

St Croix River to Penobscot River

(St Croix R. – Baskahegan Stream)

Grand Lake – Baskahegan Stream : 4.5 km

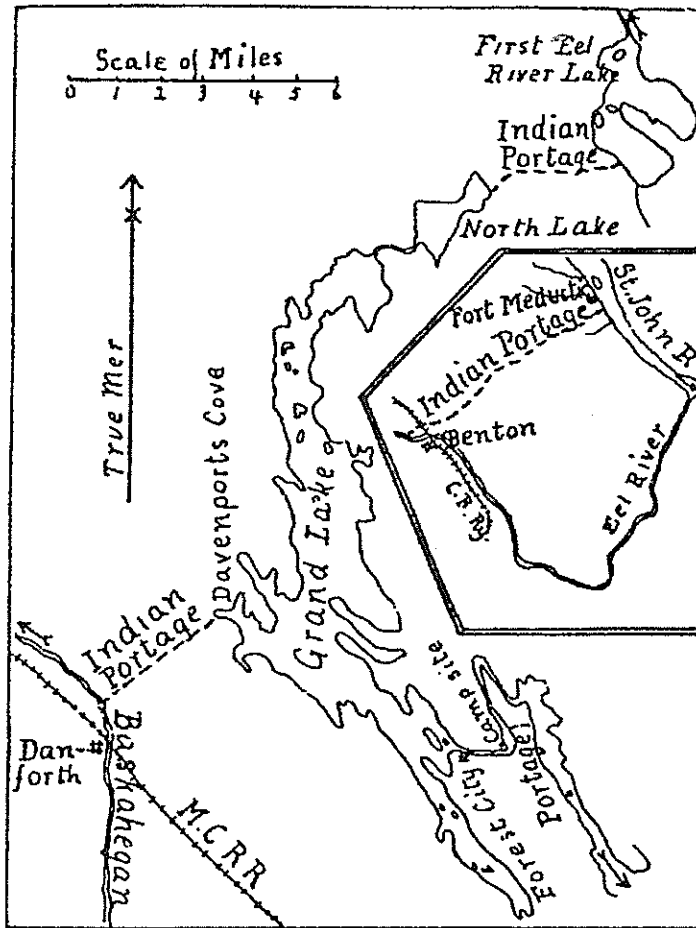
In his 1899 Historic Sites, Ganong has: *Grand Lake– Baskahegan: This was a part of the greatly-used route from the St. John to the Penobscot via Eel River [what has become known as the Maliseet Trail]. Its course, as given me by two residents, is shown on the accompanying map No. 5, [Map No. 1] and it is described by one of them, (Mr. D. Gilpatrick, of Danforth, Me. [Foot Note]) who knows it thoroughly, as follows: It left Grand Lake at Davenport's cove and ran south west over a considerable hill two and a half miles to Cleaves Landing on the Baskahegan, a mile below the present railway bridge and village. The Baskahegan is easy of navigation in summer for a canoe. The route is also marked correctly on the map in Kidder's "Revolutionary Operations," and also on the Indian map of 1798 [Map No. 2] (In Magazine of American History, XXVI., page 264 [Foot Note]). This route was accurately known at least as early as 1764, for it is mentioned in instructions given that year by Governor Bernard of Massachusetts, to Surveyor John Mitchel.*

It was by this route many of the early settlers of Houlton came from Maine, as related in the Histories of Houlton. [p. 244, 245]

In his 1906 Additions and Corrections, Ganong has: *The Grand Lake– Baskahegan portage is clearly shown on an important early map—that of the Survey of 1796-97,[Map No. 3] reproduced in the Monograph on Boundaries, page 254. [p. 89]*

Ganong's Map No. 5, which he refers to as his accompanying map, in his Historic Sites, was a map Ganong draw in order to show the major portages that were along the ancient Native canoe route that led from the Saint John River to the head of the St Croix River and on to the Penobscot waters. This ancient Native canoe route has become known as the "Maliseet Trail." Ganong's Map No. 5 is given here, (Map No. 1) but it only roughly

shows the location of the Grand Lake – Baskahegan portage and the other two major portages that were along the route of this ancient canoe route:



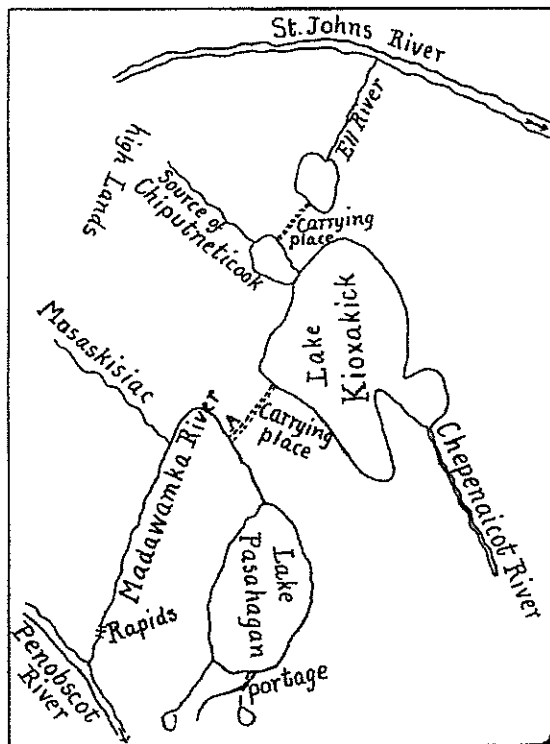
Map No 1

Ganong states in his *Historic Sites*, that Cleaves Landing (where the ancient portage trail reached the Baskahegan Stream) was "a mile below the present railway bridge and village" of Danforth. Modern maps show that Cleaves Landing is actually just a bit less than one and a half miles below the railway bridge at Danforth.

