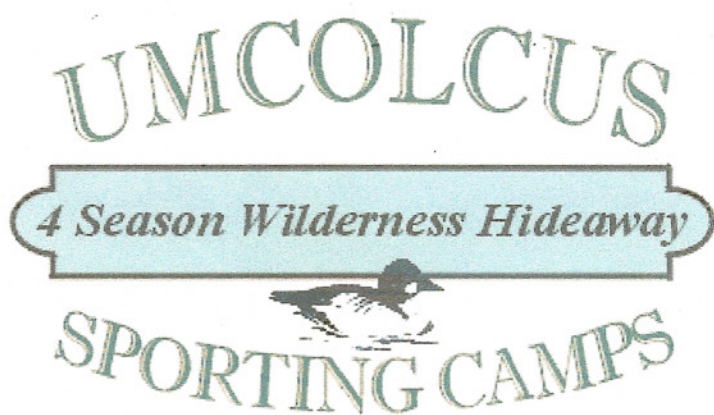


The Carrier Camps

History of the
Umcolcus Sporting Camps
Penobscot County, Maine



Family Edition
Updated September 2008

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to record the history of the camps, the camp personalities and the associated activities- for the descendants of Almon Abraham Currier of Oxbow Plantation, Maine

For the Almon Currier family of Oxbow, Aroostook County, Maine, 'The Camps' conger up many memories. It is where hunting, fishing, eating and visiting has been done for several generations in the sanctuary of the Maine woods. For Almon and some of his descendants, there are memories of the hard work to keep it going; without them there would be no history and no memories.

The camps are located deep in the woods south of Oxbow Plantation, Aroostook County, just inside the adjacent county of Penobscot, Maine. The West Branch of the Ulmcolcus Stream flows from the Umcolcus Deadwater at the camps and, eight miles north, flows beside the original and current Currier homesteads in Oxbow Plantation.

Little information has remained in the family and all sources need to be pursued. *Assumptions or reasonable speculations are indicated in italics.*

Charles Michael Schwab



Charles M. Schwab

Charles M. Schwab was a steelman.. He was the youngest president of US Steel. Later, he owned and organized Bethlehem Steel. During WWI he headed the war-time ship building effort. The stock market crash wiped him out financially and he died in 1939, broke. He was a heavy spender and gambler; also, a generous benefactor of various interests.

Almon Currier, by family recollection, went to New York City with a couple of his brothers. *They may have visited Schwab who had the largest mansion in New York City at that time.*

BUILDS PALACE IN WOODS.

C. M. Schwab Has Hunting Lodge Which He Has Not Seen.

BANGOR, Me., Dec. 23.—Hunters and guides returning from the Maine woods at the close of the deer season declared they came upon a "palace in the wilderness of Penobscot County," where the new hunting lodge of Charles M. Schwab, the Bethlehem steel man, reposes on the bank of the Umculus River.

The Schwab lodge was finished for this season, but the owner has never seen it. The pressure of war business has made Mr. Schwab postpone the gunning trip he planned. When he does visit Penobscot County he will find all the comforts of a modern New York apartment house in the centre of the world's greatest deer and black bear country and near a stream noted for the gameness of its fish.

The lodge is situated eighteen miles from Masardis and five from Oxbow, where hundreds of deer are shipped every season by hunters. Mr. Schwab invited friends to use his camp this year, and of a party of five who hunted from it each shot his quota of two deer the first two days of gunning. Besides deer the woods are alive with partridges and upland game birds, while the Umculus River and nearby waters are noted for trout. There are five deadwaters near the camp, and these swarm with ducks during the Fall. The place is a hunter's paradise.

The lodge is a great big log cabin built entirely of spruce, with pine and cedar underpinnings. There are three double sleeping rooms, a living room, dining room, and kitchen in the main building which is 25 feet by 45 feet. An ell, 18 feet by 22 feet, has room enough for a dozen guides. There is an ice-house and boathouse. In order to get stones for the foundation and mason work, which is a feature of the hut, a dam was built on the Umculus River. The stones were picked from the river's bed. The fireplace weighs thirty tons.

From this New York Times item (23 Dec 1917) and the previous article, it appears that Schwab's lodge got a lot of attention and that he probably never saw his lodge.



This is a picture of the Comfortable Camp of Charles M. Schwab, the Steel Magnate, on Umculcus Deadwater, in from Oxbow. Mr. Schwab is One of Many of the Distinguished Devotees of the Maine Woods.

-1917

Background to the Umcolcus Stream Site

The owner of the land, in 1917, of the current Umcolcus Sporting Camp site was George B. Dunn- he is at the right rear holding a rifle. (Picture is from The Aroostook Woods, by Charles West who is at bottom right; picture published in Maine Sportsman, October 1894).



