

- J.M.C. - Albany River - (descr.)
- David - Albany & vicinity
- J.M.C. - Albany To Moose
- J.M.C. - Masinebi R.
- Sutherland - Albany Post

J M C

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David Sagate - James Bay
Narratives

1) Three Indians started out from Fort Albany in a small sail boat. Storm arose and they were driven into the open Bay. For three days and nights they sailed before the storm, one Indian steering, the second at the sail, the third bailing, expecting any moment to be swamped. Everything thrown overboard except rifles and ammunition. They finally touched land on the other side or perhaps near Rupert House. They landed, killed 200 geese, and returned with five day's sailing to Albany.

2) An Indian squaw and papoose were fishing in canoe off shore while the husband was on land hunting. Storm arose, the boat was driven to sea, finally reaching an island. Husband on returning gave up squaw and papoose as lost. Woman and child spent the whole winter on the island alone, were rescued the following spring by passing sail boat.

From Martens Falls down to junction of Albany and Kenogami rivers, "the forks", the Albany is very swift, averaging about five miles an hour. Kenogami river at mouth is almost stagnant. Water below forks is not so swift, about two or three miles an hour and banks flatten out losing their palisade appearance which they have from Martens falls and especially from Ogoki, to the Forks .

Back of the banks is all muskeg as far as I can see -- from Ogoki (and Martens Falls?) down. River passes out of rock country at Martens Falls into flatter country though banks themselves are steeper. All along river, especially from the Forks down, is a border of sloping rock shore, as if former palisade had been eroded by water and shore ice, forming an inclined shore varying in

width from about 25 to 50 feet. No rocks in the river itself. Little rivulets or brooks tumble down from muskeg into river at frequent intervals. The muskeg is just about at level of top of palisade or bank. Palisades themselves average about 25 ft high. The river below the forks is lower and flatter and broadens out. Average width perhaps 200 or 300 yds, west of Forks/. 500 to 1000 yds east of Forks.

On July 9, 1927 about 50 miles from Albany Post large masses of snow or ice still on shore -- one mass probably about six to eight ft thick.

On July 8 and 9 a great many large moose flies followed canoes for miles -- flew around at lunch time -- one dragon fly pounced upon and flew away with a moose fly on Fr Couture.

At one stop for lunch on bank about 40 or 50 miles west of Ft Albany I ascended steep hill about 100 ft to the top. About 25 or 50 yds beyond the brow of the palisade was open muskeg, very dry *today*, with scattered small spruce here and there single or in clumps of several trees as far as the sight could reach.

At 40 miles from Bay shores of river are clearing of brush up to about 10 or 15 feet above present level of river -- caused by spring flood and shore ice.

Below Forks to within 40 miles of Bay no sight of conical wig-wam frames so common all along river from Lake St Joseph to the Forks.

From Lake St Joseph to Martens Falls Albany River is a succession of rapids, falls, swift water and lakes.

(4)

This changes sharply at Martens Falls which is the head of navigation on the river. The rock country disappears and gives place to palisade-like steep banks of clay or loam down to the Forks. From the Forks to the Bay the river and country broaden and flatten out.

Albany to Moose

Very low lying shore, rocky, only two or three feet of water far out into the Bay even at high tide. At one point, about a mile from shore we lost our propellar pin, but by waiting for low tide we recovered it.

Heavy fog at outlet of Albany river lifted somewhat. High wind arose. Started down coast. Struck several rocks enroute, lost and recovered propellar pin. Arrived about 5 p.m. about twenty miles down the Bay from the outlet. Wade nearly half mile to shore. Supper and sunset on sand bar, waiting for low tide. Get under way at 9 p.m. with nearly full moon. Water still low and many rocks in dark. Near midnight start to camp; wade to shore. No mosquitos; sleep in open on No Man's Land point.

Albany to Moose (2)

Had left Albany Post on Tuesday morning, July 12.

Wednesday, July 13, 1927. Low tide early in the morning. So start not possible until near noon. Under way until about 5 p.m. Two portages during day through marshy flats. One from last night's camp across point about one-half mile and the second in the evening along ridge and across flat for about one mile and a half. Camp on point just north of Long Ridge. Expected to start about 3 a.m. but water too low. A two-meal day.

Thursday, July 14. Get under way at half high tide at about 11:30 a.m. Get north wind at back going down shore until we struck shoal about ten miles from Moose about 5 p.m. Supper afloat. Low tide and grounded and marooned at shoal from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. Many fossils on shoal. Mosquitos very

Albany to Moose (3)

plentiful. About 11 p.m. Thursday start out in full moonlight down coast with breeze at our backs to find mouth of Moose River. Get going for about an hour then strike shoal water. Land only dimly seen at times in distance. Northern Lights with veil-like effect. Uncertain as to whether to camp or not or push on. Finally reached mouth of river about 3 a.m. Friday, July 15 with dawn beginning to break. Ride up river in deep water -- full moon and flecked sky. Camp at 4 a.m. Mosquitos in swarms in swamp -- meal. Retire 5 a.m. rise 9 a.m. Arrive Moose Factory 2 p.m. Friday July 15.

J M C - Midway Albany to Moose on
James Bay - 27

About half way down observed
shooting blind at end of point; a cir-
cular hole in gravelly spit, with
slight built-up walling of sod.
Father Couture said that ~~NA~~ on these
points of the Bay a couple of geese
are killed and put standing on the
shore as decoys. This first couple
of geese are killed by an artificial
decoy made of a stick frame with the
feathers, skin, etc., of goose on
the frame.

J M C - Albany to Moose

Toy Boat

About half way down
toy boat found, a flat piece of
board with about a dozen pebbles on
it.

JMC - Albany R - 27

Net ~~flies~~ Sukes

on Albany R. always

red with willow

JMC - Masnebi R - about
15 m. above junction with
Opasubika R. - 27

cradle -

on gravel - with bowl
shaped just like
those at Ft. Hope

J M C - Masinebi River, about 15 miles
above junction with Opasatika
River - 27

Burial

Grave of Protestant Indian
-- tall flag pole with white stream-
ers on it -- oblong fencing as on
Albany river -- child's cradle hung
up on tree near grave.

Suth - Albany - 27

Sakaban

According to Suth, the Sakaban is used by the inland Indians from Albany and Attawôpiskat.

(Note: I should not be too certain of this statement -JMC)