Ganong also states that the route of the Grand Lake – Baskahegan portage was marked correctly on the map in the 1867 book *Military Operations in Eastern Maine and Nova Scotia during the Revolution*, by

Frederic Kidder. Kidder's book was found at the Harriet Irving Library, and the map Kidder gave in his book is actually a copy of McMillan's map of New Brunswick, which also shows a part of eastern Maine. This map is on a small scale, and the portage is only shown as a straight line.

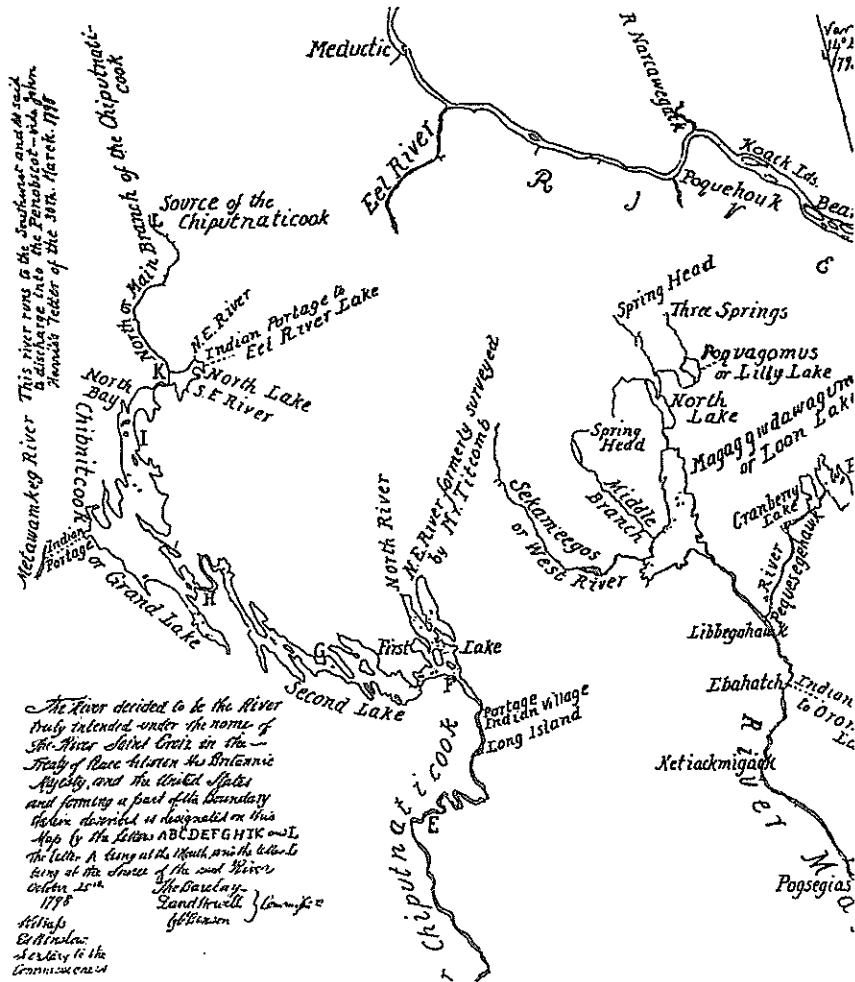
The Indian map of 1798, which Ganong says shows the portage trail, was drawn by Francis Joseph in the year 1798. This map roughly shows the ancient Native canoe route that led from the Saint John River to the Penobscot River, which as mentioned has become known as the Maliseet Trail. This map also only roughly shows the Grand Lake – Baskahegan portage. A copy of a tracing Ganong made of this map was found in the Ganong Collection at the New Brunswick Museum Archives and Research Library, and it is given here: (Map No. 2)



Map No. 2

Ganong states in his 1906 Additions and Corrections that the Grand Lake – Baskahegan portage is clearly shown on an important early map of the Survey of 1796-97, which he reproduced on page 254 of his Monograph

on Boundaries. Ganong is referring here to the map he gave in his monograph on *The Evolution of the Boundaries of the Province of New Brunswick*, which was published in 1901, in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, Vol. 7, Sec. II. The map Ganong is referring to was drawn by George Sproule, who was New Brunswick's first Surveyor-General, but this map also only roughly shows where the ancient portage trail was located. Sproule put this map together about the year 1798 or 1799 using maps of different surveys that were taken between 1796 and 1798. Ganong's monograph on New Brunswick's boundaries, was found at the Harriet Irving Library, and the section of Sproule's map, which shows the Grand Lake - Baskahegan portage, is given here: (Map No 3)



