

## Afterword

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From the first day of this book's life ten years ago, people have been asking if I ever encountered my own perils on the Presidential Range. In general, my hikes were not marked by misadventure, because I knew what the sky looked like when bad weather was on the way, and there was no hiking on those days. But that is not the whole story.

I'd always known about these mountains because when the summer gathering of cousins played on the lawn of our house in Jackson in the 1930s and 1940s, we'd look up and see Mount Washington filling the northern horizon. On rainy days we stayed indoors and studied the big black photo albums that showed our forebears making heroic hikes on those heights. We knew the stories those pictures told.

Later on, my father took me ten miles up the road to the headquarters of the Appalachian Mountain Club in Pinkham Notch and showed me the big plaster model of the range with all the trails marked on it. He'd show me the list of people who lost their lives up there and we'd find the places on the model where they came to grief. Now I think that those days must have been the real beginning of this book.

My older brother, John, worked at Madison Spring Hut on the Presidential Range in the summers of 1943 and 1944, and I followed in his footsteps and worked at Madison in the summers of 1950 and 1951. We did what we had to do regardless of the weather, and when I returned a year later for a social event I learned that a dead person feels different than other people do, as I had to recover the body of a man who had succumbed to the harsh conditions above Tuckerman Ravine. There was also a day in the fall of 1950 when real danger was just outside the windows.

When I was 17 and a student at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, my brother John had taken a job in the weather observatory on the summit of

Mount Washington. Thanksgiving was a holiday of particular importance because, by an unlikely but verifiable coincidence, both sides of my family had been at the first Thanksgiving held by the settlers of the Plymouth Bay Colony. So, by a sort of double imperative, it seemed sensible to hike up to the summit and have the festive dinner with my brother and the crew of the observatory.

I took the train to Gorham and a member of the crew at the AMC headquarters in Pinkham Notch picked me up. The next morning I set out for the summit.

I was equipped with my maximum winter gear. My boots were what all the AMC hutmen used, a pair of single-layer work boots whose original soles were replaced with triple-layer leather. We would hammer in hobnails in patterns of highly-evolved complexity. In addition to those boots, I wore Levis over red Duofold long underwear, a cotton work shirt, a woolen sweater my mother knit for me, and an army surplus 10th Mountain Division parka with a fur-trimmed hood. Feeling ready, I set out on the Tuckerman Ravine trail with Bill Hastings.

Bill also had worked summers in the AMC huts. He was two or three years older and massive, and he was going up to start a job in the observatory. There had been weather observers on the summit since well back in the 19th century. The current observatory dated to 1932 and was a stout wooden structure that was bolted into bedrock. Beyond that, it was not much different from any other place for a small group doing a specialized line of work. The building included a bunkroom, a bathroom, a kitchen, a living room, an instrument room, and an unadorned room that summer visitors could use for a variety of purposes, from resting with other hikers to placing a bandage over a blister.

To keep the interior warm, the observatory had a furnace in the cellar. A certain type of seaweed was packed into the walls, a provision that had been learned from fishermen on the coast of Maine who knew that the small air sacs in the seaweed would provide insulation for their dockside shanties.

On November 26, 1950, the observatory sheltered a crew of Dick Learned, Bill Hastings, Willy Harris, and my brother John. Crew member Gordon Miller was on his down-mountain days off. This Thanksgiving Day started with less hospitable conditions than those my forebears found at their seaside refuge. The observatory's 24-hour data sheet shows that the summit was

in the clouds with a midnight temperature of 25 degrees and a southeast wind of 99 miles per hour, and rime ice was forming on the windward side of every outdoor surface. At 3 A.M. the temperature had gone up one degree and the wind had reached 120 mph. Thirty-five minutes later it hit 160.

I was still awake. The observatory had a good lounge and I'd been reading a book by one of the 19th-century observers who told of a day of high wind when the crew was wondering if their building would be blown apart. As a precaution, one of them wrapped himself in a mattress and stiffened the package by attaching crowbars to it.

The violent weather did not worry me. While the tempest outside was tearing at the building, I was sitting on an upholstered sofa in the well-heated lounge and watching television. The medium was not yet widespread and no one I knew at home had a set, but the antenna for this one was 6,288 feet above sea level and I marveled at the choice and quality of entertainment at the touch of my hand.

I also marveled at the contrast between the cozy inside and the ferocious outside that night. The storm was battering the small observatory building and the combination of warming temperature and increasing wind was causing pieces of ice to break off the radio transmitter tower just a few yards away and slam into the observatory. I didn't think I was in danger, because the walls of the observatory had withstood every previous storm and the thick plate glass windows were protected by heavy steel grating, but it was an unusual situation for me.

There was also an unusual effect inside the building. The observatory's plumbing vents opened to the southeast, which was the direction least likely to bring high winds that would blow back up the pipe. That made sense. Now, however, the wind was coming from the southeast, and this argued for caution when using the toilet.

