



Squam Lake, New Hampshire

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY Stephen Harby



Summer is the time to escape our everyday lives to an enchanted place, whether it's the sea, a faraway land or—as it was for Katherine Hepburn and Henry Fonda in *On Golden Pond*—a cabin by a lake. The “Golden Pond” in that movie was in fact Squam Lake, in Holderness, New Hampshire—a place I have visited almost every summer for nearly half a century.

One need not be a blue blood like Hepburn and Fonda's characters to enjoy the privilege of having a cabin on Squam Lake waiting for you. Two camps with 60 cabins and cottages at the edge of the same sparkling water and serenaded by the cries of the same loons have been welcoming families for more than 100 years.

Deep Dock Boathouse
graphite and watercolor on paper, 10½x14
The camp's large fleet of canoes, sunfish and skiffs are stored and dispensed from this boathouse on a protected cove.

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Deephaven was founded in 1897 by Alice Mable Bacon. Rockywold was founded in 1902 by Mary Alice Armstrong. The women were close friends, and eventually the camps merged—they're now known as Rockywold Deephaven Camps. Families have come here for generations, often in the same week, returning to reunite with friends often not seen since the previous summer. The vision of the founders to provide a simple place at one with nature and the beauty of its surroundings endures. Although many of the cabins have been rebuilt and the



Ondawa Porch
graphite and watercolor on paper, 12x17
Ondawa is the one of the larger private cabins, and like other cabins, it has a furnished porch where activities from reading to imbibing strong evening cocktails take place.

VISITING SQUAM LAKE



ABOVE
Sunset on Squam Lake

Squam Lake is located in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, roughly two hours north of Boston. It lies just to the south of the White Mountain National Forest and to the north of the larger Lake Winnepesaukee.

Rockywold Deephaven Camps (rdcsquam.com) are open from June to mid-September. Reservations for cabins are made on a weekly basis; reservations in the lodges can be shorter. Meals are served in the dining halls of each camp and are included in the daily rate. In addition to boating and swimming in the crystal-clear waters of Squam Lake, the camps have tennis courts and ball fields. Accommodations can also be found at several inns and bed-and-breakfasts around the lake.

Nearby attractions include the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (nhnature.org), which boasts several hiking trails and various educational programs. Opportunities for longer hikes are provided by East and West Rattlesnake Mountains, which offer the reward of a spectacular view of the lake.

BELOW
Covered bridge over Squam River



RIGHT
Dock on Squam Lake



Squam Lake From East Rattlesnake Mountain

graphite and watercolor on paper, 5x8
Squam Lake—viewed here from the summit of East Rattlesnake Mountain (an easy before-breakfast hike for many)—was formed as a result of glacial activity.

creaky iron camp beds replaced, the rustic charm and the elegance of the original vernacular designs have been retained. Even the ubiquitous in-room minibars are antique ice boxes—large blocks of ice harvested from the lake in winter are delivered by wheelbarrow each day. Guests are warned not to use the ice in drinks, but we regulars have been doing so all our lives with no discernable ill effect.

The cabins, as well as two larger communal lodges, are close to the lake, with views through stands of birches. They have their own docks at which canoes, sailboats and paddleboats can be berthed.

Twentieth-century technologies such as telephones and televisions are absent, and although these days no

Here the internet connection is so slow as to encourage conversations on the porch instead—or stargazing or a session with your sketchbook or portable watercolor set.



resort can get away without providing an internet connection, here it is so slow as to encourage conversations on the porch instead—or stargazing or a session with your sketchbook or portable watercolor set. 🍷

Stephen Harby is an architect, watercolorist, faculty member of the Yale School of Architecture and founder of Stephen Harby Invitational, which organizes travel opportunities for small groups.

Longhouse, Land Side

graphite and watercolor on paper, 12x17
The Longhouse provides accommodations for those not able to stay a full week. Its expansive porch wraps around the front and sides of the building.