

Mountain View



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

Miriam and the Dreieckhorn

By Doug Mayer

Randolph's connections to the mountain run deep. From our home at the base of the Northern Presidentials, it seems we have no shortage of residents who seek out time spent in the great ranges of the world.

This connection with high places spans the generations, too. I was reminded of this fact when, this past summer, I found myself on the glaciers of the Bernese Oberland, climbing with longtime friend John Dunn. We had schemed a week of climbing that would have us on routes around the Monch, Jungfrau and perhaps the Eiger-- though nowhere near the dread Nordwand, as I had to reassure my mother several times. Instead, we took the Jungfraubahn train through the Eiger, then wandered down a glacier (the *wrong* glacier... but that's a story for another time), and found ourselves much happier a few kilometers away from the guided masses seeking their trophy peaks. Here, at the Concordia hut, we spent several days enjoying climbs on nearby peaks.



Dreieckhorn from near Concordia Hutte, very nearly 80 years to the day after the first successful traverse by Miriam Underhill and Adolph Rubi. This is the area where Miriam was climbing, generally called Concordia-- where four glaciers come together. Doug Mayer photo

Please see "Miriam", page 4

Mount Abigail Adams

By Edith Tucker

It's official! The Board of Geographic Names has changed the name of Adams 4 on the Presidential Range to Mount Abigail Adams.

The board responded favorably to a petition drive initiated by Bethany Taylor, a New Hampshire native who formerly was a reporter at the "Berlin Reporter" and is now working as a cook for the Appalachian Mountain Club on its Madison Spring Hut rebuilding project.

Ms. Taylor successfully argued that it is only "fair, equitable and long overdue to afford Abigail Adams the same honor as other patriots and Presidents honored in the Presidential Range in the White Mountains."

A number of former and current AMC and Randolph Mountain Club (RMC) employees, signed the petition, believing that the time had come to add a woman's name to the roster of those memorialized on the high peaks.

When asked why he had signed the petition, former RMC winter caretaker Derek Schott replied, "In the grand scheme of things, it's not a big deal, but to rename Adams 4 for Abigail Adams does seem like just a slice of common sense and historical decency."

The Coös County board of commissioners voted to support the petition.

Barbara Cutter, Ph.D., an associate professor of history at the University of Iowa at Cedar Falls who with her husband Brian Roberts has rented a cottage in Randolph Valley for the past two summers, pointed out that renaming Adams 4 for Abigail Adams is the right thing to do because "she is an important historical figure in her own right, and she is a central member of the historically important Adams family of New England."

Please see "Abigail", page 3

Meeting notices, inquiries, comments, and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials for the *Mountain View* to Diana Aube, Nekel Lane, Randolph, NH 03593 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 Barbara Arnold, 466-2438; barnold@ne.rr.com or 403 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 Barbara know. A grant from the Randolph Foundation makes all these publications possible.

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Laurie Archambault , *Publisher*
Diana (Dede) Aube , *Editor*
Barbara Arnold, *Design / Production*

Town Directory

AMBULANCE 911

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (Chair, Paul Cormier) 466-3970
meets at 7 PM the 3rd Thursday of the month.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (Chair, Ted Wier) 466-3970
Secretary, Rodney Hayes; Treasurer Connie Chaffee
Meets at 7 p.m. at Town Hall 2nd & 4th Monday 466-5771

BUILDING PERMITS. See Board of Selectmen

CEMETERY TRUSTEES Jim Baldwin, Suzanne Santos & Steve Hartman

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 (Rebecca Boothman) Call for Burning Permits 466-2332

GRS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; location alternates between the 3 towns. Contact the SAU Office 466-3632

LIBRARY trustees meet the 3rd Mon. of each month; Librarian, Yvonne Jenkins 466-5408
Open Mon. 10 – noon; Wed. 3 -8 p.m., Thur. 3-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 –noon;

LIFELINE (Jean Malick) 466-2547

PLANNING BOARD (Chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the first Thursday of the month.

PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOC. (President, Craig Malick) 466-2547

POLICE (Randolph Chief, Alan Lowe) 466-3950

RANDOLPH CHURCH (Moderator Avery Post)
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, Cathy McDowell) 466-5105

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 (Mike Gray) 586-7840

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST
Denise Demers, Michael Sewick & Angela Chakalis-Pfeffer

TAX COLLECTOR (Scott Robinson) by appointment; call the Town Hall 466-9856

TOWN CLERK (Anne Kenison) 466-2606
Town Hall hours: Mondays 9 - 11 a.m. ; Wednesdays 7 - 9 p.m.

