

Fenelon Falls

Balsam Lake

Balsam Lake is an extensive stretch of water, with here and there a thickly wooded island, and the shores are crowned with a luxurious forest growth of fir, pine and maple; while it is the curious belief of the guides and frequenters of the lake that its waters are never still, but always lapping the rocky shores and islands. At the entrance to Gull river, 6 miles from Cobocouk, the tourist views with considerable interest the island familiarly known as Ghost Island. A local legend runs that, when Champlain was making his memorable journey through this section of the country, in 1615, there arose among his party at this point a grave fear of an attack from the hostile Indians who were in the neighborhood. With this danger threatening them, the priests who accompanied the expedition hastily buried the sacred and costly vessels of their religion in a secret spot on this island. Those engaged in this task were attacked by the Indians as they were endeavoring to regain their party, and their dead bodies left lying on the shore of the island that contained their holy treasure. It is said that early settlers who sought to find these valuable relics were driven from the island by the ghostly guardians, who to this day have successfully preserved the secret of the hiding place of the treasure.



Fenelon River below the Falls.