had been pulled down before it fell down. Two booms at the main dock provided adequate mooring and wind and weather proved no insurmountable barrier to the satisfactory boating. Pending the completion by Ben Blagden of a marine railway for storage in the garage at Gilpin Bay, we are leaving the Peter Pan, drained and covered at the Blagdens, with the old C. craft stowed as best we could in the shelter at the Winter House dock. We hope to return in a few weeks to put up the “Pan” when Ben's job is completed and keep the old boat afloat for the hunting season.

Recorded Friday night, Sept. 1 –

Departures:

Friday A.M. Sept. 1-

Anita and Ted

Eusie Thayer & Hugh Brock -

Sat. A.M. Sept. 2

A.C.P. – Parker – Pete Bissell & GRP & Casey

Audrey Creswell & G.R.P. 3rd & Abe

Thursday Oct. 19

H. C. & I motored up from Villa Nova with Dan - 5:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at Gilpin Bay. This gave us sufficient daylight to row over to camp in the blue guide boat and settle in at the Winter House where Frances and Susie were in residence. We learned that Will had been sick for a couple of weeks and was not up to staying at camp. We hope his troubles are not serious.

Ben & M.F.P.B. were at their camp and Gene & GRP 3rd motored up from Princeton an all night drive arriving at about 7 A.M. Friday and went right out duck hunting. George came down to settle at the Winter House with us Friday afternoon.

Saturday was a glorious fall day and starting with the Chris craft, we took a guide boat & canoe through Green Pond, Pollywog, Middle, Floodwood & Fish Creek. Grouse & ducks were seen but not bagged.

The Gilpin Bay project is complete & I had come up for one day in September to try it out by putting up the Peter Pan. Everything worked beautifully & I have no fear that we can slide the old Chris craft up the rails & into the house with ease when I leave later this week.

Gene and GRP 3rd did lots of duck hunting with good success. George not only got his first duck but several in addition. He went down by train Sunday night Oct. 22nd, having to report at Princeton Monday.

H.C. went down by train Monday night 10/23 and I am closing the Winter House to-day, Oct. 24th and taking Frances and Susie home. I plan to spend the next couple of days with the Ben Blagdens and repair to S.P.S. on Friday to visit Parker for the week-end with both Anitas. Thus far I have only seen one grouse which I missed but hope to get some more hunting in the next day or two. Ben & I may try for a deer tomorrow which is the opening day. I plan to lay the Chris craft up on Thursday in Gilpin Bay.

Tuesday Oct. 24th Out

July 6

Although I had been here the end of May while staying with the Blagdens, this was the first time in residence at camp this year.

Parker and I arrived by train this Friday morning. Major met us and gave us breakfast and took us to the Gilpin Bay Landing. There we met Frances and after putting the Peter Pan in the water (she had been commissioned for my earlier trip), we came over to camp. Will had been there through June and all was in readiness for us.

Charlie Keough's man fixed up the Cricket later in the day so we have been using her also.

George & Jim Billings with another boy and 3 girls came up on the train with us and were making a House Party at the Blagdens.

The weather has been fine and we have been on the water a good deal. Considerable water skiing was done by the young from the "Pan".

July 8

Parker and I will put the Pan in the garage this afternoon and have dinner with the Blagdens before catching the night train down.

July 27 –

Doctor James G. Gibson and I arrived by train this Friday morning and were taken by Major to the Blagdens for breakfast. We got the "Pan" in the water and found Frances & Will & Ida & Susie waiting for us at camp.

We spent a week-end of loafing and fooling around with the first two days cloudy & cool for the most part & ending up with a glorious Sunday.

Ben's road project into the Hall property is progressing rapidly and we must decide promptly on the best route to come into our camp with it.

I'm writing this Sunday morning. We are expecting the Blagdens, Gene Billings and the Bay and Reids for lunch. We will put the Pan away at the landing later in the afternoon and have supper with the Blagdens before catching the night train.

