

FIVE YEARS IN

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS.

VOL. I.

ELMER NELSON.

FOREST SERIES



Published

by Green and

Little

and some like to

CHAPTERS

1. climbing the mountain.
2. discovery of a lake
3. the excursion to the lake
4. Trapping hunting and farming.
5. Beachnuttling and blue berrring
6. Skating and sugaring

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Our cabin.

The farm.

chopping.

The lake.

The bridge

Our camp

We found the old bear

4th of July

The Deer

Ethan and Will go
to the village

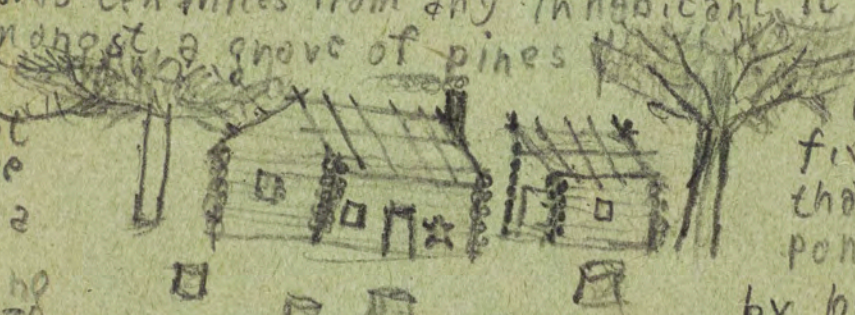
Wolves

our sugar house

FIVE YEARS IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

CHAP. I. CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN

In the year 1866 my father and mother and two brothers William and Nathan started for the White Mts we were intending to spend several years among the mountains. Our cabin was ten miles from any inhabitant, it was situated amongst a grove of pines the cabin was made of logs, about five miles from where we lived was a pond about one mile long by half a mile wide it was completely surrounded by woods the water was full of different kinds of fish the woods were full of game after we had been there a few weeks and so got settled we concluded to scale one of the high mountains near there it was a pleasant day the sky was clear for there was hardly a cloud in the sky we went about a mile before we got to the mountain there was no path so we cut



our own we climbed over logs and stones and up
slanting ledges after we had got half way up we saw
a ledge of to the right of us father said lets go
and see it so we went out there there was a cave
in it we went in and looked the cave over we thought
that it was a hedgehog den most likely when we
came out we crawled out of another passage it was
quite a large cave in a few minutes we got to the top of
the mountain we look around a little while there was a
ledge on one side of the mountain we went as near to
it as we dared to we got some rotten stumps and threw
them over they went crashing down the ledge and split
all to pieces after we had spent an hour on the mount-
ain we started home for a week or so after this we
boys and papa were clearing the land and fitting
wood and getting ready for the spring work we planted
a small patch of corn and potatoes and a few beans
in a few weeks father started for the settlement
for the rest of our goods and stock Will went with
him and mother to so it left Bphan and I all
alone but we were not afraid we expected that

the folks would be gone nearly a week papa had thought it best for Ethan and I to chop wood good deal and also to hoe the corn and potatoes father said he would let me take his gun and and go hunting once in a while we also had fish poles and hooks so

that we could if we wanted the brook hundred ft perhaps or more there speckled a very ity in it some bass.



got fish a variety was a across a little were large trout of fine qual- besides We didnt

the farm. expect to have to hoe the corn much for it was so soon after that the crop was planted but it was an early spring and very warm father, mother, and Will started the twentyninth of April it was a pleasant day after they had gone Ethan

and I went into the shed got our axes and came
out to chop wood. Lets about day after to morrow
make an exploring trip and follow the river up a piece
and find out whether there is any pond up in be-
hind of that mountain said Ethan, all right said I
and I will take fathers gun and see if we cant
get some fresh meat, and I will take the ax along
so if we want to make a raft added Ethan we chop-
ped quite a while then we went in to get dinner we
had hasty podding for dinner after dinner we went
down to the river to catch a few fish we had
quite good luck we got five trout and two bass
in half an hour we took them up to the house and
dressed them and put them in a pan of water to
wait till supper time when we would cook them
for part of our meal.