In 1917, Dunn leased land to Walter Swett (pictured at right, from Maine Sportsman, October, 1903). He was a guide and owned camps for several years; often referred to as "Swett's Umcolcus Camps".



The picture above (Maine Sportsman, February, 1903) shows his Umcolcus camps- *This appears to be the Umcolcus Stream at the mouth of the Umcolcus Deadwater.*



Swett's camps and the Umcolcus area were often mentioned as prime for hunting; some of the success at his camp shown in the picture (Maine Sportsman, October 1902). *This camp may be the one on the right in previous picture.*



Walter Dewitt Hinds

Walter Dewitt Hinds was the son of Aurelius Hinds, Portland, Maine, who made a fortune from a hand lotion product. Walter maintained his legal residence, at least during his later years, in Oxbow, Maine. As a result, his will was probated there, Aroostook County, in 1927 the year before his father died. His log cabin 'home' in Oxbow Plantation survived into the 1960's.

Walter Hinds was operating in Oxbow at least by 1903, as evidenced by an advertisement in the 1903 Maine Sportsman. Later in 1917, Walter Swett leased the site of the current Currier camps on the Umcolcus Stream to Walter Hinds; the lease included two log cabins. *These may very well be the two camps pictured as Sewell's Umcolcus Camps.*

It appears that Hinds leased this land in order to build a camp for Charles M Schwab, as described in the following article excerpt-

"Oneupmanship on which camp was the best was played out by hunters arriving back in town. Some boasted of that hunting camp put up by Charles Schwab of New York. Located on the Umcolcus River, 18 miles from Marsardis and five miles from Oxbow, an area that for hundreds of years shipped deer out every season. There were plenty of choppings and five deadwaters up there both drawing cards for deer and moose.

"Walter Hinds, foreman, was in charge of building this particular camp. He first had to supervise five miles blazed trail and then the building of a corduroy road to tote the materials to this isolated place. That they met with difficulties is shown by the fact two horses were drowned when spring freshets washed out the road in places. Lumberjacks and several Native American Indians began in March and worked to the hilt until June to get the camp up. Work was further hampered by six-foot snows.

"At that time, that camp was the only one of its kind in the state of Maine. It featured hot and cold water as well as an inside bathroom. Mind you, this was in 1917. The camp was built entirely of spruce, with pine and cedar underpinnings. There were three double sleeping rooms, a large kitchen and a living room which featured a stone fireplace. When finished, the fireplace weighed thirty tons, with the stones from the river bed. A dam had been built to shut off the water, drying up the stream temporarily, in order to harvest the rock. An added convenience was a separate guides' camp at the back of main camp with rooms for ten guides. An ice house built to one side held 250 cakes." (Jellison, Oconee, "I'd Rather Be Hunting", Discover Maine, Katadhin-Moosehead Region, 2000)

Walter Hinds was obviously a man of various talents- camp builder, taxidermist, friend of celebrities, hunter and marksman.

NOTE: In the newspaper article, Travers Island was the outdoor facility of the New York Athletic Club. The reference to Mexico is about a dispute at that time between USA and Mexico over treatment of US sailors in Mexico. It is unknown to the present generation who the referenced marksmen were, except for Frank Currier, brother of Almon Currier.

W. D. HINDS, Taxidermist



My specialty is the Artistic and Life-like mounting of all kinds Game and Fish. Anything that has Fur, Feathers or Fins, mounted by up-to-date methods and guaranteed moth proof.

FUR RUGS, INDIAN NOVELTIES, MOCCASINS, SPORTING GOODS, and a choice lot of GAME HEADS, BIRDS and FISH, for Club Rooms, Dining Rooms, and Gentlemen's Dens, always on hand. Send for Price List.

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MIGHTY HUNTER IS HERE.

Hotel Lobby Rumor Was That He Would Recruit Maine Guides.

When Walter D. Hinds, whose fame as a huntsman extends from Portland, Me., far up beyond Oxbow, arrived at the Breslin yesterday, the report spread through the lobby of the hotel that Mr. Hinds had come to New York to interview the military authorities at Governors Island about raising a company of guides and marksmen in the Maine woods and heading for the Mexican border, instead of joining them to the National Guard of his State.

Visitors at the hotel who have been witnesses of Mr. Hinds's prowess with a weapon recalled that he had once knocked a deer over by shooting the animal at forty yards with a small revolver, and that he was the first man to demonstrate that a moving picture could be taken of the killing of a caribou, and it was asserted that if he could get a company of marksmen together like Frank Currier, Reuben Toothaker, Tom Canadian, and Billie Cleveland, all of them expert shots, it would be a dangerous aggregation.

Mr. Hinds's principal motive in coming to New York was to take part in the amateur shoot at Travers Island, it was learned. He would not admit that he had any designs on Mexico.