July 29

"A wonderful happy time"

James G. Gibson

M.D.-D.D.-

Aug. 9

Parker and I arrived with Abe in the Chevrolet at Gilpin Bay Landing at 5:25 P.M. - eleven hours and twenty minutes and 397 miles from Villa Nova. We launched the Peter Pan and came over to camp in her. Will appeared in the Cricket and took the bags. Frances was house-keeping for us in the big house. Anita & Tad came later in the evening having stopped at Simsbury on route.

Charlie Keough commissioned the old Chris craft the day after our arrival so we have three working boats to start with.

August 19th

“Toto and Funny Boy thank you all for a wonderful three days”.

Ras Klanan

“It was marvelous to be back after 4 long years - only sorry it was so short” –
Lisa Creswell

P.W.P. & I broke away for almost a week on a trip to North Haven, Me. to visit the Morris Chestons. We had a grand time with them & a very pretty trip over - via the ferry to Burlington & Route U.S .2 - through VT. – N.H. & Maine. We spent a pleasant night at the Crawford House at Crawford Notch going east & a less successful one at the Middlebury Inn on the way back.

Our summer was marred by extremely bad weather for the most part. In addition A.P.M. and Tad both developed long drawn out colds as did Parker, but his really grew into a bad one with an ear, etc - so he had one last lost week. We were grateful for gratuitous (to be paid for later) telephonic advice from Dr. Richard Bellaire of Saranac.

George III arrived after his Western trip on Monday night, Aug. 20th - Gene Billings came up about the same time & they trafficed around together with various Blagden female house-guests including, in particular, “Dagmar”, or otherwise Elsie Large. They brought the Jeep up and we worked it into the camp on Ben Blagden’s new road project with the help of his big Caterpillar under the control of Wilfred & his helper, Alfred - Said project may develop into something very important to all of us on this shore. Ben has evidenced great vision and foresight, and I am prepared to stand by him in his effort - It should ultimately lead to establishing a liquid position for this place & the possibility of modifying & modernizing what we have.

We authorized Charlie Keough to order a new 95 H.P. motor for the old Chris craft, now and henceforth known as the “Old Hundred” and to “do her up”. - I think it will be a worth-while investment.

We skidded a fair amount of wood with the Jeep and plan to do more on a couple of more early fall week-ends preparatory to cutting into stove wood later. This to be done during the hunting season when GRP 3rd can break away from Princeton to help us out & to drive the Jeep home.

Thus ends this summer. We leave by cars Sat. A.M. Sept. 1st. George is transporting Elsie and Abe. - - -

Parker and I are taking Cloie – The “Peter Pan” was put up and winterized by Charlie Keough this A.M. (Friday 8/31) at Gilpin Bay - We have the “Old Hundred” in the water at the Winter House Camp for the Hunting season & we plan to take the “Cricket” over for our exit & lay her up in Gilpin Bay in the morning - Carl Hathaway has agreed to take Frances & Ida over when they are ready to go tomorrow.

Sat. Sept. 1-
Out

Fri. Sept. 28

I came up by train with Ben Blagden and Gene Billings arriving this morning & being met by H.C. who had motored up the day before & M.F.P.B. - We breakfasted at the Blagdens, & I went to Gilpin Bay with H.C. and rowed over to camp. I arrived there simultaneously with Frances, Susie and Will & we settled in the Winter House. Tom & Dot Barton arrived on the noon plane & after lunching at the Blagdens came down to stay here with me. The Churches stayed with the Blagdens.

The weather was miserable - cold - raw - windy with rain & hail. Except for some walking around Ben's "project" & some "Nature Girl" excursions, we stayed pretty close to the fire.

Sun. Sept. 30.

We are leaving here this Sunday P.M. - We will dine at "Innisfree" & catch the train to-night. I leave the "Old Hundred" in the water at Gilpin Bay & the Jeep in the garage here - Our hope is to return for a week in Oct. - to cut wood with the Jeep & to do some hunting.

Out

Sept 30

"Dot and I have had a perfect week and leave with wonder memories and great regret".
Dot & Tom Barton

1953

Saturday Aug. 29

Parker, Dave Smith and I motored from Villa Nova arriving at Gilpin Bay at 4:45 P.M. - after eleven and a half hours on the road.

The Peter Pan had been left in the house but commissioned since a July week-end Parker & I had spent with the Blagdens. We launched her with ease and came across the lake to find the Winter House made beautifully ready by E.P.C. and Mrs. DeMars in charge of the kitchen. Will was also on hand.

