

New Hampshire State Library



[Notes on Squam Lake and Environs]

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Finding Aid

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Scope and Content Note: This small collection consists of manuscript notes in pencil, primarily about Squam Lake in Holderness, New Hampshire. Mentioned are early map references to the lake, and discussion of the origin of its name. There is also the text of an article on the discovery of the skeleton of "Yagesho" or "naked bear" of Algonkian legend in the North Conway, N.H. area. The notes may have been compiled for the purpose of writing a history of the region. Two pages are accounting ledgers; one of these has a partial story written on the back.

Provenance: The collection was deposited at the New Hampshire State Library by Mrs. Ella Davis and was brought in by Kenneth Scott on 7/31/1943.

Span Dates: 1859-1885, and undated.

Collection Strengths: This collection, consisting of a few handwritten notes and apparently quite incomplete, may be of interest to those doing research on the geography of the Squam Lake area or on the "singular discovery" of the Yagesho skeleton.

Collection Size: There are 13 separate manuscripts, written on lined notepaper or on letterhead from "Squam Lake House".

Copyright Status and Access: The collection is owned by the New Hampshire State Library and may be viewed at the library upon request.

Subjects, People, and Names:

Ashland, N.H.	Little, William
Cheney, Mrs. T.P.	Moore, Jacob B.
Colby, Fred Myron	New Hampshire - Gazetteers
Davis, Mrs. Ella	New Hampshire -- Geography
Farmer, John	New Hampshire -- Maps
Fowle, Rev. Robert	Shepard, George L.
Holderness, N.H.	Shepard, Samuel
Jefferys, Thomas	Squam Lake
Kusumpe Lake	Yagesho

Arrangement and Description: The collection is organized into 8 folders, each containing one or more manuscripts which were originally found folded together. Although, given the small number of pages, it may have made as much sense to place all the manuscripts in one folder, the information in each manuscript is more accessible when housed separately. This may also reflect an incipient organization of the collection.

Container List:

Folder 1: 1 manuscript (2 attached folded pages) discussing Thomas Jefferys' maps of New Hampshire (1755, 1768), the founding of Springfield, N.H. (first known as Protectworth) in 1769, a quote from Farmer and Moore's Gazetteer of New Hampshire

(1823), and discussion in some detail on the size and location of some NH landmarks, particularly around Squam Lake, such as Red Hill [partially transcribed].

Folder 2: 2 manuscripts folded together with accounting information in ink on one side, from Feb. 1, 1859 (New York), and August 1st, 1865 (Concord). The front, written in pencil, is a story fragment about a man named Leolin and a woman named Ernestine who broke off their engagement because he was interested in another woman [transcribed].

Folder 3: 1 manuscript with front and back crossed out, on Squam Lake House, Ashland, N.H. letterhead. Various people from Holderness are discussed, including the father of Colonel T.P. Cheney and of ex-governor Cheney [Person C. Cheney, gov. of N.H. from 1875-1877], the Reverend Robert Fowle, and George L. Shepard. Some of the information appears to have been obtained from volume 10 of the *Granite Monthly: a New Hampshire Magazine*, p. 70.

Folder 4: 2 manuscripts on Squam Lake House letterhead, folded together. Description of Peaked Hill, 5 miles from Ashland, as well as the Presidential Range, Franconia, Mount Moosilauke, and other landmarks. The notes here reflect the wording used by Fred Myron Colby in his article in the *Granite Monthly* vol. 10 in 1887, especially p. 71.

Folder 5: 1 manuscript in which the writer, Mrs. T.P.C. [Mrs. T. P. Cheney?] recounts her curiosity about the earlier name for Squam Lake, "Kusumpe". She knows that Squam is short for Asquam, which means water in "Indian", but cannot imagine what Kusumpe might mean. She inquires of Whittier [the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, who was a frequent visitor to Squam Lake and wrote several poems there] but is told not to pursue her quest because Kusumpe might mean one thing in poetry and something else altogether in "fact". She concludes that he is right [transcribed].