1917-1926



This sketch was deduced from photos and recollection of Margaret Currier Shean. The main lodge is on the left and in the rear are two guide camps and an ice house. The main lodge had the large fire place. Apparently the other large camp and the cook house to the rear of the main lodge were added during this period.



Early 1900's- view from the south taken on the ice of the deadwater
The camp in the forefront is the main camp, the next one is the other large camp.

NOTE: The main lodge camp had stubs of limbs left on the porch posts; these are detectable in several of the photographs. Naomi, Almon's oldest daughter, was badly bruised on one of these protuberances according to her sister Margaret; both of whom helped out at the camps.



Main camp on the left, second large camp on the right



This is the the second large camp; guide camp in the rear

The main camp and kitchen, and connecting dining room, were completely burned down from a lightning strike in the early 1900s. The second large camp, the size of the lodge camp, survived; this became the main camp for many later years.



Walter Dewitt Hinds, at main camp



The ice house and the two guide camps at the rear



All was not work, Almon Currier being chided.
Mary, first wife of Walter Hinds, is on the right; others are unknown.

On 5 August 1919, George B. Dunn, owner of the land where the camps were located on the Umcolcus Stream, approved Walter D. Hinds reassigning leases. Noted in the agreement were leases to Hinds (26 December, 1917) and to Walter J. Swett (16 August 1917). The added leases were to Nobles and Dier (See below). Mr. Dunn made the following stipulation:

“It is, however, made a condition to my assent to the above assignment of said leases that Almon A. Currier of Oxbow, Maine, shall be employed as caretaker of the property described in said leases as long as he shall desire to continue in said work”. (Document by G. B. Dunn, Dunn, George B. Papers 1851-1858, Special Collections, University of Maine, Fogler Library, Orono, Maine)

The apportionment of the camp leases became (Currier archives):

7/16	E. D. Dier	Philadelphia, PA
3/16	Seth Tanta	
1/8	C. C. Nobles	New York City
1/8	Jerry C. Moats	
1/8	Walter Hinds	

Apparently Tanta and Moats were already in the leases, or, this reflects subsequent assignment of leases.

NOTES:

1. Hinds (NYT, 24 Apr. 1914) stayed at the Breslin Hotel in New York City where he surely knew Nobles.
2. C. C. Nobles was the Assistant Manager of the Breslin Hotel and hunted in Oxbow (NYT, 19 Oct 1912).
3. E. (Elmer) D. Dier was a stockbroker who went bankrupt (NYT, Jun 1922). Previously, he had been a dentist and had spent two years prospecting in the Klondike (NYT, 1 Jul 1922)

Almon Abraham Currier

Almon Currier must have been well known and respected in the hosting of sportsman, to have the confidence of George B Dunn and to be depicted by this article (Maine Sportsman, August 1902)-



CHANDLER POND CAMP

Best hunting and fishing in the famous Ox Bow region. Camps open all of the season. Sportsmen met at all times. Camps comfortable, cozy and well furnished. For terms write to

CURRIER & ADAMS,
OXBOW, MAINE.

Mention B. & A. Guide in writing Advertisers.

The above advertisement appeared in the In the Maine Woods, 1904. Under 'Hotels and Camps' of that issue the camps are listed as being reached from Marsardis (nearest Bangor & Aroostook Railroad station) at 22 miles by carriage and canoe, daily rate of \$2.00 and accommodations for twelve.

Want to Catch Big Trout?

They are plenty—many extra good ones—in the Chandler Lake waters. Our camp is right there. We have a few dates still open—a two-cent stamp pays for full information about our camps.

Currier & Adams, Ox Bow, Maine

Source: Maine Sportsman, 1905

A NEW OX BOW CAMP.

Two Well Known and Popular Guides to Open Camps on Chandler Lake, in the Very Heart of the Big Game and Fish Region.

Sportsmen who have employed in the past, or had friends so fortunate as to have employed those two well known and experienced guides, Almon Currier and Roach Adams of Ox Bow, will be interested to learn that they are building and will open for the season of 1902, some fine new camps for sportsmen on Chandler lake, reached by way of Marsardis on the Bangor & Aroostook and Ox Bow.

Both Currier and Adams are very favorably known among the fraternity of "woods pilots," as both have had years of experience in guiding sportsmen to success in the chase after moose and deer, and the search for places at which to practise the gentle art, with expectation of catching a big trout.

Living at Ox Bow, the key to that great game and fish section of Gameland, it is but natural that, when they began to look about for a good location at which to establish a permanent camp for their many sportsmen guests and acquaintances, they should have selected a location reached by way of Ox Bow, where they make their home. Added to this inducement is the fact that more moose were shipped from Marsardis station during the season of 1901, than from any other point on the extensive system of the B. & A. R. R., and the majority of those shipped thus were brought to the railroad from Ox Bow.

