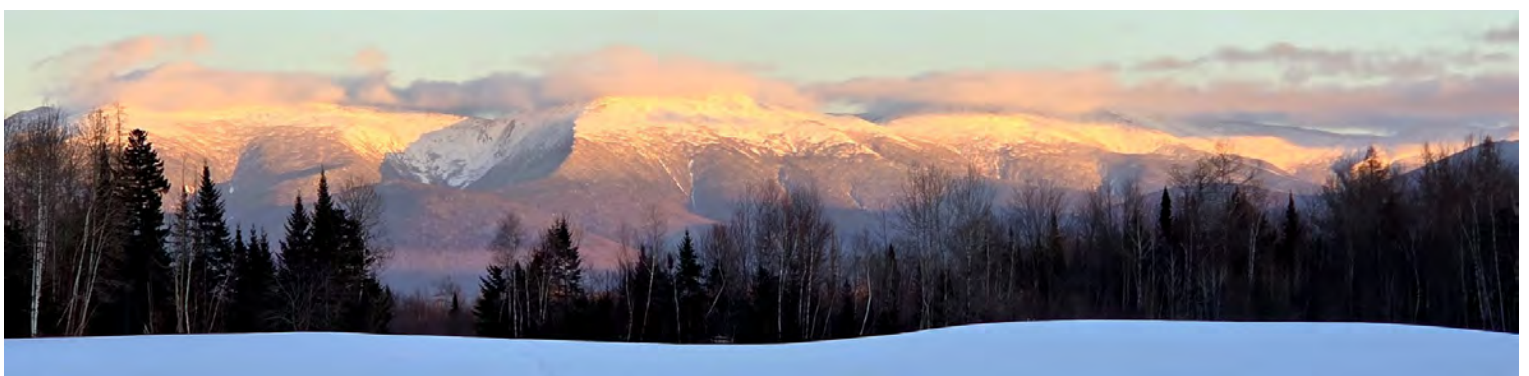


# Mountain View



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



*Top left: December Sunset by Peter Rowan; Top right: Tuckerman's Ravine by Tim Sappington; Middle left: Pine Cones by Carol Ryder Horton; Middle Right: Snowy Mountain by Anne Kenison; Bottom: Blushed Mountain Photo by Martha Sappington*

Articles, poems, notices, inquiries, and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. Send materials for the **Mountain View** to Lucy Sandin, [lucy@rfnh.org](mailto:lucy@rfnh.org) (207)831-7127, by the 1st of the month preceding publication. Publication is quarterly: September, December, April, and June. Uma Shankar is the junior editor. **The Blizzard** is published the first of each month, with the exception of July and August. Send winter event notices to Linda Dupont, [linda.dupont90@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.dupont90@yahoo.com) by the 20th of the preceding month.

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Lucy Sandin, Editor and Design; Jennifer DeMarco, Mailing List

Mountain View Publications, Randolph Foundation, PO Box 283 Gorham N.H. 03518

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		<b>TOWN CLERK</b> Anne Kenison	(603)466-5771
		Mon. 9-11am, Weds. 7-9pm	

### Library Book Sale - 2026 Updates

The Randolph Library’s Book and Bake Sale will take place on **Saturday, July 25th, 2026!** Come to browse and support the library between **9:00AM and 3:00PM** at the **Old Library: 104 Durand Road, Randolph NH.**

Due to space limitations at the Library and The Town Hall, the Library will not be collecting books for the book sale during the winter months. All book donations will be collected at the Old Library at 104 Durand Rd on Saturday mornings in June and July, or by appointment. Please contact the library at [randolphnhlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:randolphnhlibrary@gmail.com) or call (603)466-4508 during the library’s opening hours if you need to schedule a book donation drop-off. Watch for further details about the book sale on the Randolph Library Website or in the Randolph Weekly this summer! We can’t wait for the book sale!



### From the Town Clerk

Happy Spring! Please make sure your dogs are registered with the town by April 30th. When you arrive to register your canine friends, please make sure you bring their up-to-date rabies certificate. Thank you!

## Update to Mountain View Schedule

Lucy Sandin and Redza Dempster

Summer in Randolph is a truly wonderful time. I love to spend my time outside: no matter whether that looks like hiking, sitting on porches with family and community members, swimming, bird watching, or the many other wonderful pursuits our White Mountain community has to offer. As members of the Randolph community, the summer is a time to enjoy the many events that are hosted by the Randolph Library, the Randolph Mountain Club, and the Randolph Foundation; not to mention the many family and friend gatherings each one of us enjoys in the warmer months.

The Mountain View community newsletter has been published and distributed in the months of September, December, April, and June for many years, allowing community members the opportunity to offer stories, art, and event invitations with the broader community.

Due to the nature of the busier summertime in Randolph, the Randolph Foundation Board has spent time listening to and discussing comments from community members regarding the best way to share event information with everyone who loves Randolph.

Based on community comments, and the busier schedule of the summer months, the Randolph Foundation Board has decided, with the support of the editor, to adjust the publication schedule for the Mountain View.

Instead of rushing summer submissions for a

September issue that does not always include photos and information from all of the summer events, the Randolph Foundation will now publish the 1st yearly volume of the Mountain View in October. This allows for plenty of time for community members to share their summer stories and photos before they feel out-of-date in December.

With this change, the timing of the other 3 issues will not change. Issues will now run in October, December, April, and June.

