

# Exploring the Meduxnekeag Watershed

"Maliseet aboriginal territory consisted of the entire region drained by the Saint John (Wulastog) River in Maine and New Brunswick. Despite an international boundary that divided their land into American and Canadian segments, Maliseet occupation of their aboriginal home represents an unbroken continuum."  
 "A journey from Grand Lake to Northern Maine could have been accomplished by canoeing up Monument Stream portaging to the South Branch of the Meduxnekeag River where downstream travel could have been taken on to the St. John River" - *The History of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians in Aroostook County of Maine, Preliminary Report by James Wherry, June 1979*

"Not only was Houlton the first American settlement in Aroostook, but for many years there were no others nearer than the districts around Bangor and Calais, and there were no roads connecting Houlton with any other part of Maine until 1827. There were two avenues of communication from the rest of the state. The easier was by salt water to St. John up the St. John to Woodstock and thence overland to Houlton. The other was up the Penobscot and Mattawamkeag Rivers and the Baskahegan Stream and Lake to a point near Danforth, by portage to Grand Lake, by lake and portage to Eel River, down Eel River the St. John, and up that river to Woodstock."  
 - *Aroostook, The First Sixty Years, Clarence A Day, 1989*

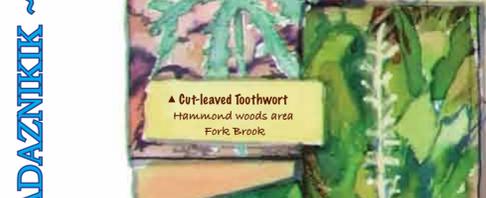
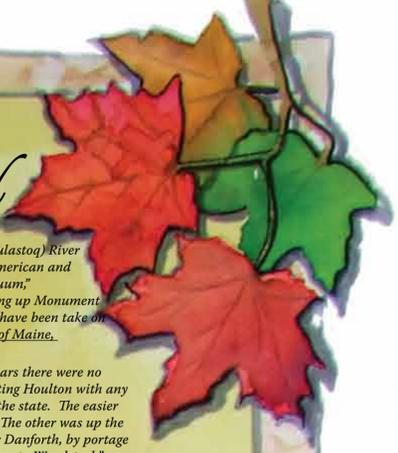
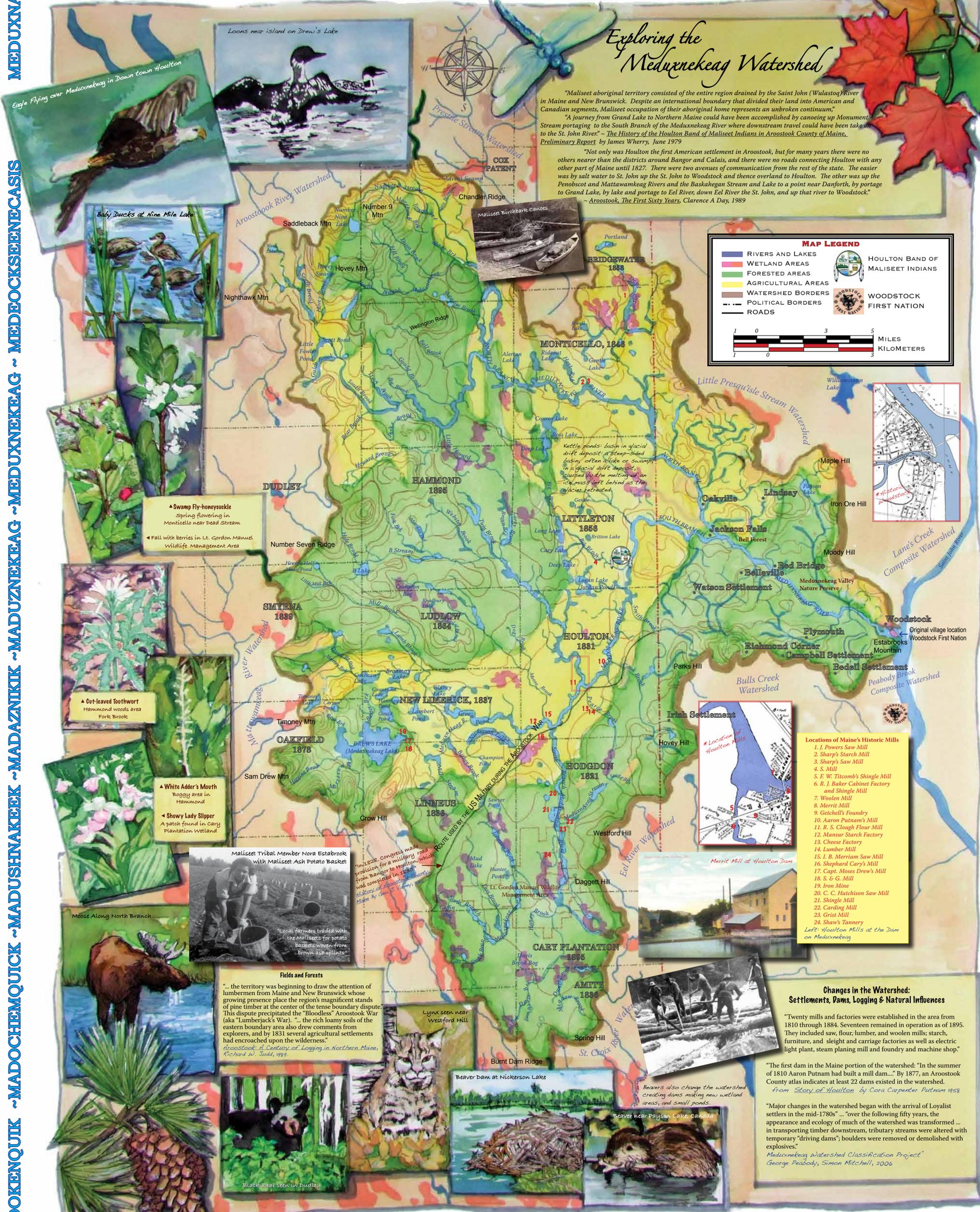
**MAP LEGEND**