The new camps are at Chandler lake, and consist this year of a main camp for the accommodation of the guests, and another camp to be used this season as dining camp and apartments for the "family." Next year two more camps will go up, giving much additional room, and affording accommodations for a large number of either hunters or anglers. This lake empties into the Aroostook river through Mooseluk stream, and is but four miles away from the south branch of the Machias river, whose valley affords some of the finest moose and deer hunting to be found in the big woods of northern Maine.

A canoe ride from Ox Bow of eight miles, then the buckboard for five, and one is at the camps, ready for a first-class dinner or any other business incidental to the trip that may be in order. Both the proprietors are young men, accommodating, honest and determined to succeed, and sportsmen looking for nice, clean, new camps, not yet crowded with other users of firearms, will do well to consider this new establishment before definitely deciding where to spend the coming fall outing.

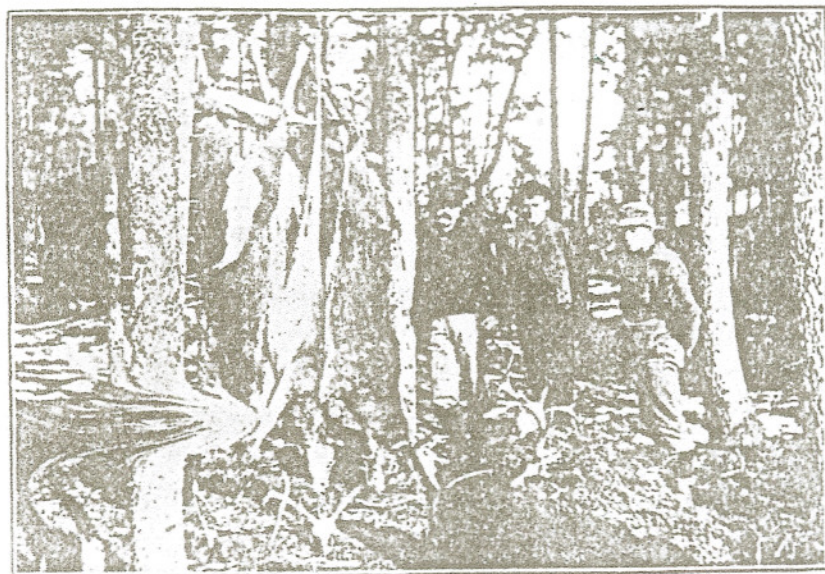
An author, Munsungun (a presumed pen name), prepared a small booklet on the game and guides around Oxbow entitled With Rod and Rifle in Northern Maine- this is an excerpt:

A Mad Moose

"A full grown moose is a big mark to shoot at, but when there isn't enough daylight left to see Mt. Katahdin thirty miles away, and said moose is on the run through thick brush it is not an easy task to make him tumble. This was the state of things one evening last November when Roach Adams and Almon Currier tackled one of "monarchs" near the road between Oxbow and Masardis. Before the moose was brought to bay he had been hit several times, but not fatally. He was ugly, however, from horn to hoof and charged on his pursuers in style. Every cartridge had been fired save one in the rifle of Roach. "You must fix him this time," shouted Almon, "I haven't a cartridge left!" The moose had plenty of cartridges left, and as he came close to his foes there was an ugly fire in his eyes, while the long hairs on the back of his neck stood up straight. We suspect that the hair of the hunter's pointed toward the stars. too. for there wasn't a tree big enough for a man to climb where they then were, and a mad moose is a bad neighbor. But Roach's aim was steady. the shot went to the fatal spot, and after a plunge or two the dangerous beast fell dead almost at the feet of his slayers. We ate a piece of that moose a few days later and it didn't taste a bit ugly.



Almon Don't Know Whether to Carry the Deer to Camp or Try the Trout Awhile



Roach and Almond are in a Great Fish and Game Region,

"Almon and Roach have nice camps of their own at Chandler lake, on the headwaters of the Aroostook, where forest. lake and stream combine to make one of the finest fish and game regions in the State. Their success as guides is assured from the start, their patrons of last season securing fine heads of moose and deer. One of the latter may be seen on the shoulders of Almon, as he stands sort of meditating whether to carry his deer to camp or lay him down and go a-fishing in the beautiful lake close at hand.

"Address Currier and Adams, Oxbow, Me., early in the season and let them know you are coming. "

During this period, Almon's brothers, Frank and Ellis are advertised a guides.

William (Jack) Harrison Dempsey

Walter D. Hinds was wealthy enough to entertain guests at his camps. The most famous, of whom we are aware, was Jack Dempsey. The first time was probably 1922 as described in the following articles; he was a guest of Walter Hinds at Oxbow. Jack Dempsey visited Almon Currier's home and met the Currier family. Almon's daughter, Naomi, annotated the chair Dempsey sat in; a display piece for many years. Since it was a dining room chair, *perhaps Dempsey ate there.*

DEMPSEY LEAVES CITY.

