

Trip to Mt. Carrigain. 1875
~~Overcast~~ Pleasant fine day. JUNE 8
TUESDAY
After many final preparations I staying at
the bank until 1.35 P.M. I started for the "eastern"
dept; found Ed & Fred Morse waiting for me. I learned that
Mr Daveis was not going. ~~that~~ ^{that} Maj Sanger soon came & the
four went into the smoking car & ^{plyed} cards about all the way.
Henry Swasey came in at Cumb. Mills. At Fryeburg we all
got out & rode in the cab of the engine. At North Conway we
took the cow-catcher, & the engineer, with Jonas Hamilton as
a spur (Hamilton is Supt), put us through at the rate, so he
said, of 60 miles an hour. At all events it was the most
tremendous speed I ever rode at on front of an engine.
There was no dust of course & as we emerged from a
long & deep cut ^{there came} the view of Mt. Washington in front with
other mountains on the side & the beautiful intervale &
terraces. We tried to hurrah but couldn't for want
of wind. At Upper Bartlett we took up
quarters at "Georges": We had to beg hard for early sup-
per which we got & then walked two miles up to see Cobb
(John O) who is to guide us. We enjoyed this walk too; &
Sanger's army stories & criticisms were especially pleas-
ing to me. We attempted to go to bed early, but did-
n't succeed as we had to talk, talk & tell stories.
I slept with Ed, who thrashed around & kicked as in his
boyish days. In unpacking my bundle I found I
had left my old pants at home and could not
remember exactly what about bread & butter. — I had
neither. — It was just as well as things turned.

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 1033, v. 10)
MMN #37321

Date: 1875

Description: John M. Gould account of Carrigain hike

1875
 JUNE 9
 WEDNESDAY

Mt. Carrigan 486
 Overcast & threatening.

It was pleasant enough however to warrant our starting. So after breakfast we all got aboard the Construction train at about 7.15 & started for Sawyer's river where the train stopped & we got off. The train had aboard the crew that are at work on the great bridge at what they now call "The Frankenstein". The ^{concrete} bridge over Sawyer's RIDGE was carried off last spring. We here slung our knapsacks & started up the river by a road used by teams going for granite. Dr. Bemis got his granite in there by the way. Our party was Fred Morse, Ed Morse, Maj. Joe P. Sanger USA, Henry W. Swasey of Standish (He married Carrie Morse) & myself. We had Cobb for guide and one Woodbury D. Rogers for workingman. Fred & Swasey carried their packs in straps on the shoulder &c but Ed had just invented a pack-saddle & had one made for himself & one for Sanger. Sanger's proved to have too limber steel & he had much trouble from it, but Ed's, he said, was perfection. For myself I had a large leather haversack that Howard brought home from the 7th battery & rolled all the the but the small stuff in my blanket & wore it as our soldiers did in war times. The two guides had rather a heavier load than any of us and carried besides, two axes & some general rations if I may designate coffee sugar &c such. We carried each man his own bread, meat, pickles & rum, beside such clothing & blankets he chose. I had a blanket, sheet, night-shirt, spare-sockings & rubber cloth & missed nothing more than my slippers. There were three canteens in the party also. I had one of them.

1875
 June 9
 Wednesday

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487 N.E. Carrigain 1875

We left the railroad at 7.35 & the granite quarry at 8, where we had only a blazed path to follow & the walking consequently grew harder & the climbing over trees a frequent thing.

By nine we arrived at Big brook (or Duck brook) & halted 20 minutes. Here were the ruins of the old camp where the party of 1873 — that most unfortunate crew — staid their first night. From here we took the bed of the brook & jumped from rock to rock, for the bed of the brook is large & the boulders fill it. Sanger's pack ~~now~~ troubled him so that he began to be a burden to the others of us. His new shoes also troubled him. & between them both he contrived once to nearly tumble over & strained his ankle somewhat in saving himself.

The woods were grand: few people go in there: the fishing I believe is rather poor. The water is nice & cold & we drank often although the day was cool & the sun hidden.

By 10 we were at Alice falls — (named for Alice Lowell Raymond) & stopped there a moment to admire them.

At 11.20 we came to the blazed tree, opposite the Slide, indicating the path to Carrigain Brook. Here we halted drank oat-meal water (some took a nip of rum) & I had my usual wash. We staid here seventeen minutes & then marched quickly along the (almost) low land between the two waters. It took only 38 minutes to go across. The woods are exceedingly wild: the timber is poor & the under brush is sometimes very thick. There is what is called "shad" or ~~moose~~ wood that troubled us more than anything else.

