

Logging the Alfred Bogle way in the 20's & 30's



Right - Alfred Bogle. Left - Malcolm MacIntosh, Lake Ansilie, NS (a woodsman who worked many years for Alfred Bogle); Center - name unknown, Photo taken at Harvey Gamble's home in Castlereagh, NS in the 1920's. (submitted by Edie Bogle)

By Linda Harrington
(This historical story was prepared from the files of Edie Bogle and an interview with Shep Scott, Sutherland's Lake, who actually worked in Alfred Bogle's camp).

Edie Bogle has many fond memories growing up in Londonderry. She decided to share some of her recollections of the 1930's, when her father Alfred Bogle had logging camps in the back woods.

Edie's mother was a cook in the camps. The camps also had a "cookee" to assist with serving the tables. The cook and cookee worked long hours to ensure the men always ate well.

The hard work would begin in the fall, as the huge caravan made its way into the woods, where the camp would be set up for winter logging.

Edie recalls the sights and sounds of the fall portage and long winters at the camps. "As kids we would catch a free ride on the sled and I can still recall the sound of the sleigh bells and

the mill whistle at noon and again at 5 o'clock. The men would come into the cook house and they always ate with zest," she says. "The meals were served on enamel plates with blue trim. No broken dishes in those days."

She can recall big pots of tea steaming hot on the big cook stove, with a fire that was always burning. Tables full of pie, such as mincemeat, and big rounds of cheese, prunes, dates, potatoes, flour- all hauled in before the snow came.

The camps used lanterns and oil lamps, fuelled by kerosene oil. The kerosene barrels were loaded on separate wagons during transport, for safety reasons.

The men slept in bunkhouses on beds made of straw, stuffed in burlap bags.

Edie's father had a camp of his own in the back woods of Londonderry and as a young child she spent many winters with her parents. She remembers the men playing cards in the bunk house at night and she would take turns sitting on their knee. Later she

went away to take her nursing training at the VG Hospital, eventually living in Michigan, the men who worked for dad would often ask about her.

Alfred Bogle used to go into the train station and hire men from Cape Breton, right off the train, to go work in the woods. Years later, Edie was visiting with people in Cape Breton and they went to the home of a neighbour to play cards by oil lamp. "There was a big rugged man playing cards and he asked where I lived. He mentioned he had worked on the mainland for many winters for a man named "Alfred Bogle" and when I told him this was my father he held up the lamp and looked at me in surprise," Edie recalls. She says he looked her over saying, "You're not the little girl who came up on portage?" His name was Harold Davenport and she says he kept in touch for years. Harold had cut the timbers for the Bogle Dam above High Bridge, Londonderry.

Edie recalls sitting up on the brow, watching milling of slabs and seeing the piles of sawdust. "It was a great social experience, all those men working together for weeks on end and getting along so well," she says. "They really trusted each other."

When the snow was gone, the men left the woods, as it became too muddy to work but Edie's chores were not over. "The unloading of equipment, supplies, blankets and items maintained for the daily management of the lumber camp was a full-time job and that was part of my duty," she says. "Mum had to do the entire cleanup, putting everything in storage. Washing the pure wool blankets, and trying to dry them was a whole different story than working with the modern facilities of today. My brothers Harold and Lloyd helped with the clean-up by working in the barn. BUSY DAYS! This was all done in the spring, when the woods cleared for the winter, and preparation was

made to finish sawing the logs, at the mill."

Edie mentioned Shep Scott, who now lives at Sutherlands Lake, as another source of history during the logging times.

Shep Scott's first job, outside his family, was working at Dave Phillip's sawmill set-up at Rockland Dam on the outskirts of Londonderry. He was about twenty years old and worked the night shift winching logs up out of the dam to the skidway, where they were sawn into lumber. It was about 100 feet down to the bottom, where two men would hook cables on to logs and haul them up using a pulley system.

Shep remembers his father was hired by Alfred Bogle to get two sets of trolley wheels. These wheels replaced the regular wheels and allowed the logging wagons to run on log railways during the summer. Most logging was carried out in the winter, when the ground was frozen, because the horses would wallow in the mud. The trolley wagons rolled right along and were easier to pull. After the job was finished, the logs were taken up and reused.