**The schedule for community submissions will be updated to be:**

Issue	Submission Due Dates
October (no. 1)	September 1st
December (no. 2)	November 1st
April (no. 3)	March 1st
June (no. 4)	May 1st

*The only submission date changes, displayed above, are to the issue no. 1 (October issue) submission date.*

Please contact Lucy Sandin at [lucy@rfnh.org](mailto:lucy@rfnh.org) with any questions or concerns.

As always, I am excited to see your submissions, and happy to help with any submission writing/editing! Thank you for always sharing your love of Randolph!

## Randolph Art Show 2026

Steve Teczar

The Art Committee is pleased to announce that the Annual Randolph Art Show will be held in the Cross Memorial Meeting Room of the Town Hall from July 5 – September 4, 2026. An Opening Reception is scheduled for Sunday July 5.

As in previous years the Show is non-juried and open to all current and previous full- and part-time Randolph residents. Content is open and artists may submit one or two works, and possibly more if submitting fine crafts. An expectation for a successful Show is that it includes one work by every artist who submits work. The Show traditionally consists of two-dimensional works such as drawings, paintings, and photographs; however, the Show may also include three-dimensional works. The Committee hopes to include more fine crafts and sculpture this year. An e-mail reminder and prospectus will be sent in May to artists who have participated in Shows the previ-

ous three years. Submitting work indicates the artist's agreement with the terms of the prospectus.

Please contact Pauline Galiana at [paulinegaliana@gmail.com](mailto:paulinegaliana@gmail.com) or Steve Teczar at [swteczart128@gmail.com](mailto:swteczart128@gmail.com) with questions. The Art Committee consists of Pauline Galiana, Ingrid Graff, and Steve Teczar.



## Snyder Brook Scenic Area Designated as an Old-Growth Forest

David Govatski

The Snyder Brook Scenic Area has been designated as an Old-Growth Network Forest by the Old-Growth Forest Network and approved by the White Mountain National Forest. The designation made on January 20, 2026, will not alter the management of this tract but will emphasize its value as an educational and scientific resource. Snyder Brook is one of 320 designated Network Forests in the United States and the third designated in New Hampshire. The celebratory induction event is planned for Saturday, August 29. Look in the June Mountain View and in the Weekly for exact time and location.

The Snyder Brook Scenic Area is one of the best examples of an ancient forest in New Hampshire. Located in the White Mountain National Forest, towering trees here measure 10 feet around and stand over 90 feet tall. This forest features a Hemlock-Spruce-Northern Hardwood type. It includes some county champion hemlock, white pine, and red spruce. Large specimens of sugar maple, yellow birch, and beech can also be found. This forest has never been logged and is an easy hike from the Appalachia Trailhead on US Route 2 in Randolph.

Examples of original forests in New Hampshire are rare. Snyder Brook features the five main characteristics of an old-growth forest:

1. Big old trees that have been around for hundreds of years. The oldest tree measured was over 400 years old.
2. Large standing dead trees that we call snags.
3. Large fallen trees and branches on the ground that we call coarse woody debris.
4. A multi-layered canopy of trees of distinct layers, heights, and canopy gaps.
5. Lack of human disturbance.

### Snyder Brook and the History of Forest Conservation

Learning how Snyder Brook was protected is essential to understanding the early origins of the forest conservation movement in New England. The acquisition of a 600-foot-wide, half-mile-long strip of land in 1895 was the first conservation land purchase in the White Mountains. This acquisition predates Congress's authorization of the White Mountain National Forest. The forest conservation movement grew and helped lead to the passage of the Weeks Act in 1911. The Weeks Act authorized the federal government to purchase private land from willing sellers to establish a national forest.

The story of protecting the original forest around Snyder Brook starts in January 1895. Mr. Laban M. Watson, owner of the Ravine House in Randolph, told



*Above: Big and Old Eastern Hemlocks*

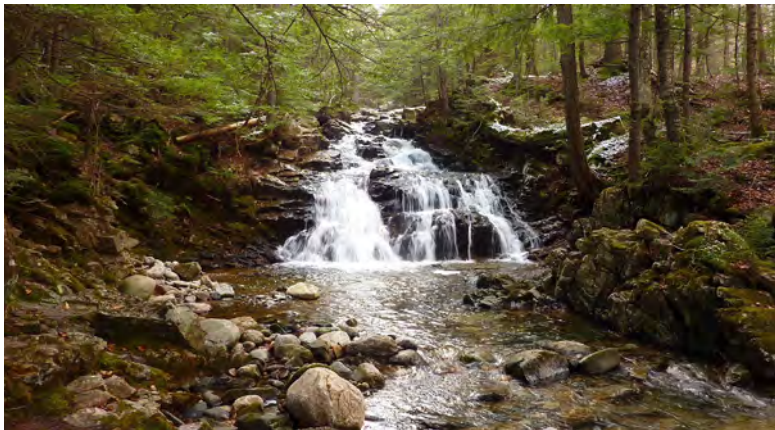
key members of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) that he planned to begin logging near the Madison Path he had built in 1878, which is now part of the Valley Way Trail. Mr. Watson said, "That without immediate action on our part, the beauty of the surroundings of the Madison Path would be largely, if not entirely, destroyed." Randolph was a popular hiking spot because of its train connection, nice hotels, and many trails on Mount Adams and Madison.

The AMC members were alarmed that their cherished path to a series of waterfalls on Snyder Brook would be destroyed and that the scenery would be damaged. At that time, extensive logging was happening on the slopes of the Northern Presidential Range, and many trails were covered in slash. The AMC members decided to raise funds to preserve this last remnant of the original forest and their treasured waterfalls. The club acted quickly, raising funds through donations because its capital reserve was not enough. (See Gordon Falls photo on page 5)

After settling on a clear title, the AMC members purchased the 33-acre tract for \$400, equivalent to \$15,434 in 2026. The deed was recorded on May 29, 1895. Later, the club purchased an additional three acres from the Brown Company of Berlin to safeguard Tama Falls.

