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BALSAM LAKE - GRAHAM

2602

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1969
with Sally Scudder

Time	Map Elev	Pressure	Interp. Elev.	Miles	Temp	Location	Time	Pressure	Interp.	Miles	Temp
8:35	890	29.19		320.65	66	Home	6:20	29.12		385.1	70
9:01	1350			338.9		Scudder Farm	5:55			366.9	
9:35							5:42				
10:17	2600	27.32		355.8	61	Trail Base	5:10			355.8	69
				0.0			5:04	27.25			
10:30		27.08	2840			A 1st clearing					
10:37		27.02	2900			B 2nd clearing					
10:40		26.94	2980			C Trail turns E up					
10:47		26.82	3100			D Trail bends W					
						E Porcupine Trail	4:47	26.63	3250		
11:07		26.70	3220			F Depression	4:35	26.66	3220		
11:12		26.67	3250			G Old road to NW	4:28	26.64	3240		
11:25		26.58	3310			Hylocomium sp.	4:20	26.52			
11:32	3320	26.57		2.2		Blue-red Juncl	1:50	26.53		3.90	
11:40						Gate					
11:45		26.42	3560			Forest Shelter					
NOON	3723	26.32		3.05	60	Summit Balsam Lake	1:27	26.32		3.05	60
1:50	3320	26.53		3.90		Blue-red juncl trail	4:20	26.52			
2:00		26.58	3270			Trail bends, clearings	4:12	26.56	3280		
2:05		26.67	3180			Log road to NE	4:07	26.63	3210		
2:28		26.53	3320			1st jag onto Col	3:47	26.51	3330		
							3:38	26.51			
2:38		26.36	3490			1st Fir on Graham					
2:45		26.31	3540			Trail bends E on bedrock	3:32	26.30	3540		
2:55	3868	26.30			61	Summit Graham	3:15	26.30			61

Barometer
Waywire

Barometer
Waywire

ADDITIONAL
"H" Log bed in 15° N on E, shale eastern part.