The wind was also blowing up the drain for the kitchen sink. Willy Harris knew an opportunity when he saw one, so the next time there was a lull in the wind he poured a whole bottle of soap bubble mix down the drain and turned the hot water on full. The next gust produced an upward-bound torrent of bubbles that would have brought joy to the heart of the most jaded child who ever lived.

There was more serious work at hand. Ice was forming too fast for the de-icers that were protecting a set of instruments at the top of the observatory's

tower. Bill went up the inside of the tower to knock off the worst of the ice. He'd take a full swing with a crowbar, but sometimes he would miss the ice. The wind was that strong even in the lulls.

I went up with him, wearing an experimental facemask that the observatory was testing. It was like a military gas mask except there was a round opening in front that was held by a latch and could be opened for eating or spitting. The makers had not anticipated weather like this. When I opened the latch and faced the wind it seemed as if the air rushing in would inflate me; when I turned around, the wind seemed to be pulling away so fast I wasn't sure I could draw a breath from it. I seemed to be drowning in an ocean of air.

The storm had moderated by the next day and I was due back at school in Massachusetts, so my brother and I started down the eight-mile auto road. It was meant for summertime vehicles and it was closed now, but the road was the most easily followed way down the mountain and recommended for times like this. My brother turned back to the summit at the halfway point where the road entered the woods, and two miles later I turned off on the trail that led two and a half miles to the Appalachian Mountain Club headquarters by the highway in Pinkham Notch.

Now I was worried. I realized that I could be in real and immediate peril for the first time in all my years of hiking on the Presidential Range. The fabric of my parka and its fur-trimmed hood had a color and texture that could be mistaken for the hide of a deer and it was hunting season. There were hunters all through the woods.

Since the season ended in a few days, I was worried that some hunter determined to go home with a trophy strapped to the fender of his car would shoot at any noise that might be a deer. From time to time I yelled "I AM NOT A DEER!" and that took me safely to the end of my Thanksgiving holiday.

To some it may seem odd that my greatest fear of danger in the mountains came from other people, especially the morning after such a terrible storm. But by that age I had learned how to take good care of myself in the wilderness. Researching this book made me even more grateful for the early exposure I had to people who knew how to climb mountains, and return, without misadventures.

*Jackson, N.H.*

*June 2009*

## Acknowledgments to the First Edition

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This book began in the mind of Mel Allen, the long-time features editor at *Yankee Magazine*. I'd written a number of pieces for Mel, all in the manner of pleasant reveries. Then he asked for an article on the terrible winter of 1994 on the Presidential Range. I wrote it and Mel said, "That's a good job of reporting." I understood that he was damning with faint praise. Then he said, "I want to hear voices, I want to hear your voice." I rewrote the piece and it ran in the February 1995 issue.

It drew a large and often touching response from the readers, and some rang unexpected bells. There was, for instance, the letter from Richard Moran, of Port Ludlow, Washington. He'd grown up in Whitefield, New Hampshire, and his father delivered dairy goods to the Tip-Top House, and sometimes young Richard rode up with him. Mr. Moran went on to tell about a winter episode when four hikers were trying to reach the summit by way of the cog railway track; the weather went against them and three of them died. The bodies were brought to an undertaker in Whitefield and the survivor married the nurse who attended him in the Whitefield hospital, thus launching the favorite story of the winter in that remote mountain town.

Mr. Moran said he remembered that vividly, but he wondered why it was never listed in the roster of fatalities on the Presidential Range. I wrote back and told him of childhood days when we'd go into the AMC building at Pinkham Notch and head straight for the death list posted on the wall. Father would stab the list with his finger and say, "There's something missing here—three fellows froze to death on the cog railway trestle. That must have been around nineteen-hundred and thirty." More than fifty years would pass before Mr. Moran confirmed my father's sense of history.

Darby Field's 1640 ascents of Mount Washington had always puzzled me; that was almost 200 years before an American would have thought to climb a

mountain for exercise or enjoyment. This long-running riddle was solved by my friend Michael Callis, who is a ferocious researcher and found Mr. Field's curious connections while making his own studies of colonial deeds.

Most of this book was found in ancient texts. The library in Gorham, New Hampshire, has one of the very few collections of *Among the Clouds* known to exist and I'm most grateful to Ida Bagley, Valerie LaPointe, and Judy Blais for putting up with my interruptions; the cabinet holding the bound issues of the old summit newspaper is right behind their desk. The town libraries in Berlin and Jackson, the state library in Concord, and the Dartmouth College library in Hanover were valuable sources; other documents were found in the federal court records and the state supreme court library in Concord. The archives of the summit and valley stations of the Mount Washington Observatory were both abundant and essential, and I owe a very large debt to the staff members who abided my many interruptions and, especially, to Sean Doucette, the staff computer specialist who rescued many photographs from their faded old age.