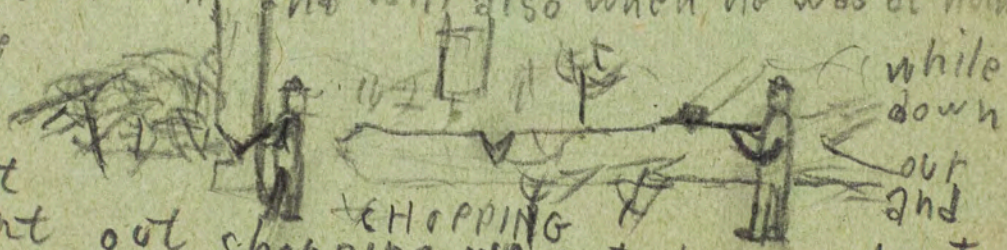
FIVE YEARS IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

CHAP. 9. DISCOVERY OF A LAKE

Got up Ethan time to get up called I the next morning after that I had got up and started the fire in the fire place for we want to get a lot of wood chopped to day so that we can go to morrow. I will be there in a minute, said Ethan. He slept in the loft with me and will also when he was at home in a little

he came we had breakfast

then went out chopping we cut down and cut up five trees and piled it up the next morning we got up early and ate our breakfast then I took father's gun and Ethan took the ax and we started up the river we went along for an hour or two and had found nothing when all of a sudden some thing



went crashing through the bushes near us I glanc-
ed around just in time to see a deer go bounding
off through the wood it had got off so far that I
couldnt shoot it so I let it go after we had gone
a couple of hours longer we stopped and I looked
round for game after quite a search I shot a couple
of squirrels when I got back Ethan had got a fire
started and was cooking some fish he had caught
Didnt it take you a good while Bert to find any
thing said Ethan; perhaps you did said I but I
had to go the furthest after dinner we started on
we had got near to a large basin in among the moun-
tains we were in a hurry to get there and find out
whether there was a lake or pond there. Ethan
was a little in advance of me as he came up on
a knoll he stopped looked ahead and then turned
around quick and hollowed oh Bert, Bert, come
quick you never saw any thing as pretty as this
before in you life. why said I what is it? oh its
a great lake surrounded all around by woods.

FIVE YEARS IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

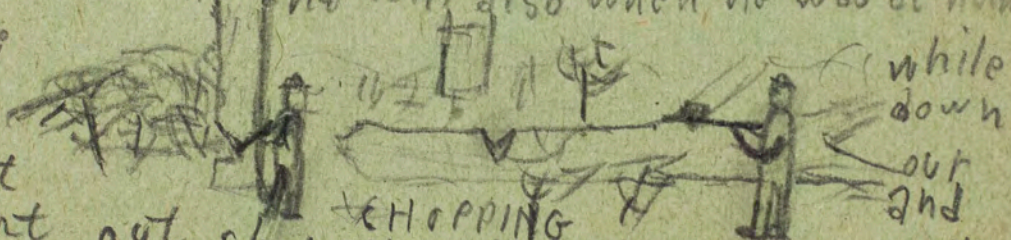
CHAP. 2. DISCOVERY OF A LAKE

Got up Ethan time to get up called I the next morning after that I had got up and started the fire in the fire place for we want to get a lot of wood chopped to day so that we can go to morrow. I will be there in a minute, said Ethan. He slept in the loft with me and will also when he was at home

In a little

he came we had breakfast

then went out chopping we cut down and cut up five trees and piled it up the next morning we got up early and ate our breakfast then I took father's gun and Ethan took the ax and we started up the river we went along for an hour or two and had found nothing when all of a sudden some thing



went crashing through the bushes near us I glanc-
ed around just in time to see a deer go bounding
off through the wood it had got off so far that I
couldnt shoot it so I let it go after we had gone
a couple of hours longer we stopped and I looked
round for game after quite a search I shot a couple
of squirrels when I got back Ethon had got a fire
started and was cooking some fish he had caught
Didnt it take you a good while Bert to find any
thing said Ethon, perhaps you did said I but I
had to go the furthest after dinner we started on
we had got near to a large basin in among the moun-
tains we were in a hurry to get there and find out
whether there was a lake or pond there Ethon
was a little in advance of me as he came up on
a knoll he stopped looked ahead and then turned
around quick and hollowed oh Bert Bert, come
quick you never saw any thing as pretty as this
before in you life. why said I what is it? oh its
a great lake surrounded all around by woods.