In 1802, Charles Turner traveled over the ancient Native canoe route between the Saint John River and the Penobscot waters, and he briefly mentioned the ancient portage trail between Grand Lake and Baskahegan Stream in his Journal, which he kept during this trip. Charles Turner was an American surveyor engaged in laying out grants in the northern parts of Maine. In 1802 Turner came to the Saint John River by ship. He then traveled up river to the Meduxnekeag then up that river to where he was doing survey work on the American side of the boundary line. On his return home, Turner and his party traveled over what has become known as the Maliseet Trail. Extracts from Turner's Journal are in *Acadiensis Vol. VII, 1907, No. 2*, which was found at the Harriet Irving Library. The following is the section of Turners Journal where he briefly talks about traveling over the ancient Native canoe route from the Saint John River to the Penobscot River:

We proceeded on, and having hired Saul Sabbatis, the same Indian we employed the season before, went down the river [the Saint John River] as far as Mr. McKeen's, near Maductic point, an old Indian town, where we tarried the night.

9th Commenced our voyage by carrying our boats [canoes] over the portage [Meductic Portage] five miles into Eell River; went up the river into and across Eell Lake [First Eel Lake], and encamped in the rain on the portage between Eell Lake and the Upper Schoodic Lake [North Lake]; found, however, an excellent light bark camp, built by the Indians; this was a luxury.

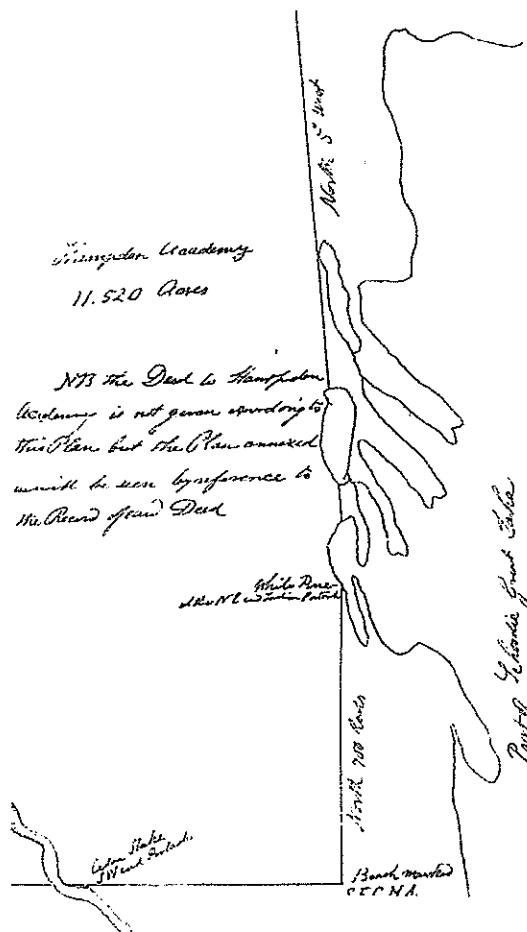
10th Crossed the portage, three miles; it rained hard, but was calm; therefore crossed lakes, carried over a three mile portage [Grand Lake to Baskahegan Stream] into Baskenhegen, a branch of Penobscot River, and went four miles down the stream, found another bark camp and put up.

11th we went out of Baskenhegen into Metawaumkeag, a still larger branch of the Penobscot; at night arrived at the mouth of the Metawaumkeag, and encamped in an Indian wigwam; it being a cold frosty night, we chose to risk the lice.

12th Faint yet pursuing, we arrived at night in safety at Indian Old Town, about ten miles above the tide; discharged Sabbatis.