The summer of trolley wheels, Shep recalls Libby Miller was the cook and her son Ellis was the cookee. He says it was six miles from the camp to Londonderry and Ellis would walk it after supper, in order to play ball with the Londonderry Iron Clad Team. "And he would have to walk all the way back again," says Shep. "He must have wanted to play bad enough, so he would just do it."

The Maple Leaf Lumber Company owned the land and Alfred Bogle hired the logging crew to get the work done. Shep's brother Robert Scott drove one of the teams of horses, owned by Alfred Bogle.

Work crews would log all winter long, while the ground was frozen, and then move to another area once all the logs were cut.

It was the time when men used crosscut saws and axes, not chainsaws and Shep says the trees were bigger back then, too. He worked in the woods as a chopper and also drove the yard horses, for Alfred and Kemp Patriquin.

A chopper used an axe and saw to fell the trees and cut into lengths. The yarder would then haul the logs to the brow where teams of horses hauling bobsleds hauled the pile of logs to the mill. The finished lumber was loaded on rail cars at Londonderry Station.

Shep says there was a great deal of lumbering done back then and he can recall the names of Steve Bardon, Kemp Patriquin, Dave Phillips and Alfred Bogle from around his Londonderry home. The men moved around for the work, taking horses and everything they needed.

It was quite an operation logging the river banks of the Great

Village River in the early 1930's. "They would build a dam on the river to hold the logs. Not an easy feat, when it is 100feet from the road down to the river," says Shep. "They lowered the mill down using a block and tackle and when the mill was set up there was no room to pile the lumber. They loaded the truck as soon as the lumber was sawn. There were two trucks, driven by Anton Carter and Percy Barns, and they took turns. A turntable was built to turn the truck around and the lumber was then taken to Londonderry Station. (Alfred Bogle developed the turntable idea, as well as the trolley wheels) Some logs were taken right down the road and dumped over the bank. Jim and Harry Spence worked on the bank to make sure the logs made it all the way down. Lorne Barnes wheeled the sawdust and dumped it into the woods. Dave Gamble was the sawyer and the mill belonged to Graham's of Debert. This went on all one summer. We should have had photos, it was the only operation like that ever done."

About twelve years ago, Edie and Shep made the trek back down to the Bogle dam area. "Shep was 86 years of age and we both climbed down the gorge from Westchester Road to Bogle Dam, where the turntable was located. It was quite a feat and a wonderful site. I can still remember the sound of the water thunder along," says Edie.

Shep's homestead was at Sutherlands Lake and he remembers arriving to go fishing in the spring and seeing the lake was full of logs. He says, "The logs had been hauled on sleds in the winter and dumped on the ice. When the ice melted, they made booms and hauled the logs back up the slipway to Ward Giddens' mill, which was set up on the upper end of the lake. There are a lot of logs that sank to the bottom of the lake."



Edie Bogle

Shep's father, George Scott hauled some lumber and logs but mostly freight. He went to Truro every week and brought out supplies to the stores such as Tattries, Laytons and the Bass River Chair.

Shep recalled a story he says he could never forget. He was helping his father cutting wood just down the road from Sutherlands Lake and they ran into a big log they couldn't handle. His father went in to AJ Walkers and picked up some blasting powder. They drilled holes in the log and filled these with blasting powder and then ran fuses to them. After his father lit the fuse he threw the match over his shoulder and it landed right in the remaining can of blasting powder. "It scared the devil out of us," laughs Shep. "It broke the log into smaller hunks we could lift into the truck but that was the end of the blasting powder."

Shep Scott is a very young 98 years of age. He still drives his own car and has quite a social calendar. He moved to Sutherlands Lake after he retired from the car sales business.

He says, "I never got tired of the car sales business, every day was different, but lumbering was a good way to make a living back in the day. It was a good source of income and when they left an area there was still something to look at, not like today."