I hurried up there and I sure enough there
was a lake about four miles long by about three
wide, at the further side the mountains towered
up in to the sky lets make a raft and go out on it said

Ethan
said
we
stop
for
to be
home
I cut



yes
I but
can not
long
we ought
going
now, so
up a tree

THE LAKE

that had fallen and with some spikes that I had
taken I fastened them together then we got on and
with a flattened stick we paddled out in to the
lake we looked around some then we paddled down
the river towards home we got home at about
six for a couple of days went by after this with
out anything happening worth relating then one
morning I took the gun and went out to get some
fresh meat I went down the river a piece as I was

walking along and looking ahead I saw a deer drinking out of the river I stopped and thought how was I going to get near enough to shoot it I had heard it said that you could get nearer to an animal if you came up to leeward of him than you could if you came to windward of him so I started I got up with in eighteen rods of him when I saw him begin to sniff the air so I up and fired the deer sprang into the air and then bounded a way I hurried up and looked at the ground where it was standing after looking carefully I discovered several drops of blood so I followed the track of the deer at every step I could see blood so I knew that the deer must fall pretty soon I went about twenty rods when I saw the deer laying on his side kicking I dashed forward and dispatched him with my hunting knife then I skinned him and took some of the choicest meat and went home Ethan was quietly waiting for me.

FIVE YEARS IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

CHAP. 9. THE EXCURSION TO THE LAKE

The next morning Ethan and I went out to where I shot the deer to see if we could get some more venison for breakfast but we found that it had been eaten by some wild animal. dont you believe that it was a wild cat said Ethan. Perhaps so or perhaps it was a bear but we havent heard any thing yet around

herosaid I,
Back to
caught
for break
think Burt
mother ex.
home to
Ethan. yes



THE BRIDGE

we then went to the house and caught some fish for breakfast. But just father and I expected to be at morrow said and then we will go up to the lake, and spend a day or two. We chopped some wood during the day the next day we were up early and worked. long towards night we saw the folks coming so we ran down to meet them they had our four cows and a pair of steers and two

calves and three sheep we knew that we should have
to build a larger barn after they came across the
bridge mother called out. How have you got a long
here all alone. We have had a fine time said I
and oh Will we have discovered a large lake about
six miles a boat here its the source of the river I
guess. Hurrah then we will go up there your birth
day said Will. My birth day was the next day. Father
have you got the boat said I. yes I have I put it on the
bottom of the wagon and put the rest of the things
on top. answered he. Hurrah then said Ethan wont
we have a lot of fun on the river. Yes and on the
lake two said I. we put the stock up in the barn
and unloaded the goods and put them up. We got
up early the next morning and ate our breakfast.
when I got up I found a rifle seting near me I found
out that father gave it to me after breakfast we
took what things we wanted and went down and got
in to the boat and started up river I didnt for
get to take my rifle we went a long steadily till
about the middle of the forenoon when we stopped

and look around some on shore father shot a
 partridge and I shot a rabbit then we got into the
 boat and started on in a boat an hour we reached
 the lake they all were very much surprised we went
 over on to the western shore and made a camp

the shore was
 and the woods
 after that we
 our tent and
 started Ethon
 the boat to
 fish father
 into the woods
 he couldnt get
 a rabbit for



sandy here
 rather open
 had pitched
 got a fire
 went out in
 catch some
 went back
 to see if
 a squirrel or
 we were
 expected to

