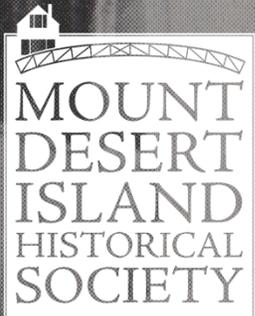


Rusticators, Cottagers, and Motorists:

A Brief History of Bar Harbor Tourism, 1860s-1970s

Sean Cox, Ph.D.
Managing Editor, *Chebacco*
Mount Desert Island Historical Society



ca. 1946

Getting *Here* From *There*

Rusticators to Early Motorists



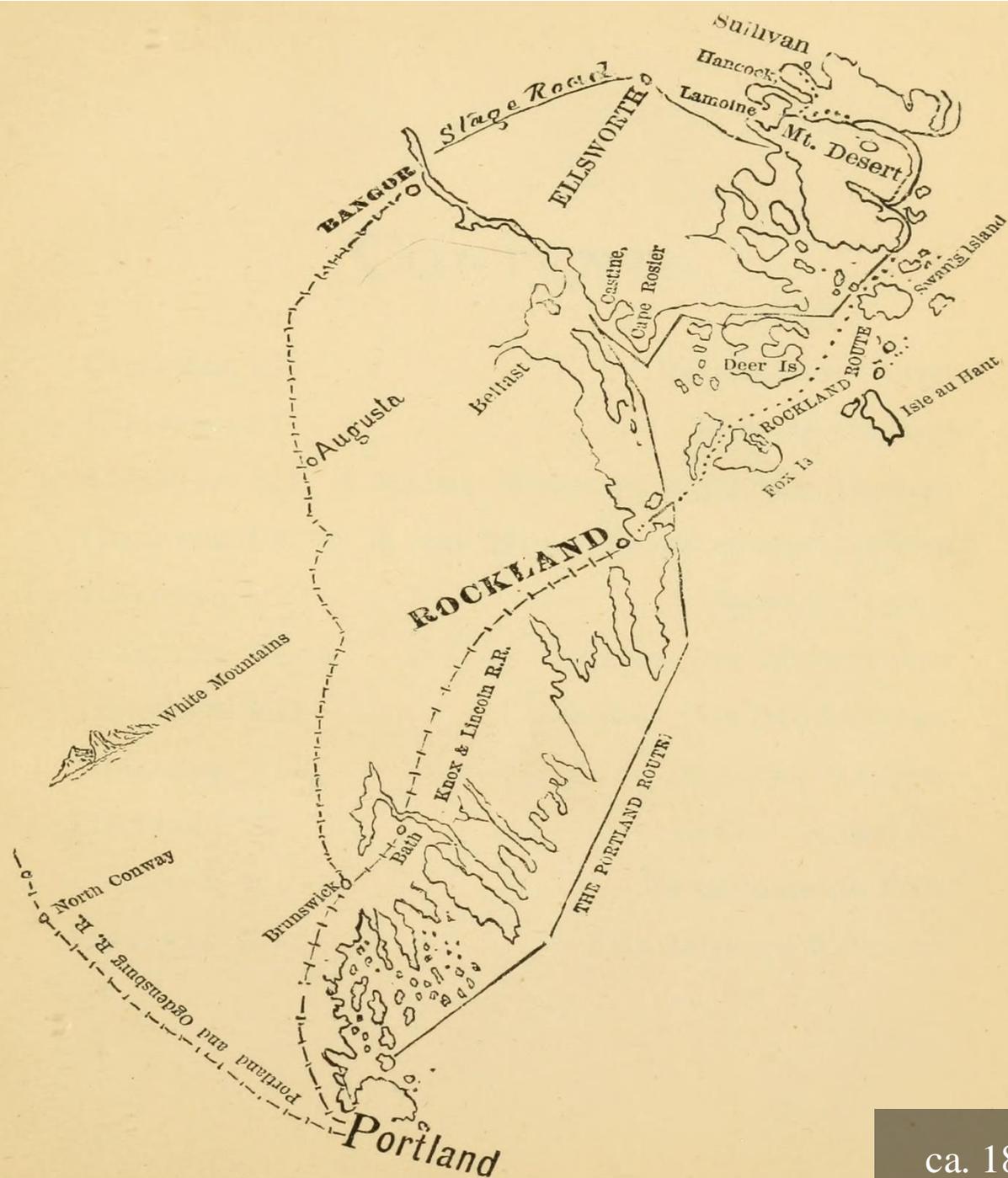
THE HAND-BOOK

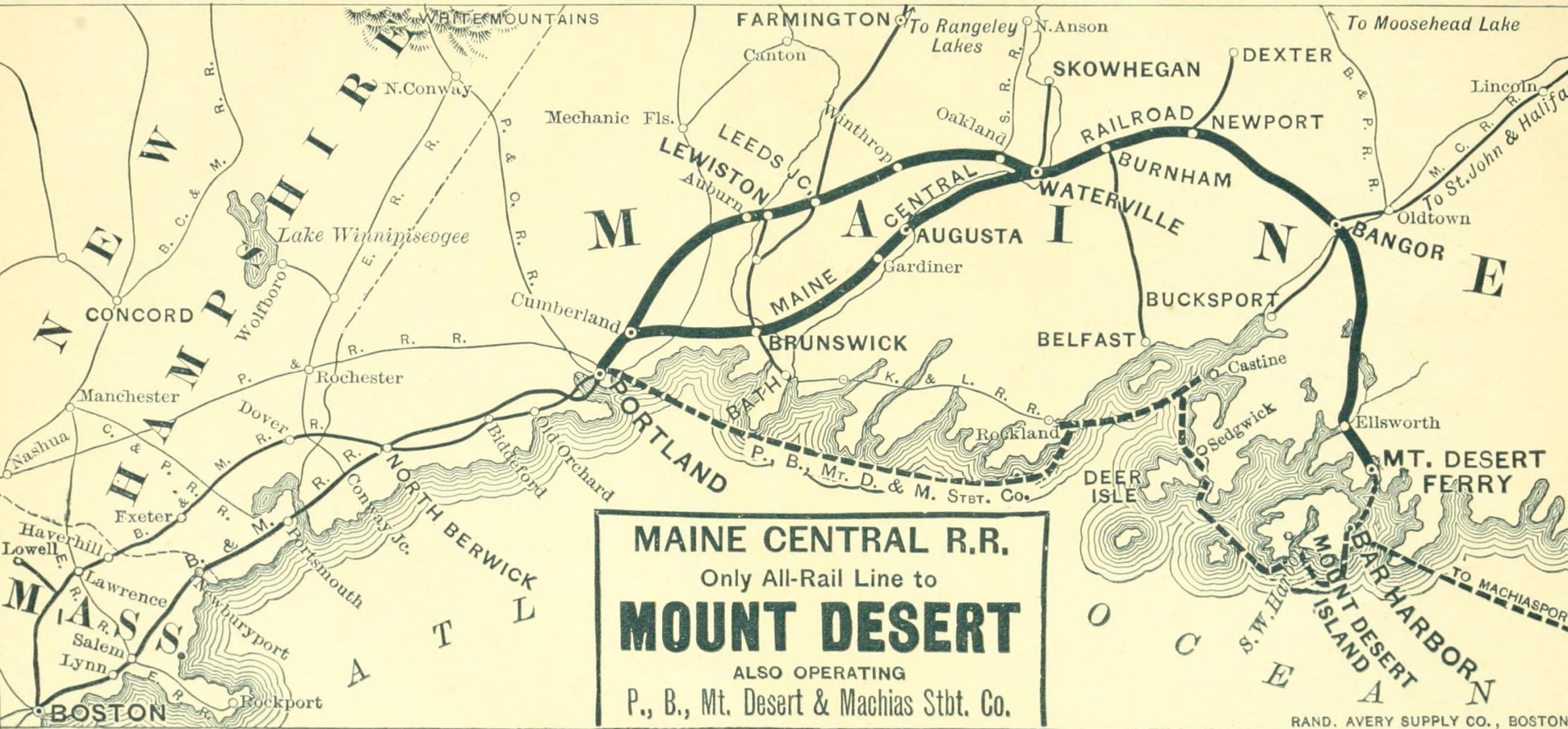
OF

MOUNT DESERT



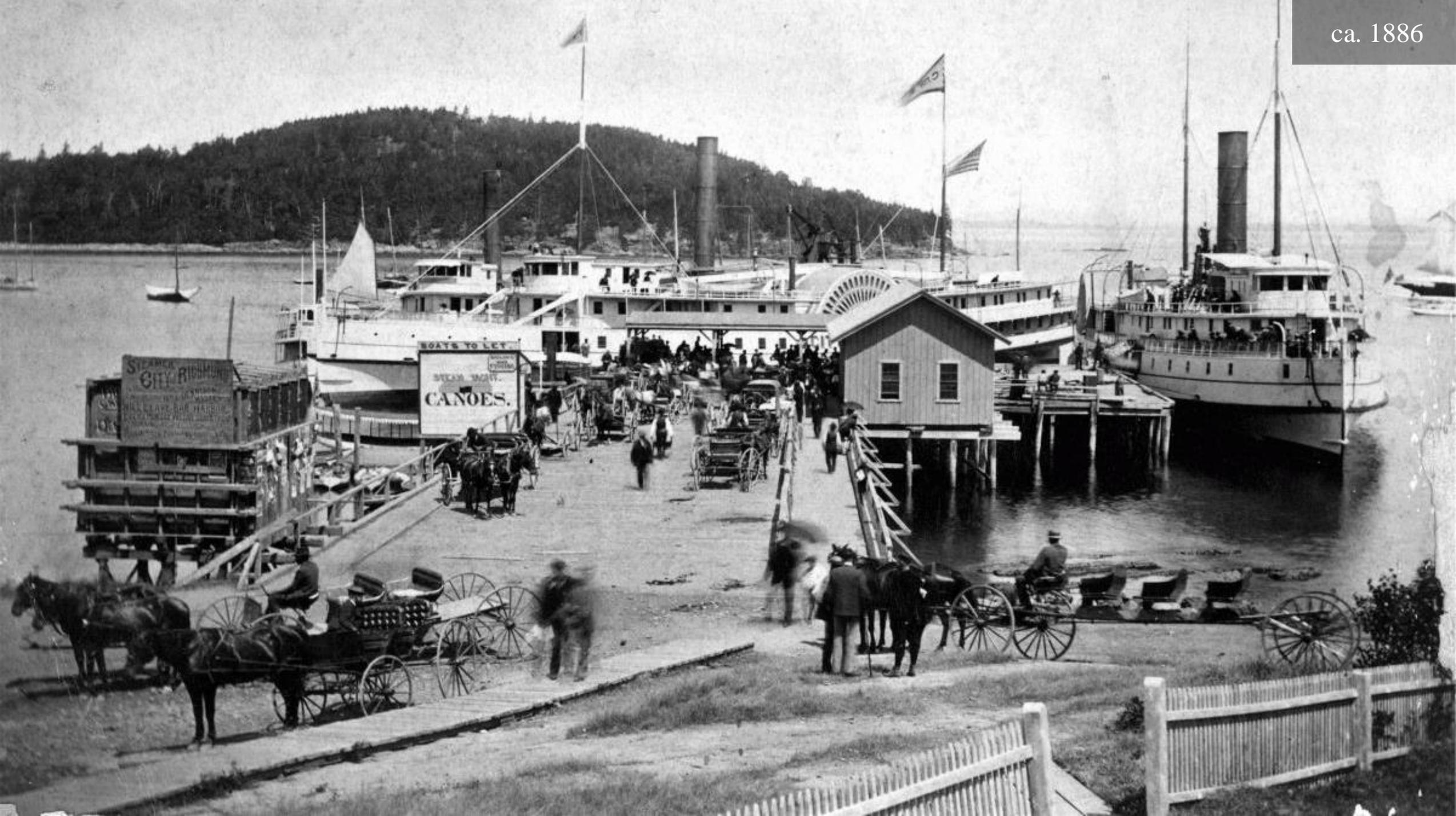
BOSTON AND
NEW YORK.





