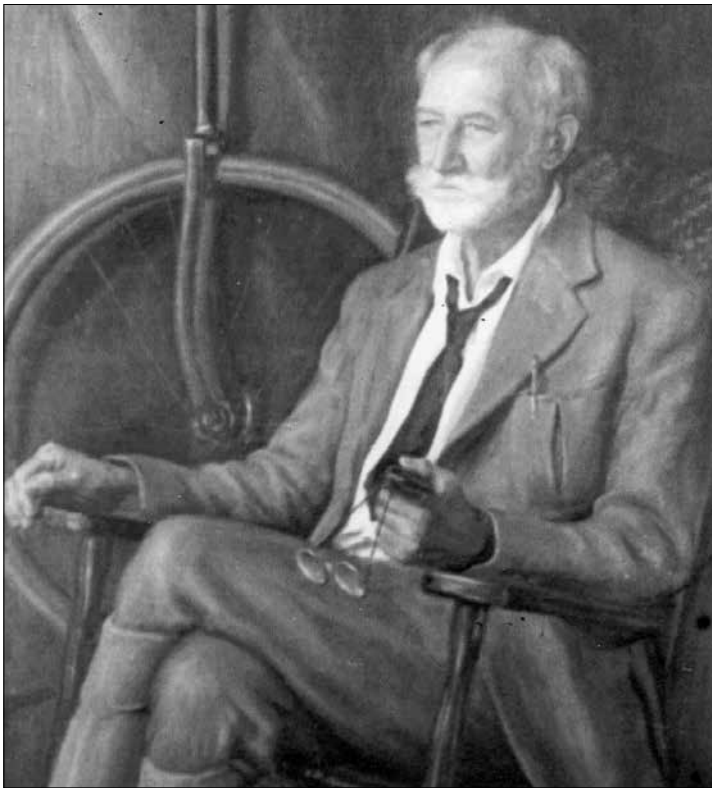


People in the Whites: Louis Fayerweather Cutter (1864-1945)