very hungry and
 eat alot while they were gone Will and I went
 long the shore exploring I took my rifle we went
 about a quarter of a mile then we went back
 in to the woods as we were walking along suddenly
 we heard the tramp a feet behind snapping the
 dead twigs we jumped and look around and to
 our amazement and horror we saw three moose

and about four deer headed at full run at us
I cocked my rifle and fired at the foremost moose
he partly dropped and then dashed on Will and I ran
to a cracked tree and climbed up it we had just
barely got up out of the way when they came up. In the
scramble I lost my rifle so Will and I sat down on a
limb up out of their reach and waited after half an
hour the moose moved a way a little ways when that
they were not looking Will and I slipped out of the tree
I picked up my gun and we slid away we went back
to camp father had got there by that time and so he
and I went back but they had gone but we found
the one I had shot at dead we took it back to camp
and skinned it Ethan had not had good luck fishing
he had caught a couple of lake trout and that was
all after dinner we all went out for a boat ride
on the lake and as it was calm and clear we had
a very fine time we stayed there a few hours
longer when we went home.

Five Years In The White Mountains

CHAP. 4. TRAPPING, HUNTING AND FARMING

Weeks went by with out much happening we went up to the lake once or twice but about the last of June something happened worth relating one morning when we got up we found that some thing had ate some of our corn and vegetables and by the tracks that showed in the soft dirt we concluded that it was a bears we had a couple of bear traps so we set one baited with corn the next morning we found the corn eaten but the bear had been sly enough to pick the corn shoots off carefully for two or three mornings he picked it off in the same way but not getting hurt he wasnt so careful and one morning when Will and I looked at the trap we found the old bear in it Will was a little ahead of me he hurried up I called to him not to get to near and he kept of at what he thought was a safe distance but all of a sudden the bear gave a lunge and

hit Will a blow on the side of the head it knock-
ed Will over but it also knocked Will out of the
bears reach Will rolled quickly over the bear tried
to get hold of him but he couldn't I had got most there
by this time and when Will rolled away from the bear
I fired it wounded the bear some he jumped and lung-
ed around for a while then it calmed down some then
I put a bullet in to him and
killed it then we took it out
of the trap and then Will
went to the house and call-
ed father he came and we
dragged the bear home he
was rather lean so we did
not eat much of his meat but
we had his skin it was a very large bear and I
then thought that it was a wonder that the trap
held him the bears didn't trouble us again for some
nor any thing else we had the corn and potatoes every
week or two so as to be sure we had a good crop the past
year where we put our corn and steers besides our horse
was about half a mile from where we lived it was a



place where there had been a fire and the land around
it had been so swampy that it hadn't burnt there
then the deer had fed there and kept the small trees
from growing we forced it off and turned our stock
in there was about ten acres in the spot about the
first of July father went down to the village ten miles
below here when he came back he brought with him sev-
eral bunches of firecrackers so that we could have
some fun the fourth of July we liked it very much
we were begining to have some new potatoes now

Hurgh
to day is
papa where
cracker he
don't be in
the fire
father you
a little while



4th of July

shouted them
forth of July
are the fire
said in one breath
a rush about
crackers said
want to wait
before you fire
fast before

them so we waited till after breakfast before
we fired any father had got six bunches two bunches
a piece we played that each one of us were a differ-
ent nation and we fired the fire crackers at each