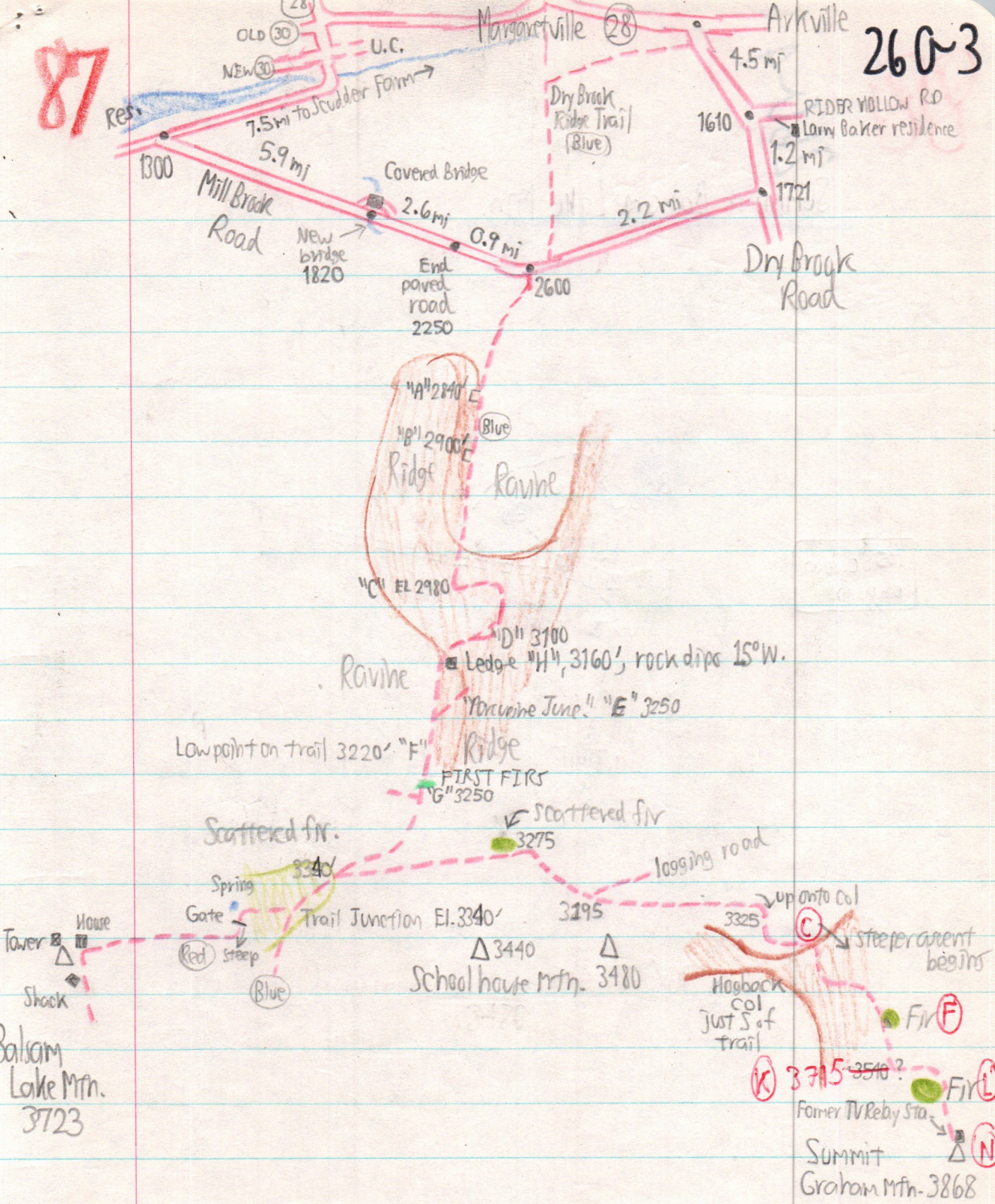
10:52

26.76

3160

87

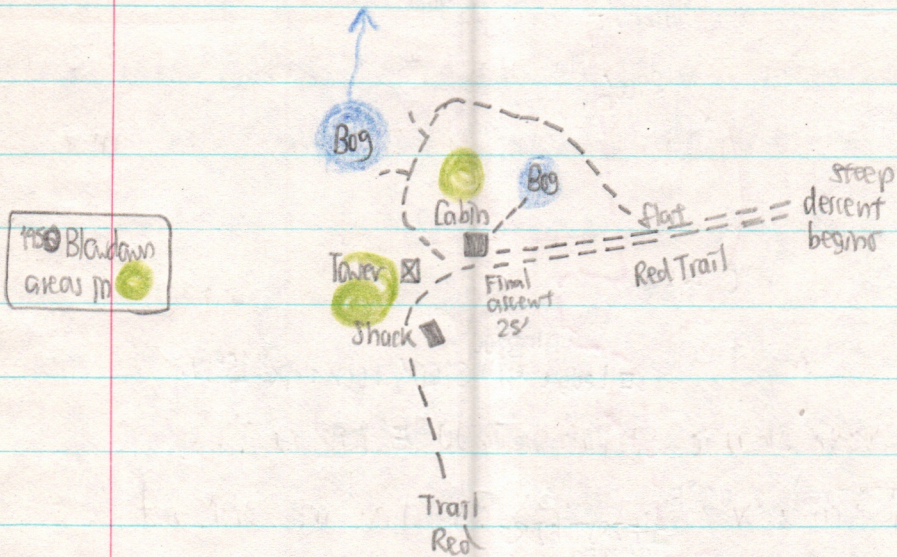
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Summit of Balsam Lake Mtn.



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VEGETATION

Forest above trail base: Thick young, still naturally-thinning B-B-M-Black Cherry, the largest to 12" x 40'. Might have been logged severely ²⁰/₃₀ years ago. Kobblesh and Moosewood common. At about 2900' there are sugar maples - large relicts from a former forest - 16" - 20" x 75'. Forest floor is Asteracum, Oxalis, Woodfern, N. Fern, May-s. fern, and Cinna.

In the area of the 90° bend, el. 2980' C!, the forest is still B-B-M with expected Cinna, woodfern, Viola, Tillium erectum, Sambucus pubens, Kobblesh and Circaea. Also present are Oxalis, Clintonia. A 10" beech occurs on S side of trail just above the bend with rough bark. Impatiens pallida is in flower at "D", 3100'. Large black cherries occur at "F" 3220'.

A wet area is present where an old ^{logging?} track trail branches off to the NW at "G", 3250': Dennstaedtia, Carex crinita ^{lunata} and Scapania (?), Cinna, Scirpus atrovirens, Agrostis tenuis, Polygonum sagittatum, Polygonum punctatum, and Rebus hispidus.