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1175 Mt Carrigan 487
JUNE 9 ^{cont^d}
WEDNESDAY

Carrigan brook is colder than the other
The rock is more slate-colored than the other two
& the ascent quite easy. We walked in the woods much
of the distance & noticed deer "tracks" very often
Presently the water disappeared & Ed said that it had a subterranean
passage which proved to be true for by & by we came to
the water again after having walked about a mile in the dry bed
Nothing of note occurred except that the Major kept growing
lamer & lamer & his pack-saddle & tin box dangled along every
moment threatening to trip him again
We made five short halts in going up this brook & at 1.30 spied
Eds monument which he & Clasky made last year in the bed of
the brook & which by some good luck was not washed away by this
years ice. It was a welcome sight for we were
growing tired & impatient. For on the whole it
was not so hard as I had prepared for.
We at once pulled off our traps & while
the others drank the long-awaited-for cocktail & the guides
rebuilt the camp. I pulled off my clothes & had a bath which
"mostly essentially" cooled me off.
We have had hardly any mosquitoes & not one black fly nor
midge to trouble us. The day was delightfully cool & Fred
says that none of the parties have gone in so easily & quickly
as we have to day. Our time is 5.56 including 1.21 for halts.
which would seem to indicate a distance traveled of about 9 or 10
miles. The old camp poles were ^{safe} standing
but the brush bedding was rotted & we had previously determined
to have the guides in separately housed & so now they were



1875 Mt Carrigan 488

June 9 cont^d Carrigan brook is colder than the other
Wednesday The rock is more slate-colored than the other too
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of the distance & noticed deer "tracks" very often

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but the brush bedding was rotted & we had previously determined
to have the guides in separately house & so now they were

instructed ~~how~~ to build two camps with a fire between.
 And as it promised to rain we all set about gathering
 brush & carrying the great rolls of spruce bark which
 the men peeled for us. They got quantities of this
 bark for us & we made a roof about 12 x 8 & well tightened
 For sides we had the bark for one & bark for the other &
 trusted in rubber blankets to cover our feet if it rained.
 Then at nine o'clock we turned in. The others lay in their
 clothes but I stuck to my first principles & slept in night-shirt
 & between a sheet, & was not cold except when ed kicked me.
 Before going to sleep the Major sang "that song". He had been
 teased to give it, all day, but ~~at~~ ~~last~~ took the best time & waited.
 We started off from Chickasaw One early frosty morn.
 We rode fast, we drove fast As sure as you are born
 We met the Johnny Rebs And we made the rebels flee
 Till our horses took ~~the~~ water in the Ocmulgee
 Chorus. Boom goes the cannon Bang goes the shell
 Boom goes the Parrott Bang the light twelve
 Rattle goes the kettle-drum We're off for the war
 Hurrah for all the boys And the bully stripes & stars.
 Hoist up the flag Long may it wave
 Home of the union Land of the brave
 (repeat from Hoist up)

There are many other verses but the Major sang only five
 or six & this one is the principal except Another one also ran in our
 heads all the time after hearing. viz "We ditched our line of battle full many a
 mile around. With redaws, redouts & rifle pits. The county did abound.
 While Wilson tore up railroad tracks 'Till on one little occasion
 He was most essentially chawed up at Mister Ream's Station.

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1875
JUNE 10 THURSDAY
Mt Carrigain 490
It rained about all day, beginning at midnight & clearing off also after sunset. The guides were so wet by the rain coming in the front of their tent camp that they kept up & so gave us a good fire. The ground was a little cool — not brush enough. We spent the day in telling stories & the others in playing whist which they did about all of the time. Sometimes the fog would lift up & we could see Mt. Lowell to the N.E. & a lower spur of Carrigain to the S.W.
To tell here on paper what we did does not make much of a story, but the feeling of independence & don't-care-whether-it-rains-or-shines was delightful. For scenery there was nothing but the beautiful fresh green. We tried to have the men cut down trees so we could see Lowell better but it was too much for them. I tried to strengthen Ed's breakwater but made myself feel sickish & quit. We had fine appetites & plenty to eat.
We decided to go east in the morning & come back as far as the camp as usual & let Rogers go out with me.
Afternoon I happened to tell about the G. P. Kimball Co. & Chase P. suing me. All sympathized with me & Henry expounded the law in the case which he says is not altogether in my favor. Thereupon the two Morses began the most unmerciful abuse of law, lawyers & courts I have heard for some time. They all gathered on the rocks above the camp & cut a very picturesque figure. They got so excited about it that they didn't mind the rain & they talked & abused Henry all the evening.



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June 10 Thursday
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491 Mt. Carrigain 1875
Clear & cool Up at 4.15 & ate
breakfast as soon as we could get it. JUNE 11
FRIDAY
After filling a canteen with tea & taking a little extra clothing
to wear on top we started up the brook bed at 5.30. We came
to a great frozen-snow bed by & by at the head of the brook. It
was $\frac{1}{8}$ of a mile long & filled the entire bed of the brook for many
feet. We could hear the water running underneath & could crawl
down & take a look at the solid mass, near the head. We filled
our canteens again here, having once before filled them or thought
about it. Soon after this we struck the thick growth &
had the most tedious part of our jaunt here. We got glimpses
of the mountain now & employed our time at halts in giv-
ing vent to our surprise & joy. But it was exceedingly
difficult & not altogether pleasant to crawl on all fours
through the scrub stuff.
We arrived at what is called "Burnt Hat Ridge" (by the Carri-
gainers in memory of Mr. Daveis's burnt hat) at 7.45.
My night shirt was all the extra clothing I had taken beside
the rubber cloth. We waved that in the wind a while & con-
cluded to take somebody's handkerchief for a flag instead of
the shirt. So we built a cairn of rocks & put the flag
on it. Swasey & Cobb went up to the tip-top but I
did not care to go further, as the rest stayed at "Burnt
Hat." Ed & I rolled rocks down & talked about the
matter of May 19.
From the top of Burnt Hat we could see Mt Washington & the
peaks around it, the Franconia range & the ten thousand hills
around the circle between, but the main peak hid everything to the N.W.

