

MOUNT BIGELOW TRIP, 1896

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## TRIP TO MOUNT BIGELOW

BY

Professor W. C. Strong, M. L. Fernald, George Fernald, and J. F. Collins. August, 1896. (From the diary of J. F. C. with some amplification).

August 10, 1896, Monday (North Anson, Maine)

Fair and very warm. In A. M. and early P. M. looked over tent and made a fly for it. At 5.15 P. M. went to the depot and met Professor Strong, M. L. Fernald, and his brother George. After supper we ordered provisions and camp utensils, the former from Emery(\$4.58) but did not pay for them and the latter from Uncle Edwin Collins (\$1.90) and paid for them. Professor Strong and the Fernalds stopped at the hotel.

August 11, 1896, Tuesday

Mostly clear and very warm. After breakfast helped haul the New Portland Stage over to Uncle Ed's and with Professor Strong and the Fernalds packed our camp utensils, etc., for the trip to Dead River. We finished this and got started about 10.10 AM. Stopped at the old Amos Hutchins' Place in Embden, <sup>for lunch</sup> In P. M. drove to North New Portland and made a few purchases- then on to the northern part of Lexington to Mr. Nutting's farm where we put up our horses and pitched our tent in the field (orchard) opposite, and had a light supper and retired about 8.30 P. M. It was agreed that when we stopped on the trip Professor Strong's first duty was to take care of the horses, M. L. Fernald's first duty was to take care of the plants collected while George Fernald and Collins pitched the tent and prepared the meals.







August 12, 1896, Wednesday

Fair and very warm. Got up about 4.45 or 5.00 A. M. and after getting breakfast and taking down tent and packing for onward trip we drove team ( about 8.00 A. M. ) on the road running west from Mr. Nutting's farm for perhaps two miles ( to end of well traveled road). There the Fernalds and a Nutting boy, and I walked about a mile into the woods and collected some Rhododendron Maximum. We returned to Mr. Nutting's place and started north again at about 10.00 A. M. It was mostly up-grade to the hotel at Highland just before reaching which (by a half mile or so) we stopped for an hour or more at a watering tub for dinner. Collected some mosses along the branch of Michael Stream nearby. Soon after starting on again we had a fine view of the Bigelow Range. We reached the Ledge House about 5.00 P. M. or a little earlier and the Mount Bigelow Hotel( Parson's) about 5.30 P. M. We drove about a mile and a half beyond this and camped in a field in the rear of Mr. W. O. Wyman's house, getting to bed at 9.00 P. M.

August 13, 1896, Thursday

Fair and not quite so warm. Slept quite well last night and got up about 5.00 A. M. Straightening out things about camp, the Fernalds went collecting along the river and a little later Professor Strong followed them. I stayed about camp and fixed it up some. Had sweet potatoes, buckwheat cakes, etc. for dinner. In P. M. I stayed about camp while the rest collected some along the river and intervale.

August 14, 1896, Friday

Did not sleep quite as well last night and it was quite cold towards morning. In middle of A. M. M. L. Fernald, W. C. Strong, and I started for a collecting trip up on the mountain. We struck into the woods a little east of the regular path ---



August 12, 1895, Wednesday

Felt and very warm. Got up about 4.45 on 5.00 A. M. and after  
getting breakfast and taking down tent and packing for onward  
trip we drove down (about 8.00 A. M.) on the road running  
west from Mr. Witting's farm for perhaps two miles (up and  
well traveled road). There the Fernalds and a hunting boy, and

I walked about a mile into the woods and collected some  
Microdon maximus. We returned to Mr. Witting's place and  
started north again at about 10.00 A. M. It was mostly up-  
grade to the hotel at Highland just before reaching which  
(by a half mile or so) we stopped for an hour or more at a  
watering tub for dinner. Collected some moths along the  
branch of Michael Brown nearly. Soon after starting on again  
we had a fine view of the Bigelow Range. We reached the ledge  
house about 5.00 P. M. or a little earlier and the house sit-  
elow Hotel (Parson's) about 5.30 P. M. We drove about a mile  
and a half beyond this and camped in a field in the rear of  
Mr. W. O. Wynn's house, getting to bed at 9.00 P. M.

August 13, 1895, Thursday

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got up about 5.00 A. M. Disappointing out things about camp.  
The Fernalds went collecting along the river and a little later  
Professor Strong followed them. I stayed about camp and fixed  
it up some. Had sweet potatoes, buckwheat cakes, etc. for  
dinner. In P. M. I stayed about camp while the rest collected  
some along the river and intervals.