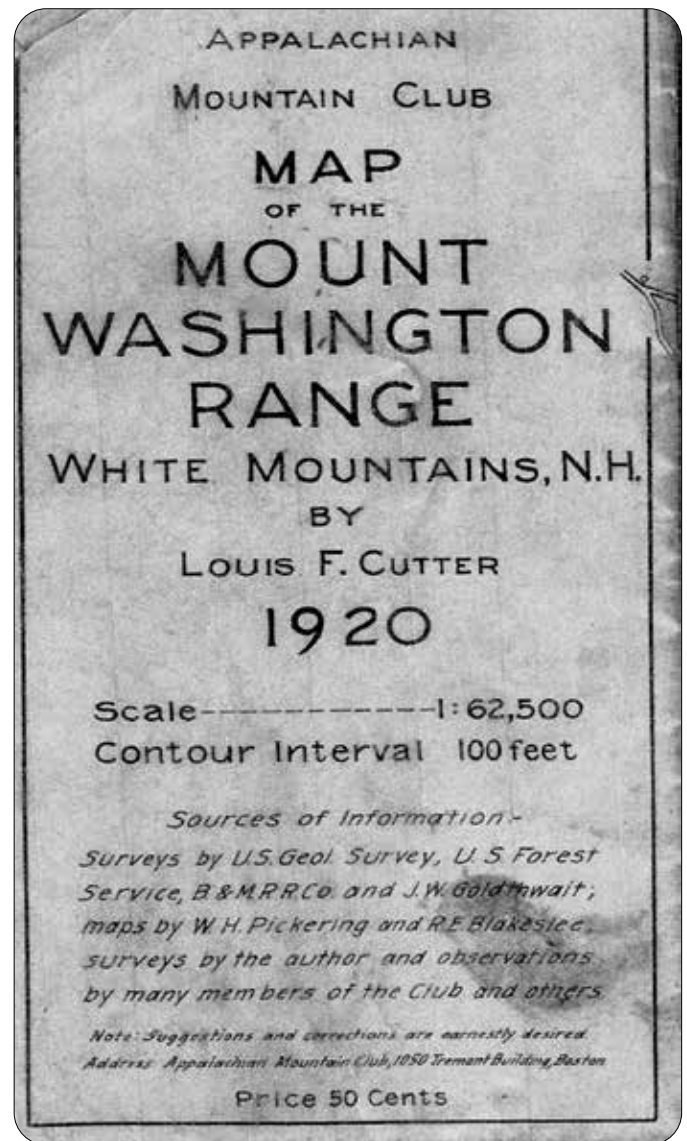
BY: FRANCES WOODARD RICHARDSON

Louis Fayerweather Cutter was the original cartographer for the Appalachian Mountain Club's *White Mountain Guide*. Louis Cutter joined the Club in 1888 and by 1906 was part of the team that developed the first edition of the AMC's *White Mountain Guide*. Louis Cutter based his map on his personal experience in the White Mountains. He went to the White Mountains and stayed at the Ravine House in Randolph, NH, and hiked the trails in the mountains. He later became interested in mapmaking and produced a map with the South at the top as seen from the Ravine House. He invented an odometer (cyclometer) using a bicycle wheel to measure the distance and took barometric readings to determine the altitude. His first map was published in 1885 which showed King's Ravine, Mount Adams, and Mount Madison. When the AMC published the *White Mountain Guide*, it was an easy decision to include Louis's maps. He became the official cartographer for the Appalachian Mountain Club in 1907. The maps served as a guide for hikers from 1885 to 1998.



In 1919, the Randolph Mountain Club was formed with the purpose of maintaining the trails that had been damaged by the weather, logging operations, and fire. Louis was an active member and was President of the Club in 1931 and 1935 and Vice President until his death. When he hiked the trails, he maintained them by taking a pair of clippers with him.

Louis was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on June 30, 1864, the son of Charles Ammi Cutter (1837-1903), a librarian, and Sarah Fayerweather Appleton Cutter (1839-1933). He studied Civil Engineering at MIT and later worked at the Harvard Library where he formulated a new Cataloging System.



Louis married Mary Perkins Osgood (1868-1943) in 1901 in Winchester, Massachusetts, and in 1903 they bought a house in Echobank, Randolph, NH. They had three children, Richard Ammi Cutter (1866-1883), George Osgood Cutter (1904-1970), and Caroline Cutter McMillan Harris Stevens (1907-1997).

Louis Fayerweather Cutter died on June 26, 1945, at the age of 80, in Berlin, NH. He is buried in the Harmony Grove Cemetery in Salem, Massachusetts.

References

PEAKS AND PATHS by Judy Maddoch Hudson
NOT WITH PERIL, by Nicholas Howe
Emily Douglas' thesis from Connecticut College
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People in the Whites: Leroy R. Woodard (1903-1985)

BY: FRANCES WOODARD RICHARDSON

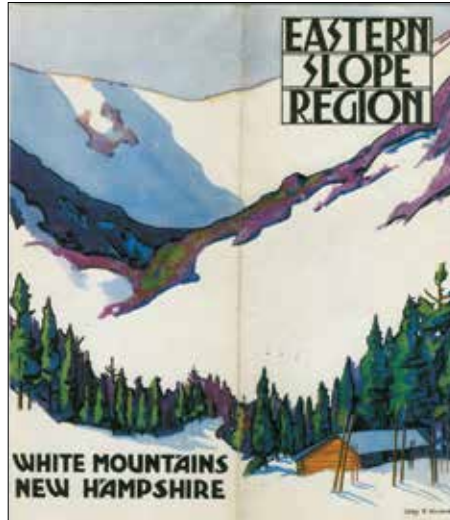
Leroy R. Woodard was born and grew up in Campello, MA. Like his brother, my father, Rod, Leroy was attracted to the White Mountains and joined the Appalachian Mountain Club in 1927. Subsequently, Leroy worked as a chief cook at Greenleaf Hut in 1928, and Lonesome Lake in 1929. He then moved to the Carter Notch Hut as Hut Master. Leroy was known for his culinary skills and hikers particularly enjoyed his Spaghetti Bolognese.

Leroy studied at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston MA, and became well known for his portraits, landscape paintings, etchings, and commercial art. Over the years he had exhibits of his White Mountain paintings and etchings including exhibitions at the AMC Headquarters in Boston, MA, in Randolph, in Concord, in Manchester NH, and in Wayland and in Weston, MA.

Leroy, in October 1933, set sail on the S.S. Von Steuben from New York arriving in Bremen, Germany in November, 1933. From Bremen, Leroy traveled to Berlin, Dresden, and Munich before going to Florence, Italy. In a letter dated February 27, 1934, he wrote, "This is one of the great centers of Italian art, painting, sculpture, and architecture. The resources are tremendous for study. I felt I needed to paint so I painted one of the Americans here. On the strength of that one, I got commissions."

Leroy left Italy on November, 1934, and went to Paris, France, then on to London, Cornwall, and Devonshire, England, embarking on the S.S. Bremen from Southampton on June 15, 1934, for his return to New York arriving on June 28, 1934. He frequently commented that the trip was the best education he had ever had.