Champion to Spend Vacation in the Maine Woods.

Jack Dempsey, world's heavyweight champion, left this city yesterday for a vacation in the Maine woods which probably will last a fortnight. Dempsey's sojourn North is for a hunting trip and a period of roughing.

New York times, 1922, Sep 19, 17:5

DEMPSEY AFTER BIG GAME.

Champion Leaves St. John for Hunt in New Brunswick Woods.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Sept. 23.—Jack Dempsey and his party, consisting of Jerry Levardos, Robert Edgren, Al Currier, Dr. H. F. Pierce and Walter D. Hinds of Portland, Me., arrived in the city last night. The party will leave today by automobile for Havelock, King's County, to enter the woods in search of big game.

The champion said he was confident that he would eventually be matched with Wills, and expressed a hope that it would materialize. He is apparently in the pink of condition and tips the scales at 194 pounds. The boils on his arms are rapidly healing.

New York Times, 1922, Sep 24, VIII, 3:4

DEMPSEY WINS BOUT WITH CANADIAN MOOSE

Champion Kills 700-Pound Monarch of North Woods—Surprised at Carpentier's Defeat.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Sept. 27.—Jack Dempsey, heavyweight champion, has won his bout with a Canadian moose. A message reaching here today from the forests of Kings County reported the meeting between the king of the squared circle and the monarch of the North woods last Tuesday. The moose is dead. Dempsey escaped with a torn pair of breeches. The moose had an antler spread of forty-eight inches, with fourteen points, and weighed 700 pounds.

Word came through from Havelock, N. B., this evening that Dempsey and his party had broken camp late today and would reach this city tomorrow on their way to New York. Dempsey learned today for the first time of the defeat of Georges Carpentier, former light heavyweight champion, by the Senegalese Siki.

"I am very sorry to hear it and very much surprised," he said. "This Siki must be a good man."

New York times, 1914, Apr. 24, 8:5

Almon Currier accompanied Walter Hinds and Jack Dempsey on the hunting trip to Canada. The following excerpt describes Dempsey's hunting prowess-

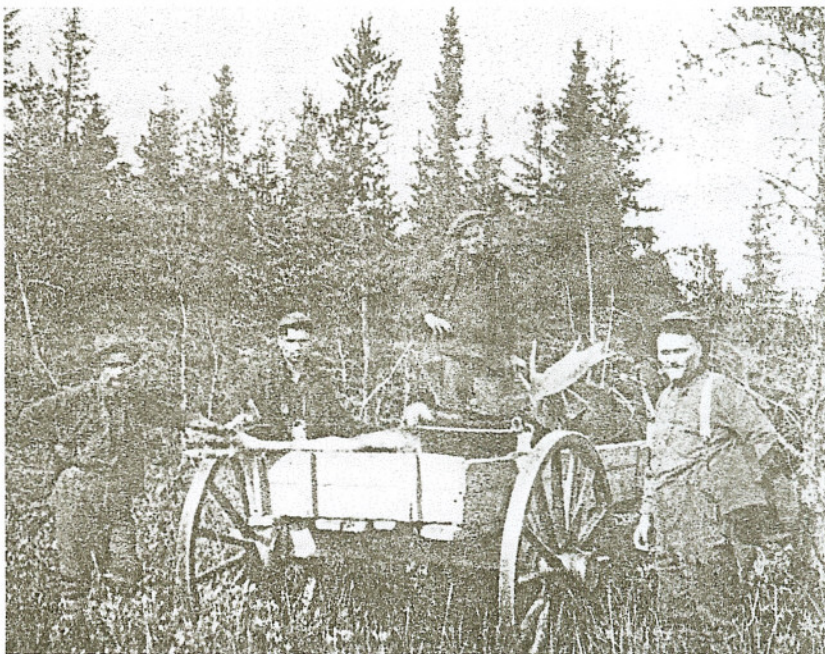
"Once, continued Marty, on a trip into the Canadian wilds, one of our dogs was badly wounded. Part of his body was ripped. Jack got off his horse, petted the dog for a few minutes, then remarked: I better put him out of his misery. He then shot the animal. By now the snow had turned into a blizzard. It was one of the worst storms I've ever been through. The roads were impassable, but Dempsey and our guide led the way toward our camp. On the road our dogs were attacked by several foxes before a few shots sent them scattering up the hills. When we approached the camp, we discovered two deer, one of which Jack killed with the first shot.

"On another occasion, a wounded moose almost put an end to Dempsey's career. We were accompanied on that hunt by Bob Edgren of the New York World; Walter Hinds, of Portland, Maine, one of Jack's friends; Al Currier, Jr.; Dr. Pierce; Jerry Luvadis, who trained Jack; and Dempsey's brother, Joe. We went into the woods near Havelock, New Brunswick, between Saint John and Moncton, along the Kennebecasis River, and broke into small groups to hunt for deer. It wasn't long before Dempsey spied some moose tracks. He had been practicing the moose call and figured he would get the animal in closer range, but his plan didn't work. The moose didn't appear. Jack was keenly disappointed and we decided to stay another day to please him.