The Snyder Brook purchase safeguarded an ancient forest with towering trees, two trails, and several waterfalls. This 36-acre area is the only remaining original old-growth forest on the Northern Presidential Range. Some trees are over 400 years old. For a more detailed history of the logging era, read *Trails or Timber – The Creation, Destruction, & Rebuilding of Paths on the Northern Presidential Range, 1857-1914*, by Judith Maddock Hudson. The Randolph Mountain Club published this excellent history in 2018.

*Snyder Brook continued...*



*Above: Gordon Falls*

### **AMC donates Snyder Brook to the US Forest Service in 1937**

The AMC donated the Snyder Brook Reservation to the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) on January 14, 1937, with the understanding that the forest would remain in its natural state. Charles W. Blood, an official with the AMC, wrote a letter dated December 11, 1952, to White Mountain National Forest Supervisor Clifford Graham. Blood stated that the club lacked the personnel to manage the reservation and that the Forest Service could manage it more effectively. The Snyder Brook Reservation then became Tract US #685-A of the WMNF.

Snyder Brook Tract US #685-A and US #11 were designated as a National Forest Scenic Area by Regional Forester Hamilton K. Pyles on October 5, 1961. Forest Service Chief Richard McArdle announced this designation during the 50th Anniversary of the Weeks Act celebration at the Crawford House Hotel.

Most visitors to the WMNF are unfamiliar with what defines a scenic area. The following definition is from the Secretary of Agriculture Rules and Regulations from 1960: "Scenic Areas are places of outstanding or unique beauty that require special management to preserve their qualities. A scenic area will be maintained as nearly as possible in an undisturbed condition." Today, there are nine designated Scenic Areas on the WMNF, including Snyder Brook.

The Snyder Brook Scenic Area boundary borders the former Boston and Maine Railroad, now the Presidential Rail Trail. Parking is available at the Appalachia Trailhead on US Route 2. The Snyder Brook Pony Truss Bridge, built in 1918, is a notable feature at the start. The "Boxed Howe Truss" bridge is the last remaining wooden railroad bridge of its kind in the US. It underwent extensive repairs to the abutments and wooden components in 2015.

The Randolph Mountain Club maintains the Fallsway Trail (West Side of Snyder Brook) and Brookbank Trail (East Side of Snyder Brook), providing access to the old-growth forest and Gordon, Salroc, and Tama Falls. The elevation ranges from 1,300 feet at Appalachia to 1,675 feet at Tama Falls. The distance to Tama Falls is 0.7 miles. The hike on the Fallsway Trail to the Snyder Brook Scenic Area begins at the East side of the Appalachia Trailhead.

The honorary designation is due in large part to the Randolph Mountain Club, Randolph Foundation, Randolph Conservation Commission, and the citizens of Randolph. For more information on the Old-Growth Forest Network, check out this link:

<https://www.oldgrowthforest.net>



*Above: Fallsway in Summer*

### **Who was Snyder?**

Snyder Brook was named in 1875 by pioneer pathmaker W. G. Nowell for C. E. Lowes's dog of that name. Snyder Brook starts at tiny Star Lake (elevation 4,900 feet) in the col between Mount Adams and Madison and flows into the Moose River in Randolph at an elevation of 1,260 feet.

*All photos pages 4 and 5 courtesy of David Govatski*

## RMC Summer Events

The Randolph Mountain Club and Joan Ostergren

**Saturday, June 6**  
**5:30-8:00 PM**  
 20 Glenn Rd, Gorham

### Beer, Bites and Bids

Join us for this annual RMC fundraiser, outside under the tent at Big Day Brewing in Gorham. \$15 per person, all RMC members are welcome. Tickets include one drink. Appetizers will be served. There will be raffle baskets and opportunities to sign up for work trips. Proceeds and donations benefit the club. Go to [randolphmountainclub.org](http://randolphmountainclub.org) or [RandolphEvents.org](http://RandolphEvents.org) for additional information. Tickets will be available online at the RMC store and at the door.

**Saturday, July 4**  
**3-5 PM**  
 98 Randolph Hill Rd

### The Tea

Come kick off the season at Mark and Kathleen Kelley's great lawn. Join us for punch, ice tea, and delicious baked goods. Catch up on the latest Club news; meet this year's trail crew and caretakers; stock up on new merchandise; sign up to lead a hike; and connect with friends, new and old. Help us bring together all the Club's generations.

TBD Late July or early August

### The Rendezvous/Gourmet Hike

Date, route and leaders have yet to be determined. Check [RandolphEvents.org](http://RandolphEvents.org) for updates and details for this always-fun event.

**Saturday, August 8**  
**afternoon**  
 Ravine House

### Ravine Mixer

This year the Ravine Mixer will include the final of a tennis tournament, with qualifying matches taking place over a few days in the lead up to the event. All are welcome to sign up for the tournament. Sign-ups will go live in early June. Come cheer on the finalists and enjoy a picnic, refreshments, music and games. Please bring a dish or snack to share. More details to follow-check [RandolphEvents.org](http://RandolphEvents.org) for updates.

**Saturday, August 8**  
**7 PM**  
 Town Hall

### The Annual Meeting

Brief committee reports followed by a speaker. Refreshments will be served..