Except for a fine trip from Long Lake back to Indian Carry, the week was spent mostly loafing and swimming in the extremely hot weather. One day was 85° in the full shade. Parker & Dave did a tremendous amount of water skiing.

Jim Gibson arrived by train Thursday A.M. Sept. 3rd.

Today, Sat. Sept. 5th it is the first rain encountered. We plan to put up the boats (Pan & Cricket) this afternoon, driving Mrs. DeMars to Bloomingdale & bring the car into camp for a dawn departure tomorrow.

Sun. Sept 6.

“Swell time with a “minor interruption”

J Gibson

“Tremendous time with no interruption and hardly any hay fever”.

David (Nat) Smith

P.S. (Over)

Still Sat. Sept. 5 –

Since completing the previous page, all sorts of things have happened. In the first place it rained - When we sat down to lunch, the plans recounted before were still anticipated. Parker went to get the “Pan” from the main dock & returned breath-taken to report her sunk at about 5:00 P.M. we had coordinated ourselves to the point where Charlie Keough arrives simultaneously with Carl Hathaway & his fire pump. The pump kept ahead of the water. Charlie quickly spotted the trouble as a disconnected shaft bushing and made repairs so that with Col. Wetherill towing us we dry-docked her expeditiously at Gilpin Bay landing.

Our plans, therefore, changed fast - In the absence of another entry, we shall depart by “Cricket” early to-morrow. The Cricket will be housed & the “Pan” left on the tracks for Charlie to retrieve to his shop for a thorough winter over-haul.

Mid-night – Sat. Sept. 5-6

1954

July 21 – July 26

“This was our first **sponge**, and wonderful it was. Just imagine two newly-married couples, approximately four weeks ago, keeping house. It was a mad scramble, but that merely increased the fun”.

“I hope Joan and I can return the kind hospitality we have received here at Saranac, not only from George and Minnie, but also the Blagdens, Gene and Bobby and Mr. Packard in absentia. Thank you for all very much for the terrific time; you have sold us on Saranac”.

“Hoping to give you a good dose of dispepsia on our cooking in Lawton, Okla., we remain affectionately”.

The Humphreys

July 31st

“Minnie and I arrived at Saranac full of sun and salt water and the sweat of three days wedding clean up behind us. Although we'd both been up together, we'd never before considered it as a “honeymoon” spot, and found it to be just that and much more. Min's first battle with the cuisine proved victorious - we ate like pigs all manner of delicacies, and added pounds to our bulging buns. Took 2 carry trips, one through Hoel, Slang, Turtle, and Long. The other through Horseshoe, the Polywogs and Floodwood. Fished at Bay Pond with Mr. Billings Jr., climbed St.

Regis, considered Marcy. Skied incessantly with a nifty slalom course, painted, read and “snorted at the Blaggetts, It was an entirely successful stay despite the ornary hot water stove and intermittent rains. The “Pan” was equal to its daily workout and that was enough. Off to the Salt water now with the warmest send off of a number of mice who are still mourning their 26 cousins who “don’t move no more!”.

GRP III

To Pidgy - With Many Happy Returns of the Day

The Squire of Gricocq.

Up in the mountains far away,
There lies a point upon Gull Bay.
Where you'll find, any summer's day
The Squire of Gricocq.

He fishes, rows, canoes and sails,
His frequent guests he well regales;
With Will and Major swaps tall tales
The Squire of Gricocq.

But when the summertime is done,
And further southward goes the sun;
Why then he really has his fun
The Squire of Gricocq.

He opens up his Winter House;
He wakes up Churchy (that old Souse!)
And goes to look for Ruffled Grouse.
The Squire of Gricocq.

That Winter House that there you see
As nearly perfect as house can be,
Everythings kept just so by He –
(The Squire of Gricocq)

I do not want to paint the lily,
And any gift for it seems silly,
But you must take this, Willy–Nilly,
My Squire of Gricocq!

I hope that when you next go back,
To that dear house at Saranac,
This little gift may fill a lack.
Dear Squire of Gricocq!