On that final day Jack again spied moose tracks, but his desire to bag the animal "in a hurry shoed the creature off. Edgren, an excellent shot, was standing nearby. He blocked the passage of the huge animal. The beast turned in Dempsey's direction. Jack never moved. He stood with rifle aimed and fired three shots, each of which hit the moose, who by now was a wild creature. Maddened by pain, the animal headed for Dempsey. Jack, thinking his shots had put the enraged creature out for good, had dropped his gun. As the infuriated animal leaped forward, Jack quickly grabbed his rifle and blasted away. He struck the moose in the head and made the kill. Had he missed, he never would have seen the dawn of another day. We marveled at the accuracy of his shots.

"Yet another experience on that hunting trip was recalled by Marty. It was an adventure with a mountain lion and a bobcat. Each was snarling, teeth showing, body primed for the leap. It seemed the only person in our group set for the attack was Dempsey. All he required to put the cat away was one shot. He let go and the bullet struck the animal above the eyes. A perfect shot. He did the same with the mountain lion, but it took more than the first shot. The animal made a flying leap when the first shot struck home, but like a flash, Jack put a second bullet through the lion's head for the kill. Few in the boxing world knew of Dempsey's rating as a hunter. His closest friends who accompanied him on hunting trips, however, recognized his skill. He was, above all, unafraid."

(Fleischer, Nat, Jack Dempsey, 1972)



L-R Walter Hinds, Jack Dempsey, unknown, Almon Currier

Picture from Currier archives, date and source unknown.

NOTE: The reason for "Jr." on Al Currier's name is unknown. The above narrator, Marty Burke, was a heavyweight boxer who worked with Dempsey.



L-R Unknown, Walter Hinds, unknown, Jack Dempsey, Roger Edgren (sports writer), Almon Currier, unknown
Source: unknown

New Brunswick hunt. Photo from Currier archives, date and source unknown.



Left-to-Right: Babe Herman, Walter Hinds, Almon Currier, Johnny Dempsey(?)
This appears to be a posed departure of Hinds and Currier in front of the guide camps.

Almon ("Al") Roger Currier, grandson of Almon Currier, and the latest camp manager still has an autographed picture of Jack Dempsey on display. Almon Currier's daughter, Margaret, related that her father injured his shoulder on the hunting trip to Canada. She also told of Dempsey sending his brother, Johnny, up to Oxbow to stay with Almon Currier for some 'supervision.' The following excerpts (at this time, on July 2, 1927, Jack Dempsey was in Saratoga Lake, NY at his training for the Jack Sharkey fight) describe Johnny's problems which probably account for sending him to a 'wilderness' environment-

Johnny Dempsey's heroin addiction had been becoming more acute. He suffered mood swings and threatened Edna, whom Jack called "one of the finest women I've ever met." Dempsey paid for unspecified surgery, probably a prefrontal lobotomy, then regarded as effective treatment for violent behavior. Sometime after that Dempsey told his brother there would be no more checks. He didn't want his money used to buy heroin.

Johnny arrived in Schenectady in June and took up separate lodgings. According to Edna's landlady, Mrs. Frank Prievo, Johnny made only one or two visits. His life-style in Schenectady is not known, but Edna still felt uncomfortable with him. On the fatal day he and Edna argued loudly. Prievo heard three shots and rushed into the room. Johnny was dead. Edna lay groaning her life away; she died before an ambulance arrived.

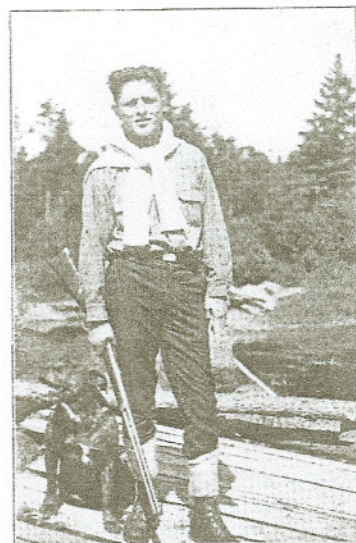
(Kahn, Roger, A Flame of Pure Fire)



Left-to-Right: Babe Herman, Almon Currier, Johnny Dempsey

These pictures seem to show a contented Johnny Dempsey hunting at the camps on the Umcolcus. When this occurred and the length of stay is not known. Babe Herman was a flyweight boxer that Jack Dempsey had brought to New York from California.

Another boxer, Joe Benjamin, visited the camps, date unknown. This picture appeared in the *In the Maine Woods* of 1924. He appears to be standing on a small dock at the head of Umcolcus Stream which flows behind him through the low dam.