**Thursday, August 13**  
**7 PM**  
 Town Hall

### Songs for a Summer Evening

Join us for an evening of music. Concert to benefit the RMC with refreshments served following the performance.

**Friday, August 14**  
**8 PM**  
 Town Hall

### Randolph Boogie

Join the fourth annual intergenerational boogie! Dance to classic hits, old and new with DJs Willow Wyssession and Eliza Horton. Refreshments provided.

**Saturday, August 15**  
**12 - 2 PM**  
 Mossy Glen

### The 113th Annual Picnic and Charades

Bring a picnic lunch and your own mug (punch provided). Charades will begin at 12:30PM. Rides up to Mossy Glen will be available. Sign up now to lead your part of town!

**Saturday, August 15**  
**2 PM**  
 11 Coldbrook Road

### Community Softball Game

Join us for a community softball game after the Picnic and Charades. Teams will be assigned before the start of the game. Spectators encouraged!

**Saturday, August 15**  
**7:30 - 9:30 PM**  
 232 Randolph Hill Rd

### The Barn Dance

Join us for an evening full of fun and dancing. Thanks to the Beringer family for their ongoing sponsorship. All ages and experience levels are welcome!



Check [RandolphEvents.org](http://RandolphEvents.org), the RMC website and the Randolph Weekly for up-to-date information.

**We Need Volunteers!** Help is needed for all of the above events. Would you like to help out at the Tea to welcome people, bake or serve punch, lead your section of the Charades, or donate a silent auction or raffle item? Questions or to sign up, contact Eliza Horton and Joan Ostergren at [eventschair@randolphmountainclub.org](mailto:eventschair@randolphmountainclub.org)

## Lt. John K. Scarinza 2025 Scholarship Awarded

Jennifer Barton Scarinza



Cassidy Nickerson of Milan is the 2025 recipient of the John Scarinza Memorial Scholarship. Cassidy graduated from Gorham Middle High School in June of 2025, and is the daughter of Melissa and Daniel Nickerson. While at Gorham High, Cassidy was an honor student who also contributed many hours of community service. She is known as a good leader and a hard worker who takes her responsibilities seriously. Like John, Cassidy has a passion for the outdoors and a determination to find a career path in law enforcement. She completed internships with both Gorham and Berlin Police Departments while still in high school. She is attending Southern Maine Community College for Criminal Justice. Congratulations and best wishes to Cassidy!

*Photo left: (L to R) Cassidy Nickerson, scholarship winner, with Ethan and Jenn Scarinza, who presented the scholarship.*

*Photo by Paul Robitaille*

## Town's Improved Internet Capabilities Allow for Ph.D. Dissertation Viewing!

Edith Tucker



On June 30, 2025, Margaret and Joel Douglas watched their then-28-year-old son, Benjamin, defend his Ph.D. dissertation in Social Psychology on a Zoom call originating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The couple set up their lap-top in Echo Cabin on Durand Road in Randolph. Ben graduated in 2014 from Andover (MA) High School and earned his B. A. degree in 2018 with high honors as a psychology major at Kenyon College. His thesis is titled: "Changing Behavior Via the Perception of Social Norms: Comparing the Effects of Social Norms Messages and Behavioral Requests." Ben is now an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio.

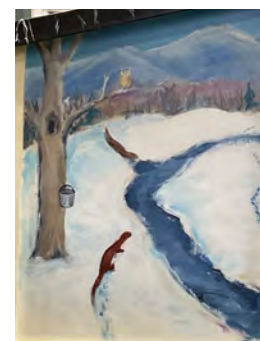
## Randolph Scenes on the Little Free Library

From the Friends Board

The Little Free Library is decorated with classic Randolph scenes that celebrate the town's many wonders and changing seasons with help from some very talented community artists: Steve Teczar, Katharine Turnbull, and Betsy Hess.

*See article from the Friends of the Randolph Public Library on the next page (page 8) for more information about the new Free Little Library. Photos from Kayla Demers.*

**The Friends of the Randolph Public Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer-based organization. We are committed to a three-fold mission: to promote and support the Library, Library resources, and Library programming; to build a partnership between the Library and the community; and to provide supplemental funds to assist in the use and enjoyment of the Library offerings by all Randolph residents and visitors.**



## Report on Friends of the Randolph Public Library

Written by the Friends Board

Happy Spring to you all! We want to use this space to (1) give thanks to those who support the Friends, (2) summarize our efforts over the past year, (3) share organization notes, and (4) express our continued excitement for Friends momentum in 2026.

### First: our thanks.

We appreciate our members, and we would not exist without them. In 2025, our membership remained strong at 70 families (consistent from 2024). We are so grateful for the consistent support we have received from our membership base, and we are grateful to all who have supported the Friends – with time, skills, and resources – every year. We would also like to emphasize our overwhelming gratitude for our Library Director, Yvonne Jenkins. Yvonne, your boundless energy for and commitment to the Randolph Public Library are unmatched. We can never thank you enough.