RAND. AVERY SUPPLY CO., BOSTON

ca. 1886





Eden P.O.
Salisbury Cove P.O.

West Eden P.O.

Mt. Desert P.O.
SOMESVILLE

S. Gouldsborough P.O.

GOULDSBOROUGH LANDING

Winter Harbor P.O.

Grindstone Neck

Turtle I.

ca. ~1890

Haynes Pt.

Thomas Bay

Alleys I.

Clark's Cove

Indian Pt.

Hull's Cove

Lake Wood

Young's Mt.

McFarland Mt.

The Pond of Witch Hollow
Great Pond Hill

Bar I.

BAR HARBOR

Long Porcupine I.

Iron Bound I.

Burnt Porcupine I.

Sheep Porcupine I.

Round Porcupine I.

Radick's Cove

Great Mt. Kabo

The White Cap

EAGLE LAKE

STEAMER

Green Mt.
U.S.C.S. Sta.
1527 ft.

Turtle Lake

Sargent's Mt.

Brown's Mt.

Pemetic Mt.

The Triads

The Beehive

The Bowl

Spouting Horn Schooner Head

Anemone Cave

Great Head

Otter Creek Pt.

The Cleft

Wester Pt. Harbor P.O.

Pretty Marsh P.O.

Great Pond

Echo Lake

SOMES SOUND

Sargent's Pt.

Hadlock Ponds

Carter's Nubble

Robinson's Mt.

Western Mt.

Stave I.

Jordan I.

WINTER HARBOR

WINTER HARBOR

GOULDSBOROUGH

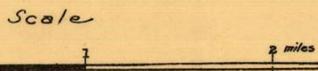
STR. CITY OF RICHMOND
To Eastport, Campobello & Annapolis

M.C.R.R. FERRY

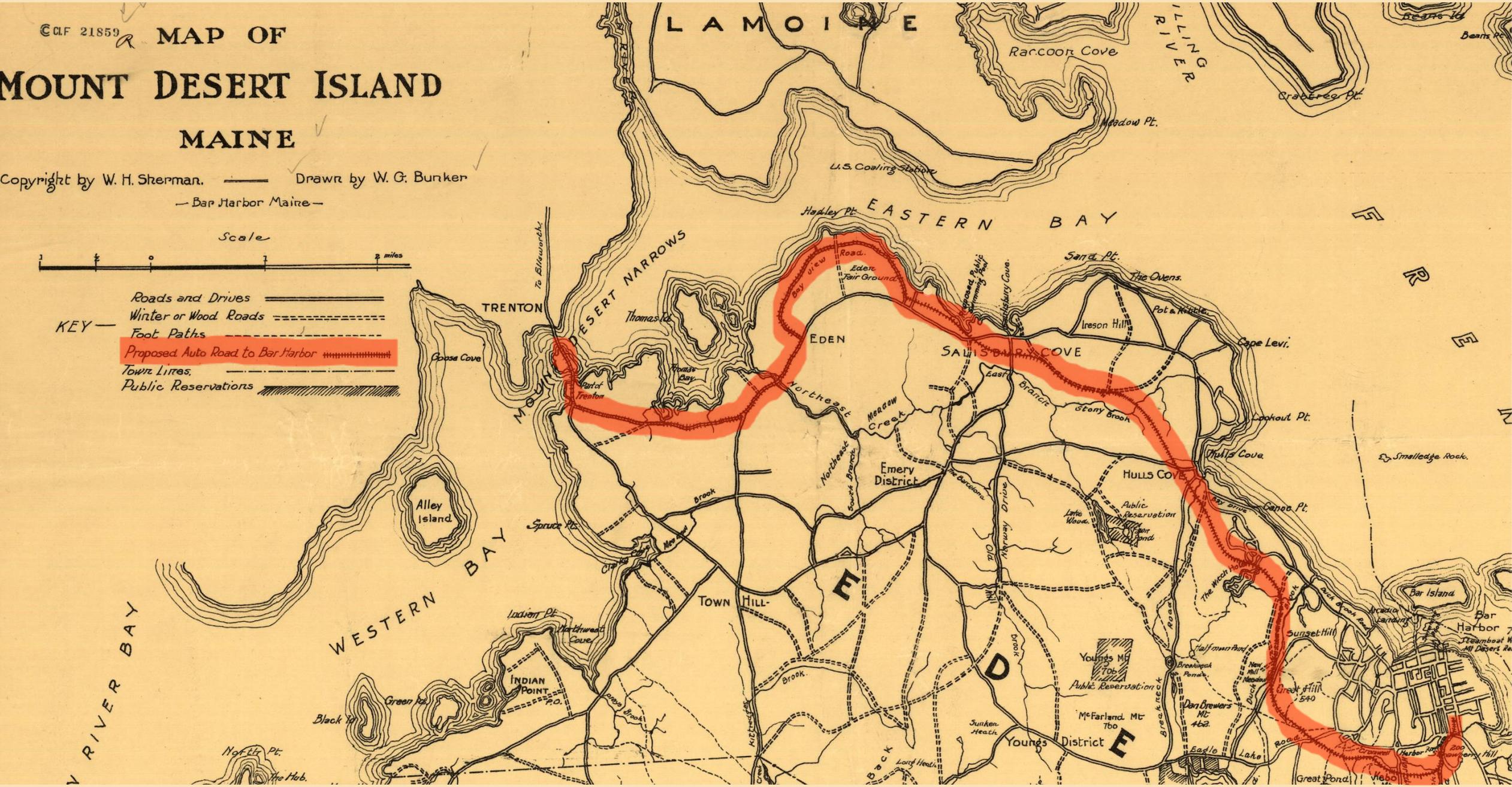
CLF 21859

MAP OF MOUNT DESERT ISLAND MAINE

Copyright by W. H. Sherman. Drawn by W. G. Bunker
— Bar Harbor Maine —

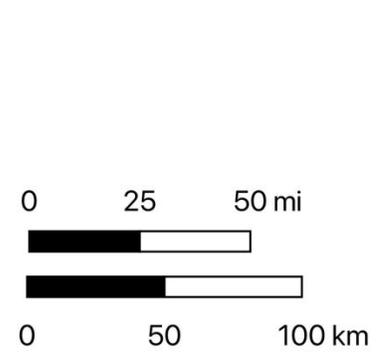
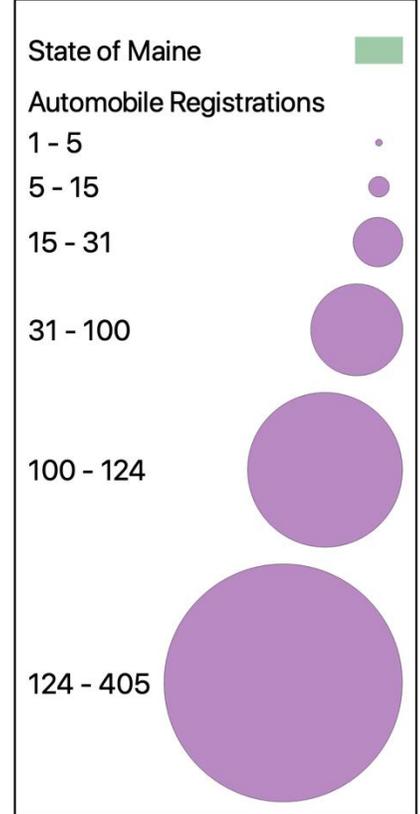
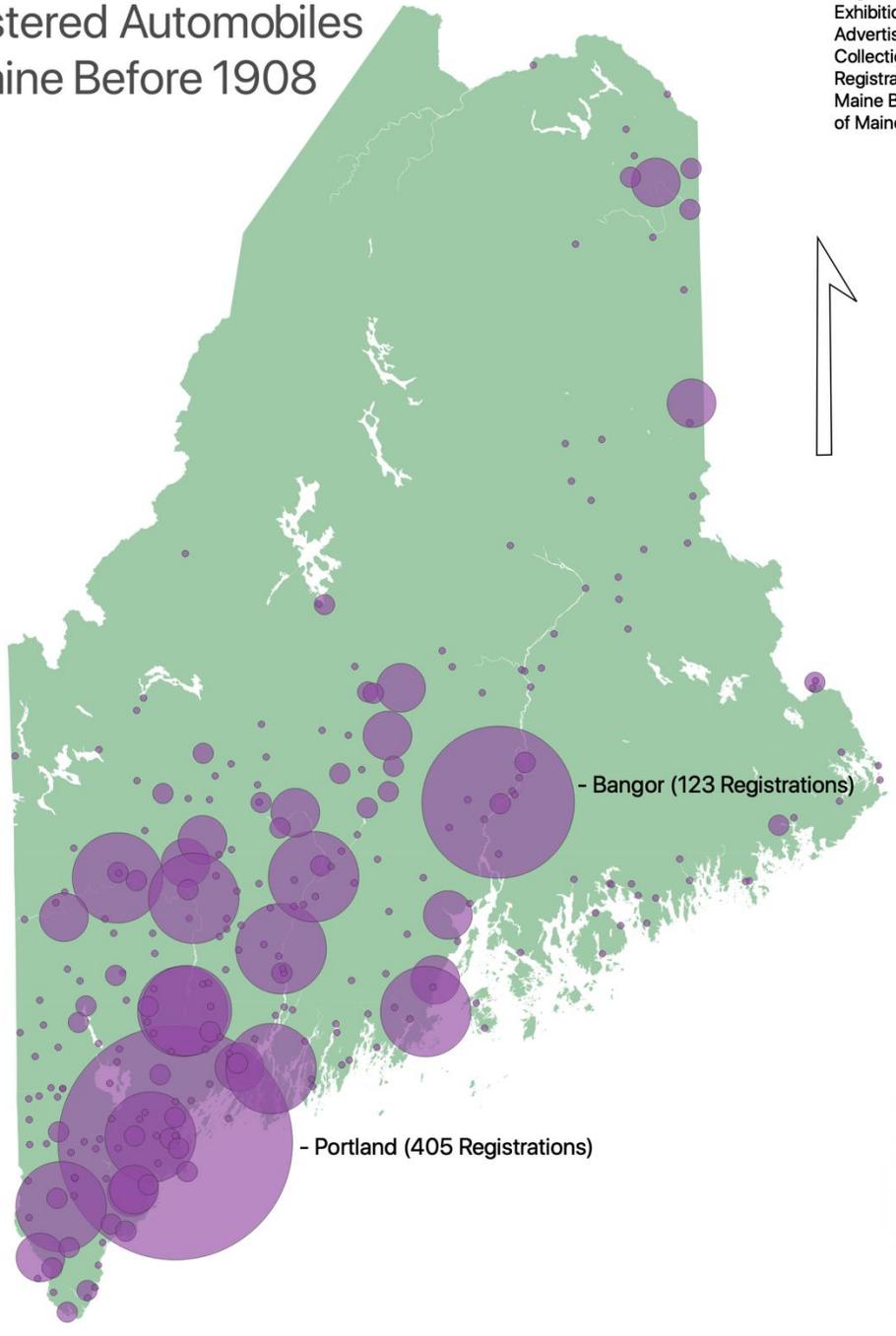