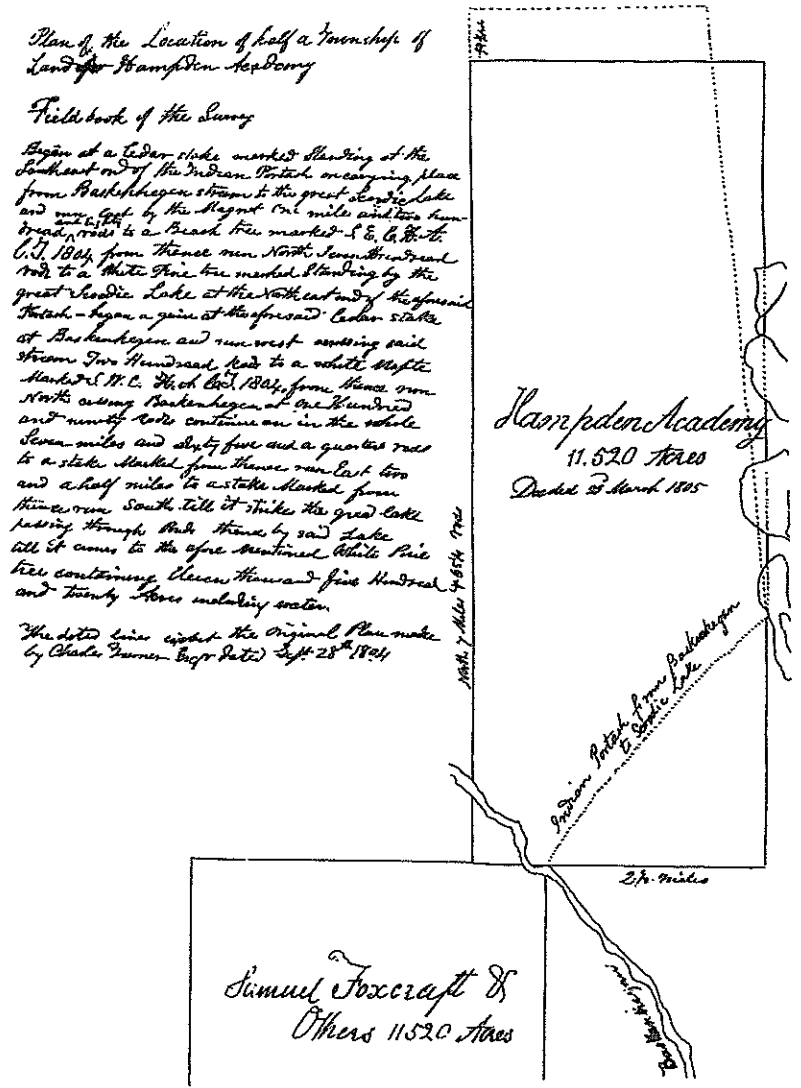
In 1804, two years after making his trip over the ancient canoe route between the Saint John River and the Penobscot River, Charles Turner made a survey of the 11,520 acre Hampden Academy Grant, in Maine. The ancient portage trail that ran between Grand Lake and Baskahegan Stream was within the boundaries of that Grant. A copy of a plan of this survey, and a written description of it, was received from Irma C. (Cleaves) Hess of Maine, who is a granddaughter of Samuel Cleaves, whom Cleaves Landing

is named after. This survey plan had been found at the Registry of Deeds, Aroostook County, Houlton, ME, Plan Book Vol. 22. The description of this 1804 survey clearly states that when Turner surveyed this Grant, he started at or very near the location where the ancient Grand Lake – Baskahegan portage trail started on Baskahegan Stream, and the description also states that the survey reached Davenport Cove on Grand Lake at the very location where the ancient portage trail started at Davenport Cove. The section of Turner's 1804 survey plan, which shows the two starting points of the ancient portage trail, is given here (Map No. 4). At the location where the survey started on Baskahegan Stream, Turner has the following written, "Cedar Stake SW end Portash," and the following is written at the location where the survey reached Davenport Cove on Grand Lake, "White Pine at the NE end Indian Portash." Portash is a misspelling of the word "portage."



Map No. 4

The Hampden Academy Grant was resurveyed after 1804. During this resurvey, which possibly was done in 1805, the boundary lines were changed a bit on the northern section of the Grant, but they remained the same on the southern section. A copy of the plan of this resurvey was also kindly given by Mrs. Hess, and it gives a description of the resurvey. It is also at the Registry of Deeds in Plan Book Vol. 22. The plan of this resurvey actually shows the ancient Native portage trail that ran between Grand Lake and Baskahegan Stream, and it is given here: (Map No. 5)



Map No. 5

The description of Charles Turner's 1804 survey of the Hampden Academy Grant clearly states that he had started the survey "at a Cedar Stake marked standing at the Southwest end of the Indian Portash or carrying place from Baskahegan stream to the great Schoodic Lake [Grand Lake]," and that the survey reached what is presently called Davenport Cove on Grand Lake at "a White Pine tree marked standing by the great Schoodic Lake at the Northeast end of the aforesaid Portash"

As mentioned, the ancient Native portage trail, which ran between Grand Lake and Baskahegan Stream, is clearly shown on the survey plan of the resurvey of the Hampden Academy Grant, which possibly took place in 1805. On this survey plan (Map No. 5), the following is written along the ancient portage trail, "Indian Portash from Baskahegan to Scoodic [Grand] Lake," and the following description of this resurvey, which is given to the left of the survey plan, reads as follows:

Field book of the Survey

Began at a Cedar stake marked Standing at the Southeast end of the Indian Portash or carrying place from Baskahegan Stream to the Great Scoodic Lake [Grand Lake] and run East by the magnet One mile and two hundred and eighty rods to a Beach tree marked S.E.C.H.A.C.T. 1804 from thence run North Seven Hundred rods to a White Pine tree marked Standing by the Great Scoodic Lake at the Northeast end of the aforesaid Portash — began again at the aforesaid Cedar stake at Baskahegan and run West crossing said stream Two Hundred rods to a white Maple marked S.W.C.H.A.C.T. 1804, from thence run North crossing Baskahegan at One Hundred and ninety rods continue on in the whole Seven miles and sixty five and a quarter rods to a stake marked from thence run East two and a half miles to a stake marked from thence run South till it strikes the great lake passing through Ponds thence by said Lake till it comes to the afore mentioned White Pine tree [at the Northeast end of the Indian Portash or carrying place] containing Eleven thousand five Hundred and twenty Acres including water.

