


# Rockywold-Deephaven Camps

## *Timeline*




### Events effecting RDC before Camps' Founding


- 1862 - "All persons held as slaves...shall be...forever free." Abraham Lincoln, Emancipation Proclamation
  - 1865 - The Civil War ends.
  - 1868 - Civil War Brig. Gen. Samuel Chapman Armstrong founds Hampton Institute for the education of newly freed slaves.
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- 1883 - Alice Mabel Bacon went to Hampton to teach.
  - 1884 - Mary Alice Ford went to Hampton to teach.
  - 1890 - Mary Alice Ford (age 32) marries Hampton founder, General Samuel C. Armstrong - wedding trip to Pinehurst Camp on Squam Lake!!
  - 1893 - Gen. Armstrong dies. Squam Lake becomes the center of Mary Alice's life.
  - 1896 - Alice Mabel Bacon (age 39) purchases the Deephaven land for \$500.



## **Section 1: 1897-1918**


### ***'The Vision Unfolds'***


- 1897 - Deephaven Camp begins. Miss Bacon builds one cottage and a dining room and kitchen with a tent roof. Mrs. Armstrong and her two children join her that summer. Hampton students accompany Miss Bacon to work summers at Deephaven. Start of a nearly 70-year tradition!
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- 1900 - Mrs. Armstrong manages Deephaven while Miss Bacon returns to Japan. She built a small cottage, Brown Betty, for her two children, Margaret and Daniel, while she ran Deephaven.
  - 1901 - Mrs. Armstrong buys 27 acres adjoining Deephaven from Edmund Bennett.
  - 1902 - Mrs. Armstrong opens Rockywold Camp with two cottages and a dining room, built by Charles Haskell.
  - 1902-1918 - Rockywold and Deephaven operate as sister camps.
  - 1907 - Long House (Deephaven) burns down; rebuilt. *Barque & Bight* - beginning of writings, readings Saturday night after dinner.
  - 1908 - First tennis courts built. Playhouse built.
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- 1914 - Miss Bacon had constructed only four cottages at Deephaven. Most slept in nine tents or Fisher huts.
  - 1916 - Margaret Armstrong - marries Arthur Howe Sr. on Chocorua Island (1<sup>st</sup> ceremony held on island!)
  - 1917 - US enters WWI... War over 1918.
  - 1918 - Miss Bacon dies...age 60. (1858-1918) Mrs. Armstrong buys Deephaven from her estate. Rockywold and Deephaven now joined under one management. Mrs. Armstrong had expanded Rockywold to 20 cottages - no Fisher huts. Joshua Baldwin/chef comes to RDC as Hampton student.
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## Section 2: 1919-1945

### ***‘Rockywold-Deephaven Together as One’***


- 1919 - Fire (#2) destroys original Deephaven Dining Room (near Long House). Rebuilt in its current location. (Ceramic pieces still found in sand near Mothers Dock.)
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- 1920 - Electricity replaces kerosene lanterns in cottages. Early lighting is provided by bare, pull string bulbs. Mrs. Armstrong acquires Rattlesnake land plus Greenleaf field off Rt. 113.
  - 1921 - Tom Sommers and Colby Lyford follow Deacon Haskell in maintenance. Spud Dicey comes to RDC as the fiddler for square dances.
  - 1923 - Plumbing and septic are added to the Long House. Built stone gates at camp entrance.
  - 1924 - Camps purchase Ford Touring car for \$474.60.
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- 1930's - Toilets are installed throughout RDC. After outhouses, some larger cottages were outfitted with indoor "toilets."
  - 1931 - Mrs. Armstrong acquires acreage on West Rattlesnake, now over 300 acres, 8,000 ft. shorefront.
  - 1932 - Fire (#3) destroys the original Rockywold dining room and Laundry.
  - 1933 - Rockywold's Dining Room and Laundry are rebuilt.
  - 1935 until early 1950's - Mrs. Armstrong asked Emily King (who first visited Deephaven in 1911) to be the Hostess of Deephaven.
  - 1938 - Still 1 surviving tent and platform at Deephaven.
  - Late 1930's - Chris Sargeant became first recreation leader. RDC is largely built out. Forty-eight cottages (23 in Deephaven and 25 in Rockywold) and two lodges can accommodate 300 guests.
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## Section 3: 1946-1989