- KEY —
- Roads and Drives
 - Winter or Wood Roads
 - Foot Paths
 - Proposed Auto Road to Bar Harbor
 - Town Lines
 - Public Reservations

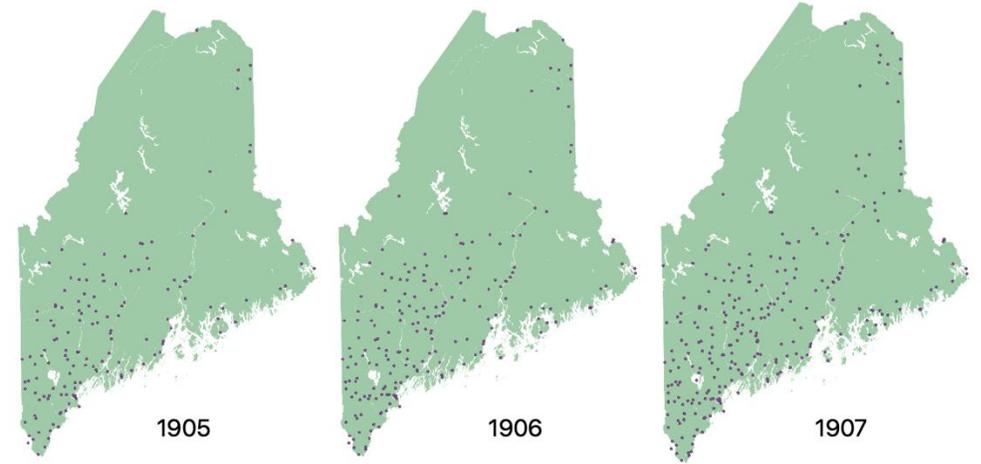


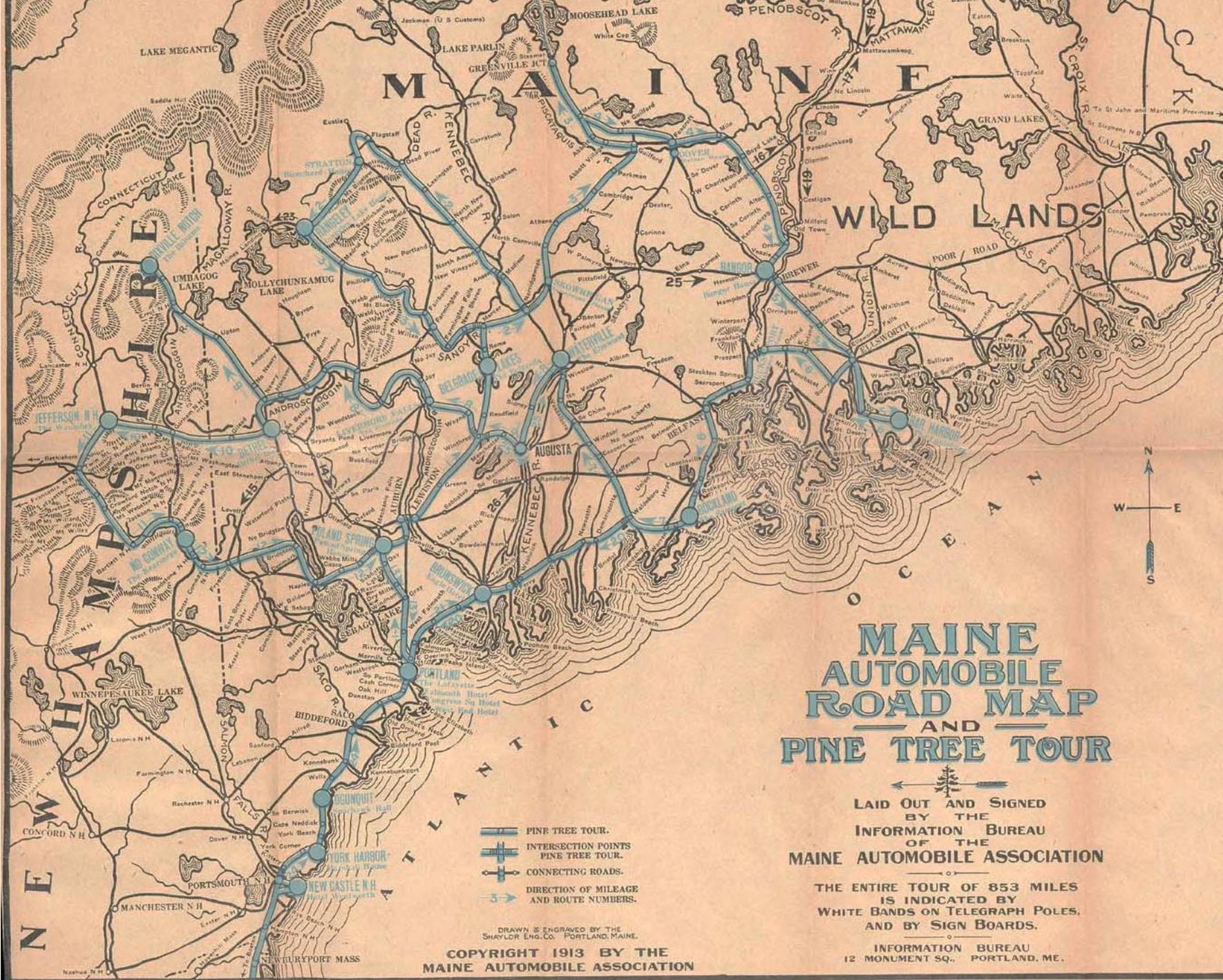
Registered Automobiles In Maine Before 1908

Registration data from "Automobile and Motor Boat Show-Third Annual Exhibition" Portland, Maine Auditorium February 24 to 29, 1908. (Maine Advertising Company, 1908) University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections, PAMP 2614.
 Registrations per year data from Richard and Nancy Fraser. A History of Maine Built Automobiles and Motorized Vehicles, 1834-1934: with a History of Maine License Plates. (R. & N. Fraser, 2009), 438. © Sean Cox, 2020

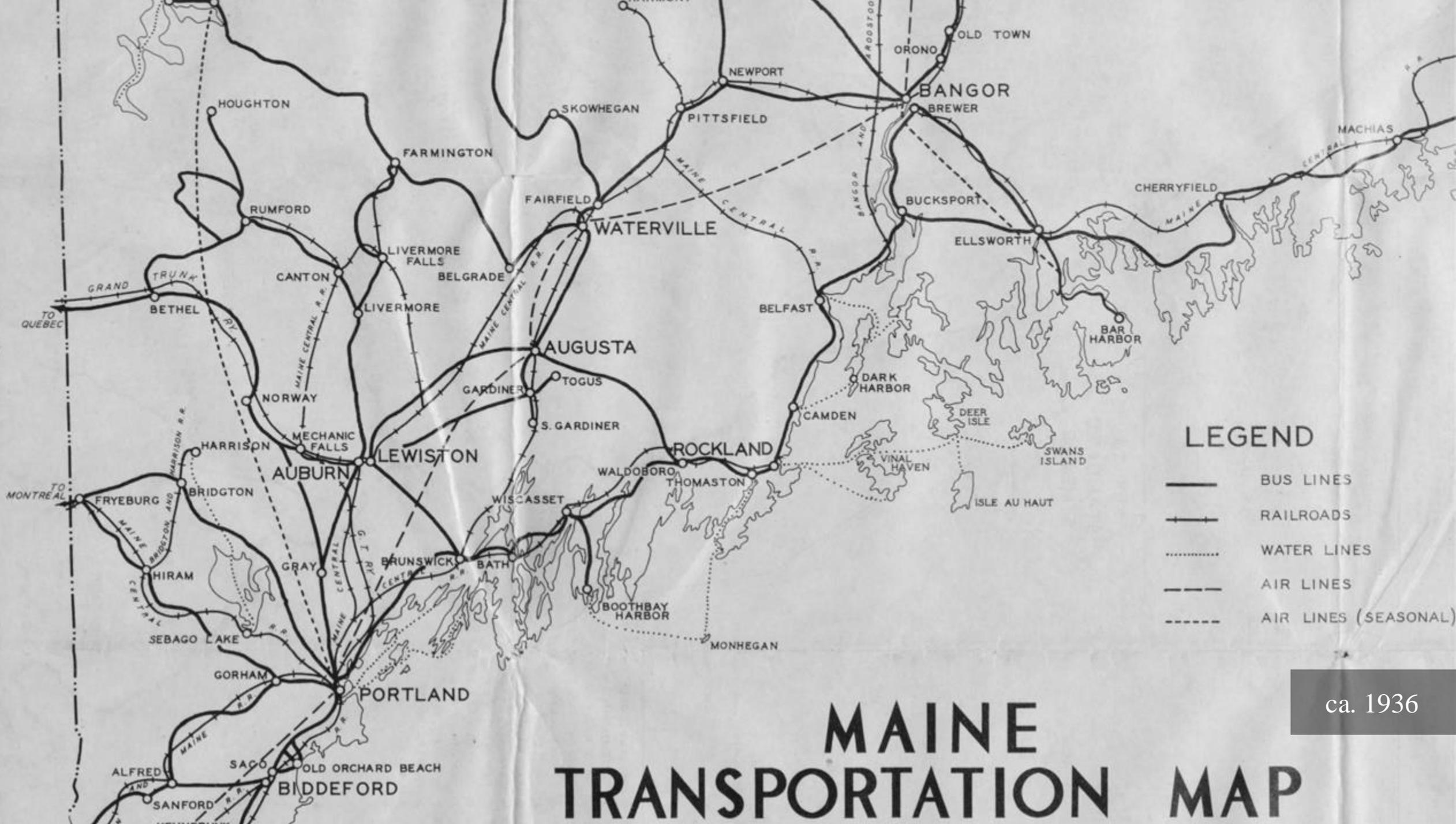


Maine Towns With Registered Autos (1905-1907)





ca. 1913



LEGEND

-  BUS LINES
-  RAILROADS
-  WATER LINES
-  AIR LINES
-  AIR LINES (SEASONAL)

**MAINE
TRANSPORTATION MAP**

ca. 1936

A Cycle of Hotels, Cottages, and Cabins

Rusticators to Modern Motorists



Views Across Frenchman's Bay from
Mt. Desert Island, After a Squall (1845)

Thomas Cole





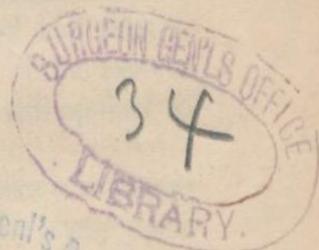
RESIDENCE OF MRS. ALPHEUS HARDY.
First Summer Cottage built at Bar Harbor.