First Firs: The first firs occur just below the point "G", at about 3240'. One tree on the E side of the trail is 6" x 25', and 3 small ones on the west. The next fir group is just below the Graham trail, at about 3300': 1 tree is just above a tall YB stump on the east, with 2 more on the west. The forest is still B-B-M with some of the

At "H", 3160', is a ledge with the strata dipping 15° W. Umbilicaria on dry SW side; mosses on wet NW (47) with Lophozia Minium.

90

2666

hardwoods of large size. On the large PB stump is Hylacomium splendens; first Mtn Ash occurs above this point.

In the blue-red trail junction area, ^{3340'} fir become more common, but scattered in a hardwood forest, reaching 20' x 3". The dominant trees are red maple, PB, Beech, Black Cherry, some Sugar Maple, Mtn Ash, and Mtn Maple. Below are Aster acris, Blackberry, Cornus, Anthoxanthum (?), Large leaf goldenrod, Aralia, Oxalis, and Hobblebush. Thalictrum polygamum and Chelone just above the junction.

At about 3560', the forest becomes shorter and fir more common to 25' x 5". Still more Mtn Maple, Moorewood Cherry, Beech, Mtn Ash & Hobblebush than fir.

Just below the summit on the east along a level stretch of trail at about 3780', fir finally become dominant up to 10" x 30'. Undereath are Cornus, Rubus allegh., Woodfern, Nemophanthus, Arctic, Poly. ohio., & Coptis. Fir thickets of saplings occur under larger deadlines. Some larger PB exist.

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Balsam Lake Summit

The Forest Observer ^(Larry Baker) of this peak stated that the 1955 hurricane blew down patches of fir, one N of the tower, and one immediately W which has been cleared recently. The forest before 1955 looked like (in the blowdown areas) these portions not blow-down and thus still standing today: firs 8-10" x up to 40'. There are no spruce and no PB's were seen. Large PB's occur though mostly dead.

The forest floor is what is to be expected under fir.

Dabehl [

One century ago, firs were removed from the summit for Christmas trees indicating small size of at least some trees at that time. The possibility of recurrent periodic blowdown might explain this, starting thickets shortly after if some seed trees remain standing.

In the bog, NW and ~~perhaps~~ ^{3685'} SW below the summit, succession is near an end. The center of the bog is occupied by an impenetrable fir thicket, of which most of the trees are still alive. Only Sphagnum and some other bryophytes dot the ground under this thicket. Around the thicket center is a somewhat more open area of fir, Saxifraga + Nemophylla. Carex brunneocens, Sphagnum, Coptis, Chimaphila, Rhizanthus, Cinnamomum fern, and Juncus brevicaudatus are present.

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Graham Mountain

On the very summit is a clearing with the abandoned dilapidated remains of a TV relay tower. There are no firs on the summit, but they do occur scattered lower down. On the summit are Yellow birch 10" x 20', Black Cherry 6" x 15', Red Maple 2" x 10' (some dying) — all wind-stunted.

Shrubs are Viburnum cassinoides, Nemopanthis, Vib. alni folium, Sorbus,

Prunus va.,

Amelanchier barttramiana, and Sambucus pubens. Herbs are AA,

Polygonum cilinode, Blackberry, Raspberry, Largeleaf goldenrod, Veratrum

Maianthemum, Daisy⁺, Potentilla ———. Ferns: wood fern

† Hayscented. Polytrichum ohioense. Deschampsia flex, Juncus

effusus, Carex lunda (?), Carex scoparia, Juncus tenuis,

Agrostis, Cinna

The area between the trail junctions and the ascent of Graham is currently being logged for trees exceeding 12", mostly Sugar Maple, Birch & Cherry. Smaller trees are abundant as well as some unlogged larger ones. Open areas contain nearly pure stands of Cinna. Rubus, hobblebush, and Beech are common.

Upper
3778 (1)

At about 3700 ft, there is a grove of fir to the SW of the trail — perhaps 100' off of it. Fir run to 8" x 25' are not reproducing, and are mixed with hardwoods.

93

2609

Dicranum _____ was collected here. The forest is less disturbed than at the summit, but still young and somewhat stunted. On the ground are Brotherella, AA, Aralia, Lycoboid, Oxalis, Clintonia, Wood fern, Solidago racio, Plagiotheridium dent. A stand of Interrupted fern has an understory of NM Fern below it. Hardwoods with the common mixed fir are ^{mostly} black cherry, and Mt ash.

Firs occur scattered, but in two groups, down slope ^{at} about 3500' and again at 3275' E of the trail junction (3' x 15').