### *'The Passing of a Torch and an Era'*

- 1946 - The camps incorporated. 500 shares of stock issued to Margaret Armstrong Howe and her five children. Ballfield created - commemorate Huntington Thom, died WWII - Pacific.
  - 1947 - Square Dance caller, Bill Woodward, starts his weekly visits.
  - 1948 - A.E. Reasoner cottages purchased: Oakridge, High Pines, Brae Cove.
  - 1949 - Mrs. Armstrong (age 85) turns over daily management to the next generation, her daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Arthur Howe Sr. (RDC consisted of 109 buildings/58 cottages and over 300 acres of land. It looked much as it does now.)
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- In the 1950's, RDC adds two islands to its property: Otter Island - \$500...(SAME as original price for land for Deeplaven in 1896!)...And Birch Island - \$2,000. Frances Standish assists Mrs. Howe.
  - Late 1950's - septic system is installed, eliminating remaining outhouses.
  - 1955 - Art Howe Sr. dies. Mrs. Howe manages camps. Original Playground built in memory of Louise Burke Howe, the young daughter of Arthur and Peggy Howe.
  - 1958 - Mrs. Armstrong dies (age 94). (1864-1958)
  - 1959 - May 3 - Fire (#4) - fueled by very strong winds in Rockywold...destroys four garages, ice house, pump house, three employee dorms, store house, and laundry. New ice house built around ice supply.
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- 1960 - Mrs. Howe retires as manager; ownership and management changes. RDC's first non-family manager George Neilson is hired, serving until 1969. Now corporate structure. Juliet Kellogg hired as Rec. Director (until 1974). Full bathrooms including toilets and tubs, are added throughout RDC.
  - 1960's - As the Civil Rights Movement gathers momentum, summer staffing by black Hampton students phases out. Neilson hires first children of guests.
  - 1962 - "Green House" (now brown) purchased from McBrides for \$14,000.
  - Late 1960's, Josh Baldwin, Chef, last employee from Hampton, retires, after about 50 years, since 1918! Food service hired. Mrs. Howe - Board President 1961-1964.
  - 1964 - Mrs. Howe retires from Board as President; Harold Howe takes over - 1964-1970. Camps purchase Wayonda and Annex from Welch/Thom family for \$16,000.
  - 1966 - RDC/Howe family donate West Rattlesnake Mt. to U. of NH.
  - 1968 - Camps purchase 'White House' from Mary Bradley for \$27,000.
  - 1969 - Bill Jensen is hired as Manager, serving until 1981. Peter Smith is hired as Manager, Deeplaven Office. Earl Roswell becomes plant manager. (He dies in 1975).
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## **Section 3: 1946-1989 continued**

### ***‘The Passing of a Torch and an Era’***

- 1970 - Richard Howe - Pres. of RDC Board - 1970-1973. Showers start to replace bath tubs. Winter Office built. (Renamed Roswell in 1975.) Millie Smith starts Wee Campers.
  - 1971 - Mrs. Howe dies (age 80). (1891-1971) Camps purchase the Music Hut from Porter family.
  - 1972 - RDC invests more than \$500,000 in replacement of the camps’ septic/sewer system; RDC’s largest capital project to date. Completed in 1981. Trees cut down to create numerous septic fields throughout the camps. An alarm system installed to warn if septic failure occurs.
  - 1973 - Art Howe, Jr. - Pres. of RDC Board - 1973-1989.
  - 1974 - Mrs. Kellogg retires. 4th of July-rain brings water level of lake to highest level recorded. 4ft. overnight. Phase 1: Sale of fringe land to each of the five Howe family siblings.
  - 1978 - Phase 2: First stock of family sold outside family.
  - 1979-1980 - OPEC oil embargo, gas shortages affect reservations and travel to camps.
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- 1980 - First outsider on the Board/Stephen Smith; Bill Jensen retires.
  - 1980’s - Water now supplied from drilled wells. Water tanks built.
  - 1981 - Frank Perkins is hired as Manager, serving until 1990. He coined the phrase, ‘Your Spirit’s Home.’ Perkins revives talent shows in camp. Dorinda Cruickshank is elected the Second outside Board member. The septic project completed.
  - 1984 - RDC launch, the ‘Lone Star’ replaced by the ‘Mary Alice.’
  - 1985 - RDC boat engine power reduced to 25hp.
  - 1986 - Spud and Bill retire from square dance duties.
  - 1988 - June - NH Health Dept. visits camps. Lake ice no longer used for food service in Dining Rooms; RDC must install screens in Dining Room windows before guest season can begin. Howes purchase Westmere so Sugarbush is built, the first new cottage in 30 years.
  - 1989 - Arthur Howe Jr. steps down as board president, ushering in Richard Wood as first non-family board president, serving until 2014, twenty-five years. Arthur’s Way created in honor of Arthur Howe Jr.’s retirement from the Board. Maple sugaring activity ceases after three poor seasons.
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## Section 4: 1990-Present