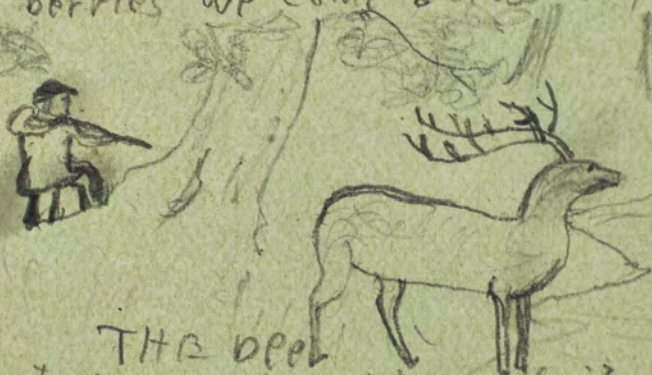
other we had wooden pistols that we put them in part
of the time one would drive the other then it would change
and the other drive we hid behind trees most of the time
one we saw a deer and Ethan fired a fire cracker
at it and it wheeled around and run for all it was worth
it rained some in the afternoon so we stayed in the
house we dug our potatoes and cut our corn in the
fall our crops came off finely Will and I bought our
selves two traps and set them for otter in the river
for several mornings we did not find any thing but one
morning we found our trap sprung and the leg of an
otter in it we thought that it had been either broken
en or that he otter had knawed his leg off so as to
get a way we set our trap again and in a few days
we found an otter in it we pulled the otter out and
killed him and then skinned him and stretched the skin
on a board it was now about the first of October
we took our cattle down in to the settlement and
let the different people keep them for the milk till
spring we kept our pair of steers and our horse fath-
er brought back a load of hay and he got more after
wards.

Five Years In The White Mountains

CHAP. 5. Beachnutting and blueberrring

Blueberries were ripe and we knew that there was a good many of them up on the shore of the lake so one day we got ready and went up we had a fine boat ride across the lake we took a day that was clear and warm in picking the berries we came across a place where that it looked

Some thing off some thought a bear some of hoped bear had



as though had picked of them father that perhaps had taken them we that the stayed around

THE DEER

but we did not see any thing of it a long about the middle of the after noon as I was picking blueberries I saw a deer down by the side of the lake getting some water I took my rifle and started down towards him I kept behind the trees till I got within ten rods of it then I up and fired it gave one or two springs forward and fell with a splash in to the water I hurried up to get the deer but it had got

to swim far enough so that I couldn't get it I turned
and started to go back and got the boat just then Will
and Ethan came running up to know what I shot at
they said that they didn't know but that I had shot a
bear and that the bear had pushed me into the lake we went
around and got the boat and went up to where the deer
was it had sank but the water was not very deep so we
got it out easily we pick twenty eight quarts that day
and got some good venison the skin we sold down to the
settlement mother canned the blueberries for winter
we went up to the lake several times after blueber-
ries and sold them down at the village we thought
that we were making something up here in the
mountains Will and I have set our traps for rab-
bits down in the woods rabbits are worth more here
than otter as we can get more of them we can sell
them for a good price down in the settlement we
can sell them for about forty cents a piece one
day when we went to look at our traps we found
a rabbit in one of them it was a rather of a
cold day and my fingers were cold a little and
rabbit was moving around so that I couldn't shoot

so I picked up a stick and tried to hit it but
my fingers were so cold that I couldn't hit hard
so Will took the stick and hit he hit so hard that
it smashed the rabbits skull we set the trap again
and took the rabbit home and kept it a day or two
when Ethan and Will went to the village on the boat
and carried it



nuts got ripe
frost came
nothing we had
ing the little
up the beach
them till they
when they would
holes and leave
come out to get
ful once we saw a rabbit
birds were singing as though they liked the
pleasant weather we got a pretty good supply of
beach nuts for the winter we got about half a bushel
of them it was fast coming winter the trees
began to get bare and the nights were cold

Ethan and Will go
to the village

down when beach
and the first
we went out beach
lots of fun watch
squirrels pick
nuts and crack
got a mouthful
run into their
thorn and then
another mouth

ful once we saw a rabbit
run by the different
birds were singing as though they liked the
pleasant weather we got a pretty good supply of
beach nuts for the winter we got about half a bushel
of them it was fast coming winter the trees
began to get bare and the nights were cold

but we were glad it was coming winter so that we could skate and slide there were not many places where we could slide but there were a few but there was plenty of skating for there was the river right near home and the lake six miles up the river and the pond five miles away it wouldnt take us over an hour and a half to go up to the lake on skates so we were anticipating pretty good times Will and I had our traps set most of the time we caught ten otter and two mincks through the hole fall one day mother said that there was an otter in our cellar so we set our trap for him the otter stayed in a kind a cupboard that we had put down there there was a hole in the bottom of the cupboard door and in and out at this place he went we set the trap in this little hole but he made out to get over it several times but at last we found our trap sprung with the tail of the otter in at least part of the tail a few days after this will went down stairs to get an apple for we had bought something soft it jumped and went out he called father and he came down and we made out to catch it and kill it