TOWN HALL (Secretary, Rodney Hayes) Mon. - Fri.; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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, Michelle Cormier, Michael Sewick

Community Calendar

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

December

10 Caroling Party at Jeff & Raina Scarinza's home, 6:30 PM for caroling, 8:30 for desert & beverages; bring a dish to share

11 Town Christmas Party, Town Hall, 6 PM; all welcome

23 GRS schools closed for holiday break

January

3 GRS schools reopen

17 Civil Rights Day, schools closed

February

21 to 25 GRS schools closed for break

March

2 Town elections & meeting

12 Town Bonfire & Chili Social; 4 PM sledding and snowshoeing; 5 PM chili & bonfire

April

18 to 22 GRS schools closed for break

Real Estate Transactions

August 22, 2010
From: Earnest W & Jeannette B Nadeau
To: Steven Weber

August 30, 2010
From: Harry Bell Adams
To: Norman Adams

September 14, 2010
From: Martin Cassidy, Jr.
To: Levino & Edith Pace

October 1, 2010
From: George B. & Harriet B. Baldwin
To: Martin P. & Elizabeth Johnson & Jeremiah Johnson

October 26, 2010
From: Steven V. Terry & Pricilla A. Terry
To: Amanda Terry & Cameron Terry

October 29, 2010
From: Peter J. & Ramona Caron
To: Patrick B. Crosbie

November 4, 2010
From: Donald, Sven & Erik Kenny
To: Mt. Crescent Property Investments, LLC

“Abigail”, from page 1

“Abigail Adams (1744-1818) was the wife of the second president of the United States, John Adams, and the mother of the sixth president, John Quincy Adams. Adams was well known and well respected during her lifetime and became a more prominent historical figure after the first publication of many of her letters in 1840. That collection proved to be so popular that three more editions were released by 1848. Her letters have been in print ever since.”

“She is perhaps most famous for her March 31, 1776, letter to John Adams, who was then serving in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. She asked him to carefully consider the political position of women in the future United States. As she put it:

‘In the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If perculiar care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.’”

The 28th edition of the AMC “White Mountain Guide” states that as “soon as the RMC Lowe’s Path breaks out of the scrub... and is above treeline” it is “completely exposed to the wind” and boasts “views that are very fine. “At 4.1 miles from Lowe’s Store on Route 2, after the steady ascent up Nowell Ridge, the trail reaches the crag known as Adams 4 (5,355 feet), descends into a little sag, then rises moderately again, keeping to the east of Mt. Sam Adams.”

John Mudge in his guide, “The White Mountains: Names, Places, & Legends,” noted that three peaks of Mt. Adams can be seen from Randolph: Mt. Adams, named for John Adams; to the east, Mt. John Quincy Adams; and to the west of Mt. Adams, the lesser peak of Mt. Sam Adams, named

after Samuel Adams, John’s cousin and a fiery leader in the early days of the American Revolution.

Steve Smith of The Mountain Wanderer Map & Book Store in Lincoln believes that the now-replaced name of Adams 4 very likely came from the AMC’s no-longer-used numerical nomenclature system.

Before the AMC devised its numbering system, an early pathmaker’s name and that of his two children were associated with the rocky crag. RMC historian Judy Hudson writes in “Peaks & Paths: A Century of the Randolph Mountain Club” that William Gray Nowell “was identified with the ridge traversed by the Lowe’s Path.... In the early days hikers had called the crag ‘Nowell’s Peak,’ and the two little summits on it were dubbed ‘Gracie’ and ‘Fred’ after his daughter and son. W. G. Nowell (pronounced Now-ell), together with Charles E. Lowe, blazed and cut the first path from Randolph valley to the summit of Mt. Adams in 1876.”

[This account, with some additions, was published on Nov. 17 in both the Berlin Reporter and Coös County Democrat.]



Bethany Taylor has worked for the AMC at Madison Hut; her father, Jeff Taylor, served as Berlin city planner some years ago.
Photo by Edie Tucker

"Miriam", from page 1

I had read Miriam Underhill's climbing autobiography, *Give Me the Hills*, avidly many years ago. But, at the time, the place names were as alien as other planets to me. So, it took John to make the connection. Looking across the Aletsch glacier one morning, we admired the remarkable, several-mile long, razor-sharp arête of the Dreieichhorn. It was Miriam, John recalled, who accomplished the first full traverse with her friend and guide, Adolph Rubi on August 29, 1930—nearly eighty years earlier to the day.

The climb had taken 19 hours. Miriam and Adolph started from the hut at 3:30 in the morning and finished long after dark. Of it, she wrote,

The first part of the climb, to the Klein Dreieckhorn, gave the best sport—and such sport it was! The whole ridge was a series of great jagged towers, and we climbed up and over practically all of them... the huge blocks presented the climbing problems characteristic of granite everywhere: cracks and chimneys like those on the Chamonix Aiguilles... more delicate problems presented themselves: steep slabs with slight roughnesses for the fingertips, or detached flakes of rock with barely room to get a finger-grip underneath... time was the opponent we were racing all day. The towers went on and on... we thought they would never end.