The dotted line exhibit the Original Plan made by Charles Turner Esq. dated Sept. 28th 1804

Charles Turner's original 1804 survey plan of the 11,520 acre Hampden Academy Grant (Map No.4), and the survey plan of the resurvey of this 11,520 acre Grant (Map No.5), as well as the Field Books of these two surveys, clearly show that the boundary lines that were survey for the Hampden Academy Grant actually started on the Baskahegan Stream at the southwest end of the ancient Native portage trail that ran between

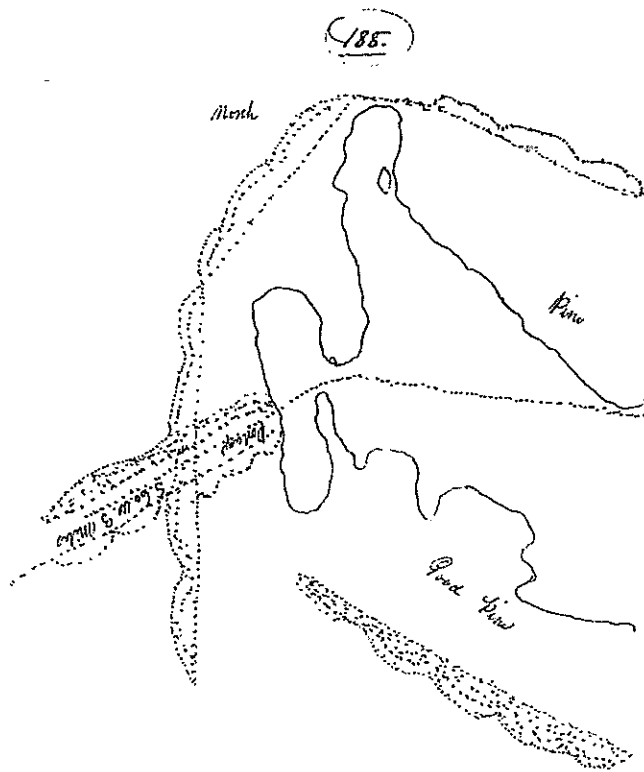
Baskahegan Stream and Grand Lake, and reached Davenport Cove on Grand Lake at the very location where the northeast end of the ancient portage trail started at Davenport Cove. This seems to be no coincidence, and it seems obvious that the two ends of the ancient Native portage trail were used as the southern and eastern limits of this large Grant.

In 1820, Joseph Treat traveled over the ancient Native canoe route between the Saint John River and the Penobscot waters. Traveling by canoe, Joseph Treat and his party had gone up the Penobscot River and portaged over to the Saint John waters and then down the Saint John River to the ancient Maliseet village and fort site of Meductic. Treat and his party then traveled back to the Penobscot River by way of the ancient Native canoe route that led from the village of Meductic to the head of the St. Croix River and on to the Penobscot waters. Treat kept a Journal during this trip, and the sketch maps that are in Treat's "Journal and Plans of Survey" show the starting points of the Grand Lake - Baskahegan portage fairly well. Treat states at the start of his Journal that the purpose of this trip was "*for the purpose of examining and ascertaining the quality of the soil and growth on the Public Land in that vicinity [in the area they had covered].*"

Joseph Treat's sketch maps, which are drawn with a fair degree of accuracy, show where the Grand Lake - Baskahegan portage started at Davenport Cove on Grand Lake, and where it reached the Baskahegan Stream. Treat's sketch maps do not show the entire route the ancient portage trail took as it traveled overland between Grand Lake and the Baskahegan, but Treat does say in his Journal that he and his party passed over a fine ridge of hardwood land three miles, which would indicate that the trail went over the higher ground as it passed between Grand Lake and the Baskahegan. A copy of some of Treat's valuable sketch maps were first received from Dino KubiK, from his excellent website "MaliseetTrail.com." Later a copy of Treat's Journal, which had been copied from the original by Frederick Mellen for the State, was found at the Maine State Archives. The sections of the Journal, which talk about arriving at, and going over, the ancient portage trail, as well as showing the sketch maps that show the locations where the ancient portage trail started at Davenport Cove on Grand Lake, and where it reached the Baskahegan Stream, are given here:

[page 188]

On this page, Treat gives a sketch map which shows the location where the ancient portage trail started at what is presently called Davenport Cove, on Grand Lake. This sketch map is given here: (Map No. 6)



Map No. 6

[page 189]

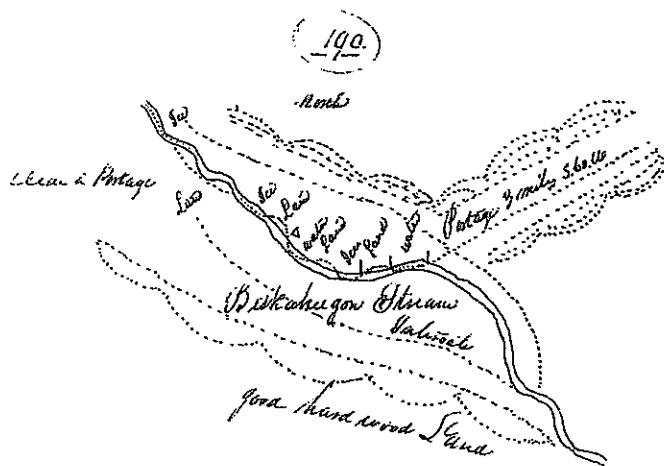
The last bay we pass on our right [as they traveled down the western side of Grand Lake] is two miles across in a westerly direction from the opposite Point to the Portage Landing — crossing which we nearly filled our Canoe — large seas and the wind strong from N. West, and so cold the sprays freeze on our cloths and baggage. We however with hard paddling gain the West shore and land at the Portage at ½ past 12, having come this morning about 7 miles.