I must also thank Howie Wemyss and Brian Bennett, managers of the Mount Washington auto road, for their kindness, Adelina Azevedo Axelrod for her research help in Providence, Rhode Island, and my brother John for his tales of life on the summit.

Living memories of the accidents began with Brad Washburn, man for all seasons and all ages on Mount Washington and a principal in the rescue of Jessie Whitehead in 1933. Sixty-six years later he was a tireless help to me and made many minute corrections to the text. Nancy Fielder and Hartie Beardseely and his sister Mary Fenn helped with the story of Jerome Pierce. Fred Stott was on the crew at Madison Spring Hut when Joe Caggiano died in 1938 and Fred is still doing yeoman service with the AMC. Paul Turner also contributed memories of that ill-fated hike.

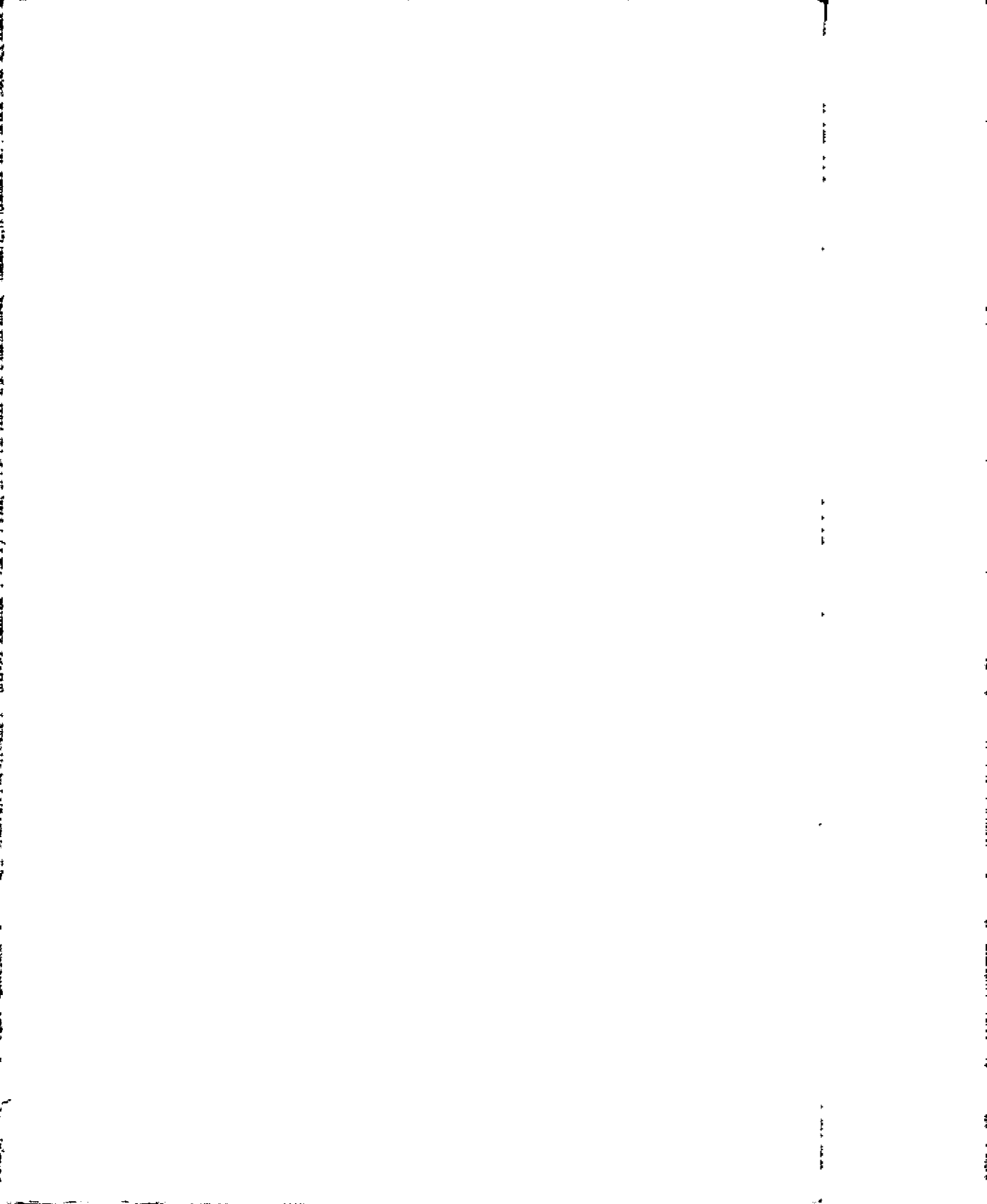
Sam Goodhue provided details of the elder days on the Mount Washington Volunteer Ski Patrol, and my own inability to throw anything away preserved the stories Kibbe Glover gave me twenty years ago. He embodied an entire chapter in the long story of Tuckerman Ravine, he retired to live at Pinkham in his old age, and now he is sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

The account of Philip Longnecker and Jacques Parysko drew on the memories of Paul Doherty, George Hamilton, and Mack Beal. The story of

the terrible night that took the life of MacDonald Barr could not have been told without the very generous help of Peter Crane, Emily Thayer Benson, Kari Geick, Lars Jorrens, Alexei Rubenstein, Stephanie Aranalas, and Yvonne and Tavis Barr. None of their memories were easy.