For me, an entirely average recreational climber, Miriam's description is laughably understated. Even the easy climbs in the Bernese Oberland feature heart-gripping exposure, loose rock, ever-changing weather, and uncertain route finding. A full day of climbing might be described in the guidebook with one paragraph, leading us tourist-alpinists to puzzle and shrug our shoulders when looking up over long stretches of steep rock and ice. Or, worse, find ourselves staring at each other, 500 feet above the glacier, each saying to the other simultaneously, "Do you think this is the gully we're supposed to rappel?"

In the eighty years since Miriam's visit, much has changed. The glaciers of Concordia are now rapidly retreating as a result of climate change. Helicopters supply the hut, reservations are made on mobile phones, and our gear is crafted from synthetic, carbon fiber, Gore-tex and fleece. The spirit of climbing amid those peaks, however, remains very much as Miriam captured it:

Rock-climbing is to my mind the finest sport there is.

Not only does it require coordination of muscle but also the exercise of sufficient intellect to solve the tactical problems at a glance, to choose unerringly the right hold the first time, in order to move swiftly as well as accurately and lightly over ground where no two consecutive pitches require the same technique.

Resting at the hut after a climb of a nearby peak, I took in that two-mile long, sheer arête. How, I wondered, would Miriam's climb rate by today's standards? Technically speaking, climbers had moved on to far more demanding problems. But the sheer, continuous alpine challenge would still be a major test of endurance. And the gear they used! Unforgiving, static hemp rope, heavy leather boots with Tri-couni nails in the soles for grip, racks of heavy pitons. My gaze came back to my feet, clad in my new, lightweight multipurpose rock and ice boots. All of my clothes, including lightweight, Gore-tex bibs and comfy fleece jacket, weighed no more than a few pounds.

As for Miriam and Adolph's climb, it ended at 10:45 pm. In the spirit of British climbing prose that casually calls perilous climbs "a tad sporty," Miriam wrote,

At 9:40 we jumped the Bergschrund (editor's note: the large crevasse that separates a peak from the glacier, below)... all that was left was a weary plod across the Concordiaplatz to that little light shining in the window of the Concordia Hut.... This section was badly crevassed... Adolph's lantern did me no good at all. I was too tired to care and just tramped along anywhere, half-asleep. I woke up for a moment when I found myself dangling in a crevasse. Adolph's father (ed: the Hutmaster) had the stove humming and the water boiling when we pulled in at 10:45... Our climb had been a good one, and Adolph reports to me (in 1954) that it has never been repeated.

We were generations apart, a wide crevasse of both gear and alpine skill stood between us, but still I felt a connection. And that, no doubt, is one of the great powers of the mountains. They bring us together, uniting us in a spirit of adventure, challenge and discovery.



Doug Mayer does a yoga tree pose in the Bernese Alps.

Randolph Citizens Recognize Ken Lee

By Ted Wier



A group of Randolph folks surprised an embarrassed Ken Lee with a thank-you and going away party at the Town Hall on September 28 where several citizens spoke their thanks for Lee's 14 years of service to the town government of Randolph. Ken will be greatly missed. His steady guidance of the town during his years as Chairman of the Select Board resulted in the successful completion of not only the Municipal Building, but also the wonderful new and vastly improved Randolph Town Hall and offices. Lee was also a major negotiator with NH Department of Transportation in the effort to revamp Randolph Hill Road. He leaves very large shoes to fill.

Ken and his wife Marcia have become snowbirds, spending the cold half of the year in Arizona for the first time. Current reports out of Sedona mention numerous sightings of a new breed of Homo sapiens who appear to have humps on their backs, spending their days wandering the trails (and sometimes off the trails) to reach the highest points of land. In addition an unconfirmed rumor has it that contractors are not happy with this new breed as they do all their own work on their house.

They'll be back in the spring to enjoy the black flies!

Election Results for Randolph November 2, 2010

Submitted by Anne Kenison, Town Clerk

Governor

John Stephen 68
John Lynch 129

United States Senator

Kelly Ayotte 79
Paul Hodes 119

Representative in Congress

Charles Bass 71
Ann Kuster 126

Executive Councilor

Ray Burton 136
Beth Funicella 59

State Senator

John Gallus 89
Dorothy Solomon 110

State Representatives

John Tholl, Jr. 72
Eugene Montgomery 101
Eric Catman, Sr. 62
Troy Merner 103
Bill Remick 83
Evalyn Merrick 116
Herb Richardson 82

Register of Deeds

Michael Neil 63
Carole Lamirande 130

County Commissioner

Thomas Brady 93
Norman Brown 95

Register of Probate

Terri L. Peterson 184

Sheriff

Gerald Marcou 179

County Attorney

Robert Mekeel 124

County Treasurer

Frederick King, Sr. 119

County Commissioner

Thomas Brady 93
Norman Brown 95

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Gerald Marcou 179

County Attorney

Robert Mekeel 124

County Treasurer

Frederick King, Sr. 119



John Turner, Anne Kenison, David Wilcox, John Scarinza, Lyn Farnham, count the ballots after the town election in March of 2009 Photo by D. Aube