

# Mountain View



*A newsletter by and for the Randolph Community, published by the Randolph Foundation*

## King Ravine Purchased in 1914

*by David Govatski*

*Revised 12 March 2014*

The US Forest Service purchased King Ravine on the northern slopes of Mount Adams on January 20, 1914. This acquisition was part of a larger purchase of 30,264 acres in portions of Gorham, Randolph, Jefferson, Carroll and the entire unincorporated township of Low and Burbanks Grant in Coös County, NH.

This was the second acquisition for the White Mountain National Forest. The first tract had been purchased two weeks earlier on January 2, 1914 in Benton, NH. The purchase was made under the federal legislation known as the Weeks Act, signed in 1911 by President Taft and named for Lancaster native and Massachusetts Congressman John Wingate Weeks.

The Berlin Timberland Company sold the 30,264 acres to the US Forest Service for \$242,118 or \$8.00 an acre. The land was on the northern slopes of the Presidential Range and also in the Cherry Mountain region. The land had been owned by the Berlin Timberland Company since 1900. The company, earlier known as the Berlin Mills Company, was headquartered in Portland, Maine but conducted logging operations out of Berlin, NH. It was the predecessor of the Brown Company of Berlin, NH. The legendary William Robinson Brown was in charge of the company.

King Ravine is a spectacular glacial cirque on the north side of Mount Adams. It was originally named Adams Ravine by Thomas Starr King who wrote "The White Hills: Their Legends, Landscape and Poetry" in 1859. This classic book is credited with making the White Mountains popular for tourists. The name was later changed to King Ravine in honor of the author. Charles Lowe built the first trail through King Ravine in 1876 and it continues to be one of the most spectacular trails in the White Mountains.

The US Forest Service surveyed the rugged landscape from July-November, 1912. The original survey books signed by surveyor F. Gardner are pre-



The U.S. Forest Service purchased King Ravine 100 years ago as part of a larger purchase of 30,264 acres, the second acquisition for what became the White Mountain National Forest, formally established by President Woodrow Wilson in 1918. Photo by Edith Tucker

served at the WMNF Headquarters in Campton, NH. It was exciting to open these century-old field notebooks and read what the surveyors were seeing. Craig Young, Realty Specialist with the Forest Service showed me these historical treasures from a century ago.

Karl Woodward was the Forest Service appraiser who wrote the appraisal report for his superiors in Washington. Woodward described "the land rose from the valley of the Moose River in Randolph at about 1,000 feet in elevation to the summits of the Presidential Range at 5,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level." Woodward described how forest fires in some areas destroyed the topsoil. He was likely referring to the disastrous 1903 fire season where over 85,000 acres of the White Mountain region burned.

Karl Woodward wrote in his report "from an aesthetic standpoint this tract is one of the most important in the White Mountains for the reason that it includes nearly the entire north slope of the Presidential Range and is one of the most frequently visited

*See "King Ravine", page 4 .....*

Meeting notices, inquiries, comments, and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials for the *Mountain View* to Dede Aube, Nekal Lane, Randolph, NH 03593, (603 -723-0847 or daube@ne.rr.com) by the 15th of the month preceding publication (publication is quarterly: September, December, April & June). The *Randolph Weekly* is published weekly in July & August. Send notices by Tuesday of each week to Gail Scott at 603-466-5498 (call or FAX); or mscott1@ne.rr.com; or PO Box 160, Gorham, NH 03581. The *Blizzard* is published the first of each month except July and August. Please send all notices for the *Blizzard* to Laura Brockett, 603-466-2034; lbrockett@gmail.com or 11 Randolph Hill Road, Randolph, NH 03593. *Blizzard* materials by the 24th of the preceding month. If you are not receiving the *Blizzard* and wish to, please let Laura know. A grant from the Randolph Foundation makes all these publications possible.

#### Mountain View Publications

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Laurie Archambault, Publisher

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### Town Directory

#### AMBULANCE 911

#### BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (Chair, Paul Cormier)

meets at 7 PM the 3rd Thursday of the month.

466-5841

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN (Chair, Ted Wier)

Administrative Assistant, Linda Dupont; Treasurer Angela Brown  
Meets at 7 p.m. at Town Hall 2nd & 4th Monday

466-3970

#### BUILDING PERMITS. See Board of Selectmen

#### CEMETERY TRUSTEES Suzanne Santos, Steve Hartman, & Karen Eitel

#### CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Chair, Bruce Kirmmse)

466-5777

#### DOG LICENSES See Town Clerk. Obtain or renew by the end of April.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT - ALL ALARMS - CALL 911;

Randolph Chief, Dana Horne

#### FOREST FIRE WARDEN (Jeff Parker) Call for Burning Permits

662-4050

#### GRS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD Contact the SAU Office

466-3632

Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; location alternates between the 3 towns.

