

**Robert H. Jones, Jr. log caliper with walking wheel
MCC-00468**

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, September 2019
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Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Robert H. Jones, Jr. log caliper with walking wheel

Creator/Collector: Robert H. Jones

Collection number: MCC-00468

Shelf list number: AX-468 (located in the Forestry Department classroom in the Armory building on UMFK campus)

Dates: 1922-1928

Extent: 1 artifact (2.9 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Mr. James Caron on behalf of the Robert H. Jones, Jr. family.

Language: Not applicable

Conservation notes: None.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: Item is in a display case in the Forestry Department classroom on UMFK campus and cannot be manipulated.

Technical restrictions: None.

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Citation: Robert H. Jones, Jr. log caliper with walking wheel, MCC-00468, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: Not applicable.

Location of originals: The log caliper with walking wheel is permanently located in the UMFK Forestry Department in the Armory building on the UMFK campus.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Biographical information: Mr. Robert Hayward Jones, Jr. was born on May 24, 1919, in St. Francis, Maine, the son of Robert Jones and Adeline Mills. In his early years, Mr. Jones worked

for the Great Northern Company and Pinkham Lumber. Bob married Mary Germaine Pelletier on February 7, 1948. He was an avid fisherman and hunter who enjoyed staying at his camp on Cross Lake. Bob enjoyed playing bridge and cribbage.

Bob was a Private who served in the European Theater of World War II where he landed on the beach of Normandy during the invasion. He continued to serve as a tank commander and went into Munich, Germany, earning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his service. Bob also received an award from the government of France for his contribution in the fight to liberate France during WWII.

Bob passed away on June 25, 2012 in Fort Kent, Maine. ¹

Historical note: F. W. Greenleaf, Florence “Flossie” Greenleaf, was born in 1882 and was the daughter of William Greenleaf, who made log calipers for a short period in Littleton, New Hampshire from 1913 until his death in 1916. After her father’s death, Flossie began producing calipers in Littleton until she moved to Belmont, Massachusetts, working there from 1922 to 1928. Flossie was also an accomplished violinist and violin teacher.²

Log calipers were used to measure the diameter of the log. They were made of maple wood with the straightest grain. By law, they had to have metal tips on the end of the jaws so wear would not cause a false calculation. They often had tally holes on the side of the lower jaw where the scaler could place small wooden pegs to keep track of his total footage calculated. Spoked wheels were added to the log rule to increase the accuracy and ease of measuring the length of a log. In Maine, they were usually a “five-foot wheel” with ten spokes. One spoke was weighted with a lead weight to start the wheel off. The spoke tips are six inches apart so every other spoke is one foot and one revolution is five feet. It was used by starting at one end of a log and rolling it down the log. The two measurements, diameter and length, would allow the scaler to read off the total board footage.³

Scope and content: This collection consists of a log rule with a caliper and a one-foot diameter wheel at the other end. It is made of wood and metal and measures 56" long x 30" wide x 3" depth. The name of the maker, *F.H. Greenleaf and the address, 62 Oak Ave. Belmont, Mass*, is carved on the log rule near the wheel. An individual called “a scaler” in the lumbering business used this item to measure a log’s diameter and length to find the total board footage a log would provide. This specific item does not have tally holes on the side of the lower jaw like mentioned in the note above.

¹ <https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/robert-jones-1919-2012-804526581>

² <https://northeastauctions.com/product/log-caliper-with-walking-wheel-florence-m-greenleaf-littleton-new-hampshire-1916-22/>

³ <http://craftsofnj.org/index.php/maine-log-measuring-tools>