### Second: our 2025 efforts.

The Friends supported the following Library programs and resources:

- The Great Ladle Off (January 26, 2025)
- Great North Woods Libraries Zoom Program (Winter 2024 - Spring 2025)
- The Friends Ice Cream Social (June 7, 2025)
- The Book & Bake Sale, raising \$569 from the Bake Sale (July 26, 2025)
- Support for the Summer Film & Forum Series (August 12-13, 2025)
- Community Harvest Potluck (November 15, 2025)
- Children's Summer reading program supplies
- Speaker fees, refreshments, and durable goods for Library programming and events
- Library Zoom license (Annual)
- Movie license (Annual)
- Books and DVDs
- Garden flowers
- Children's books for the Firemen's Christmas celebrations (December 2025)

We are also thrilled to share that we began work on Randolph's first Little Free Library in 2025 (photo right). The Friends organization purchased the library with funds donated in memory of Nancy Penney, and with incredible support from talented Randolph artists Steve Teczar, Katharine Turnball, and Betsy Hess, the library is now fully painted and ready for installation. The Little Free Library will be situated near the Ravine House, where we hope that it will be accessible during all four seasons. We will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Spring, and we hope that everyone enjoys this small gesture to build community and share the love of reading in Randolph.

### Third: organization notes in 2025.

On August 6th, we held our Friends of the Randolph Public Library Annual Meeting. The meeting went well: we confirmed the 2026 annual dues at \$20 per family and \$10 per individual (no change from prior years). We had a healthy discussion with the members about increasing volunteerism and hosting at least one activity per season. If you are interested in having a greater volunteering role with the Friends, please let us know!

### Fourth: our excitement for the future.

As we continue our efforts, we reflect upon our mission and are more enthusiastic than ever to support the Library in 2026. (Note: Please check out the update on the Book & Bake Sale's new location and format for July 25, 2026!). We look forward to more Friends gatherings and hope to engage past, present, and future members along the way. For any questions or more information, please visit us on the Library website OR send us an email.

### Contact Information:

NEW Email: [friendsrandolphnhlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsrandolphnhlibrary@gmail.com)

Website: <https://randolphnhpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-library/>

Address: Friends of the Randolph Public Library, 130 Durand Road, Randolph, NH 03593

Friends Board: Sue Maddock, Co-President; Catherine Zirpolo, Co-President, Michele Cormier, Treasurer; Kayla Demers, Secretary; Liz Johnson, Member at Large; Laura Scherf, Member at Large



Photo above of the Little Free Library from Kayla Demers

## The Randolph Cemetery

Bill Minifie

In 1951 a friend of my father's offered to lend our young family his summer house in southern NH as a vacation retreat. All eight of us enjoyed it so much that my father asked the then bishop of NH, Todd Hall, if there were any summer chapels available in NH. As it turned out there was one in Jefferson. For more than fifteen years we summered there.

Once my parents learned about nearby Randolph, they developed Randolph envy big time. In the mid 60s my parents heard that Mrs. Judson was going to sell her house on Durand Road (now the Berry house) and my parents were more than eager. The sticking point was that she was asking \$35,000 and my parents, after scraping together every penny, could only come up with \$15,500. With some trepidation they made their rather paltry offer and Mrs. Judson, kind soul that she was, told them that money was not really an object and she sold that gorgeous house to them for that bargain basement price.

Not long after buying the house, a member of the town board informed my father that one of the perks of being a taxpayer was that one could have, for free, a plot in the old cemetery on Durand Road.

It's not a huge plot but if the cremains (a truly awful word) are placed in the ground and a small marker planted, then there is plenty of room for multiple ones. But if coffins were involved, there would only be enough space for one or maybe two.

Of course the whole idea of where you are buried can be fraught with contention. On one level, because you are no longer sentient, it doesn't matter at all. People who speak about the great view from the burial ground are speaking strictly for the living, because the dead really don't have much opinion on the subject.

But bodies are very important to us. We not only want to retrieve the bodies of our loved ones who have died far away, but we also want them to be lovingly cared

for and left undisturbed for as long as we can imagine.

Christians believe in the bodily resurrection. It says right in the creed that is recited Sunday after Sunday, "I believe in the resurrection of the body." I once asked some well-informed, highfalutin theological fellow how this would actually work if you had been cremated or worse been blown to smithereens in an explosion. He replied that on the day of resurrection God would put everyone back together. Do you remember that old bumper sticker that said "Jesus is coming: Look busy." If God has to put everyone back together on that BIG DAY, he is going to be extremely busy indeed.

Cremation seems to be gaining in popularity as the way to deal with the body after death. It is far cheaper than a coffin and for us with our relatively limited cemetery space, it makes much more sense. I've heard that cremation is actually detrimental environmentally and that letting the body simply decompose is far better for the planet. Recently, I attended a natural burial where the fellow was enclosed in a wicker basket and lowered into the ground without the inhibition that a coffin would incur. That may well be but the idea of raccoons, vermin, and the worms crawling in and the worms crawling out for weeks on end creeps me out. Obviously the me I know and love won't be, but I still find the whole idea pretty ghastly. My wish is to be immediately burned up, after I am thoroughly dead, of course. I want the decaying bit over ASAP.

In the Randolph Cemetery we currently have one marker for my parents, one for my brother Tom, and one for my sister Kathy, who died during Covid in Australia. When I stand in the Randolph cemetery and see their simple stones I know that one fine day my ashes will be poured into a small hole in the ground next to theirs. Such a thought is almost impossible to conceive of. My mind goes up to the edge of nothingness and can go no further. It is really hard for me to contemplate oblivion. I would like to say that I will miss this blessed life I have been given, but of course there will be no me to miss a thing. I am sure you too, have had those moments when you realize that you are vibrantly alive and then are lulled back into a fog of forgetting that you are. But when I stand in the Randolph cemetery, marveling at the gorgeous view, pondering the small gravestones of my parents and my siblings, and knowing full well that ere too long I shall be there too—it is then that the fog of forgetting lifts and I know ever so clearly that for that one brief moment at least, I am startlingly and inexplicably alive.