#### LIBRARY Trustees meet the 3rd Mon. of each month; Chair, Jean Malick,

Librarian, Amy Cyr, Open Mon. 10 – noon; Wed. 3 -8 p.m.,  
Thur. 3-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 –noon

466-5408

#### LIFELINE (Heather Wiley)

466-5179

#### PLANNING BOARD (Chair, John Scarinza)

466-5775

Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the first Thursday of the month.

#### POLICE (Randolph Chief, Alan Lowe)

466-3950

#### RANDOLPH CHURCH (Moderator Dick Doyle)

Sunday morning services July & August (10:30 a.m.).

#### RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION (chair, John Scarinza)

466-5775

Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the 1st Wednesday

#### RANDOLPH FOUNDATION (President, Keith Dempster)

#### RANDOLPH LIFE SQUAD — Call 911 in an emergency

Co-Directors Bill & Barbara Arnold

466-2438

#### RANDOLPH MOUNTAIN CLUB (President, John Scarinza)

466-5775

#### ROAD AGENT (Kevin Rousseau)

466-5185

#### SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Denise Demers, Michael Sewick & Angela Chakalis-Pfeffer

#### TAX COLLECTOR (Anne Kenison) by appointment; call the Town Hall

466-5771

#### TOWN CLERK (Anne Kenison)

466-2606

Town Hall hours: Mondays 9 - 11 a.m. ; Wednesdays 7 - 9 p.m.

#### TOWN HALL Monday– Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon.

466-5771

#### TRASH COLLECTION Must be at roadside by 7 a.m.

Trash - every Tuesday; Recycling, sorted & bagged - 1st Saturday of every month.

#### TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND

Judy Kenison, Michael Sewick, M. Lark Andreas

### Community Calendar

(NOTE: For recurring meeting schedules see "Town Directory" on the left)

#### April

21-25 GRSC School Vacation

#### May

20 GRS Cooperative School Board  
Meeting 6:30pm Shelburne  
Town Hall

23 early release for GRS students

26 Memorial Day no school

#### June

6 GRSC Graduation

12 Last scheduled day of school at  
GRSC

At the request of the State of  
NH-DMV

Please present your

**PHOTO I.D.**

**For all**

**MOTOR VEHICLE**

**TRANSACTIONS**

Thank you for your cooperation.  
Together we can help prevent insurance and registration fraud by consistently complying with the state of NH requests.

*Only in Randolph .....*



## Randolph Election Results March, 2014

*Submitted by Anne Kenison, Town Clerk*

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Select Board                | Michele Cormier              |
| Treasurer                   | Angela Brown                 |
| Trustee of Trust Funds      | M. Lark Andreas              |
| Cemetery Trustee            | Steven R. Hartman            |
| Board of Adjustment         | Alan Lowe                    |
| Auditor                     | Philip Guiser                |
| Library Trustee             | Greta Smithson               |
| Planning Board              | Robert Ross                  |
| Tax Collector               | Anne Kenison                 |
| Moderator                   | David Wilcox                 |
| Supervisor of the Checklist | Angela Chakalis-Pfeffer      |
| School Board At Large       | Gregory Corrigan (Shelburne) |
| Executive Counselor         | Michael Cryans               |

\*All warrants passed.



Nancy Penney's 75th birthday - March 1st - was celebrated by a group of her women friends at Roberta Arbree's house. Photo by Clover Koopman

## Summer Reading Discussions

Julie Barrows has chosen two books for the Randolph Summer Reading discussions; both about the contributions of immigrant groups to American life and culture. The first is "A Place for Us: A Greek Immigrant Boy's Odyssey to a New Country and an Unknown Father," by Nicholas Gage, 2004. The second book will be "American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America," by Colin Woodward, 1911. Both books are available in paperback. The author describes how the origins of various immigrant groups have shaped the regional and political attitudes of the US.

Arrangements have yet to be made for dates and times. More information will be found in the June editions of the Mountain View and Blizzard as well as the summer Randolph Weekly.