- RIVERS AND LAKES
- WETLAND AREAS
- FORESTED AREAS
- AGRICULTURAL AREAS
- WATERSHED BORDERS
- POLITICAL BORDERS
- ROADS

HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS

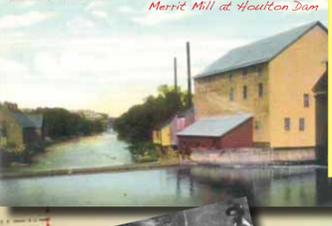
WOODSTOCK FIRST NATION

1 0 3 5 MILES  
1 0 3 KILOMETERS



**Fields and Forests**

"... the territory was beginning to draw the attention of lumbermen from Maine and New Brunswick whose growing presence place the region's magnificent stands of pine timber at the center of the tense boundary dispute. This dispute precipitated the "Bloodless" Aroostook War (aka "Lumberjack's War"). "... the rich loamy soils of the eastern boundary area also drew comments from explorers, and by 1831 several agricultural settlements had encroached upon the wilderness."  
*Aroostook: A Century of Logging in Northern Maine, Richard W. Todd, 1989*



- Locations of Maine's Historic Mills**
1. J. Powers Saw Mill
  2. Sharp's Starch Mill
  3. Sharp's Saw Mill
  4. S. Mill
  5. F. W. Titcomb's Shingle Mill
  6. R. J. Baker Cabinet Factory and Shingle Mill
  7. Woolen Mill
  8. Merrit Mill
  9. Getchell's Foundry
  10. Aaron Putnam's Mill
  11. R. S. Clough Flour Mill
  12. Mansur Starch Factory
  13. Cheese Factory
  14. Lumber Mill
  15. I. B. Merriam Saw Mill
  16. Shephard Cary's Mill
  17. Capt. Moses Drew's Mill
  18. S. & G. Mill
  19. Iron Mine
  20. C. C. Hutchison Saw Mill
  21. Shingle Mill
  22. Carding Mill
  23. Grist Mill
  24. Shaw's Tannery
- Left: Houlton Mills at the Dam on Meduxnekeag

**Changes in the Watershed: Settlements, Dams, Logging & Natural Influences**

"Twenty mills and factories were established in the area from 1810 through 1884. Seventeen remained in operation as of 1895. They included saw, flour, lumber, and woolen mills; starch, furniture, and sleight and carriage factories as well as electric light plant, steam planing mill and foundry and machine shop."

"The first dam in the Maine portion of the watershed: "In the summer of 1810 Aaron Putnam had built a mill dam.... By 1877, an Aroostook County atlas indicates at least 22 dams existed in the watershed."  
*from Story of Houlton by Cora Carpenter Putnam 1958*

"Major changes in the watershed began with the arrival of Loyalist settlers in the mid-1780s ... over the following fifty years, the appearance and ecology of much of the watershed was transformed ... in transporting timber downstream, tributary streams were altered with temporary "driving dams"; boulders were removed or demolished with explosives"  
*Meduxnekeag Watershed Classification Project  
 George Peabody, Simon Mitchell, 2006*