The original *Yankee Magazine* article appears with some additions as the last section in this book. It was written with the help of Rebecca Oreskes and Brad Ray of the Forest Service, Ralph Patterson of the observatory, Bill Aughten, Jim Dowd, Brian Abrams of Fish and Game, and Rick Wilcox, Nick Yardley, Joe Lentini, Maury McKinney, Mike Pelchat, Al Comeau, Tiger Burns, and Ben Miller of the local rescue teams.

Finally, I must thank Brooks Dodge for his memories of growing up at the AMC camp in Pinkham Notch, for the use of his irreplaceable collection of Joe Dodge's papers and photographs, and for no end of help in a variety of writing projects over the years.





## Appendix

### DEATHS ON MOUNT WASHINGTON

1849-2009

*Dates from the Mount Washington  
Observatory*

- October 19, 1849
- 1 Frederick Strickland, 29, Bridlington, England, died after losing his way in an early storm.
- September 14, 1855
- 2 Lizzie Bourne, 23, Kennebunk, Maine, died of exhaustion and exposure in stormy weather.
- August 7, 1856
- 3 Benjamin Chander, 75, Wilmington, Del., died of exhaustion and exposure near the summit.
- October 4, 1869
- 4 J. M. Thompson, proprietor of the Glen House, drowned in the flooded Peabody River.
- February 26, 1872
- 5 Pvt. William Stevens, U.S. Signal Service, died of natural causes on the summit
- June 28, 1873
- 6 Pvt. William Sealey, U.S. Signal Service, died in Littleton July 2 of injuries received in a slideboard accident on the Cog Railway
- September 3, 1874
- 7 Harry Hunter, 21, Pittsburgh, Pa., died of exhaustion and exposure. His remains were found six years later.
- July 3, 1880
- 8 Mrs. Ira Chichester, Allegan, Mich., was killed when a coach overturned on the Carriage Road.
- July 24, 1886
- 9 Sewall Faunce, 15, Dorchester, Mass., was killed by the falling of a snow arch in Tuckerman Ravine.
- August 24, 1890
- 10 Ewald Weiss, 24, Berlin, Germany, left the Summit House to walk to Mount Adams. He was never found.
- June 30, 1900
- 11 William Curtis, 63, New York, N.Y., died of exhaustion and exposure in a sudden storm near the Lakes of the Clouds Hut.
  - 12 Allan Ormsby, 28, Brooklyn, N.Y., hiking with Curtis, died 300 feet from the summit.
- August 23, 1900
- 13 Alexander Cusick, employee of

- the Cog Railway, was killed while descending on a slideboard.
- September 18, 1912
- 14 John Keenan, 18, Charlestown, Mass., a surveyor, wandered off the cone of Mount Washington; he was never found.
- August 5, 1919
- 15 Harry Clauson, 19, Boston, Mass., was killed descending the Cog Railway on an improvised slideboard.
- 16 Jack Lonigan, 21, Boston, Mass., killed with Clauson.
- November 1927
- 17 A woodsman named Harriman drowned in Jefferson Brook while following his traplines.
- April 1928
- 18 Elmer Lyman, Berlin, N.H., froze to death while attempting to walk through the unplowed Pinkham Notch Road.
- December 1, 1928
- 19 Herbert Young, 18, Salem, Mo., died of exhaustion and exposure on the Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail.
- July 20, 1929
- 20 Daniel Rossiter, Boston photographer, was killed when the renovated old engine Pepperpass was destroyed on the Cog Railway.
- July 30, 1929
- 21 Oysten Kaldstad, Brooklyn, N.Y., was drowned in Dry River, Oakes Gulf, on a fishing trip.
- September 18, 1931
- 22 Henry Bigelow, 19, Cambridge, Mass., killed by a falling stone while rock climbing in Huntington Ravine.
- January 31, 1932
- 23 Ernest McAdams, 22, Stoneham, Mass., froze to death while making a winter ascent.
- 24 Joseph Chadwick, 22, Woburn, Mass., died with McAdams.
- June 18, 1933
- 25 Simon Joseph, 19, Brookline, Mass., died of exhaustion and exposure near the Lakes of the Clouds Hut.
- November 11, 1933
- 26 Rupert Marden, 21, Brookline, Mass., died of exhaustion and exposure in Tuckerman Ravine.
- September 9, 1934
- 27 Jerome Pierce, 17, Springfield, Vt., drowned in Peabody River.
- April 1, 1936
- 28 John Fowler, 19, New York, N.Y., died of injuries after a 900-foot slide down the east side of Mount Washington.
- May 23, 1936
- 29 Grace Sturgess, 24, Williamstown, Mass., died of injuries from falling ice in Tuckerman Ravine.
- July 4, 1937
- 30 Harry Wheeler, 55, Salem, Mass., died of a heart attack on the Cape Ridge Trail on Mount Jefferson.