Senator Jeff Woodburn and Secretary of State Bill Gardner honored Judy Kenison (center) at the Randolph Town Hall on January 21, for her 42 years of service as a ballot clerk. Also in the photo are David Wilcox, Michele Cormier, and Ted Wier, Photo submitted by Jeff Woodburn

sections of the White Mountains. The chief points of interest are Snyder Brook, King's Ravine, Ravine of the Castles and Ridge of the Castles. All of these are reached by good trails built and maintained by the Appalachian Mountain Club." The report was written in 1912 when the fledgling Randolph Mountain Club was just two years old

### Forest Composition in 1914

Hardwood forests occupied 19,214 acres or 65% of the tract. Ninety percent had been culled, meaning that the pine, spruce and hemlock had been removed. Another 10% had been burned. Very little of the hardwood such as sugar maple and yellow birch had been removed due to the lack of markets for hardwoods at the time.

The spruce forest was confined to the higher slopes and consisted of nearly 8,000 acres or 27% of the tract. About half of this type had been completely cut over and another 22% had been culled and the best trees removed.

Woodward described the subalpine type as "found on slopes that lie at such an altitude and have such thin soil that trees have not reached merchantable size." This forest consisted of balsam fir, red spruce and paper birch and was 1,295 acres or about 4% of the tract.

Woodward used the term "barren land" to describe the land on the summits of Mount Adams and Madison. There were 1,275 acres of barren land or about 4% of the total tract. A one-acre piece had previously been sold to the Appalachian Mountain Club for the construction of a stone hut (today Madison Spring Hut) between the summits of Madison and Adams.

The appraisal concluded that the tract was worth \$8.00 an acre or \$242,118. This value was based on two things. First was the value of the land, which ranged from \$0.50 an acre for barren land at the summits of the highest peaks, \$1.00 for subalpine land, and \$3.00 per acre for highly productive spruce and hardwood forestland. The second factor was the value of the remaining timber, consisting of over 118,000 cords of wood worth over \$150,000.

It is worth comparing the value of the purchase price in both 1914 dollars and what that money is worth today. Calculating inflation, the land purchased in 1914 at \$8.00 an acre is worth \$186.37 in 2014 dollars.

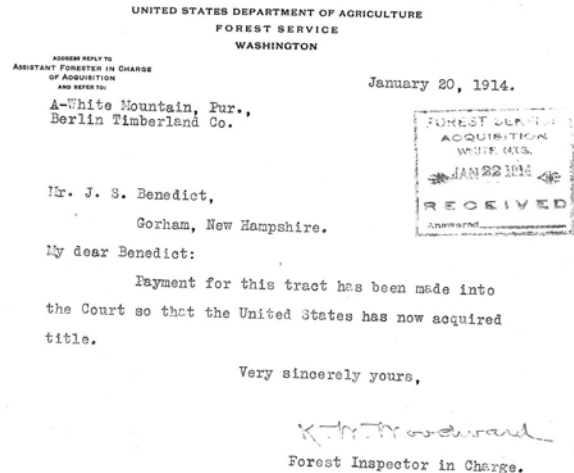
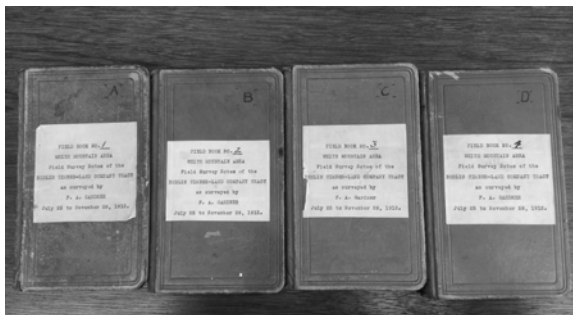


Photo of the letter indicating the purchase date of the tract on January 20, 1914.  
Photo provided by David Govatski

| 1914 Purchase Price      | 2014 Dollar Value    |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| \$8.00 per acre          | \$186.37 per acre    |
| \$242,264.76 total price | \$5,640,310.16 total |

What was the selling price of the summit areas of Mount Adams and Madison? I measured the acreage (using a planimeter) in Low and Burbanks Grant that was above tree line on Mount Adams and Madison and determined it was 520 acres. This land was typed as "barren" by the appraiser and had a value of \$0.50 an acre in 1914 or \$260.00 total. In 2014 dollars that would correspond to \$11.65 an acre or \$6,056.88 for the 520 acres of these two well known summits. Today several trails, including the Gulfside Trail, part of the Appalachian Trail system, traverses this same barren land purchased for 50 cents an acre in 1914.