Five Years In The White Mountains

CHAP. 6. Skating and Sugging

Come on Will don't you want to go up to Deer lake
for so we named the lake) and have some fun skating
said I. Oh yes said he did mother say we could
and are you going to take your rifle of course I'm
going to take my rifle and do you suppose that I would
go with out mothers permission replied I so Will ran
in and got his skates and we went down to the

river and
on and skated
river the
and thick
along rapid-
hour and
skating we



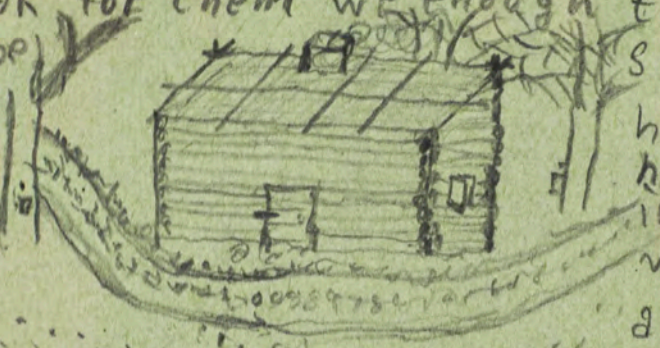
put our skates
ted up the
ice was smooth
and we went
ly after an
halt of fast
reached the lake

we skated around on the lake till along in the after
noon. What are those specks upon the lake at the
upper end said I. Specks said Will I don't see any
Don't you see those specks up in that bay at the
upper end said I and they are coming towards us.

What do you bet that those stenot wolves said will if
they are we had better go for all we are worth to-
wards home said Will. Well we will wait and find
out said I just then we heard a howl down below us
We are surrounded said Will what shall we do. Go
right at those that are down the lake I have got
my rifle said I so we turned and skated as fast as
we could towards the lower end the wolves were coming
right at us when that we got with in forty rods of the
wolves we stopped and I got ready to shoot I emptied
my rifle and shot ten wolves my rifle was a wrenches-
ter the wolves at the lower end turned and fled
but those at the upper end were getting pretty near
Will and I skated for our lives down the lake I load-
ed my rifle while I skated by the time we got to
the mouth of the river the wolves behind were
getting so near that Will and I stopped and I un-
loaded my gun among them a gain this checked
them for they stopped and ate up their wound-
ed fellows but we knew that there was no
time to lose so went on as fast as we could we
got with in two miles of home before we had to stop
and fire a gain this time we put them to rout

and went on our way home we did not know before that the wolves were very plenty around here but Will and I thined them out some on our skate home from the lake. We found eleven wolves that had not been eaten the next day when we went to look for them we thought that was a lucky escape

heat and we
out sugar
fore sugar
got it built
wahn days
father top-



Sugaring, was
hadnt built
house but be-
ing we had
we had a few
and then

run lively and our Sugar House we made a lot of syrup and sugar one day father was driving the steers along gathering the sap father had not been kepping a very sharp lookout around because that he knew or thought he knew that there was nothing around all at once the steers gave a spring and ran with all their might father called whoa whoa but they went on then father began to look around to see what had frightened them at last he espied a bear sitting up

drinking sap out of one of the sap buckets (father started for the sugar house to when he saw the bear as he went a long he saw the sap holder that had rolled off of the sled and a little further on he found the sled broken some but not enough but so that father mended it all right. When Will and I saw the storks coming we ran out and stopped them they were panting pretty hard father fixed the sled and then every thing was all right but the bear father got my rifle and went down to try and shoot there but when he got there the bear had gone and father thought he wouldnt follow the bear a great ways the storks shyed every time they went by that place all through sugaring. Sugaring was soon over and it was getting most time to plant and now we had been here a year.

By Elmer H Nelson

VOL. 1.

{Forest Series}