- August 24, 1938  
31 Joseph Caggiano, 22, Astoria, N.Y., died of exhaustion and exposure on the Gulfside Trail near Madison Spring Hut.
- June 9, 1940  
32 Edwin McIntire, 19, Short Hills, N.J., was killed by a fall into a crevasse in Tuckerman Ravine.
- October 13, 1941  
33 Louis Haberland, 27, Roslindale, Mass., died from exhaustion and exposure on the Caps Ridge Trail on Mount Jefferson.
- April 7, 1943  
34 John Neal, Springfield, Mass., suffered a fatal injury while skiing the Little Headwall of Tuckerman Ravine.
- May 31, 1948  
35 Phyllis Wilbur, 16, Kingfield, Maine, was injured while skiing in Tuckerman Ravine; died on June 3.
- May 1, 1949  
36 Paul Schiller, Cambridge, Mass., died while skiing on the headwall of Tuckerman Ravine.
- February 2, 1952  
37 Tor Staver was injured in a skiing accident on the Sherburne Trail; died in Boston on February 5 of a fractured skull.
- August 23, 1952  
38 Raymond Davis, 50, Sharon, Mass., died of exposure after collapsing above the headwall of Tuckerman Ravine, from a heart condition.
- January 31, 1954  
39 Phillip Longnecker, 25, Toledo, Ohio, was buried in an avalanche during a Tuckerman Ravine camping trip.
- 40 Jacques Parysko, 23, Cambridge, Mass., died with Longnecker.
- February 19, 1956  
41 A. Aaron Leve, 28, Boston, Mass., was killed by avalanche in Tuckerman Ravine.
- June 7, 1956  
42 Thomas Flint, 21, Concord, Mass., was killed from a fall and exposure on Mount Madison.
- September 1, 1956  
43 John Ochab, 27, Newark, N.J., died from a fall on Mount Clay.
- May 17, 1958  
44 William Brigham, 28, Montreal, Canada, was killed by icefall in Tuckerman Ravine.
- July 19, 1958  
45 Paul Zanet, 24, Dorchester, Mass., died of exposure on Crawford Path.
- 46 Judy March, 17, Dorchester, Mass., died with Zanet.
- August 22, 1959  
47 Anthony Amico, 44, Springfield, Mass., died of a heart attack near the top of Tuckerman Ravine.
- June 2, 1962  
48 Armand Falardeau, 42, Danielson, Conn., died of exposure near the summit of Mount Clay.

- September 12, 1962
- 49 Alfred Dickinson, 67, Melrose, Mass., died of exposure near the summit of Nelson Crag.
- April 4, 1964
- 50 Hugo Stadtmueller, 28, Cambridge, Mass. Killed in an avalanche while climbing in Huntington Ravine.
- 51 John Griffin, 39, Hanover, Mass., died with Stadtmueller.
- May 3, 1964
- 52 Remi Bourdages, 38, Spencer, Mass., suffered a heart attack in Tuckerman Ravine.
- March 14, 1965
- 53 Daniel Doody, 31, North Branford, Conn., killed in a fall in Huntington Ravine.
- 54 Craig Merrihue, 31, Cambridge, Mass., killed with Doody.
- September 6, 1967
- The following people died in an accident on the Cog Railway:
- 55 Eric Davies, 7, Hampton, N.H.
- 56 Mary Frank, 38, Warren, Mich.
- 57 Monica Gross, 2, Brookline, Mass.
- 58 Shirley Zorzy, 22, Lynn, Mass.
- 59 Beverly Richmond, 15, Putnam, Conn.
- 60 Kent Woodard, 9, New London, N.H.
- 61 Charles Usher, 55, Dover, N.H.
- 62 Mrs. Charles Usher, 56, Dover, N.H.
- January 26, 1969
- 63 Scott Stevens, 19, Cucamonga, Calif., killed in a climbing accident in Yale Gully, Huntington Ravine.
- 64 Robert Ellenberg, 19, New York, N.Y., died with Stevens and Charles Yoder.
- 65 Charles Yoder, 24, Hartford, Wisc., died with Stevens and Ellenberg.
- February 9, 1969
- 66 Mark Lerner, 16, Albany, N.Y., died of injuries sustained in a slide on Mount Adams.
- Summer 1969
- 67 Albert R. Tenney, 62, died of a heart attack on the Crawford Path between Mount Webster and Mount Jackson.
- October 12, 1969
- 68 Richard Fitzgerald, 26, Framingham, Mass., died of head injuries sustained in Huntington Ravine fall.
- November 29, 1969
- 69 Paul Ross, 26, South Portland, Maine, died in a light-plane crash on the southwest slope of Boott Spur.
- 70 Kenneth Ward, 20, Augusta, Maine, died with Ross and Cliff Phillips.
- 71 Cliff Phillips, 25, Island Pond, Vt., died with Ross and Ward.
- March 21, 1971
- 72 Irene Hennessey, 47, died in a light-plane crash above Huntington Ravine.