Photo left by Carol Ryder Horton

## Bolts & Blasphemy on Brussels

Bob Kruszyna

### Part 1:

“.....mountaineering is a sport that provides a test between man and mountain, in which the man is allowed such aids as boots, rope, ice-axe, and crampons, but not any other. The employment of pitons simply means that those who use them have not the courage or capacity to climb without them.” Thus does the renowned mountaineer, Frank Smythe of Mount Everest fame, castigate the party, Ray Garner and Jack (“Jiggs”) Lewis, who made the first ascent of Mt. Brussels in 1948. They not only used pitons for protection, but, worse yet, they used the newly-developed expansion bolts for belay tie-ins! Further, Smythe suggested that using the rope to lasso a pinnacle to permit the next upward move (a common practice in Europe at the time and which he did on Brussels) was a legitimate “artificial aid”, but pitons for protection were not. A bit of sour grapes surely, for, two years previous to the first ascent, Smythe’s party had retreated quite low on the mountain without coming to grips with the real difficulties. They had “not the courage or capacity”.

Smythe wasn’t the only unfair critic. In describing his climb of Brussels in 1960, the eminent Canadian guide, Hans Gmoser, scoffs at the “flesh-crawl technique” and the bolts used on the crux pitch, the “Lewis crack”, by the first ascensionists. In fact, Lewis used two protection pitons, no bolts, below the crux move, not unlike Gmoser twelve years later! In 1972, Bob Hind, who failed in 1936, climbed the mountain with the guide Hans Schwarz. Hind scorns “the bucket of pitons” used by Garner and Lewis, but then admits he stepped on a piton Schwarz had placed. He further conceded that the “Lewis crack” would probably not go without the knotted rope wedged in the crack as a handhold - a knotted rope that was left by Gmoser’s party!

(Note: I knew personally most of the climbers mentioned here from the Alpine Club of Canada’s General Mountaineering Camps in the 1950’s through 1970’s.)

Those who tried and failed on Mt. Brussels reads as a roster of the important North American climbers of the Depression and immediate war and post-War periods. Hainsworth and Strumia made the first recorded attempt in 1930 after making the first ascent of adjoining Mt. Christie. They did not get very far even though Max Strumia was a good rock-climber for his time. It should be noted that pitons and other devices for protecting the leader were not then much used by North American climbers, under the influence of the “purist” British, although they were already common in the Alps.

The Alpine Club of Canada held its annual camp in 1936 on Fryatt Creek, just below Mts. Brussels and Christie. Rex Gibson and Sterling Hendricks, on their

way to becoming noteworthy climbers, made an attempt on the same northeast ridge as the Hainsworth party, and the record hints that they may have gotten a little higher. From the same camp, Bob Hind and Ferris Neave, also to become well-known, attempted the horrendous and dangerous cleft in the southeast face, being stopped after 80 feet by overhangs. Then in 1946, came Smythe, who was stopped by a notch in the ridge that needed to be spanned to a steep wall beyond. He found a cairn that he concluded had been placed at the highest point previously reached, most likely by the Hainsworth party. Don Woods and Fred Ayres (who had climbed daunting Mt. Alberta) made an attempt in 1947.

1948 was the big year. First came Fred Beckey and friends (that’s how you were written up in articles describing his exploits). Beckey was already one of the most daring climbers in North America. Apparently, however, the poor quality of the rock drove him off, although he was well-known not to hesitate to bang in iron if he needed it. (Another disclosure: I knew Fred too from the “Bugaboo Boom” of the 1960’s.) Then John and Ruth Mendenhall arrived but they retreated because of bad weather.

What is popular today, standard procedure in fact, especially in academia, is a de-contructionist approach to history, i.e., everything that has gone before has been wrongly interpreted or didn’t happen at all. (That’s what provides a livelihood for all those college professors who have to do “research” to keep their jobs.) A contrarian (as well as an academician myself!), I am attempting a “reconstruction” instead. I hope to rebut the recorded errors and criticisms of earlier and subsequent climbers.

Ray Garner, his wife, Virginia, Jack Lewis, and Ed George arrived in late July 1948, not quite yet members of mountaineering’s “who’s who”. Garner, a prominent professional mountain photographer, was also a climber of some repute. He was on the first direct ascent of the north face of the Grand Teton, a bravura accomplishment. He intended to make a film of the climb of Mt. Brussels, entitled “First Ascent”, and had received



*Bolts and Blasphemy continued...*

a money advance that paid for the expedition. When a member dropped out, by chance Jack Lewis, a twenty-one year old Teton guide, eagerly signed on.

The party arrived in the valley of Fryatt Creek as the Mendenhalls were leaving, not without giving Garner's group some helpful information. Their subsequent experiences are chronicled in the American Alpine Journal, which you should read for an actual account of their tribulations. Let me relate briefly that they retreated after climbing the first of the two truly difficult pitches, reaching the top of the "first step" and leaving a fixed rope. When they returned two days later, they finished the climb in spite of being caught in a thunderstorm - lots of lightning, rain, snow and hail - which caused them to drop most of their hardware. One place where they may have deviated from the ethics of their day was in leaving a fixed rope to make it easier to return to the spot where they left off. However, nowadays, using fixed ropes is standard practice. Indeed, often only the leader actually climbs the pitch, while his companions climb the rope and extract the protection hardware for reuse farther on. And sometimes, on multi-day ascents, climbers rappel from their highest point to a convenient bivouac site, leaving fixed ropes in order to continue the next day. Frank Smythe is rolling in his grave!