Built 1867

MOUNT DESERT AND TYPHOID FEVER,

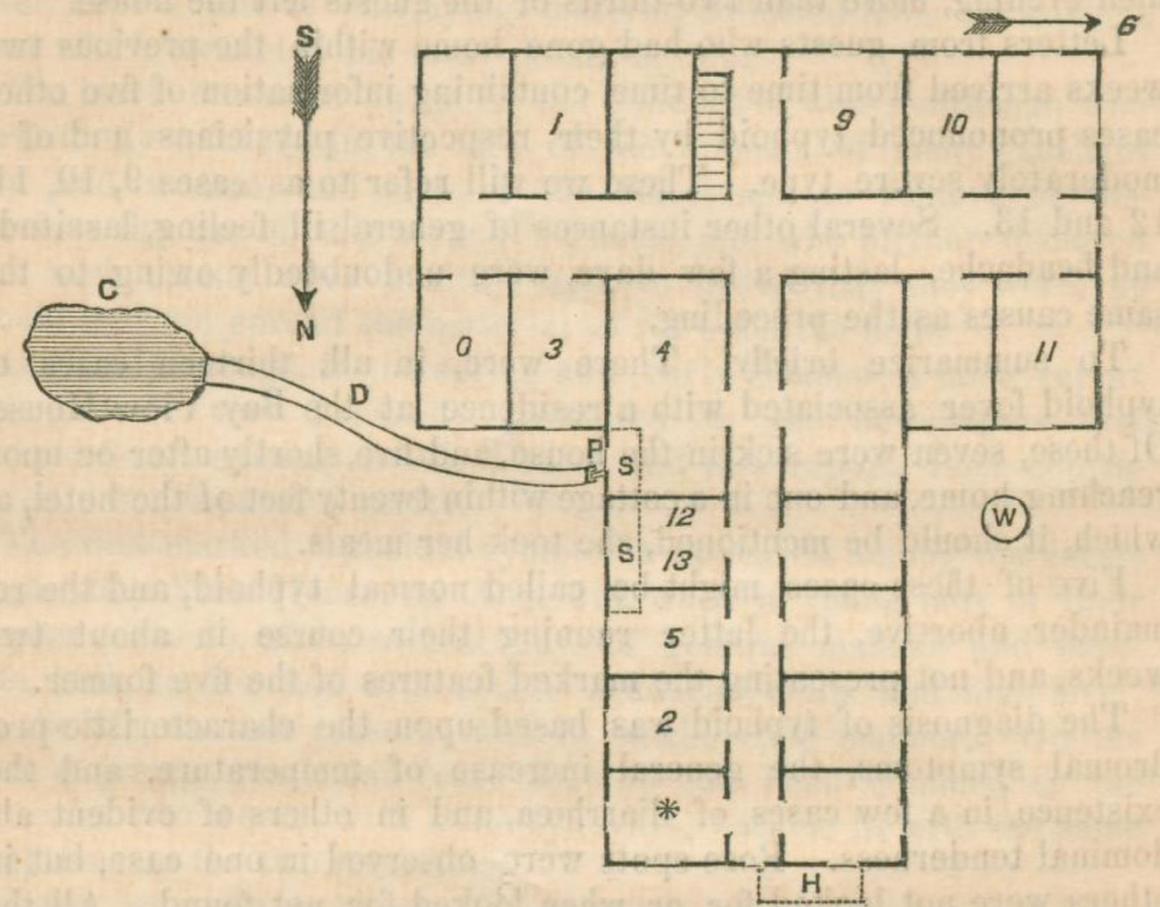
DURING THE SUMMER OF 1873.

BY WM. J. MORTON, M.D.



Reprinted from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Oct. 30, 1873.

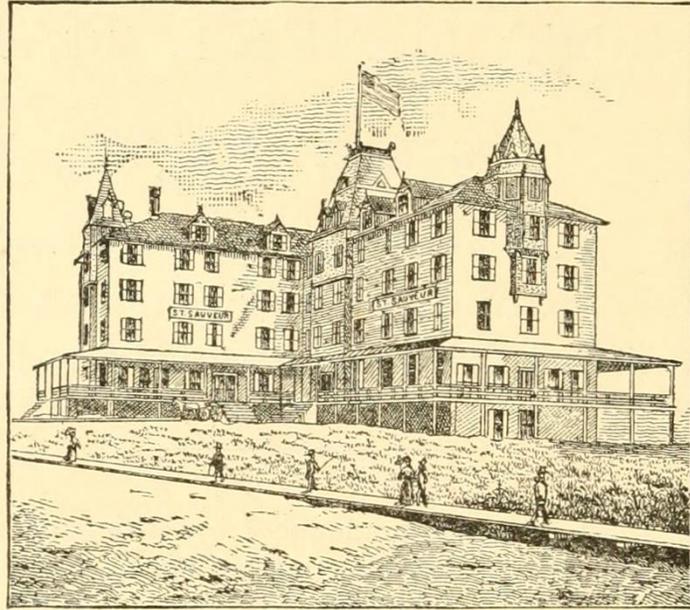
PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR OF BAY VIEW HOUSE.



- S, sink, represented by dotted lines, situated in kitchen on lower floor, where dishes &c., were washed, and water found exit at pipe
- P, into
- D, covered drain (but open at point P) leading to
- C, cesspool, also covered, but imperfectly so, with earth.
- W, well.
- The figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 represent the cases which occurred in these rooms respectively. Cases 7, 8, not marked on diagram, were servants, who worked constantly over sink, S, on the floor beneath.
- * A case affected for several days only.
- O, only room facing into western angle of the house in which a case of illness did not occur.
- H, out-houses.
- The arrow, at the right, points to cottage, thirty feet distant, in which occurred case 6.

HOTEL ST. SAUVEUR,

ALLEY BROTHERS, Proprietors.



COMPLETED
IN
JULY, 1882.

OVER ONE
HUNDRED AND
TWENTY
SLEEPING
ROOMS.

BAR HARBOR, MAINE.

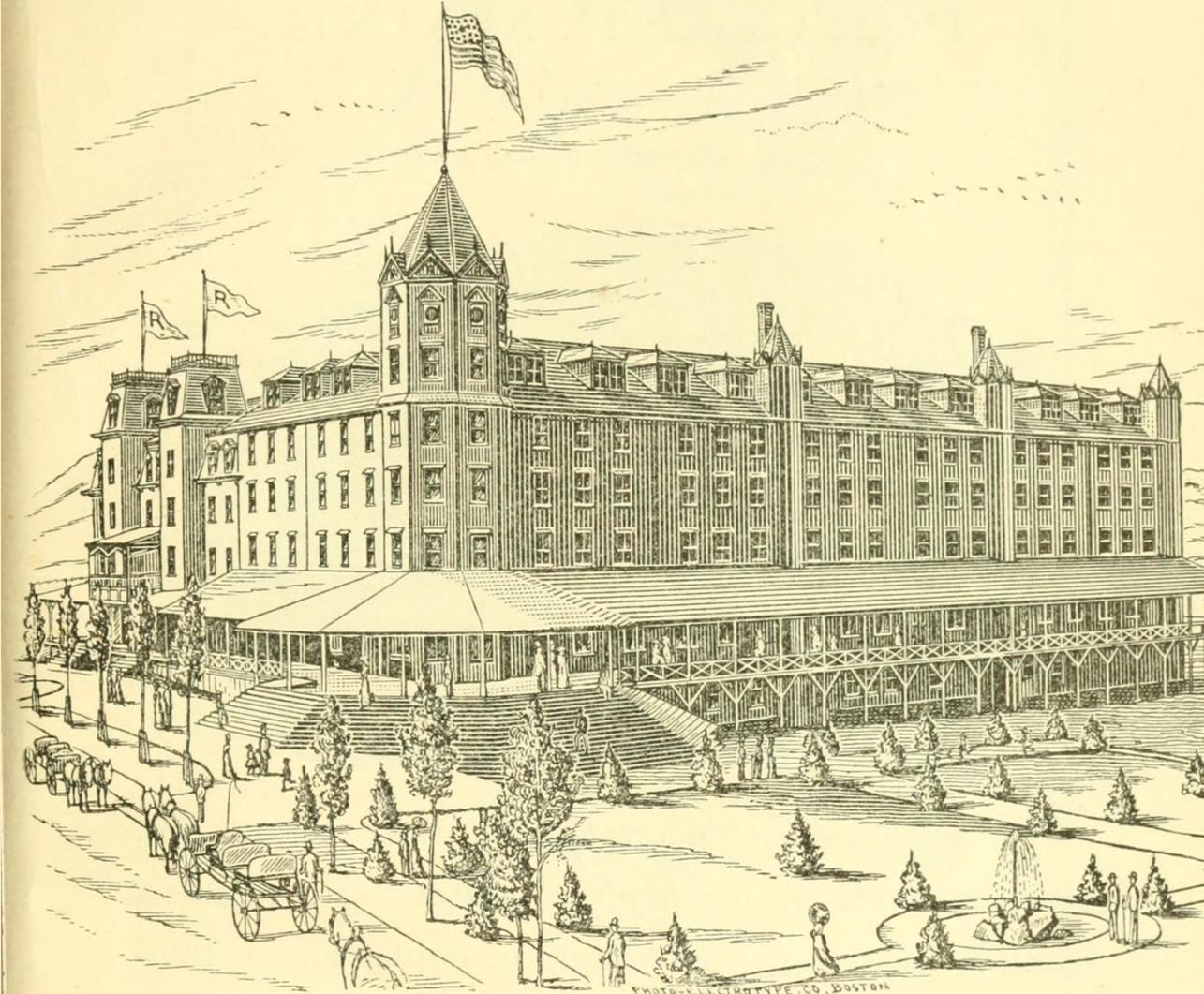
Large Music-room, Parlor & Dining-room,

EAGLE LAKE WATER.

Gas, Bath-room on each floor, Electric Bells, and
all modern conveniences.

The sanitary arrangements are the **best** that modern science can suggest. All rooms
are furnished with the best **Hair Mattresses** and **Spring Beds**.

The Rodick



Main Street, Bar Harbor.