### ***‘Ensuring Meaning and Vibrancy for the Next 100 years’***

- 1990 - Frank Perkins retires; John Jurczynski is hired as Manager. Ma Bell facilities built. Dogs banned.
  - 1990's - Utility lines buried.
  - 1991 - ‘Christmas card’ from Managers eliminated, replaced by RDC calendar.
  - 1992 - Saphouse becomes Toddler playroom.
  - 1994 - Fire (#5) destroyed Satis, Rockywold. Discontinue late Sept. cottage use.
  - 1995 - Bill Zimmer retires after 30 years on RDC maintenance. Students recruited from Utah quarter term colleges. (mid-1990's)
  - 1996 - Kathy Wheeler Jurczynski becomes Co-manager. Central Laundry constructed for use by both camps and new Playground built. Pat Eckert retires after 16 years in the office. Peter Smith leaves as Deeplaven Summer Manager. All camp roads had to be named for NH 911 system. Sodexo Food Service starts.
  - Late 1990's - High Pines torn down; first in Deeplaven. Gradual hiring of European college students. Begin use of the J-1 Student Visa program. Replacement of cottages begins.
  - 1997 - RDC celebrates centennial anniversary. Margie's Place opens in former Deeplaven Laundry, as camp archive center. ‘*Roots & Recollections*,’ a camp history, is published. September Gala celebration! SEPF/Squam Environmental Preservation Fund starts. RDC annually contributes 5% of its Store and Zodiac revenues to this fund.
  - 1998 - Sugar House converted to the Nature Center. Deeplaven Dining Room expanded. Old Rockywold laundry converted to new employee dining room.
  - 1999 - Zodiac built, replacing a garage. First photo contest held. Shelter reconstructed.
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- 2000 - Management attends Job Fair in Europe to interview college students. Eldorado replaced. Bob Howe retires after 30 years in maintenance.
  - 2001 - Hampton Dorm (with heat) for Staff constructed. High Pines constructed on new site. Pontoon boat purchased, the ‘Mabel B.’ Rockywold Dining Room expanded.
  - 2002 - Norwalk virus hits RDC, bringing many changes to camp food service. Rockywold ice house replaced. Camp Counselors USA presented RDC with excellence award for hosting international staff.
  - 2003 - Prewrapped silverware. We Two reconstructed. Baldwin Dorm built.
  - 2004 - Wi-fi installed. Greenlaw and Ardenwood improvements. New dock system.
  - 2005 - Ballfield pavilion built. Honeymoon rebuilt.
  - 2006 - Ice harvest late; used Squaw Cove. Very wet summer.
  - 2007 - Ex-Officio torn down. Sommers built to replace it but on sight nearby. Ecological assessment of RDC. Merlin falcons nested in Deeplaven.
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## Section 4: 1990-Present continued

### ***‘Ensuring Meaning and Vibrancy for the Next 100 years’***

- 2008 - Very high water, docks floating. Comforters added to bedding!! Deephaven Office upgrade.
  - 2009 - Ishnana rebuilt. Rachel Ray filmed at RDC.
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- 2010 - Yoga added. NH Chronicle TV show films segment on RDC. Rockywold kitchen upgrade.
  - 2011 - Increase in occupancy with recession waning and increased advertising. Peter Pan and Morningside rebuilt. Major weather problems: hurricane, earthquake, wind.
  - 2012 - More ‘Theme’ weeks: Wellness, Nature. Rockywold Office upgrade. Sunny Bank rebuilt. Herb garden planted for dining room use.
  - 2013 - Les Bradley retires, 20 years as Square Dance Caller. House of Tudor and Birdsall rebuilt. RDC is named to the National Register of Historic Places!
  - 2014 - Richard Wood retires as board president after serving for 25 years. Tucker Richmond, lifelong guest, is elected president. By The Way rebuilt, one of original cottages. WMUR films ice harvest; Today Show coverage. Dog Week begins in Sept.
  - 2015 - Ewing rebuilt. Icing warming hut dedicated to Norman Lyford after 70 years.
  - 2016 - Dr. Gil Raiford (‘Trees’), Reginald Bennett return to RDC Annual Meeting in Sept., former employees from Hampton. George Neilson attends also. The Board of Directors and Co-Managers approve the development of The Commons, the relocation of the Store, and the relocation of Kellogg Rec Hall. Deephaven Dorm rebuilt.
  - 2017 - Staff dorm Hirombe expanded. Kellogg Rec Hall torn down to be replaced by The Commons building.
  - 2018 - The Commons opens with the new archive display, housing historical collections of papers and artifacts from RDC’s past, marking the centennial of the joining of Rockywold and Deephaven. (In 1918, Miss Bacon died and then Mrs. Armstrong purchased Deephaven from her estate.) The new Camp Store is also in this building. The former Store at the rear of the Playhouse, is to be rebuilt to become the new Kellogg Rec Hall. Members of the Howe family visit Hampton University in Virginia to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its founding by General Samuel C. Armstrong in 1868.
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