Mt. Brussels is a limestone fang, 10,370 feet in elevation, that rises in the Fryatt Group of the Canadian Rockies, not far south of Jasper. Even though it is ugly in comparison to its snow-bedecked and more typical Rockies neighbors, its phallic thrust commands attention from the Banff-Jasper Highway, from which it is easily seen. Had it been more suitably located in the Dolomites, it would have been ascended certainly by the 1920's. But given its then relatively remote location and the fact that North American climbing techniques, equipment - and most importantly, philosophy - were decades behind the Continent, it remained unclimbed into the 1940's.

It remains the most technically challenging climb, by its easiest route, of all the major mountains in the Rockies (above 10,000 feet in elevation). It is worthwhile to remember that the overall difficulty of the climb compares to the North Face of the Aiguille du Dru in the Mont-Blanc massif, the North Ridge of the Grand Teton, or the North Ridge of North Snowpatch Spire, all of which I have climbed. And the pitch difficulty runs to 5.7-5.8, the absolute cutting edge in 1948 and still respectable even today, especially on a mountain in the wilderness.

Let's look at all the caveats, comments and criticisms that climbing Mt. Brussels have engendered-both before and after its initial ascent. Some have been presented in my initial paragraphs, mostly under the heading of

"sour grapes". A constant refrain in the written record is the quality of the rock. Most climbers have described it as poor to awful-loose holds the size of a brick that fall out at the touch. But Hans Gmoser describes the rock as "good", but remember he was brought up on the limestone crags of eastern Austria, which sometimes have a quality of impermanence. Well, as a matter of fact, it is both good and bad. The lower pediment and the subsequent ridge are indeed very loose and the risks consequently serious. But in the 600 foot or so section where the mountain truly rears up and defies the climber, it is remarkably sound. (Otherwise, it would be madness.) In the upper reaches of the peak, beyond the Lewis crack, the rock is truly shattered, but the obstacles are relatively easy. The summit itself, a disappointing one given the startling demeanor of the mountain, is a heap of loose shale.

The major issue revolves about the use of hardware-pitons and expansion bolts in particular, but even about footgear (boots or sneakers or rock-climbing Brahmanis?), and ropes, how many, how long, how used. The nit-picking is unbelievable. Smythe rants about the use of 24 pitons in 400 feet-one every 15 feet-such that there was no chance Garner or Lewis could have died. Is the high probability of dying what mountaineering is all about? Notwithstanding, frankly, Frank, you are full of shit.

I can personally attest that the opportunities for placing protection pitons are so limited that maybe a half-dozen might be used. So much for Bob Hind's "bucket of pitons" as well. It is, however, true that the Garner party did carry a lot of iron-mongery; they were just unable to use much of it. In fact, during the thunderstorm, they lowered it on the rope so as not to attract lightning, and subsequently dropped it. Fortunately, the third, Ed George had enough left so that they were able to place rappel anchors. By my count (based on their journal article), they used no more than eight pitons, for protection, belay tie-ins and rappel anchors only (not for artificial aid), and four expansion bolts, two for protection and the other two for belay tie-ins - a total of 12. On our ascent, I found two bolts and one piton still in place. We used five placements, three for protection and two for belay points/rappels, a total of eight. Climbing ethics says one should not use more protection than the first ascensionists, a rule widely disregarded, sorry to say. Please note that we obeyed the rule.

*This piece will be continued in the next issue of the Mountain View.*

In memoriam John E. (Jack) Taylor.  
Peerless mountain climber and life-long friend.  
Jack died in November 2025, aged 95. Pace.

## Randolph Remembers

### Remembering Marie Beringer



Marie Beringer died peacefully November 20, 2025 at the age of 94, in Hanover, NH. At the moment of her death, she was surrounded by her family. Her bed was next to a large window that looked out upon a forest, a fitting scene for one who loved the outdoors. It was a calm and loving passing.

Marie was born on June 6th, 1931,

in New Rochelle, NY, to Gaston Lalonde Joseph Fortin and Elizabeth Frenor Tate Fortin. Her mother was an excellent seamstress and knitter. She provided her grandchildren with many wonderful outfits and knitted winter creations. Marie's mother also possessed a lovely singing voice and she and Gaston, would interpret the popular show tunes of the day, he on the piano and she with her voice, creating for Marie a rich musical world from a very young age. Always delighting in a party Marie loved these musical gatherings with friends and family.

Her Canadian born father, Gaston, architect and veteran of WW2, served as a Sea Bee in the battle of Guadal Canal. Upon returning to civilian life, Gaston purchased a gaff rig yawl, and thus began Marie's life long love of sailing. Marie learned to sail 'Bull Dogs' in the Junior JAYC at The American Yacht Club in Rye with her brother Roger, making friends that she kept for the rest of her life. Being out on the water was one of her greatest joys and she never tired of talking about her early sailing adventures.

After having attended public school up through eighth grade, Marie was enrolled in Greenwich Academy for high school. Always the athlete and having a love for movement, an episode that she enjoyed recounting was when her dance teacher pulled her aside one day and said, "Marie your enthusiasm more than makes up for your lack of technique." Marie just laughed, her high spirits undeterred, a quality that remained with her all her life.

Marie attended Wells College starting in 1949. She met her husband, Bruce Marshall Beringer soon afterwards when he cut in on a dance. Apparently one of his first questions to her was, "Do you play tennis?" One has the feeling that if she said no, things might have gone a different way! Luckily Marie did love sports; including

tennis, paddle tennis, skiing, sailing and hiking. As a couple they spent endless hours together with rackets in their hands.