D. RODICK & SONS, PROPRIETORS.

ca. 1886

Hotel Name	Proprietor	Capacity	Built/Opening Year
Rodick,	- - D. Rodick & Sons,	600	1866 (additions in 1870, 1875, 1882)
West End,	- - O. M. Shaw & Son,	300	1879
Rockaway,	- - T. L. Roberts,	100	1873
Newport,	- - W. M. Roberts,	100	1871
Marlborough,	- - Charles Higgins,	100	1873 (as “Deering”)
Atlantic,	- - E. T. Hamor,	100	1870 (burned and rebuilt 1882)
Ocean,	- - Samuel Higgins,	40	1873
Grand Central,	- - R. Hamor & Sons,	350	1869 (as “Bayview”)
Hotel Des Isle,	- A. I. Saunders,	75	1882
Lynam Cottages,	- - J. S. Lynam,	100	1879
Belmont,	- - J. C. Manchester,	75	1879
Lookout,	- - S. S. Salisbury,	40	1881
St. Sauveur,	- - Alley Brothers,	175	1872 (rebuilt after fire)
Malvern,	- - De Grasse Fox,	—	1882
Hamilton,	- - G. W. Hamilton,	40	1881
Exchange,	- - W. C. Higgins,	40	1881
Birch Tree,	- - J. A. Rodick,	50	1881
Wayside,	- - Mrs. R. G. Higgins,	35	1881

2145 (hotel capacity estimate)

ca. 1886



ca. 1886



ca. 1920s



ca. 1930s

Mount Desert Island

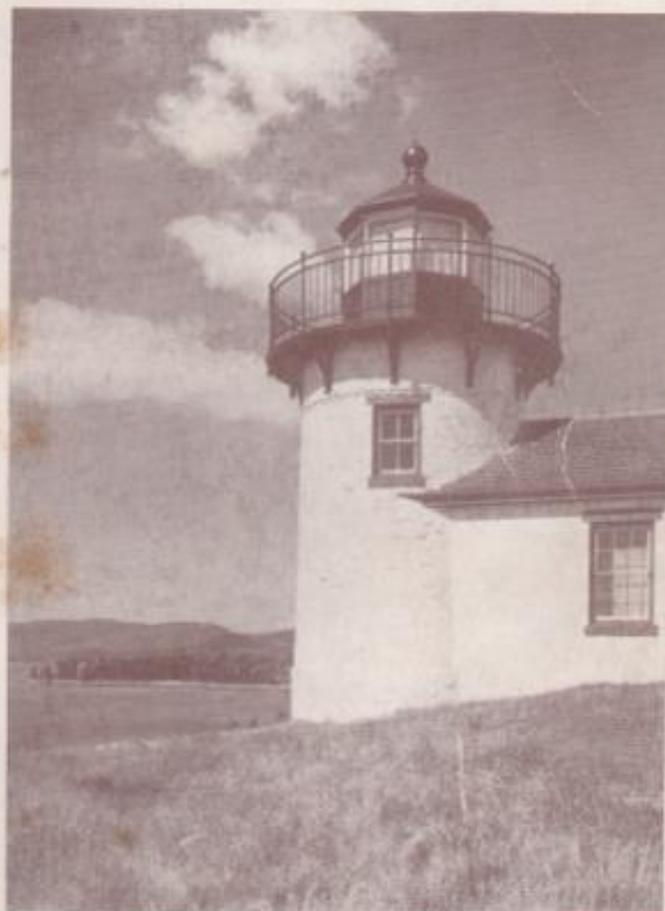


Photo by Halbert

Acadia National Park
1947



Wee-Eden Cottages

Modern Tourist Cottages for
the Most Discriminating

Kitchenettes, Heatilator Fireplaces, Screened Porches
Innerspring Beds

Individual Automatic Hot Water Heaters

Breakfast Served

Available by Day, Week, Month or Season

7 MILES FROM BAR HARBOR ON ROUTE 3

Phone Bar Harbor 219-21

P. O. Salisbury Cove

THE MORTONS, Proprietors



Our Double Cabins

SIMMONS BEDS
PRIVATE SHOWERS
KITCHENETTE

Situated at
HULLS COVE
Route 3

Three Miles North of
Bar Harbor

BOATING - BATHING

E. S. Higgins, Prop.

Tel. 477-W



View Of One Section

Acadian Camps

AND APARTMENTS

We give special attention on
request to parties planning
their vacation in Bar Harbor



EMERY'S BLACK AND WHITE CABINS BAR HARBOR, MAINE

Our cabins are the only cabins on Mount Desert Island located on a
salt water beach. Located at Sand Point. Four miles from Bar Harbor
Post Office. One-half mile off Route 3.

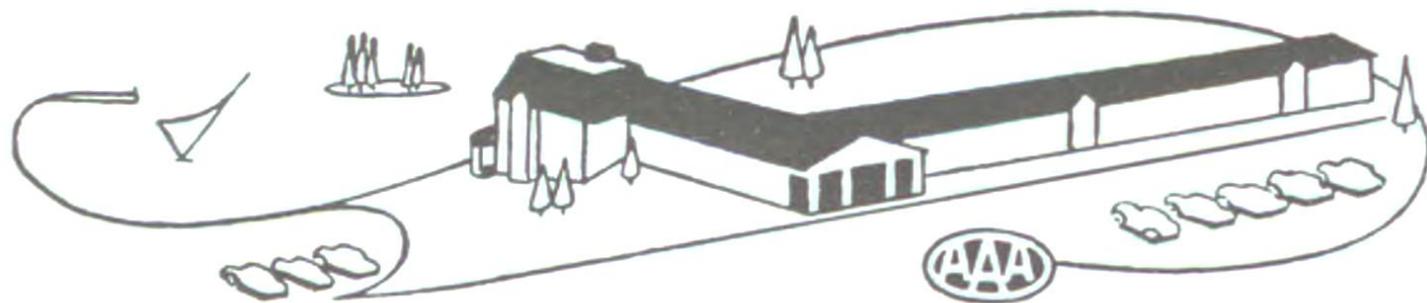
We Challenge Any Cabin Location In New England

ALBION J. EMERY, Owner

TELEPHONE 272-13

HANCOCK COUNTY

Maine Invites You



MOTOR HOTEL BAR HARBOR

ON SHORE - IN TOWN

BAR HARBOR, MAINE

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK - - - MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

Dir.: American Hotels Corp., N. Y. C.

Informal — Special Family Rates — Children Free — June thru September — Fifty New Rooms and Bath. Restaurant . . . Cocktail Lounge . . . Lobby Television . . . Playroom . . . Sundeck. Adjacent Fishing Pier, Swimming Beach, Movies, all Town facilities . . . Special Motorists' Entrance.

(Write for Free Color Brochure)

FREE PARKING

BAR HARBOR, MAINE



HIGHBROOK MOTEL

ROUTE 3 — BAR HARBOR, MAINE 04609

Telephone area code 207 — 288-3591

Quiet location — 800 yards from Bluenose Ferry Terminal. Less than mile from business district and near entrance to ACADIA NATIONAL PARK. MASTERCHARGE and BANKAMERICARD. Open mid-June to mid-October. Call or write for reservations.

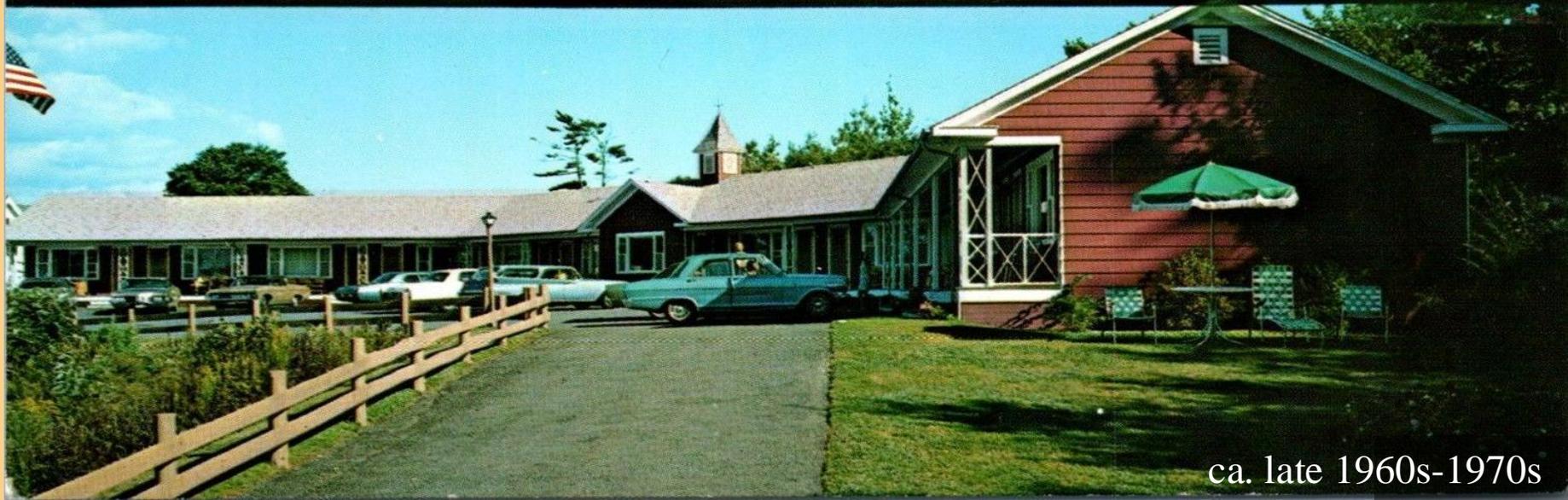
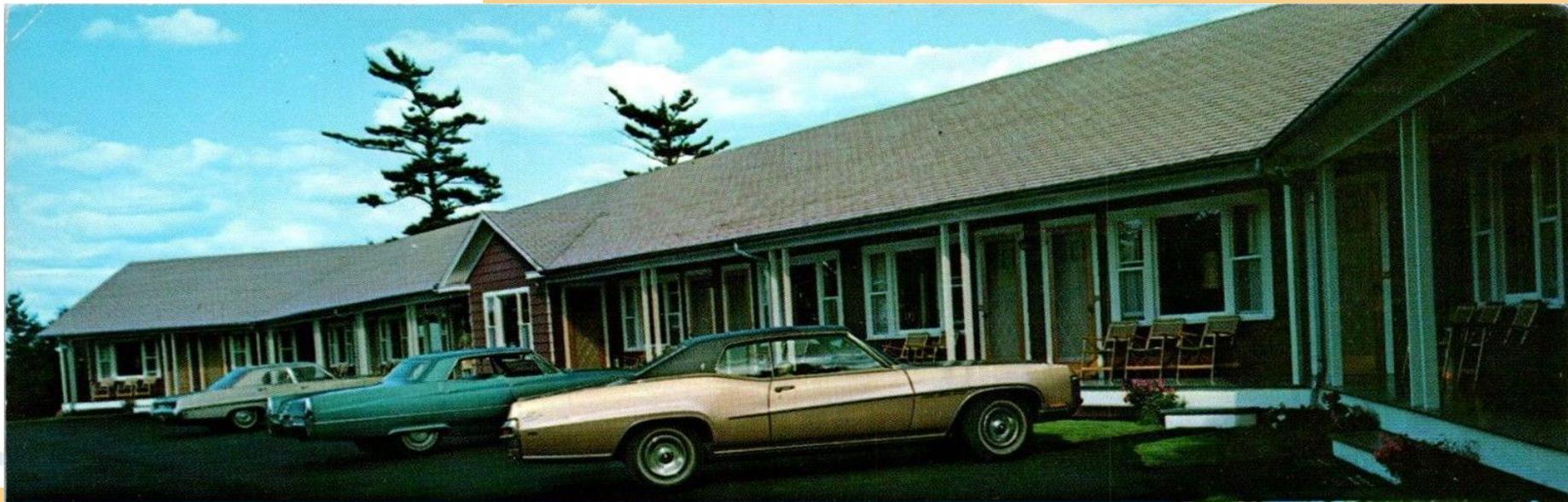
AAA — MOBIL — AMERICAN EXPRESS — MAINE INNKEEPERS and NEW ENGLAND INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION.