- 73 Thomas Hennessey, 54, died in the same crash.  
October 23, 1975
- April 24, 1971
- 74 Barbara Palmer, 46, West Acton, Mass., died of exposure near the Cog Railway base station.  
March 26, 1976
- August 28, 1971
- 75 Betsy Roberts, 16, Newton, Mass., drowned in the Dry River.  
May 8, 1976
- October 1971
- 76 Geoff Bowdoin, Wayland, Mass., drowned in the Dry River.  
85 Scott Whinnery, 25, Speigeltown, N.Y., died of injuries sustained in a fall in Hillman's Highway.
- May 17, 1972
- 77 Christopher Coyne, 21, Greenwich, Conn., died in a fall in Tuckerman Ravine.  
July 12, 1976
- September 23, 1972
- 78 Richard Thaler, 49, Brookline, Mass., succumbed to a heart attack while hiking Mount Adams.  
86 Robert Evans, 22, Kalamazoo, Mich., died of injuries sustained in a fall in Tuckerman Ravine.
- April 21, 1973
- 79 Peter Winn, 16, Bedford, N.H., died of head injuries while skiing in Tuckerman Ravine.  
February 14, 1979
- August 22, 1974
- 80 Vernon Titcomb, 56, Santa Fe, Calif., died in a plane crash above Gray Knob during a thunderstorm.  
87 David Shoemaker, 21, Lexington, Mass., died of exposure after a fall in Huntington Ravine.
- 81 Jean Titcomb, 53, died in the same crash.  
Paul Flanigan, 26, Melrose, Mass., died of injuries after falling with Shoemaker.
- December 24, 1974
- 82 Karl Brushaber, 37, Ann Arbor, Mich., died of a skull fracture in Tuckerman Ravine.  
August 21, 1980
- 83 Clayton Rock, 80, Massachusetts, died of a heart attack near the Lakes of the Clouds Hut.  
89 Patrick Kelley, 24, Hartford, Conn., died in a fall in Tuckerman Ravine.
- March 26, 1976
- 84 Margaret Cassidy, 24, Wolfeboro, N.H., died from injuries suffered in a fall in Huntington Ravine.  
October 12, 1980
- May 8, 1976
- 85 Scott Whinnery, 25, Speigeltown, N.Y., died of injuries sustained in a fall in Hillman's Highway.  
90 Charles LaBonte, 16, Newbury, Mass., died after a fall into a brook near the Ammonoosuc Trail.
- July 12, 1976
- 86 Robert Evans, 22, Kalamazoo, Mich., died of injuries sustained in a fall in Tuckerman Ravine.
- February 14, 1979
- 87 David Shoemaker, 21, Lexington, Mass., died of exposure after a fall in Huntington Ravine.
- Paul Flanigan, 26, Melrose, Mass., died of injuries after falling with Shoemaker.
- August 21, 1980
- 89 Patrick Kelley, 24, Hartford, Conn., died in a fall in Tuckerman Ravine.
- October 12, 1980
- 90 Charles LaBonte, 16, Newbury, Mass., died after a fall into a brook near the Ammonoosuc Trail.
- October 13, 1980
- 91 James Dowd, 43, Boston, Mass., died of a heart attack on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail.

- December 31, 1980  
92 Peter Friedman, 18, Thomaston, Conn., died while ice climbing in Huntington Ravine.
- August 8, 1981  
93 Myles Coleman, 73, Wellsville, N.Y., died of a stroke on the summit of Mount Washington.
- January 25, 1982  
94 Albert Dow, 29, Tuftonboro, N.H., died in an avalanche while searching for two lost climbers.
- March 28, 1982  
95 Kathy Hamann, 25, Sandy Hook, Conn., died of head injuries in a fall while climbing in Tuckerman Ravine.
- May 25, 1982  
96 John Fox, 47, Shelburne, Vt., died of a stroke in Tuckerman Ravine.
- January 1, 1983  
97 Edwin Aalbue, 21, Westbury, N.Y., died after a fall in Huntington Ravine.
- March 24, 1983  
98 Kenneth Hokenson, 23, Scotia, N.Y., died after a fall down the icy cone of Mount Washington.
- March 27, 1983  
99 Mark Brockman, 19, Boston, Mass., died after a fall on Mount Washington.
- July 30, 1984  
100 Paul Silva, 22, Cambridge, Mass., died in an auto crash at the base of the Mount Washington road.
- August 22, 1984  
101 Ernst Heinsoth, 88, Burlington Vt., succumbed to a heart attack on the summit of Mount Washington.
- July 21, 1985  
102 Marjorie E. Frank, 25, Randolph, Mass., committed suicide by asphyxiation near the Valley Way Trail to Mount Madison. Her remains were found nine years later.
- March 15, 1986  
103 Basil Goodridge, 56, Burlington, Vt., died of a heart attack on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail.
- April 5, 1986  
104 Robert Jones, 53, Bridgton, Maine, died of a heart attack on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail.
- August 24, 1986  
105 MacDonald Barr, 52, Brookline, Mass., succumbed to hypothermia in a summer snowstorm on Mount Madison.
- June 30, 1990  
106 Edwin Costa, 40, Manchester, N.H., died while skiing in Great Gulf.
- October 2, 1990  
107 Jimmy Jones, 34, Texas, died in a plane crash.
- 108 Russell Diedrick, 24, died in the same crash.
- 109 Stewart Eames, 27, died in the same crash.
- February 24, 1991  
110 Thomas Smith, 41, Montpelier, Vt.,