Folder 6: 1 manuscript on Squam Lake House letterhead (upside down), begins "Capt. W. Buna of the U.S. Navy" and continues on with descriptions of several locations in and around Squam Lake, including Squaw Cove, Old Whiteface in Sandwich, Passaconaway, Wonalancet, Mount Israel, Honeycomb Cove, and the Ossipee Mountains. The Hon. John Goodale and Bishop Williams of Connecticut (a visitor to Squam) are mentioned.

Folder 7: "A Singular Discovery , an old Indian tradition verified : the story of the Yagesho". The remarkable discovery of the skeleton of an animal previously known only from legend is recounted here [transcribed].

Folder 8: 1 manuscript (2 attached folded pages) dated from Concord, Aug. 19, [18]85 in the form of a letter to Mr. Colby [Fred Myron Colby Esq., according to notations in the center seam of the letter] from [...] Cheney. The contents include information on several people, such as Hercule Mooney, Daniel Fowle, Robert Fowle, and Mrs. Betsy Shepard.

Inside the manuscript are two folded manuscripts, one on letterhead of the United States Agency for Paying Pensions, dated, Aug. 5, 1885, addressed to Fred Myron Colby by [...] Cheney, and the other dated August 20, 1885 to the same addressee from the same writer. Both of these letters provide information on several people, including Whittier,

Sarah Shepard, Robert Fowle, and Betsey Shepard. It appears that the author is gathering information for Colby on writings concerning Squam Lake.

Other Resources at New Hampshire State Library:

Farmer, John, and Jacob B. Moore. *A Gazetteer of the State of New-Hampshire* [1823].
Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1997.
917.42 F233 1997

Colby, Fred Myron. "Asquam Lake and its environs." *Granite Monthly: a New Hampshire Magazine devoted to History, Biography, Literature, and State Progress*, 10, (1887): 68-79.

Little, William. "About the names of Moosilauke, and of some other places." *Granite Monthly: a New Hampshire Magazine devoted to History, Biography, Literature, and State Progress*, 10 (1887): 357-365.
BV 051 G759

Resources on the Internet:

An accurate map of His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire in New England, taken from actual surveys of all the inhabited part, and from the best information of what is uninhabited, together with the adjacent countries, which exhibits the theatre of this war in that part of the world. Portsmouth, N.H., 1761.

<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g3740.ar087000/> [Jefferys' 1761 map]

Haven, Samuel F. *Archaeology of the United States, or Sketches, Historical and Bibliographical, of the Progress of Information and Opinion Respecting Vestiges of Antiquity in the United States*. Philadelphia: T.K. and P.G. Collins, 1855: 143.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=QIwk8mjFE-IC&pg=PA143&lpg=PA143&dq=samuel+F.+Haven+yagesho&source=bl&ots=yUVP7-z4qi&sig=cJa7xbbKaGIseIH3LZx1OiiU1D8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=1FAtVOMMNuJnsASE8oHwBw&ved=0CB4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=samuel%20F.%20Haven%20yagesho&f=false>

Legendary Native American Figures: Yakwawiak, the Big Rump Bear

<http://www.native-languages.org/yakwawiak.htm>

Lilly, Lambert. "Yagesho or Naked Bear". In *The adventures of Henry Hudson*. Vol. 11: 74-75. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1842.

http://books.google.com/books?id=YyQ9AAAAYAAJ&pg=PA74&lpg=PA74&dq=yagesho&source=bl&ots=NOhpg_dGtc&sig=qb80sCOL2Z0gLIXaI53YQcpLjac&hl=en&sa=X&ei=yQsjVPL4FpGeyATqoYDoDw&ved=0CD8Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=yagesho&f=false

Ruderman, Barry Lawrence *Antique Maps*.

<https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/enlarge/35925mb> [Jefferys' 1755 map]

University of Southern Maine, Osher Map Library. “Thomas Jefferys and the Mapping of North America”.

<http://www.oshermaps.org/special-map-exhibits/percy-map/jefferys-and-north-america>