491 Mt. Carrigain 1875
Clear & cool Up at 4.15 & ate June 11
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to a great frozen-snow bed by & by at the head of the brook. It
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ing vent to our surprise & joy. But it was exceedingly
difficult & not altogether pleasant to crawl on all fours
through the scrub stuff.
We arrived at what is called "Burnt Hat Ridge" (by the Carri-
gainers in memory of Mr. Daveis's burnt & lost hat) at 7.45.
My night shirt was all the extra clothing I had taken beside
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1175
JUNE 11 ^{cont^d} Mt. Carrigain. 492
FRIDAY
Lake Sebago — or something we took to be this, but the haze prevented our seeing any great distance, yet as far as the eye can reach in any weather the only sign of man that is visible is the clearing at Upper Bartlett with Cobbs house & the Steam Mill, & the houses on Mt. Washington. In every other direction one sees rocks & forest only; this is one of the compensations for ascending Mt. Carrigain.
Fred did a little sketching of the profile, the others of us rolled down rocks, drank tea & whisky & ate a lunch. We had a rousing fire too for once the top was covered with vegetation & the old stumps are there now. Another odd thing is a little narrow track, — not more than four or five inches — running along the top the ridge, Cobb says it is done by the deer & that they travel from mountain to mountain across their tops as the Indians used to! We found ice under the moss & water in little pools in the crevices, but by sucking the moss we could have gotten all the water we needed had we only known it.
It was a lovely day although the clouds & mist were unfavorable for sight seeing. I was glad I came, though I hardly know why. We left at 10.20 took a different ridge in going down after a long dispute between Sanger & the Morses as to which ridge was best. The new one proved much the easiest we had but little scrub growth to worry us. Thence down to the camp without incident. ^{11.35 hr} Here we cooked dinner at once & threw away or hid our superabundance of food, then started for home at 1.30 with our packs on our backs. We left the camp standing & propped it a little but Cobb says that

1875 Mt. Carrigain. 492
June 11 cont^d We could see the bank of mist over Friday Lake Sebago — or something we took to be this, but the haze prevented our seeing any great distance, yet as far as the eye can reach in any weather the only sign of man that is visible is the clearing at Upper Bartlett with Cobbs house & the Steam Mill, & the houses on Mt. Washington. In every other direction one sees rocks & forest only; this is one of the compensations for ascending Mt. Carrigain.
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493 Mt. Carrigain 1875

The snow will break it down next winter. It was easier going down than it was coming up & we did finely at it. We kept in the woods more of the time & had better chance to talk than when jumping over the boulders. I told Sanger about my diaries & listened to his lamentations of over the loss of all his notes, books &c. and his consequent inability to assist in the writing his regimental history (1st U.S. Artillery) as Captⁿ ^{Haskins} ~~Somebody~~ wished him to. The last part of our trip was almost unpleasant. Sanger's new boots turned over & his sprained ankle gave way every now & then & we had to wait, while Sanger begged us to go on & leave him with Woodbury, which we did at last. Cobb went ahead to get his horse & drove Sanger from the river down to his house & then to the hotel. At the house (Cobbs) we ate bread & milk, Ed got sick at this & had to ride to Hotel & there go to bed & take hot medicines. I was dog tired & sick almost: tried to go to bed early but had to wait in Ed & the room was hot & the noise & smoke unfavorable. But I got to Noddle Island at last & slept after a fashion till morning. Prof Vose came up & is jubilant to-night at meeting the others. They will go up the Notch to-morrow.

June 11 Came home, with Ed who is too sick to travel. Reached Bethel about 11.30. Had a good time with Ed in the cars.

June 12 SATURDAY
 Travel back about 11.30. Had a good time with Ed in the cars.

June 13 SUNDAY Concert evening at Bethel (Didn't write this till Jan'y '76)

Distances (in time)			
R.R. to granite quarry	20 minutes	Brook to Brook	32 min
Halt home	5 "	1 at & going across	11.
Quarry to Big-brook camp	55 "	Up Carrigain Brook	58
Halt on way	15 "	5 short halt	13
at camp	20 "		
Camp to Alice Falls (net)	40		
Thence to Blaze	50		
Halt at Let Brook & Blaze	30		
" "	17		

101 255

Vose makes it 4,625 feet above sea using Mt. Crawford as basis of his work

493 Mt. Carrigain 1875

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Halt on way about	5 "	5 short halt	13
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