August 14, 1895, Friday

Did not sleep quite as well last night and it was quite cold  
towards morning. In middle of A. M. M. L. Fernald, W. C.  
Strong, and I started for a collecting trip up on the mountain.  
We entered into the woods a little east of the regular path ---



August 14, 1896, Friday (continued)

(which we did not then know of) and followed various deer paths as might happen to go towards the "face" but finally had to shape our course by compass. About noon we had nearly reached the "face" and decided to return as we had no lunch with us.

We bore more to the east in hopes of finding the regular trail. This we evidently did a little later and returned to camp in time to have dinner about 2.30 P. M. After dinner I stayed ~~a~~ about camp as my left knee was lame. Later in the P. M. we harnessed up the horses and drove towards Flagstaff for about three miles- stopped a few minutes at Hurricane Falls.

August 15, 1896, Saturday

Fair. Very wet with dew in early A. M. After breakfast I stayed about camp while the others went collecting along the intervale. In the P. M. I went across the intervale to Dead River but soon returned.

August 16, 1896, Sunday

Windy last evening and this morning. Very foggy in the valley this A. M. Had pickerel, fried sweet potatoes, irish potatoes, oatmeal, cocoa, etc., for breakfast. In A. M. the Fernalds and Professor Strong went to church and I stayed about camp. In P.M. we all hovered about camp. About 5.00 P. M. a very heavy shower accompanied by much wind passed over. We all had to take hold of the tent to prevent its blowing away- three of us outside and one inside. It came upon us so suddenly that we had no time to pick up a pile of driers and the last we saw of them they were sailing through the air one or two hundred feet above the ground in the direction of Dead River. We did not bother to chase them up. Rain fell most of the evening. All of us were very wet below our rubber coats, and the tent was badly ripped in two or three places.



August 14, 1896, Friday (continued)

(which we did not then know of) and followed various deer paths as might happen to go towards the "face" but finally had to shape our course by compass. About noon we had nearly reached the "face" and decided to return as we had no lunch with us. We bore more to the east in hopes of finding the regular trail. This we evidently did a little later and returned to camp in time to have dinner about 2.30 P. M. After dinner I stayed a short camp as my left knee was lame. Later in the P. M. we increased up the horses and drove towards Flagstaff for about three miles - stopped a few minutes at Hurricane Falls.

August 15, 1896, Saturday

Fair. Very wet with dew in early A. M. After breakfast I stayed about camp while the others went collecting along the interval. In the P. M. I went across the interval to Dead River but soon returned.

August 16, 1896, Sunday

Windy last evening and this morning. Very foggy in the valley this A. M. Had pickarel, fried sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, oatmeal, cocoa, etc., for breakfast. In A. M. the Fernalds and Professor Strong went to church and I stayed about camp. In P. M. we all hovered about camp. About 5.00 P. M. a very heavy shower accompanied by much wind passed over. We all had to take hold of the tent to prevent its blowing away - three of us outside and one inside. It came upon us so suddenly that we had no time to pick up a pile of driers and the last we saw of them they were sailing through the air one or two hundred feet above the ground in the direction of Dead River. We did not bother to chase them up. Rain fell most of the evening. All of us were very wet below our rubber coats, and the tent was badly ripped in two or three places.



August 17, 1896, Monday

Clearing in the A. M. but cool and damp. After clearing out tent of most of the things and packing them into the stage we hauled the wagon into Mr. Wyman's barn and then about 9.00 A.M. we all started for a tramp up Mount Bigelow. My pack weighed about twenty-five pounds. We reached the old man's "Face" about noon and the summit about 2.00 P. M. We went down into the notch between the two main peaks and found the small spring (the only one known on the summit) then fixed up an old lean-to camp for the night. It was a balsam lean-to. About 5.00 P. M. I went up to the summit for awhile but returned to camp about sunset. I wrote my name in the Appalaichan Mountain Club register<sup>ev</sup> at the summit.