Joe Benjamin, Pacific Coast Lightweight Champion, at Almon Currier's Camp, Oxbow

Coincidence?

In 1941 Jack Dempsey toured with the Cole Brothers Circus. Dempsey's contract stipulated that he had the use of an elaborate private railroad car- previously owned by Charles M. Schwab. The Pullman car cost Schwab \$150,000 in 1917 and he used it often for business. *The Saturday Evening Post*, Nov 8, 1941



It seems that Dempsey enjoyed Schwab's luxury- at the Umcolcus camps and with the Pullman car.

The conversation extractions with 'Sporting Tips' (*Bangor Daily News*, July 29, 1922) indicate Dempsey's visit to Oxbow. Dempsey was in Maine for an exhibition fight at Brewer on 29 July 1922; "...arrived in Waterville from Portland in Walter Hind's big sport car ..."

After his exhibition fight in Brewer, it was reported that he told a friend, "on his coming fishing trip to northern Maine, which will occur in a week or two..." (*Bangor Daily Commercial*, July 29, 1922.) Dempsey gave another exhibition bout in Fort Fairfield on July 31, 1922 (*Bangor Daily News*, 1 August 1922). Other Dempsey visits to Maine were reported as being 25 April 1933 to Bangor; hunting trip in 1935; 13 October 1937 in Bangor followed by hunting at Greenfield; and a visit to the Bangor Daily News office in 1955 (*Bangor Daily News*, 13 June 1983).



Jack Dempsey, World Champion, Fly-Fishing on
Umcolcus Stream, Oxbow

This photo shows Jack Dempsey fishing the Umcolcus Stream (*In the Maine Woods*, 1924).

Dempsey's fishing spot is on calm water; he is probably casting into the deadwater just above the dam at the head of the stream and across from the camps. This spot is likely shown in the right of the picture of Joe Benjamin.

SPORTING TIPS AND JACK HAVE A LITTLE CHAT

Sporting Tips, riding alongside Dempsey from Waterville to Bangor, asked the following questions and received the following answers:

Tips: "Hello Jack, I'm glad to shake hands with you."

Jack: "I'm glad, also,"

Tips: "This your first trip to Maine?"

Jack: "Yes, and I like this old state, too."

.....
Tips: "Coming up in our state to hunt a little, ain't you, Jack?"

Jack: "Yes, I hope to visit my friend Walter Hinds at Ox Bow some time and I have some other opportunities to visit in the Maine woods. Nothing would suit me any better than to spend a couple of weeks up here hunting and fishing. Lots of good fellows in Maine and that would make a trip here all the more pleasant for me."



Left to right-

- Unknown
- Jack Dempsey
- Unknown
- Mary Hinds
- Walter Hinds
- Joe Dempsey
- Joe Luvadis (trainer)
- Elbridge Currier
- Almon Currier

On Wagon

- Frank Currier

Picture from Currier archive, date and location unknown.

The original of the picture, right, is in the possession of Mr. & Mrs Arthur Bush of New York. They made a copy and presented it to Dempsey at his restaurant in New York City. After the death of Mrs Dempsey, the copy was sent to the Dempsey Museum, Manassa, Colorado. The museum curator has graciously provided this copy.

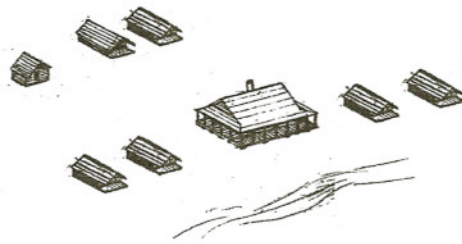


JACK DEMPSEY'S
FIRST HUNTING
TRIP INTO MAINE

Left to right-

- Almon Currier
- Probably Charlie Miller (sportswriter from Bangor)
- Jerry Luvadis (trainer)
- Unknown
- Jack Dempsey
- Most likely Frank Currier (Almon's brother)
- Joe Dempsey (brother)

This picture was taken in front of the main lodge camp. (Compare the planking at their feet, similar to that in picture of Benjamin, and, the camp logs with picture of "Walter Hinds, at main camp".)



Sometime after the original lodge camp was destroyed by fire, that site was used for two cabins for sports (left front). Two like cabins were constructed to right of the now main camp. The timing of these additions is not known.

In 1926 Walter Hinds transferred the camps and personal property to Almon Currier. The other lessees of the site also transferred their interests to Almon. Walter Hinds died in 1928. Hinds generously included Almon in his will (see his obituary). Hinds had payed for Almon's oldest son Lloyd attendance at a private school in New York. Lloyd died in 1927. After Lloyd's death, Hinds modified, in his own handwriting, his bequeath of \$10,000 to Lloyd to be given equally to Almon's wife and children (Aroostook County, Maine court records). (The \$110,000 cited in the news article is in error.)