Distributed by Discount Supply Service, Stetson, Me.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



121049



ca. late 1960s-1970s

Depression, War, Fire, and Energy

Cottagers to Modern Motorists



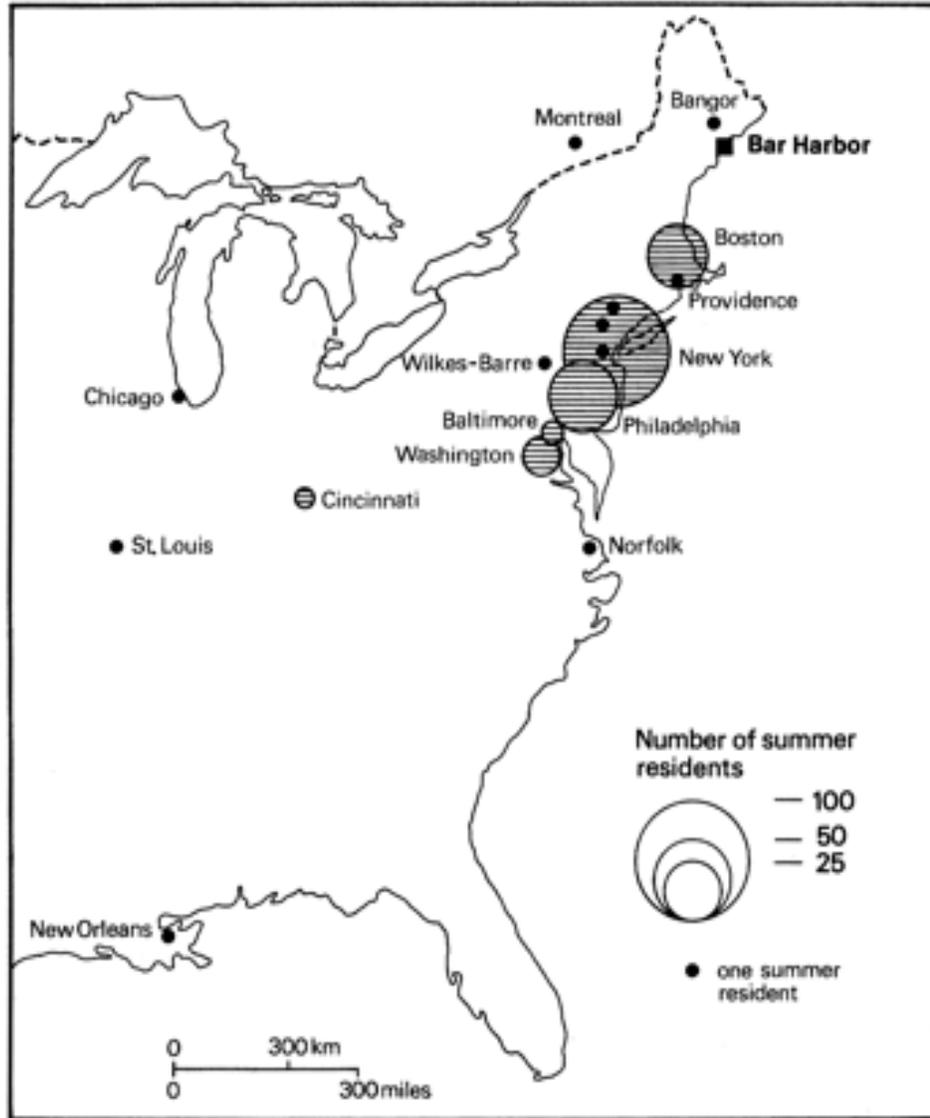
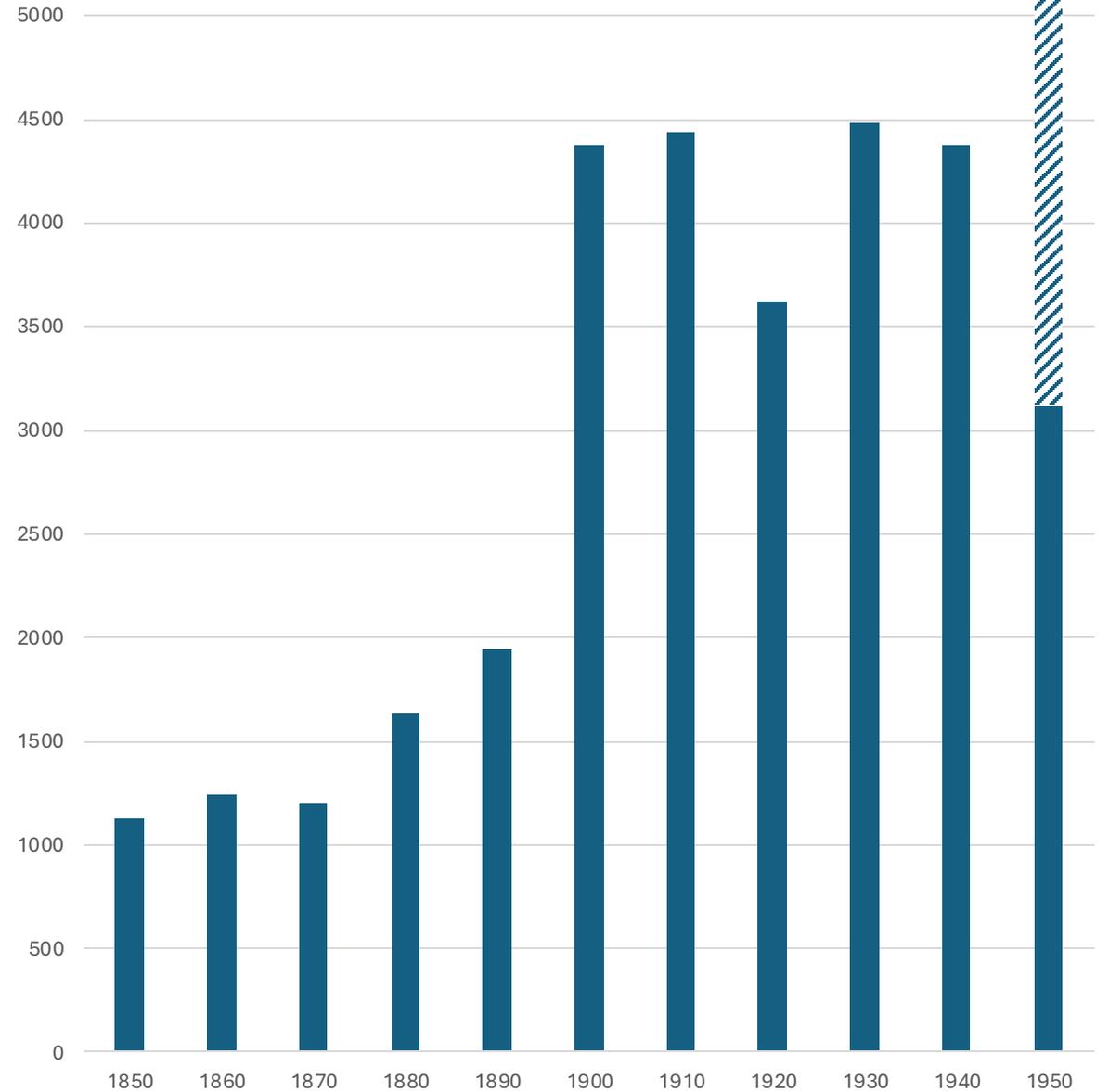


FIG. 1—Bar Harbor and its summer residents in the early twentieth century. Source: Data on residents from Island 1909. (Cartography by Ray Harris)

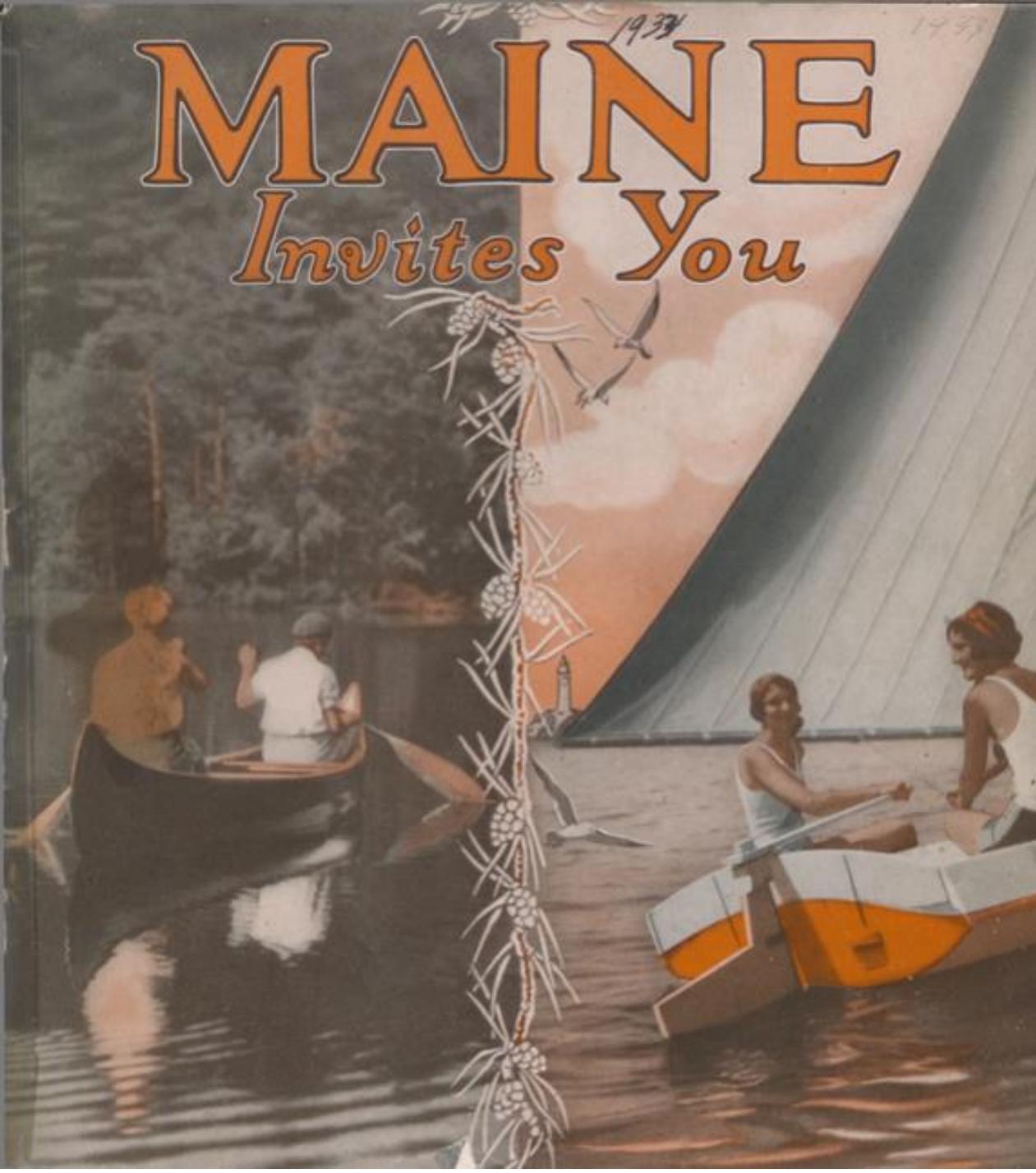
Eden/Bar Harbor Population



1933 1497

MAINE

Invites You



Hosts to the Nation



Recreational Priority

In peace or war, for more than a hundred years, Maine hotels and sporting camps have striven to build up and maintain the tradition of Maine Hospitality.

This year, our heritage and our traditions take on a newer and richer meaning than ever before. Vacation habits will be different and transportation methods may change, but Maine visitors will find us ready, as usual, to accommodate our methods to their requirements.

Maine hotel and camp operators will gladly meet trains and buses at convenient terminals. Their programs will be planned for the "stay put" type of vacation. There will be no compromise with established standards of quality and service.

We Maine Hosts invite you to "have the time of your life in Maine," this year.

MAINE HOTEL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters: 1 St. John Street, Portland, Maine

HANCOCK COUNTY

Maine Invites You

MOUNT DESERT INN

BAR HARBOR, MAINE

Small — Quiet — Homelike

25 pleasant, comfortable rooms with private bath
or running water

NOT EXPENSIVE



**BAR
HARBOR**

*Mountains-Lakes
Seashore-Surf*

COMPLETE REST AND RELAXATION
THAT'S BAR HARBOR FOR YOU!