- died while ice climbing in Huntington Ravine.
- January 27, 1992
- 111 Louis Nichols, 47, Rochester, N.H., died of hypothermia on Cog Railway Trestle.
- August 12, 1992
- 112 George Remini, 65, Efland, N.C., died of a heart attack in the Alpine Garden.
- January 15, 1994
- 113 Derek Tinkham, 20, Sunderstown, R.I., died of hypothermia on the summit of Mount Jefferson.
- February 26, 1994
- 114 Monroe Couper, 27, New Jersey, died of hypothermia while ice climbing on Huntington Ravine.
- 115 Erick Lattery, 40, New Jersey, died with Couper.
- May 1, 1994
- 116 Cheryl Weingarten, 22, Somerville, Mass., was killed by a fall into a crevasse in Tuckerman Ravine.
- June 4, 1994
- 117 Sarah Nicholson, 25, Portland, Maine, died of injuries from falling ice in Tuckerman Ravine.
- October 8, 1994
- 118 Ronald Hastings, 63, Grantham, N.H., died of a heart attack on the summit of Mount Washington.
- March 28, 1995
- 119 Chris Schneider, 32, Pittsfield, Vt., fell while skiing in Hillman's Highway, off Tuckerman Ravine.
- January 5, 1996
- 120 Alexandre Cassan, 19, Becancour, Quebec, died in an avalanche on Lion's Head.
- February 3, 1996
- 121 Donald Cote, 48, Haverhill, Mass., died after a fall on Lion's Head Trail while hiking.
- February 25, 1996
- 122 Nicholas Halpern, 50, Lincoln, Mass., died of hypothermia while hiking near Mount Pleasant Brook on Mount Eisenhower.
- March 2, 1996
- 123 Robert Vandel, 50, Vienna, Maine, died in a fall while climbing in Pinnacle Gully, Huntington Ravine.
- March 24, 1996
- 124 Todd Crumbaker, 35, Billerica, Mass., died in an avalanche on the Gulf of Slides.
- 125 John Wald, 35, Cambridge, Mass., died in the same avalanche.
- September 27, 1997
- 126 Steve Carmody, 29, Danbury, Conn., died in a fall while hiking on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail.
- May 29, 1999
- 127 John Gringas, 44, Meriden, Conn., died of natural causes.
- October 30, 1999
- 128 Douglas Thompson, 66, Hanover, N.H., died after suffering a heart attack near the summit of Mount Madison.

- February 20, 2000  
 129 David McPhedran, 42, Kents Hill, Maine, died in an avalanche on the Gulf of Slides.
- February 18, 2001  
 130 Ned Green, 26, North Conway, N.H., died in a fall after an ice dam in Huntington Ravine gave way.
- June 3, 2001  
 131 Hillary Manion, 22, Ottawa, Canada, died in a fall while skiing in Tuckerman Ravine.
- September 11, 2002  
 132 Peter Busher, 71, Chester Gap, Va., died of hypothermia near Madison Spring Hut.
- September 29, 2002  
 133 William Callahan, 57, Meansville, Ga., died of natural causes.
- November 29, 2002  
 134 Thomas Burke, 46, West Springfield, N.H., died in an avalanche in Tuckerman Ravine.
- 135 Scott Sandburg, 32, Arlington, Mass., died in the same avalanche.
- January 27, 2004  
 136 Jason Gaumond, 28, Southbridge, Mass., died in a fall in Huntington Ravine.
- March 7, 2004  
 137 Rob Douglas, 39, Vershire, Vt., died in a fall while skiing on Mount Clay.
- August 4, 2006  
 138 Jean Moreau, 50, Becancour, Canada, died after suffering a heart attack near Tuckerman Ravine.
- September 9, 2007  
 139 Kevin Race, 46, Woolwich, Maine, last seen near Hermit Lake, his body was never found.
- January 18, 2008  
 140 Peter Roux, Bartlett, Tenn., died in an avalanche in Huntington Ravine.