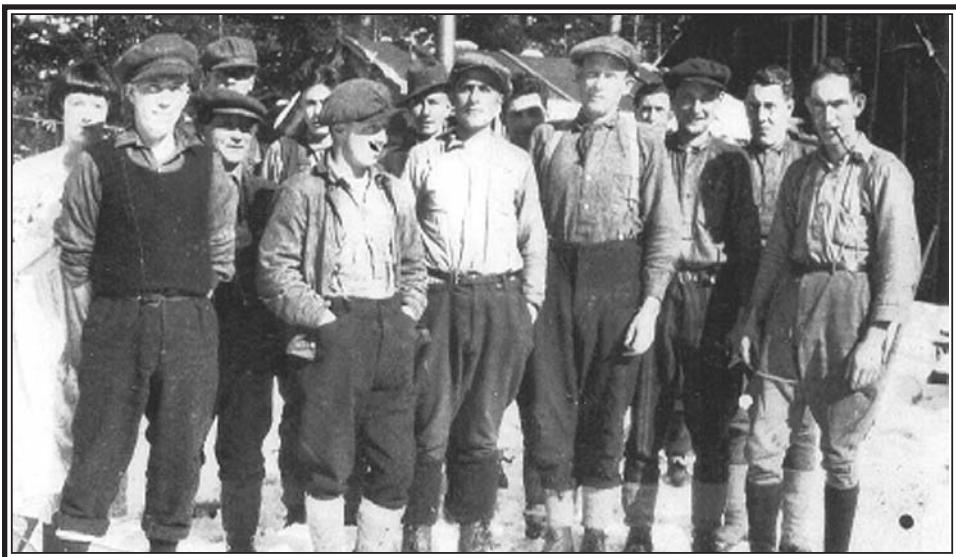
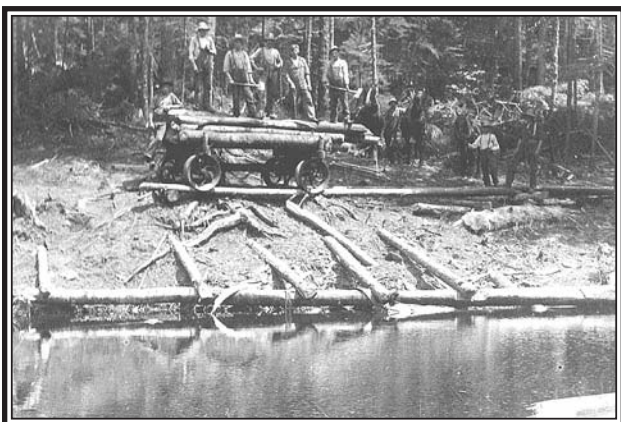


Photo of the logging crew taken at Pleasant Hills, Col. Co., NS. in 1926 with Alfred Bogle, front row centre, (wearing a cap, braces and neck-tie). Woman at far left is Myrtle (Gamble) Bogle, who worked as a cook in the camp. To the left of Alfred Bogle is Homer Crow, Edgewood Rd., Bass River. (submitted by Edie Bogle)



This photo, found at a local antique store, shows a wagon with trolley wheels as is described by Shep Scott. The men are about to unload the logs into the river, while a team of horses stands by. Anyone know any of the men or where this photo might have been taken?



A single horse used for snigging logs to the brow. The log was attached to the harness by a set of "dogs" (a chain, with a double edged hook). (submitted by Edie Bogle)



A double team of horses were often used to haul logs on bob-sleds. (submitted by Edie Bogle)

BASIN BASICS

OFFICE PRODUCTS

3 LOCATIONS

BASIN BASICS
DIVISION OF BASIN STATIONERY

Suite 130, 3667 Strawberry Hill
Halifax, NS B3K 5A8
Phone: 902-453-0005
Fax: 902-453-0009
Toll Free: 1-800-463-1005
ISO 9001:2008

HIGHLAND BASICS
DIVISION OF BASIN STATIONERY

260 Main Street
Antigonish, NS B2G 2C2
Phone: 902-863-4754
Fax: 902-863-1805
Toll Free: 1-800-461-8776

BASIN BASICS
DIVISION OF BASIN STATIONERY

49 Esplanade Street
Truro, NS B2N 5J7
Phone: 902-893-3703
Fax: 902-893-7795
Toll Free: 1-800-565-8283

ORDER DESK:
Truro: 893-3703
1-800-463-1005
Fax: 453-0009
1-800-667-1005

OFFICE SUPPLY
ON DEMAND

Proudly Canadian

E-mail: basin@basinstationery.com Website: www.basinstationery.com
Online Catalogue: www.basinstationery.com