Marie loved every holiday. They were reasons to celebrate, have fun and to be with the people she loved. Halloween was a particular favorite. However we were a bit too far off the beaten track for much trick-or-treating, so each year Marie would create a darkened and scary haunted house in the cellar or the attic. Friends and family would bring their little ghosts and hobgoblins. A cadaver (usually a friend under a sheet) would be stretched out on a table in the dark. Marie, the master of ceremony, would hand unsuspecting children an eyeball (a peeled grape), a length of intestines (spaghetti) or some other ghastly body part amid squeals of horror. No doubt our haunted house became a very popular attraction as well as one that we all felt a certain degree of pride in.

Marie was quite beloved in her various communities. She made even strangers feel welcome and special and kept childhood friends for her entire life. Starting in the late fifties, she began a barbershop quartet with three dear friends. Then in the early sixties she became a member of the Soundettes, a musical therapy group in Westchester County that lasted for thirty years. They shared their uplifting music in nursing homes, children's hospitals and senior centers. She was also a long time devoted member of the Larchmont Avenue Church Choir. Her deep love of music was a constant in her life and she would often be seen (and heard!) with her guitar strapped around her shoulder leading a sing-a-long.



Marie's life was one of constant motion. Between teaching kindergarten as a newlywed, raising 5 children, practicing and performing with her various singing groups, she also found time to volunteer for the Junior League and The Golden Shoe String, a non-profit thrift store that raised money to fund local scholarships and community grants. In the early seventies she found the time to help teach a sex education class through the Larchmont Avenue Church, an interesting and challenging departure but one she took on whole heartedly.

When Bruce and Marie moved to Randolph full

*Remembering Marie Beringer continued...*

time in 1992 she started volunteering at the Randolph Library. She also played music weekly for the young children at the Gorham Learning Center which was an activity very



close to her heart. She became an active member of both the Randolph Church and the Gorham Congregational Church, providing her beautiful flower arrangements for the services. Throughout the summer she seldom missed an RMC hike, enjoying the sociability, the vigorous climbs and the spectacular beauty. Without question though, the barn dance each third week of August, was a high point for Marie, bringing the community that she loved together through dance and music while raising money for the RMC.

Marie was predeceased by her husband, Bruce Marshall Beringer who passed away in 2002, her brother Roger Fortin who passed away in 2020 and her grandchild Myles Beringer who passed away in 1999.

Marie is survived by her five children: Elizabeth, 69; Albert Frederick 66; Virginia Tate (Ginger) 64; Geoffrey Marshall 61; Robin Marie 60 and her 9 grandchildren: Chris, Emily, Owen, Sarah, Grayson, Liam and Griffin, Leila, Aliana and Mariam. As well as three great grandchildren: Josey, Julien and Juniper.

The Beringer family is eternally grateful to The Lake Sunapee VNA and Hospice for their loving care and attention to our mother over the past year and to The Jack Byrne Center for their very sensitive and professional care of our dear mother at the very end of her life.

Donations may be made in Marie's name to the non-profit organizations that she served throughout her lifetime and that served her in the end. In Randolph & Gorham: The Gorham Learning Center, Friends of The Randolph Public Library, The Gorham Congregational Church. In The Upper Valley of Vermont: Upper Valley Adult Day Care.

A celebration of life will take place for Marie at The Gorham Congregational Church on Wednesday Aug 12th at 4pm, followed by refreshments up the hill at Sugar Plum Farm.

*Remembrance and photos page 12 as well as photo above courtesy of Ginger Beringer and Marie's family.*

*Remembering Jaqueline Arnold Bush:*

Jacqueline Arnold Bush passed away on November 11, 2025, after a long illness. She was at her home in Bandon, Oregon, with her husband and sons by her side.

Jackie was born on May 23, 1941 in Newton, Massachusetts. She spent summers in Randolph, NH from then until her late teens with her family. She always had fond memories of hiking in the White Mountains with families and friends; nights at Crag Camp, going to the Grand View Drive In with friends and even being part of Chris Goetze during his marathon Hut traverse in the 1950s.

After she married, she lived in New York, Iowa, and Utah where her two sons were born. She divorced and moved to San Francisco where she lived for many years. Jackie met and married Bill Bush in the 1990s. Upon retirement, they moved to Bandon, Oregon. They



enjoyed many years exploring the Pacific Coast, a favorite activity going for rides and trying new lunch spots. Days and nights were also filled with time with neighbors and visits from her brother, Bill.

She leaves her husband, Bill Bush who cared for her lovingly to the end, two sons, John (Barbara) of Salem, OR, and Matt (Marie) of Dallas, OR, three grandchildren Tristan, Shannon, and Alexander, her brother Bill (Barbara) of Randolph, NH and her niece Alexandria Snider. She was predeceased by her mother Margaret (Peggy) Arnold and her father Morris (Ben) Arnold. A celebration of Life will be held late spring/early summer in Randolph, NH.

*Remembrance and photo above courtesy of Barbara Arnold and Alex Dery Snider*



**Ethan Scarinza has been expertly using his dump truck around town!**

Below, Ethan shows off his fall 2025 potato harvest!



Additionally, (on the far left) Ethan Scarinza used his dump truck to bring the recycling out for pick up this winter.

**Ethan wants to remind you to put out your recycling on the first Saturday of the month!**

*Mountain View Publications  
Randolph Foundation  
P.O. Box 283  
Gorham, NH 03581 - 0283*

To:
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