We remain here about half an hour to dry our cloths and get some refreshment — then proceed across the portage to Baskahegan — We pass

over a fine ridge of hard wood land three miles to Baskahegan — this is a considerable Stream coming from the East — good meadow and intervale at the Portage Landing and good land on the S.W. side — fine ridge — we arrive at the Portage [the Baskahegan end of the portage] at half past three o'clock P.M. and find the stream frozen over — We hold a Council and deliberate whether we had better leave our Canoe and proceed home by land following the ridges to Madanawcook and Cold Stream &c.

[page 190]

On this page, Treat gives a sketch map which shows the location where the ancient portage trail reached the Baskahegan Stream. This sketch map is given here: (Map No. 7)



Map No. 7

In 1960, Robert Ross of Woodstock, New Brunswick, made a talk on the ancient Maliseet Trail to the Carleton County Historical Society. Robert Ross and others, including Peter Paul of the Woodstock First Nations, and Nicholas Smith who had taught school for a few years in Danforth Maine, did a lot of research on the Maliseet Trail in the 1950s and early 1960s. A copy of the transcript of Robert Ross' talk on the Maliseet Trail was received from Margaret Bergman of Maine.

On page four of the transcript of Robert Ross' talk, Ross talks about a trip he made with Nick Smith to the Danforth area and Davenport Cove, in July of 1959. Ross mentions finding out that a "*Mrs. Fenalson had found an old map of the area showing the old original Land Grants of the area and the old Baskahegan Trail from Davenport Cove, (beginning near Shiner's Rock) and crossing over to the Baskahegan.*" Ross stated that this old map, was in the possession of a Mrs. Molly Osbourne who owned a cottage at Davenport Cove, but that they did not get to see this old map on that trip.

During the research of this book, the location of Shiner's Rock was pointed out to us by the cottage owners at Davenport Cove, and it is at the coordinates of about 45° 42.301' N – 67° 51.370' W. "Shiner," is a family name.

On page five of the transcript, Ross talks about returning to Davenport Cove in August of 1959 with his son and Peter Paul, and actually finding a photocopy of the old map that showed the old Baskahegan Trail. This photocopy was in one of the cottages at Davenport Cove owned by Dr. Gordon Johnston. Ross states that the photocopy of the old map "*was somewhat indistinct but the trail was clearly shown to start at Davenport Cove and in almost a straight line proceed across to the Baskahegan. Several farms were marked in with the north boundary ending on the trail.*"

This old map that showed the old Baskahegan Trail, which was obviously the ancient Native portage trail, would be a very interesting map to see, but a copy of it has not been found.

On page six of the transcript, Ross talks about once again returning to the Danforth area in September of 1959 with his son and Hughie Judge, and speaking with 82 year old Hud White, who he had been told was the last resident of the area who could show him the beginning of the Baskahegan Trail, which had started at what was known as Cleaves Landing on the Baskahegan Stream. Ross states the following, after they had located Mr. White, "*We introduced ourselves and told him we were looking for information on the old Indian Trail from Baskahegan to Grand Lake and he confirmed our earlier leads that it started from Cleaves Landing on the Baskahegan and went up past an old farm and thence by almost a straight line to Davenport Cove.*" Following Mr. White's instructions, Ross and his son were later able to find Cleaves Landing on the Baskahegan, and found that the area had quite grown up.

During the research of this book, the location of Cleaves Landing on the Baskahegan Stream had been accurately pointed out by the people at the First Settler's Lodge, on Route 1 in Maine, who were descendants of Samuel Cleaves, whom as mentioned, Cleaves Landing is named after. They had

also kindly taken us to the home of Mrs. Irma Hess, who had kindly given the very valuable old survey plans, (Maps No. 4 and No. 5) which clearly showed the starting points of the ancient portage trail. The location of Cleaves Landing was also pointed out by Mrs. Hess. By following the instructions given by the people at the First Settler's Lodge, and by Mrs. Hess, Cleaves Landing on the Baskahegan Stream was easily found.

The position that is plotted (on Map No. 8) for the Baskahegan Stream end of the ancient Native portage trail is based of course on the location of Cleaves Landing, which all reports indicate was the starting point of the ancient trail on that stream. Joseph Treat's sketch map of where he and his companions reached the Baskahegan in 1820 (Map No. 7), and especially Charles Turner's 1804 survey plan of the Hampden Academy Grant (Map No. 4), and the resurvey of the Hampden Academy Grant (Map No. 5), agree perfectly with where Cleaves Landing was pointed out to us by Mrs. Hess and the people at the First Settler's Lodge.