Yachting, water sports, golf, tennis, mountain climbing, dances, parties, teas, bridge, clean-cut American society at its best in a constant round of social gaiety all within the magnificent scenery of Acadia National Park.

Salt and fresh water fishing—Hunting with a camera.

Furnished or unfurnished cottages or palatial homes.

Your income may be large or small
BAR HARBOR WELCOMES YOU



Whatever you want we can furnish to
your complete satisfaction

For information and booklet write
Information Bureau,

BAR HARBOR, MAINE

Plan Your Vacation at Bar Harbor

His Excellency
HORACE HILDRETH
GOVERNOR OF MAINE



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA

HORACE HILDRETH
GOVERNOR

Dear Vacationist:

One of my most pleasant duties as Governor is that of inviting citizens of other states and countries to vacation in Maine.

This year, more than ever before, almost all of us are in great need of a healthful, restful vacation. The war years have left us exhausted in mind and body. Problems of gigantic import lie before us and we must be in the best possible condition, both mentally and physically, to meet their challenge.

Whenever man has found himself in similar circumstances in the past he has turned to Mother Nature to be restored. Away from the unnatural trappings of civilization a person can regain his vigor speedily and easily. In quiet contemplation of the eternal significance of nature his petty problems assume their proper perspective.

God was exceedingly kind when he fashioned the State of Maine. From its magnificent coast to its mighty forests it offers a diversity of scenery and of recreational opportunity unequalled anywhere. It is spacious, unspoiled, unspoiled. It is the ideal vacationland.

Best of all, its people are kindly and hospitable. They are genuinely glad to welcome the visitor within their gates. They are happy to share with him their many bounties.

So I invite you to come to Maine this year. Like millions before you, I know that you will regard it in retrospect as "The Land of Remembered Vacations."

Sincerely yours,

Horace Hildreth
Governor of Maine

EH/db

This year, more than ever before, almost all of us are in great need of a healthful, restful vacation. The war years have left us exhausted in mind and body. Problems of gigantic import lie before us and we must be in the best possible condition, both mentally and physically, to meet their challenge.

Victory Vacation Year

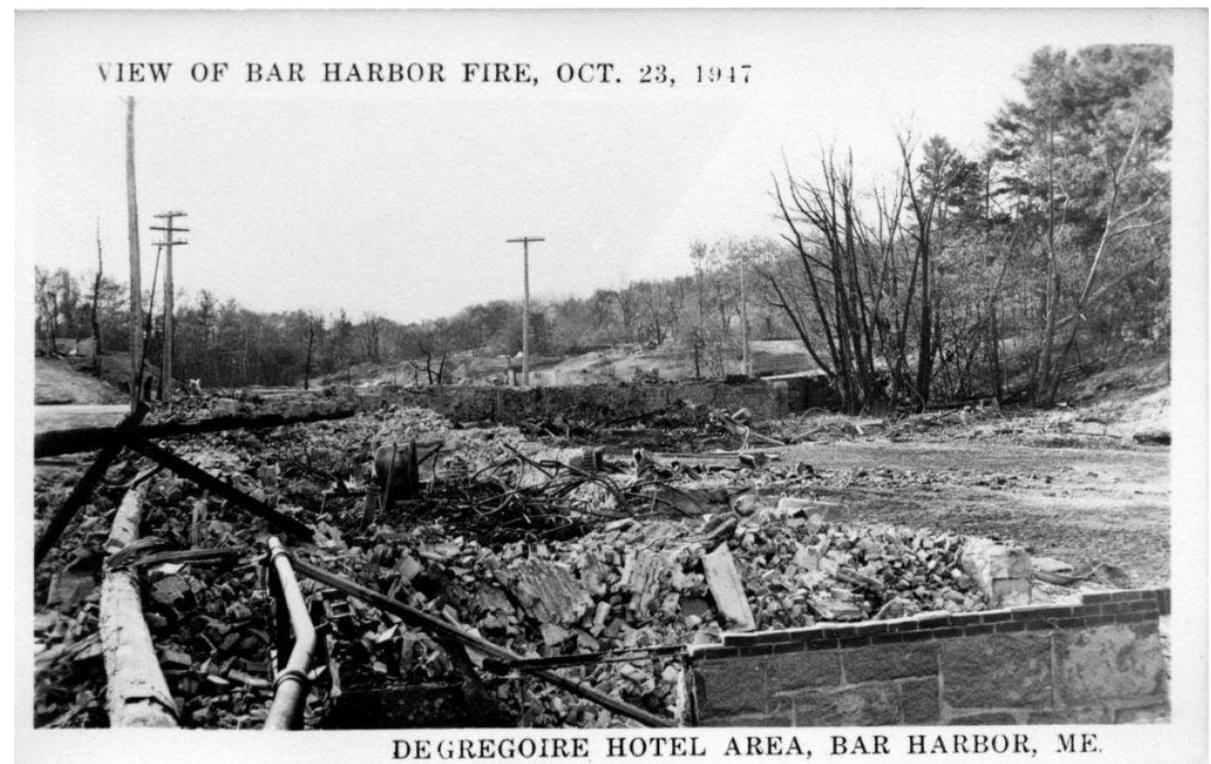
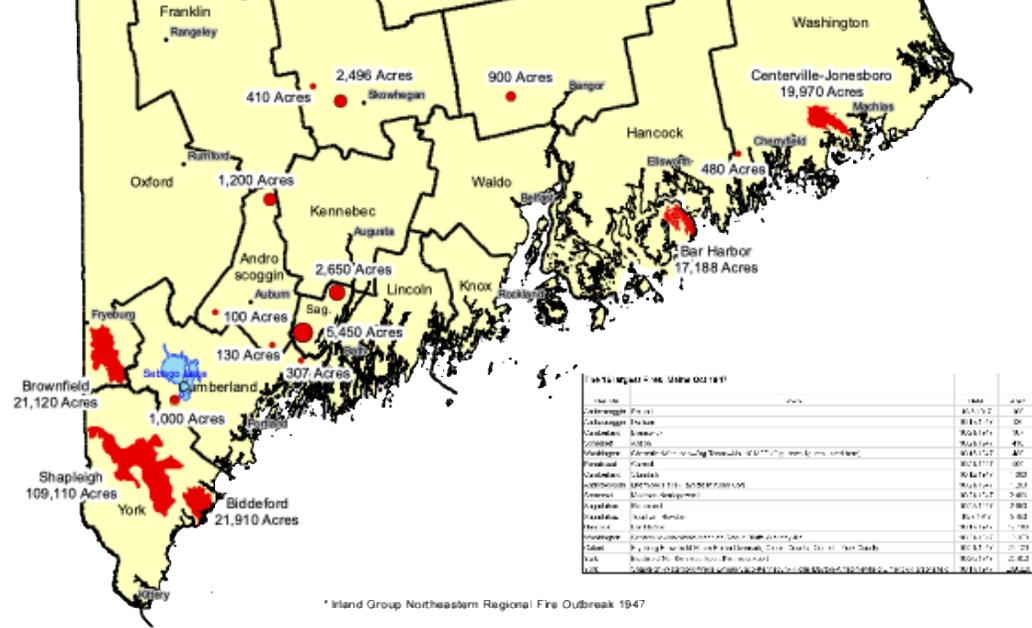
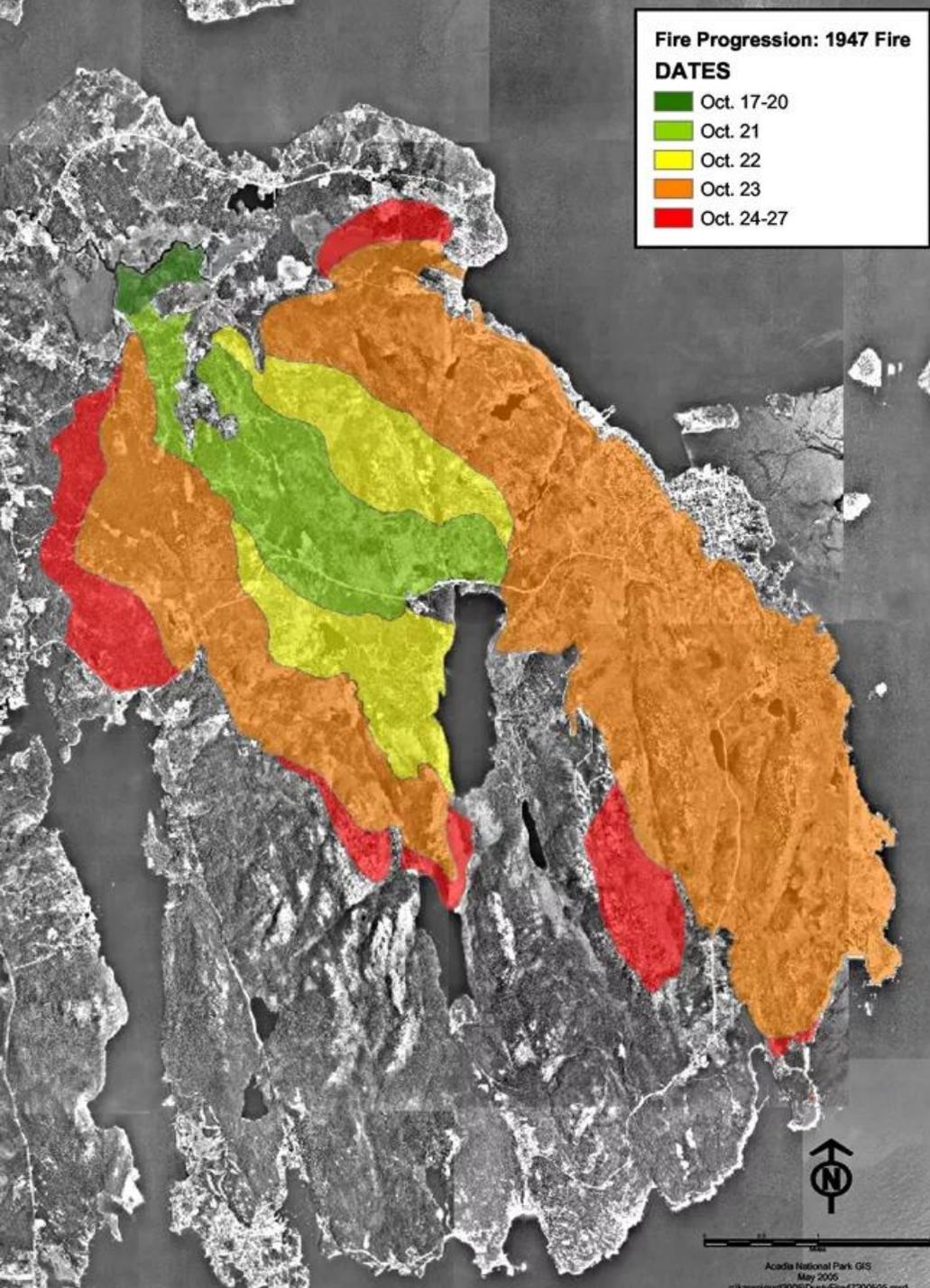
MAINE

Invites You



THIS YEAR—Victory Vacation Year—you can really plan for that period of relaxation and fun in the Pine Tree State that you have been dreaming about for so long. Whether your stay in our great VACATIONLAND is to

ca. 1946





“Other off-beat spots in the Northeast” *El Paso Times* (El Paso, TX) May 1, 1955, 31.

