



The “Newfies” of Loch Ness “Newfies” Loch Nis

Pronounced: “Newfies” Loch Neesh



In amongst the trees here are the remains of a Canadian lumber camp *Campa fiodha Cainèidianach*. If you look closely alongside the path (going uphill from this panel), you can still see lengths of heavy cable and rail which may have been part of a narrow gauge railway. The foundations of buildings are hidden amongst the trees and an old road track goes downhill. There also used to be a bridge, its joints were put together exactly like a Canadian log cabin *Ceaban fiodha Cainèidianach*.

Did you know...?

So many Highland women married Canadian lumberjacks that a Highland Canadians Wives Club was formed to help the women prepare for life in Canada after the war. However, many “Newfies” chose to settle in Scotland instead of returning to their homeland.

Why were the Canadians here? Carson a bha na Cainèidianaich an seo?

During the Second World War, huge supplies of timber and extra foresters *forsairean* were needed for the war effort. The British government appealed to Canada for help. By early 1941 over 2,000 lumberjacks had answered the call, many of them from Newfoundland, hence the nickname “Newfies”. The lumberjacks quickly became part of the local community and many married Scots lassies!

The timber they produced was used for mine props, obstruction poles to stop enemy aircraft landing on beaches and fields; telegraph poles; making crates to ship military supplies; and for building soldiers’ living quarters, mess rooms and training equipment.

KEY TO ILLUSTRATION: 1. Trees were felled using an axe and a two-man cross-cut saw. 2. The branches were then cut off or ‘lopped’. 3. The trunk was sawn into manageable lengths. 4. One strong tall tree in the centre of the site was chosen as the ‘stick’ or hauling post. The branches and top were cut off and pulleys lashed to the trunk. Cables running from steam and diesel winches (5) at the base of the tree and up through the blocks were used to haul in timber from the surrounding area (6). 7. On steep slopes a shallow trough was formed, sometimes lined with planks or small logs, called the ‘skidway’. Logs from the higher slopes slid down this trough to the lower level where they could be hauled in. 8. Tractors moved the logs around the main site and positioned them for loading. 9. The logs were loaded onto lorries to be transported to the sawmill. 10. Basic timber buildings on the site accommodated the saw doctor, who sharpened and repaired the saws. Mechanics repaired the machinery and a site foreman recorded the quantities of timber cut.