There is also no doubt that the Grand Lake end of the ancient portage trail started at Davenport Cove, as also all reports indicate. Robert Ross indicated that it started near Shiner's Rock, and it is possible that the old map Ross referred too may show this, but as stated, a copy of this map has not been found. But it is possible to get a fairly close estimate of where the ancient Native portage trail started at Davenport Cove by carefully studying Joseph Treat's sketch map (Map No. 6), where Treat shows the location where he and his men left Davenport Cove and started across the ancient portage trail in 1820. Treat's sketch map also seems to perfectly agree with where Charles Turner's 1804 survey plan of the Hampden Academy Grant, and the resurvey of this Grant, show the starting point of the ancient portage trail at Davenport Cove. Treat's sketch map and the two old survey plans show that the trail started at a spot which was nearly opposite of what is now called Davenport Point. Also Shiner's Rock, which Robert Ross indicate was near the start of the ancient trail at Davenport Cove, is in fact at or very near the very location that Treat's sketch map (Map No. 6) and the two old survey plans (Map No. 4 and No. 5) show the starting point of the ancient Native portage trail at Davenport Cove.

So based on this information, the start of the Davenport Cove end of the ancient portage trail is plotted (on Map No. 8) at a location which is just to the northwest of Shiner's Rock, (which as mentioned had been pointed out to us by local cottage owners at Davenport Cove) at the GPS position of $45^{\circ} 42.296' N - 67^{\circ} 51.363' W$. After leaving Davenport Cove, the ancient portage trail would have had to immediately go up over what looks like a bit

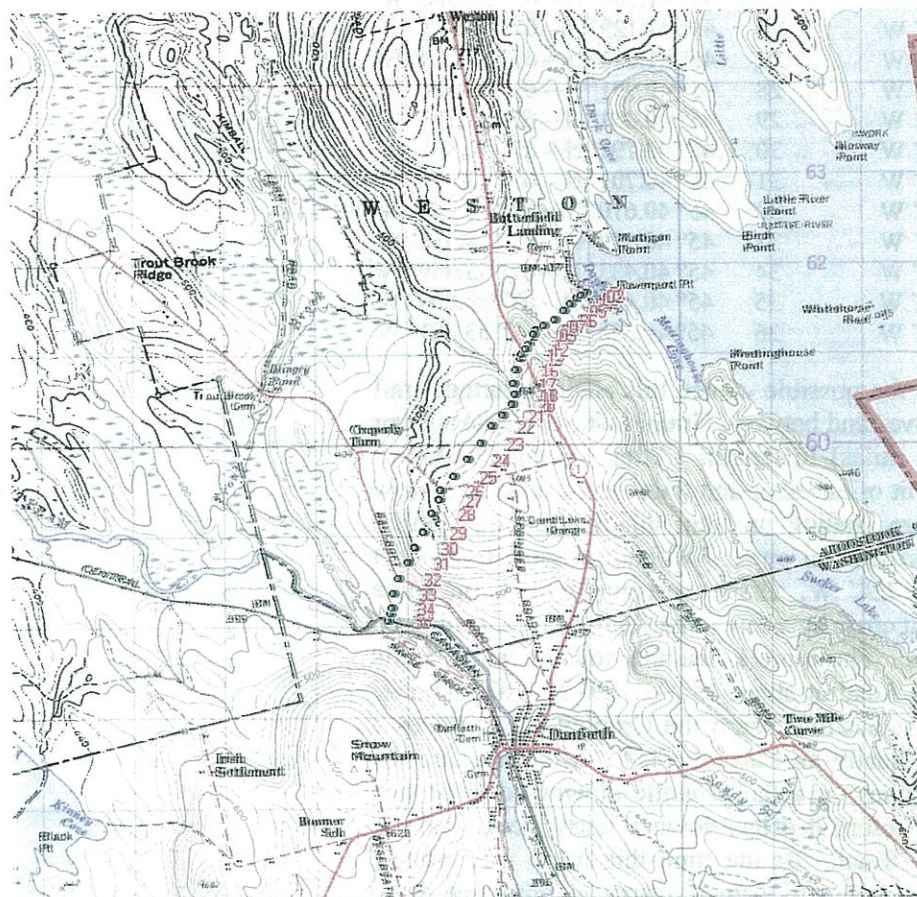
of an esker, which the road that leads to the present cottages at Davenport Cove now runs along. After going over this bit of an esker, the trail would have then crossed a fairly narrow section of lower ground before starting up a ridge. This lower section of ground, which the ancient portage trail would have had to cross, is partially flooded at present, but would have been much dryer before a dam was built at the outlet of Grand Lake. The fairly small dam that is presently at the outlet of Grand Lake has raised the water level in the lake by about at least four feet. The dam would have changed Davenport Cove somewhat, and has partially flooded the low section of ground. During the research of this book, it was found that at the beginning of this lower section of ground, the water was only about one foot deep. So if the water level in the lake has been raised by at least four feet by the dam at its outlet, but the water at the beginning of the lower section of ground is only about one foot deep, it would mean that this lower section of ground, which the ancient portage trail would have crossed, would have been originally about three feet or so higher than the original water level in the lake. It seems obvious, that though this lower section of ground may have been a bit wet before the water level in Grand Lake was raised by the dam at its outlet, it would not have been partially flooded as it is at present.

