

*"Flood from page 1 ....*

the course of a mile, was washed out and not rebuilt until the early 1930s.

My grandparents, Louis F. Cutter and Mary Osgood Cutter, were at their Echobank cottage in Randolph from November 1-8, 1927, where they witnessed the effects of the flood on the Randolph valley. In a letter to his mother, Sarah Appleton Cutter, written on November 7th, Cutter described the events of the flood as he had experienced them. This letter is reproduced in full, with a few comments in [ ] inserted by Judy Hudson.

*--Louis Ammi Cutter, March 2007*

Echobank  
Randolph, N. H.

Monday, Nov. 7, 1927

Dear Mamma,

Here are the chronicles of an eventful week at Randolph. Tuesday November 1, All Saints Day, was a beautiful sunny day, mild but not too warm. We made it a kind of holiday and did not work very hard. In the morning we walked to the Thad Lowe's and returned a milk can that the McMillans had bought milk in. Mary talked with Thad at the barn while I talked with Mrs. Lowe. Wednesday, Nov. 2 was also a beautiful sunny day, but all day it looked as if rain were near, much needed, for the many dead leaves in the woods were getting very dry, and the danger of fire was great. I worked, morning and afternoon on the survey of the land to be conveyed to Caroline (with Clematis Lodge) and in the afternoon Mary was with me part of the time. Each afternoon, just before supper we went to Coldbrook Lodge to take our letters and get our mail, for Mr. Boothman had offered to fetch our mail from the Post Office and take our letters there.

Thursday, Nov. 3, the much needed rain came, but it did not come very violently. In the afternoon in an interval of the rain, Mary and I walked to Coldbrook Lodge as usual. The mail we got is the last that we have yet received. We do not know whether the letters then mailed have yet left Randolph. The air was warm, about 60° I think. The wind was south, and blew quite hard at times. In the night the rain and wind increased and before morning we could hear the water pouring

down the mountain side behind the house and running through the cellar. When it was light enough Friday we could see that the Moose was expanded to a lake all across our land and Sally's [Mary Cutter's sister Sally Osgood Sargent], and a torrent was pouring out from our cellar and down our driveway and another was rushing down the road. The culvert under the road was too small, and the brook was running across the road and down the embankment on the other side. The tennis court was a pond. The wind had become or soon became southeast and east, and later became southeast and north. The air was still warm. I soon put on my windproof and went out with a shovel and cleared some gutters that had become obstructed. It was clear that this was a storm that would go down in history, much greater than any I have seen here, and we find that nobody here remembers anything like it. I went up the road, and found driveways badly gullied at the Little House and at Cackle Hall, and the road badly washed where a culvert crosses a little west of Cackle. I then marked the point to which the flood had risen (the highest level to which it rose) on the Amphibrach and Rhodora Path [a path that led from Coldbrook Camp toward Appalachia that was destroyed by the relocation of Route 2] and elsewhere, then went to see how things were at Clematis Lodge and at The Maples. No damage at either place.

Coldbrook was very high, had spread over a great part of the Watson's [Coldbrook Lodge] farm. The Coldbrook Lodge bridge was wholly washed away, leaving the Watsons and Boothmans without access to the highway. Water was pouring over the whole length of the Ravine House dam, but the dam did not seem to have broken at any place. Mary made sketches of the flood. We could telephone only to Coldbrook Lodge and to Thad Lowe's, as the line was broken east of Coldbrook Lodge and west of Thad's.

Saturday, Nov. 5 was a fair day. We heard that the damage at Gorham was much worse than at Randolph. We walked to Thad's and bought eggs and milk. Learned that there were no trains on either B. & M. or Grand Trunk, and that trains on B. & M. could not run for about a week, but learned nothing of other parts of the country. Met Miss Kelsey [of the Mountain View House] and sent telegram to Sally by her (as her telephone line was O.K.). Leon Lowe called and told what he could of situation. Said to be big slide in Crawford Notch. Autos can get to Gorham but not to Shelburne or Berlin. Boothman called and told of progress in repairing Coldbrook Lodge Bridge.