The two sport's camps and main camp

HUNTING GUIDE INHERITS \$10,000

Family of Son Also Receives \$10,000 in Will Left by Walter D. Hinds

Houlton, Me., Feb. 11.—Bequests of \$110,000 to his former friend and hunting guide, Almon Currier of Oxbow Plantation, and to the family of the latter's deceased son, Lloyd Currier, were provided in the will of the late Walter D. Hinds, a noted Maine sportsman and intimate friend of Jack Dempsey, ex-heavyweight champion. The will was filed here in probate court.

Mr. Hinds, who died suddenly in Beverly Hills, Cal., maintained a sporting camp at Oxbow, where he often entertained Jack Dempsey and other celebrities.

Frances Amick Hinds, the widow, and his son, Walter Washburn Hinds, both of Portland, were the principal beneficiaries. They shared alike in the estate, which totalled \$580,000 after the two \$10,000 bequests were deducted. The will directed that Mr. Hinds' diamond ring be given to his life-long friend, Dr. Henry H. Brock of Portland.

Though the Hinds home is in Portland, the will was filed here in the Aroostook court because of Mr. Hinds' semi-yearly residence in this county.



Almon Currier, camp manager and often guide, in front of guide camps.

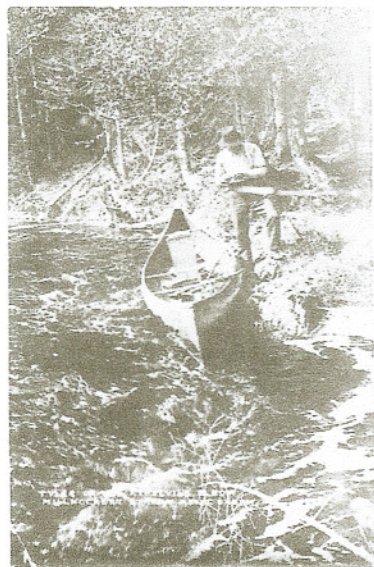
In years past, the horse and 'buckboard' brought in the food and took out the game. The buckboard had springs only on the seat; it was a rough ride over 'lumbering' roads but experiencing the strength and agility of the horses was worth it- once anyway. Almon took special care of his horses which provided power for his livelihood- camps, lumbering and large garden.



LADY



CHAMPION



"TYING ON FLY AT DEVILS ELBOW MILLNOCKET STREAM, ABOVE OXBOW"

This was a postcard showing Almon Currier preparing a lure.



SANDY

During Almon Currier's reign, his wife, Myrtie, worked at the camps or prepared food and laundered bedding for the sport parties. The supplies were packed into wooden lockers for the trip by horse-drawn buckboard or sled (in the winter).



Almon Currier repairing a canoe, often the transportaion from the camps to hunting or fishing sites.

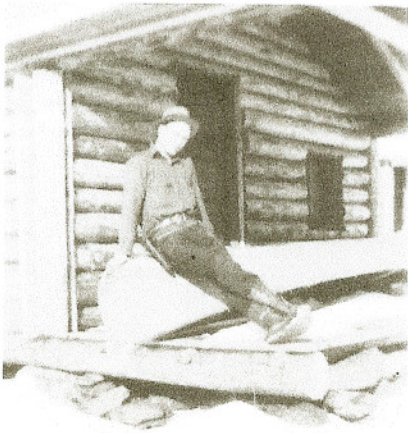




Morrison Anderson, popular camp cook, and Roger, Almon's youngest son



Lloyd- Almon's oldest son.

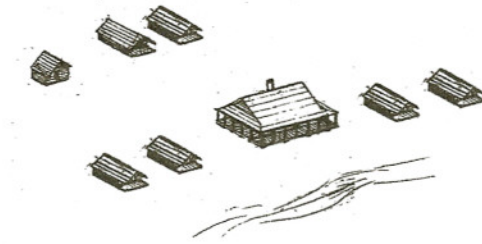


Almon's third brother, Willie, at the guide's camps.



Norman- Almon's second son

1950-1980



During this period the camps started to show their ages. Toward the end, only the second large camp and the two left front sport camps remained useable.

Norman Currier was a guide and woodsman for many years. In the 1960's, he took over the camps. Jeanette, his wife, continued the role of supporting the hosting of the sports at the camp.



Hunting jeep in front of the two remaining sports camps..



Norman Currier at work guiding, and, steadying a pipe.



Last of the old camps, the original 'other' large camp with sports camps, along the stream (in the background)

1980-

Starting in 1980s, the camps have been owned and operated by Al and Audie Currier. The camp now accommodates dinner parties in a large lodge with a modern kitchen and a large dining room. There are four large guest camps, for up to eight persons each.



The lodge, dining room and lounge



Audie and Al Currier