August 18, 1896, Tuesday

Clear in the A. M. but rainy in the P. M. and evening. It was so cold last night on the summit that we decided to keep the fire going all night, each member of the party taking a turn of two hours, my watch being from 11.00 P. M. to 1.00 A. M. Got up about 4.30 A. M. and went with Professor Strong to the summit of the East Main Peak- then back to camp for breakfast about 9.00 A. M. Then the two Fernalds and I climbed the West Main Peak and botanized some, returning to camp about noon. Professor Strong had already started down the mountain so we packed up our things during a heavy hail storm and followed him, overtaking him before he reached the timberline( he had waited). Several showers passed over during our descent(which took about three hours) and we were all very wet below the knees, in fact so wet that with every step there would be small fountains of water spurt up shoe-lace through the/holes in our shoes. We all stayed about the camp for the rest of the day.



August 12, 1895, Monday

Clearing in the A. M. but cool and damp. After clearing out  
tent of most of the things and packing them into the stage we  
headed the wagon into Mr. Wyman's barn and then about 2.00 A.M.  
we all started for at camp up Mount Rigelow. My pack weighed  
about twenty-five pounds. We reached the old man's "place"  
about noon and the summit about 2.00 P. M. We went down into  
the notch between the two main peaks and found the small spring  
(the only one known on the summit) then climbed up an old lean-to  
camp for the night. It was a pleasant lean-to. About 5.00 P. M.  
I went up to the summit for awhile but returned to camp about  
sunset. I wrote my name in the Appelschoten Mountain Club register  
at the summit.

August 13, 1895, Tuesday

Clear in the A. M. but rainy in the P. M. and evening. It was  
so cold last night on the summit that we decided to keep the fire  
going all night, each member of the party taking a turn of two  
hours, my watch being from 11.00 P. M. to 1.00 A. M. Got up  
about 4.30 A. M. and went with Professor Strong to the summit  
of the East Main Peak - then back to camp for breakfast about  
2.00 A. M. Then the two Bernards and I climbed the West Main  
Peak and botanized some, returning to camp about noon. Professor  
Strong had already started down the mountain so we packed up our  
things during a heavy hail storm and followed him, overtaking him  
before he reached the timberline (he had waited). Several whistles  
passed over during our descent (which took about three hours) and  
we were all very wet below the knees, in fact so wet that with  
every step there would be small fountains of water spurt up  
through the holes in our shoes. We all stayed about the camp  
for the rest of the day.



August 19, 1896, Wednesday

Somewhat showery. Stayed about camp most of the time until 4.00 P. M. helping to break camp. About 4.00 P. M. we drove to Flagstaff and then to Stratton arriving there about dark. We were all very wet and cold. Did not pitch tent but found a place to sleep on hay in a barn at the north edge of the village. The owner of the barn was very reluctant to allow strangers in his barn until we told him that there wasn't a smoker in the crowd.. We then took to the haymow with the cattle below us.

August 20, 1896, Thursday

Mostly clear. About 8.00 A. M. we got started- we drove nearly all day except at lunch at Carrabasset about noon, and arrived within a mile of North New Portland about dark. We pitched our tent by the roadside near a barn. At Carrabasset we discovered that the off horse was minus a shoe, so we had one put on in Kingfield.

August 31, 1896, Friday

2 Clear. Left our camping place soon after 7.00 <sup>A</sup>P. M. and reached North Anson and immediately unpacked our things from the stage, and rearranged our things at Uncle Ed Collins' barn. M. L. Fernald, George Fernald, and Professor Strong left town on the 1. 37 P. M. train



August 19, 1898, Wednesday

Somewhat snowed. Stayed about camp most of the time until 4.00 P. M. helping to break camp. About 4.00 P. M. we drove to Flagstaff and then to Bluffton arriving there about dark. We were all very wet and cold. Did not pitch tent but found a place to sleep on hay in a barn at the north edge of the village. The owner of the barn was very reluctant to allow strangers in his barn until we told him that there wasn't a smoken in the crowd. We then took to the haymow with the cattle below us.

August 20, 1898, Thursday

Mostly clear. About 8.00 A. M. we got started - we drove nearly all day except at lunch at Garrettsville about noon, and arrived within a mile of North New Portland about dark. We pitched our tent by the roadside near a barn. At Garrettsville we discovered that the old horse was minus a shoe, so we had one put on in Kingsfield.

August 21, 1898, Friday

Clear. Left our camping place soon after 7.00 P. M. and reached North Anson and immediately unpacked our things from the stage, and rearranged our things at Uncle Ed Collins' barn. N. L. Fernald, George Fernald, and Professor Strong left town on the 1.37 P. M. train.



FORT KENT & GASPE TRIP, 1904





Collins, J. Franklin et al. 1896. "Trip to Mount Bigelow." *Diaries of field trips*

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