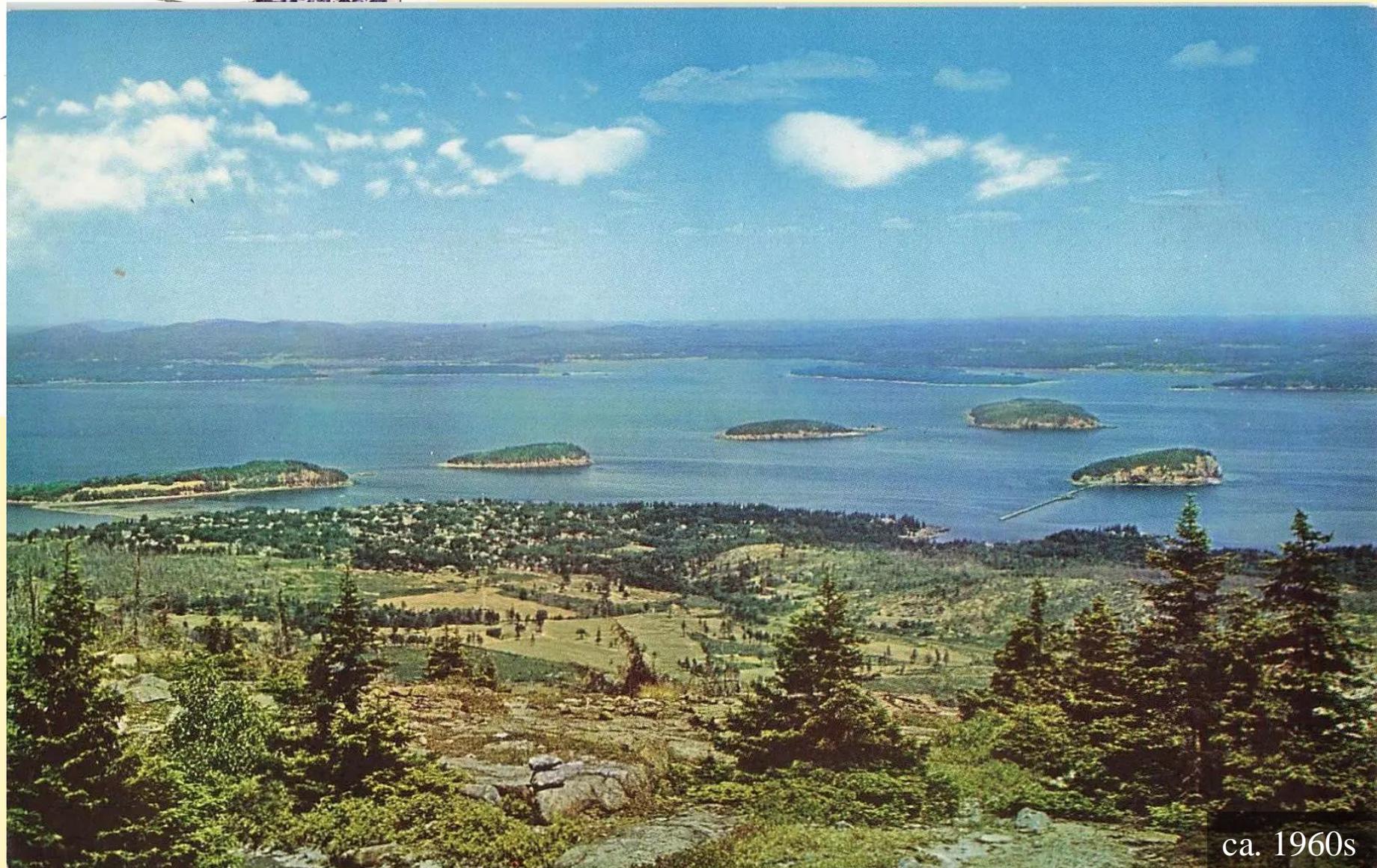
“4. Mt. Desert Island, Maine – Once a rich man’s playland—the homes of Ford, Atwater Kent and Rockefeller, were here at Bar Harbor. Forest fire destroyed many of them in 1947; area **now aiming for the average traveler**. On island is Acadia National Park ... Park has a free campground. Accommodations in Bar Harbor \$10 to \$15 a night. Information: Park Superintendent, Bar Harbor, ME.”

PORCUPINE ISLANDS FROM THE SUMMIT OF
MT. CADILLAC, showing town of Bar Harbor and
Frenchman's Bay. Mt. Desert Island, Maine.
Color photo by Paul Knaut, Jr.



Published for Bromley & Company, Inc., Boston 16, Mass.

PILGRIM 35MM COLOR SLIDE
ME555 OF THIS VIEW AVAILABLE



ca. 1960s



Clayton LaVerdiere/Point of View

Tourism: Stung By Energy Crunch

What a difference a year makes, especially when you're talking about Maine's traditionally-healthy tourism industry. And the gasoline shortage.

Back in the summer of 1978, when we took our annual vacation ride to Acadia National Park in the beautiful Bar Harbor area, we had been hard-pressed to find overnight accommodations.

The "no vacancy" signs were everywhere. We scoured the area and, by late afternoon, we managed to find a room in a small motel far on the city's outskirts. The price was relatively high but we paid it cheerfully since we felt lucky to find any type of lodging at all.

PARKING was at a premium, since Bar Harbor in the summer of '78 was a virtual metropolis, attracting tourists from the Canadian provinces, the New England states, the Midwest and the Far West. It was Cape Cod and Atlantic City rolled into one.

This summer, we expected a repeat of the 1978 episode when we pointed the family car toward the Bar Harbor area. We knew the energy crunch was taking its toll, but we didn't realize how deeply it had done so until we drove along the famous Maine coast.

There weren't as many cars from the western states. The familiar license plates from the Province of Quebec were not so familiar any more. Traffic was

lighter, parking easier to find. Most motels had "vacancy" signs and many had places signs on the lawn which said "Free Gas," or "\$14 a couple."

THIS WAS in July, a time when the gasoline shortage was really casting a pall over Maine's tourism picture. We are told that, in recent weeks, the critical stage has passed and the tourism situation has improved.

These bottom lines, however, remain the same:

Tourism is down.

Canadians are staying home.

More Maine residents are spending their vacations close to home.

WE TALKED with Bruce Taylor, an official of the Maine Publicity Bureau, about the status of Maine's tourism industry. He said it's too early to present final statistics and that only predictions and opinions can be submitted at this time.

But Taylor did say that tourism is running some 20 percent below the 1978 rate and the drop is directly attributable to the gasoline crisis.

Back in July, when would-be vacationers in New York City and other metropolitan areas were afraid to move because of the energy crunch, Maine's prospects were hurt, as were those of virtually every other tourist area in the United States, Taylor said.

"For a while, it was a very tense situation," he said.

THE CANADIAN trade — accounting for some 6 percent of Maine's total summertime travel market — "has dried up," Taylor added.

Canadians don't have to contend with a gasoline shortage, and a 15 percent exchange rate is not working for them when they stay home, and they are doing just that. The Bangor area is especially feeling the loss of Canadian tourist business.

Taylor said more Maine people are spending more time in their home state, "but this doesn't do the same job as a mass infusion of new capital." Mainers are taking more day trips and, as a result, are not staying in motel accommodations.

The Publicity Bureau officials was quick to add, however, that many restaurants and vacation spots have been saved by the in-state tourist. "Restaurants have done very well," he said.

There has been a spurt in tourism during late July and August, and this has helped brighten the overall picture.

But there's no question about it: The gasoline crunch has hit Maine's tourism industry where it hurts.

Clayton LaVerdiere is Community Affairs Director for the Morning Sentinel. He has been city editor and assistant managing editor of the paper.

"What a difference a year makes ... Bar Harbor in the summer of '78 was a virtual metropolis ... tourism is running some 20 percent below the 1978 rate and the drop is directly attributable to the gasoline crisis."

"... more Maine people are spending time in their home state ... many restaurants and vacation spots have been saved by the in-state tourist."

"But there's no question about it: The gasoline crunch has hit Maine's tourism industry where it hurts."

Old Problems, New Circumstances

Transportation

Steamships
Railroads
Buckboards
Automobiles
Buses
Airplanes
Cruise Ships
Motor Homes
Tour Buses

Accommodations

Local Homesteads
Modest Cottages
Grand Hotels
Private Grand “Cottages”
Campgrounds
Motor Cabins
Motels/Inns
Bed and Breakfasts
Air B&B

Complications

Limited Accommodations
Rustic Amenities
Time and Distance
Disease
Recessions
Global Conflicts
Natural Disasters
Energy Costs
Overcrowding



Slide	Image Source	Slide	Image Source
1	“Mount Desert Island, Acadia National Park, 1947” Guidebook. Private collection .	18	Image courtesy of Acadia National Park Archive, #715.
2	H. Melville, Alden, H. Mills. <i>Harper's new monthly magazine</i> 435, Vol. 73. New York: Harper & Bros., Aug. 1886.	19	Image courtesy of Acadia National Park Archive, #771a.
3	B. F. Decosta. <i>The hand-book of Mount Desert, coast of Maine, with all the routes thither</i> . [Boston, A. Williams & company; New York, T. Whittaker; etc., etc, 1878] Pdf. https://www.loc.gov/item/15009287/ .	20	“Mount Desert Island, Acadia National Park, 1947” Guidebook . Private collection .
4	William Berry Lapham. <i>Bar Harbor and Mount Desert Island</i> . [NewYork, Press of Liberty printing company, 1886] Pdf. https://www.loc.gov/item/01008903/ .	21	Maine Publicity Bureau, <i>Maine Invites You</i> (1957), https://digitalmaine.com/maine_invites_you/
5	Maine Historic Preservation Commission, “Bar Harbor steamboat landing, ca. 1885”, MMN#80717 https://www.mainememory.net/record/80717	22	Private postcard collection.
6	Rand Avery, Supply Co. <i>Map of Mount Desert Island and the coast of Maine</i> . [S.l, 19, 1900] Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/98687176/ .	23	Mark Good and Staff, “47 Fire Reset Ecosystem,” Mount Desert Islander, July 13, 2016, https://www.mdislander.com/archives/47-fire-reset-ecosystem/article_8774f458-e9ff-5805-9768-7875443702d5.html .
7	W. H, Sherman, and W. G Bunker. <i>Map of Mount Desert Island, Maine</i> . [S.l, 1911] Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/98687179/ .	24	Stephen J. Hornsby, “The Gilded Age and the Making of Bar Harbor,” <i>Geographical Review</i> 83, no. 4 (October 1993): 455, https://doi.org/10.2307/215826 .
8	Sean C. Cox. "Making Vacationland: The Modern Automobility and Tourism Borderlands of Maine and New Brunswick, 1875-1939" (2020). Electronic Theses and Dissertations. 3233. https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/etd/3233	25	Maine Publicity Bureau, <i>Maine Invites You</i> (1933), https://digitalmaine.com/maine_invites_you/
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17	G. W. Morris. Geo. H. Walker & Co. <i>Bar Harbor, Mt. Desert Island, Maine</i> . Portland, G. W. Morris, 1886. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/75693240/ .		Images in presentation are for educational purposes only, and are not (unless specified as part of a private collection) in possession of presenter.