

### The Backsplash

I had looked long and hard for nice and unique backsplashes that would carry the feel of the timber frame house and farmhouse/cabin kitchen that we had built. I didn't want a barnyard animal or a picture of a lake with high mountains in the background because that was not what it looked like on our little lake. I wanted to be mindful that if we ever put the house on the market someone might like everything about the house EXCEPT the backsplash (if they were not into roosters or scenes of Tuscany that were certainly NOT New Hampshire). For over a year I searched off and on and finally just put aside the project and worked on other things around the house.

### The Postcard

One day I was on a web forum for our area and saw some really nice old postcards of the lake and mountain (Copple Crown) beyond. So I decided to try and find a few postcards for sale that I could own and display around the house. Most were from our side of the water since it had been a sheep pasture along the main road for about 100 years and afforded easy access for picture taking of the mountain in the background. I stumbled across several and finally settled on the one that appeared to be a painting. Bought it that instant, and when it arrived I felt very proud of myself for salvaging a bit of the pond history. The postcard is from 1930 as it has a white border (1915 - 1930), was been produced on linen paper (1930 - 1944), has a divided back (after 1906) and required 1 cent postage (1928 - 1952).

In the next few days I became curious about finding exactly where the post card painting had been taken. So I took it down to the edge of the water, lined up the view and kept walking backwards until the shore line and the postcard lined up. I suddenly realized that I was standing in the right spot when I recognized that the double trunk oak tree in the painting was the double trunked oak tree right in front of me.

### The Marriage of the postcard and backsplash

After getting over the really big WOW factor that I had this great postcard, taken from our land, it dawned on me that this could be the backsplash picture I had been looking for. It would certainly not belong to "me", but to the house as a great piece of its history. So the hunt to figure out how to get it on my wall began. I thought about having it printed on glass and installed. But that would look a lot less country and a lot more city. I thought about having a friend who is an artist paint it on the wall. But it's a backsplash and that means cleaning everyday. It would not take long for a painting to get ruined. So I took a chance on finding someone who would print it on to tiles for me. I thought I would need to find the original painting to get a 'clean' picture. So the hunt for that began in earnest. This turned up even more interesting facts.

The back of the post card is printed with the publishers name which, to my continued surprise, was a person from my town of Wolfeboro. Conducting a simple internet search I discovered that this gentleman was a pharmacist. I had no idea why a pharmacist would be in the business of publishing postcards. This mystery was solved by the printer in town (who put the postcard on a flash drive for me) when she informed me that the gentleman owned a drug store in town and post cards of the local area were often sold in drug stores around the country (as they are today). She also let me know that the family is still living in town and she went to school with one of the family's children. So this postcard has another historical tie to the town. She told me that the postcard began as a photograph that was hand colored and enhanced with the night sky and row boats. The only true color from the original photograph is the sky that became the moon when a circle was drawn. The rest of the sky was hand colored to appear to be night.

Again, a search of the internet brought me to The Paris Group and my postcard became a one of a kind, historical display of the land our home now stands on and the beautiful lake we enjoy.

Below is a picture of the original postcard followed the completed backsplash, a picture of the land as it is today and a few more views of the completed backsplash. We are really very thrilled with this one of a kind, historical artifact that is now part of our home.



RUST POND AND COPPLE CROWN BY MOONLIGHT, WOLFEBORO, N. H.



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