As for the route that has been plotted on the map (Map No. 8) to show the possible course the ancient trail may have taken as it passed over the fairly high ridge that lies between Grand Lake and Baskahegan Stream, the most direct route possible was plotted based on the contour lines on the Canadian and American topo maps used. A fairly direct route was plotted for this ancient portage trail based on the fact that Robert Ross stated that the old map he saw at one of the cottages at Davenport Cove in 1959, showed the portage trail running in almost a straight line, and this was also confirmed to Ross by Hud White, who told Ross that from the Baskahegan the portage trail went up past an old farm and thence by almost a straight line to Davenport Cove. Also one of the old survey plans that Mrs. Hess has given (Map No. 5) also shows the ancient trail taking a nearly direct line between Grand Lake and Baskahegan Stream.

Another thing, which would indicate that the ancient trail may have taken a near direct line, is what D. Gilpatrick of Danforth told W. F. Ganong, at some point before 1899. Ganong stated in his 1899 Historic Sites that Mr. Gilpatrick had informed him that after leaving Grand Lake at Davenport Cove, the trail ran southwest over a considerable hill. This is exactly what the ancient trail would have had to do, if it had indeed taken a near direct line. If the ancient trail had of avoided the considerable hill or ridge that Mr. Gilpatrick referred to, it would have had to swing farther around to the

north-westward in order to avoid the ridge. Mr. Gilpatrick's statement is also supported by Joseph Treat's 1820 Journal, where Treat states that he and his companions passed over a fine ridge of hard wood land, as they crossed the ancient portage trail between Grand Lake and the Baskahegan.

The following map (Map No. 8) shows the route the ancient Native portage trail may have taken as it went overland between Grand Lake and the Baskahegan Stream. This possible route is based on all the information that has been found on this particular ancient portage trail.



Map No. 8

Map No. 8, is a section of the Canadian topographical map: FOREST CITY 21G/12 dated 1980 Scale 1:50 000 Contour interval 10 metres in Canada, 20 feet in U.S.A.

The waypoints, which mark the route that has been plotted for this portage, and their coordinates, are listed here. All these waypoints have been checked on the ground:

01	45° 42.296' N – 67° 51.363' W	19	45° 41.679' N – 67° 51.984' W
02	45° 42.280' N – 67° 51.401' W	20	45° 41.633' N – 67° 52.003' W
03	45° 42.259' N – 67° 51.437' W	21	45° 41.568' N – 67° 52.083' W
04	45° 42.227' N – 67° 51.497' W	22	45° 41.503' N – 67° 52.175' W
05	45° 42.190' N – 67° 51.551' W	23	45° 41.403' N – 67° 52.268' W
06	45° 42.134' N – 67° 51.629' W	24	45° 41.310' N – 67° 52.388' W
07	45° 42.101' N – 67° 51.725' W	25	45° 41.208' N – 67° 52.506' W
08	45° 42.077' N – 67° 51.791' W	26	45° 41.129' N – 67° 52.621' W
09	45° 42.052' N – 67° 51.811' W	27	45° 41.074' N – 67° 52.634' W
10	45° 42.032' N – 67° 51.816' W	28	45° 40.991' N – 67° 52.694' W
11	45° 41.989' N – 67° 51.855' W	29	45° 40.881' N – 67° 52.770' W
12	45° 41.959' N – 67° 51.882' W	30	45° 40.791' N – 67° 52.845' W
13	45° 41.932' N – 67° 51.917' W	31	45° 40.701' N – 67° 52.909' W
14	45° 41.923' N – 67° 51.924' W	32	45° 40.610' N – 67° 52.987' W
15	45° 41.906' N – 67° 51.931' W	33	45° 40.519' N – 67° 53.033' W
16	45° 41.838' N – 67° 51.965' W	34	45° 40.433' N – 67° 53.049' W
17	45° 41.756' N – 67° 51.987' W	35	45° 40.401' N – 67° 53.060' W
18	45° 41.691' N – 67° 51.977' W	36	45° 40.355' N – 67° 53.081' W

The route, which shows the possible course this ancient portage trail may have taken as it traveled overland between Grand Lake and Baskahegan Stream, is about 4.5 km (2.8 miles) in length. After leaving Davenport Cove, the route passes over a bit of an esker and then across a fairly narrow section of lower ground before leading up onto higher ground. Before reaching Route 1, the route crosses an open field and crosses Route 1 at about 45° 41.923' N – 67° 51.924' W. After crossing Route 1, the route travels along fairly level ground crossing a few other fields before leading up over higher ground once again. The route is leading down a fairly gentle slope as it crosses the Cropley Road at about 45° 41.129' N – 67° 52.621' W. This GPS position is at a location where the Cropley Road makes a sharp turn in an area known locally as Cleaves Gate. After crossing the Cropley Road, the route continues on a fairly gentle downward slope and passes an old cellar hole just before it drops down a fairly steep grade to where it crosses the Bancroft Road. At the time this route was plotted, (2009) it passed along the eastern edge of a small quarry as it dropped down this fairly steep grade. After crossing the Bancroft Road at about 45° 40.610' N – 67° 52.987' W, the route continues on along fairly level ground to where it reaches the Baskahegan Stream at Cleaves Landing. It reaches the Baskahegan at about 45° 40.355' N – 67° 53.081' W.