What was the appraised value of King Ravine? This large glacial cirque with a fossil rock glacier and year-round ice is a place of spectacular beauty. I determined that it was approximately 600 acres in size and was classified as "subalpine" by the appraiser. The value was \$1.00 per acre and like the barren land it did not have any timber value. King Ravine was purchased for \$600 in 1914. Using today's value of money, King Ravine was acquired for \$13,977.42 or \$23.30 an acre in today's money. The true value of this mystical landscape cannot be measured in dollars alone.



The survey books of tract in which surveyors recorded findings in 1912.

Photo provided by David Govatski

## Conclusion

Today the White Mountain National Forest is nearly 800,000 acres in size. The purchase of the Northern Presidential Range and Cherry Mountain region was an important addition. It added many miles of streams, trails and opportunities for recreation, wildlife habitat and the production of forest products in a sustainable manner. Two months later, on March 30, 1914, the 37,124-acre Hastings Lumber Company land in the Wild River region was acquired for the national forest.

Special thanks to Marcia Watson Gulesian and her North Country Chronicle blog for use of the 1912 photos of US Forest Service survey crews and camps in Randolph. Also to Judith Maddock Hudson for use of early photos from the RMC Archives.

Sources: *Land Status Atlas for the White Mountain National Forest*. Map. Campton, NH: US Forest Service, 2014. US Forest Service. *Report on the Forest Lands of the Berlin Timberland Company*. By Karl W. Woodward, Forest Examiner: no date. US Forest Service. *Berlin Timberlands Company, Civil #71*. Case folder in land acquisition files. White Mountain National Forest. Campton, NH. US Forest Service. *Map of the White Mountain Region*. May 1914. Gorham, NH. Woodward, Karl to J. S. Benedict, "White Mountain Purchase, Berlin Timberland Company" January 20, 1914. White Mountain National Forest, Campton, NH. Young, Craig. Interview by the author. WMNF Headquarters, Campton, NH. January 13, 2014.

*David Govatski lives in Jefferson with his wife Kathi. He is an avid hiker, trail maintainer and enjoys writing about White Mountain history. He worked for 33 years for the US Forest Service before his retirement.*



King Ravine and forest fire scars in the foreground and 2 hikers on the left of picture.  
Shorey Photo from Mount Washington Observatory Archives.

The Appalachian Mountain Club had already purchased an acre of land for its first stone cabin, built in the summer of 1888, when the U. S. Forest Service purchased the surrounding acreage on Jan. 20, 1914, seen in this photo taken on Oct. 1, 2013, from a JBI Helicopter Services chopper.

Photo by Edith Tucker



## Randolph Remembers

**Harriet Brown Baldwin** passed away on Thursday, November 21, 2013 in Hanover, NH. She is survived by her husband James, of Hanover; her daughter, Sara Fauquier and three grandsons, all of Bethesda, Md.



She was a graduate of Central High School, Binghamton, NY, Wellesley College in 1945 and George Washington University in 1968.

Harriet resided in Bethesda, Md., from 1958 to 1999. She served as a research assistant in the Department of Curriculum and Supervision in the Montgomery County Public School and was teacher-producer of a television series produced and broadcast for school use from 1970 to 1972. She was also a member of a history project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, at the Washington International School. In 1977, she joined the Publications Department of the World Bank where she developed educational materials around economic development for schools.

Harriet retired in 1986 and became a volunteer with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and a board member of local and state organizations. She also volunteered with the Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund at the World Bank, a scholarship program for women from developing countries.

The Baldwin family spent many summers at their cottage on Durand Road, in Randolph, NH. Harriet was an active member of the Randolph Church and spearheaded the Randolph Church Benevolence fund, supporting agencies and programs in the Randolph-Gorham-Berlin area that minister effectively to human needs. She was also a board member of Northern Human Services.

A service commemorating her life was held in the gathering room at Kendal in Hanover, on November 30. Memorial gifts may be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (3803 Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203) and the Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund (The World Bank, 1818 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20433).

**Frederick W. Phinney**, 91, of Randolph, NH and Yarmouth Port, MA died peacefully on January 21, 2014 at home surrounded by his six children. His wife, Eleanor Sanburn Phinney, predeceased him after fifty-eight years of marriage. He is survived by his six children: Ben, Joanna, Fred Jr., John, Harriet, Martha and their respective spouses: Barbara Phinney, Lhakpa Phinney, Yutian Phinney, Adam Berger; by ten grandchildren: Sam, Louisa, Jamie, David, Peter, Warren, Sarah, William, Elijah, Alana; by two great-grandsons: Robbie and Henry; and by two brothers: Arthur and William. His faithful golden retriever, Lucy, also survives him.

