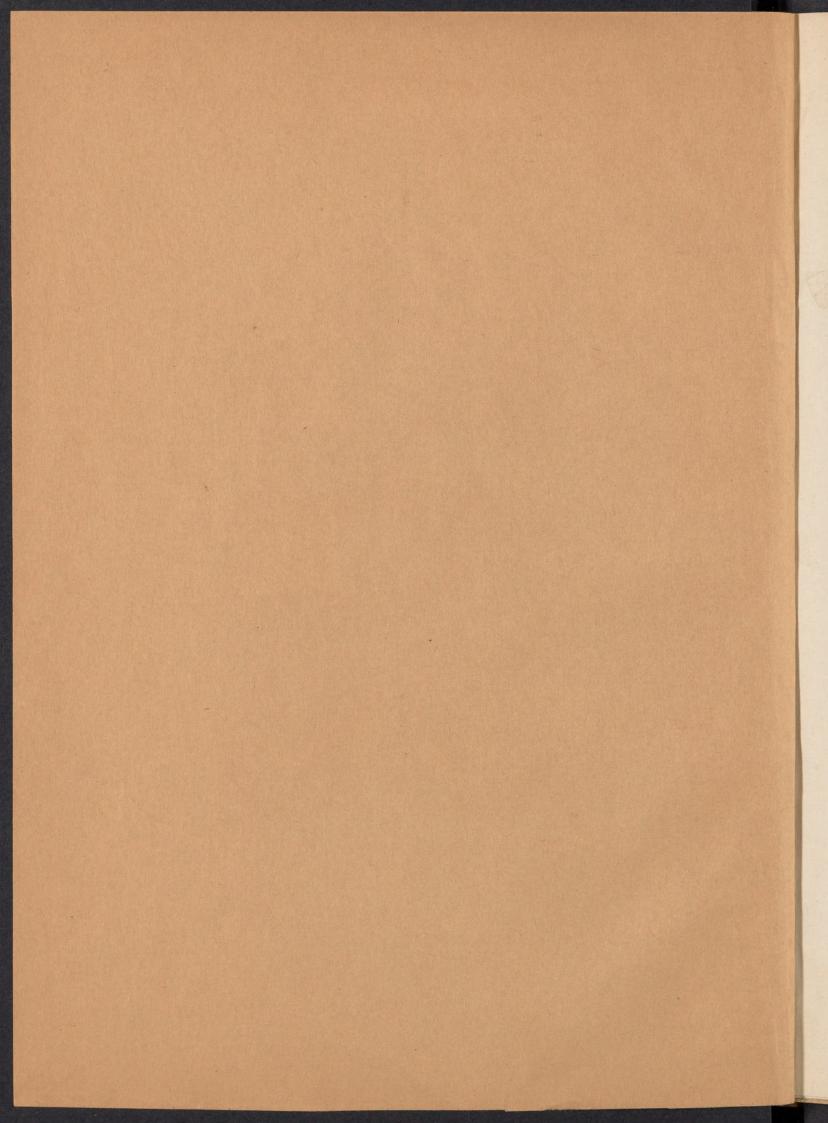
MOUNT BIGELOW TRIP, 1896

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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, ets., for the trop to Dead River. We finished this and got started about 10.10 AM. for lunch Stopped at the old Amos Hutchins' Place in Embden 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.

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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 upgrade 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 lattle east of the regular path ---

August 12, 1890, Augustay rair and very warm. Got up about 4.45 or 5.00 A. M. and arter trip we drove team (moout 8.00 A. M.) on the rose running west from Mr. Mitting's larg for pariago two miles (up cau well traveled road). There the Fernalds and a Multing boy, and Endedendron Maxiana. We returned to Mr. Mutting's place and started north again at about 10.00 A. M. . It was mostly upwatering but for dimmer. Collected some mosace along the branch of Michael Stress nearby. Soon after starting on again we had a fine view of the bigolow mange. We reached the Ledge House about 5.00 P. H. or a little cariler and the lount of elew Hotel (Farson's) about 5.30 P. M. We drove about a dile Mr. W. O. Wysan's house getting to led at 9.00 f. .. august 13, 1896, Thur day Fair and not quite so same, slept quite tell last night and got up about 5.00 A. M. Coralgatening out things shoul camp, Professor Strong followed them. I stayed about samp and tixed it up some. Had sweet potstees, backwhest cakes, etc. for some slong the river and intervals. August 14, 1896, Friday towards morning. In middle of A. M. M. L. Fernald, W. C. Strong, and I started for a collecting trip ap on the would a -- stee relugar and to Jasa siddle a about and ofsi asurus of

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 bout 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

Rair. 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, 1895, 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 resumed the "face" and desided to return as we had no langue with us. "We bore more to the east in hopes of finding the regular stail. This we evidently did a little later and returned to same in time to have dinner about 2.30 F. M. After dinner I stayed a about onap as my left knee was lane. Dater in the F. M. we have eased up the horses and drove towards Flaguetiff for about three miles- stopped a few minutes at Harridshe Falls.

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August 16, 1896, Sunday

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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 at 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 App@laichan Mountain Club register at the summit.

August 18, 1896, Tuesday

Clear in the A. M. but rainey 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 R. 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). Severel 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 wath 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.

Clearling in the A. M. Dut cool and dame. After clearly out ex egate end offi werd satisfact bas sould saf to uson to faet healed the wagon into Mr. Wyman'd harn and then about 9.00 A.M. bedgiew word, you .wolegia impon qu quant fa for bedrace ils ex about twenty- five pounds. We reached the old wan's " doe" . arout moon and the nument about 2.00 f. M. We went down into cd-mad blo us qu hitt neid (dimana ent no nword ene wine edd) came for the night. It was a balass lean- to. About 5.00 P. d. sunset. I wrote my name to the Appelatement wountain Club regions . Jimmus sud Ja * Clear in the A. M. but reiney in the P. M. and evening. It was going all might, each member of the party taking a turn of two hours, my watch being from 11.00 E. M. to 1:00 A. M. Got up about 4.30 A. M. and went with Professor Strong to the adminit of the East Main Peak- then back to camp for breaklast about 9.00 A. M. Then the two Fernalds and I olimbed the fest ann Peak and botanized some, returning to camp about noon. Professor Strong had already started down the wountain so we packed up our things during a neavy hall atoms and followed him, overtaking bid Defore he reached the tamberline he had waited). Severel andes we were all very wet below the knees, in fect on 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 samp 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 asplace 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 barm. At Carrabasset we discovered that the off horse was minus a shoe, so we had one put on in Kingfield.

August 31, 1896, 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. M. L.

Fernald, George Fernald, and Professor Strong left town on the

1. 37 P. M. train

Magdan 19, 1896, Mednesday Somewhat showery. Stayed about name acet of the time until b. DO P. M. nelying to break camp. About 0.00 P. M. we arove to Flaggatail and then to Statton arriving there about them. Daniel and Jest delig jon bid . Dico bas jew wrev fis erew ex wells of the country year part was very relacing to willow a J'nesw erend Jand min blod ew lithu nrad min ni Bregneria sacker in the crowd. We then took to the haybow with the cattle . as woled August 20, 1896, Thursday Mostly clear. About 5.00 A. M. we not started- we drove nearly Bevires bas encou twook teasestands to donut to tooks you is within a mile of North New Portland about dark. We pitched our tent by the roadside near a parm. At Carrabasast we discovered .Distibli Clear, Left our camping place soon after 7.00 F. H. and reached Horth and and immediately unpacked our things from the stage, and restranged our things at Uncie Ed Collins' harm. M. L. 1. 37 F. H. train



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

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