## Image Credits

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### FOREWORD

Southern Presidentials. Photograph by Robert Kozlow.

Tuckerman and Huntington Ravines. AMC Library and Archives.

Northern Presidentials. Photograph by Robert Kozlow.

### CHAPTER ONE

Presidential Range illustration. Bartlett town library.

Crawford Notch, circa 1860. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

### CHAPTER TWO

Crawford Path painting by Winslow Homer. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

Specialized clothing. Howe family collection.

Lizzie Bourne. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

Lizzie Bourne's final resting spot. AMC Library and Archives.

### CHAPTER THREE

Dr. Benjamin Lincoln Ball. AMC Library and Archives.

Mid-nineteenth-century map. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

Camp House. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

Glacial basins. Nicholas Howe.

### CHAPTER FOUR

"Snow arch" in Tuckerman Ravine. AMC Library and Archives.

### CHAPTER FIVE

Dwarf spruce. Nicholas Howe.

William Curtis's final resting spot. AMC Library and Archives.

The spot where Allan Ormsbee perished. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

AMC's first hiker's shelter. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

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Plans for an electric trolley. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

### CHAPTER SEVEN

Joe Dodge. Dodge family collection.

The Stage Office. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

Five-Mile Drift. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

Shelter on the Presidential Range. Dodge family collection.

Snow drifts. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

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Peppersass. AMC Library and Archives.

CHAPTER NINE

Jessie Whitehead. Courtesy of George Cleveland, photo by Jean Smith.  
Injured woman. Dodge family collection.  
Injured hiker. AMC Library and Archives.  
The Stokes litter. AMC Library and Archives.

CHAPTER TEN

*Simon Joseph*. AMC Library and Archives.  
Lakes of the Clouds Hut. Nicholas Howe.  
Patch of grass. Nicholas Howe.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Great Gulf Shelter. Guy Shorey photo, Mount Washington Observatory collection.

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Fog. AMC Library and Archives.

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Weasel. Dodge family collection.  
Sno-Cat. Mount Washington Observatory collection.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Pinkham Notch Visitors Center. AMC Library and Archives.  
Polly Longnecker. George Hamilton collection.

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Dwarf spruce above Madison Spring Hut. Dodge family collection.  
Madison Spring Hut, 1890. AMC Library and Archives.  
Madison Spring Hut, 1987. AMC Library and Archives.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

All-volunteer Mountain Rescue Service. David Stone photograph.  
Alpine Garden. David Stone photograph.

# Appalachian Mountain Club

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Founded in 1876, the AMC is the nation's oldest outdoor recreation and conservation organization. The AMC promotes the protection, enjoyment, and stewardship of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of the Appalachian region.

## People

We are more than 100,000 members, advocates, and supporters; 16,000 volunteers; and more than 450 full-time and seasonal staff. Our 12 chapters reach from Maine to Washington, D.C.

## Outdoor Adventure and Fun

We offer more than 8,000 trips each year, from local chapter activities to major excursions worldwide, for every ability level and outdoor interest—from hiking and climbing to paddling, snowshoeing, and skiing.

## Great Places to Stay

We host more than 140,000 guests each year at our lodges, huts, camps, shelters, and campgrounds. Each AMC destination is a model for environmental education and stewardship.

## Opportunities for Learning

We teach people the skills to be safe outdoors and to care for the natural world around us through programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as outdoor leadership training.

## Caring for Trails

We maintain more than 1,500 miles of trails throughout the Northeast, including nearly 350 miles of the Appalachian Trail in five states.

## Protecting Wild Places

We advocate for land and riverway conservation, monitor air quality and climate change, and work to protect alpine and forest ecosystems throughout the Northern Forest and Mid-Atlantic Highlands regions.

## Engaging the Public

We seek to educate and inform our own members and an additional 2 million people annually through AMC Books, our website, our White Mountain visitor centers, and AMC destinations.

## Join Us!

Members support our mission while enjoying great AMC programs, our award-winning *AMC Outdoors* magazine, and special discounts. Visit [www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org) or call 800-372-1758 for more information.

## Appalachian Mountain Club

Recreation • Education • Conservation

[www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org)

## About the Author

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Nicholas Howe's family first went to the White Mountains as "summer people" in the mid-1880s. As a youth he spent long summers in the mountains and later worked for the Appalachian Mountain Club for four years, serving mainly on the crew at Madison Spring Hut on the Presidential Range and as a muleskinner. After graduating from college he moved to Jackson, New Hampshire, where he continues to live.

A journalist since 1977, Nick spent twenty years as a contributing editor and feature writer for *Skiing Magazine*. He has been a feature writer for *Yankee Magazine* since 1983, and his 1995 feature "Fatal Attraction" was a runner-up for a National Magazine Award. His work also has appeared in *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, *Backpacker Magazine*, *Outside*, and several anthologies.

Nick began playing jigs and reels for traditional dancing in 1961 and he continues to hike in the White Mountains.