Fred, born in Lawrence, MA on May 15, 1922, was the son of Rev. Arthur O. and Lucille (Flagg) Phinney and was raised in Concord, NH and Lynn, MA. He attended Lynn English High School, Browne and Nichols School, Harvard College and Episcopal Theological School.

Fred was awarded two Silver Stars for gallantry and intrepidity in action with the 44th Infantry Division in World War II. During his long career as an Episcopal priest he served in Waterbury, CT, Brookline, MA, Beverly Farms, MA, Lake Forest, IL, Limuru, Kenya, and Rome, Italy, Cambridge, MA and Wellesley, MA.



Fred, who captained the Harvard cross-country team, enjoyed physical activity until the end of his life. Hiking, skiing, gardening, reading and classical music were some of his favorite pastimes. He was a member of the Randolph

Family photo

Mountain Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, St. Barnabas Church in Berlin, NH and St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, MA.

A true gentleman, Fred will be remembered for his humility, high standards, articulate self-expression, learning and compassion. Throughout

*Continued next page*

*Fred Phinney .....*

his career he worked to build bridges between people of different ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, religions, and perspectives. Above all, Fred was a family man whose greatest joy was being with Eleanor and his children. A burial service was held at Woodside Cemetery in Yarmouth Port, MA on June 23 and a memorial gathering will be held in Randolph, NH in the summer.

Gifts in his memory may be sent to the Randolph Mountain Club (P.O. Box 279, Randolph, NH 03581) or St. Barnabas Church (P.O. Box 545 Berlin, NH 03570). Condolences may be sent to Ben Phinney (104 Canton Ave. Milton, MA 02186).

**Matthew S. Simon**, 82, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday February 8, 2014 at the Androscoggin Valley Hospital in Berlin. He was born in Newark, NJ on March 5, 1931 the son of Matthew and Barbara (Wolf) Simon. He was raised in Union, New Jersey and was a graduate of Seton Hall University with a degree in accounting. He proudly served his country in the US Army.



*Family photo*

In 1987, he and his family moved to Randolph. He worked for Crown Vantage as a Systems Analyst, retiring in 1998 and until the time of his death he worked for the Census Bureau. He enjoyed sports, gardening, traveling and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years Barbara A. (Gargalowitz) Simon of Randolph; a daughter Jennifer Simon of Whitefield; a son Stephen Simon of San Francisco, CA; a granddaughter Emma G. Labonte; son in law Brian Labonte of Whitefield; a sister Barbara F. Simon of Union, NJ; his in-laws Gladys Metzger of Toms River, NJ and Ron Gargalowitz and his wife Carole of Andover, MA; nieces and nephews. He will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved him.

A Mass of Christian Burial and a celebration of his life was celebrated on Thursday February 13, 2014 at 10 AM at Holy Family Church in Gorham. Donations in his memory may be made to the National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter, PO Box 845945, Boston, MA, 02284-5945.

## **Anne Wilson**

*Submitted by Rebcca Lowndes*



*Family photo*

After more than 92 years of great spirit and humor, compassion for others and endless hours of service to the communities in which she lived, and after eight days at Gosnell Memorial Hospice in Scarborough, Maine, Anne Elizabeth Leavitt Wilson passed on with grace, dignity and in peace, on Monday at sunset, January 13, 2014. Her youngest daughter, Molly Fairchild was with her and while holding her hand she spoke to her of all the places she had been, things she had done and the people she had loved in this world. Anne's oldest daughter, Becky Lowndes returned shortly after Anne's passing, having spent the day in Kennebunk with her father, Roger, Anne's husband of almost 60 years.

"We miss her wisdom, generosity and love, and are thankful for our good fortune to have her as our mother." Molly and Becky camped out in Anne's hospice room during her stay and "are grateful that we were able to share the last bit of her journey". Roger joined Anne for two afternoons to hold her hand and speak with her,

and was with her the day before she died. He continues with the rhythm of life at Atria Kennebunk and is able to share his thoughts and sadness on her passing with his family and with the support of friends and staff in the community. Granddaughters Ruby, Grace and Hannah, and Molly had a wonderful visit with "Granny and Pop-Pop" the day after Christmas.

Although Anne's memory faded in the last few years, her spirit and warmth remained strong. She retained the

*Continued next page*