Leroy then returned to the mountains and established an art studio in the Old Town Hall in Randolph, NH. Here he made paintings and etchings of the White Mountains, including a brochure with a picture of Tuckerman's Ravine that has been reproduced in many versions for advertising and commercial purposes. It was here that Leroy met portrait artist, Margaret Arnold, who summered in Randolph, NH. They married on May 1, 1943.



Leroy was called to serve in the Army in 1942. He left his belongings and dog, Tom, with his brother, Rodney D. Woodard of North Conway, NH, and left for Camp Pickett, Virginia, where he was assigned to the Medical Replacement Unit as a field and hospital technician. He was then moved to Fort Devens, MA on December 28, 1942, to paint signs for the hospital, ads for War Bond drives, and award plaques.

He wrote, "This is not my idea of winning the war." In his spare time, he sketched portraits of some of the men. His portraits became popular and he received many orders. He said, "It amazes them that anyone can just look at a person and make a likeness."

After a medical discharge, Leroy and Margaret lived in Cambridge and Leroy was employed at General Electric as a technical illustrator making drawings for catalogs. Leroy worked for GE until his retirement, moving from Cambridge to Wayland, MA with Margaret, and children, Charles and Sandra. Leroy Woodard passed away on September 9, 1985.



Upper Left: Leroy Woodard painting followed by examples of Leroy Woodard etchings.

Lower Left: Eastern Slope Region Poster

Top Right: Pinkham Notch Huts (1935)

Middle Right: Skiers in the Mountains (1936)

Bottom Right: Mt. Washington (1931)

People of the Whites: Laban Merrill Watson (1850-1936)

BY: FRANCES W. RICHARDSON



Laban Watson Oil Painting by Margaret Arnold

Laban Merrill Watson was the grandson of Stephen P. Watson, a Scotsman, who moved to Waterford, Maine with his family around 1826, and later purchased land and settled in Randolph, NH. Stephen drowned in 1830 when crossing the flooded Moose River. His son, Abel Nourse Watson (1818-1895) married Susan C. Holmes (1820-1862) of Jefferson, NH in 1837, and took over the property.

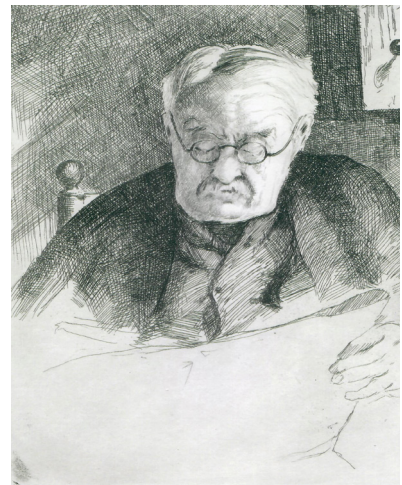
Laban Merrill Watson was born May 14, 1850, the son of Abel and Susan, and in 1876 became the proprietor with his father of the farmhouse subsequently renovating it into a three-room boarding house in 1876, and called it The Madison House. Abel and Laban expanded the Madison House in 1877 to fourteen rooms and renamed it The Ravine House. It faced the Presidential Range and King's Ravine on Mount Adams and offered a much needed overnight accommodation near the trails to Mount Madison.

Abel's wife, Susan, passed away in 1862 and he married Cordelia Wright Burbank (1826-1912) of Shelburne, NH. Cordelia had a daughter, Anna Burbank (1853-1928), from a former marriage whom Laban married in 1873.

Laban continued to add to the hotel to accommodate more guests. He moved the Starch Mill dry house down Durand Road in 1884 to add more rooms and he used the third floor for Town Meetings until 1888. Laban served as Town Selectman from 1874 to 1877 and was in the NH Legislature in 1878 returning again in 1923. He also served as a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1918.

Laban M. Watson joined the two year old AMC in 1878. That same year Laban and his father cut a trail, The Watson Path, from the Ravine House to Salmacis Fall, and continued it to Mount Madison in 1882. Laban supervised the building of

AMC's 1888 Madison Spring Hut, initially a stone hut on an acre of land donated to the AMC by the Brown Mills Company in Berlin, NH. The hut was one room with four bunks, a stove, and a table. Laban and Rosewell B. Lawrence, an AMC founding member and photographer, hiked Mount Madison and stayed in the hut in the winter of 1889. Laban managed a crew to create the Air Line Path, a straight, well-cleared trail. In 1924 Laban was commemorated for his path making at Memorial Bridge, built in 1923-24, that crossed Cold Brook in Randolph, NH. The bridge was built as a memorial to the early path makers. Because of an accident in 1906 when Laban fell off a load of pulpwood and broke his arm in three places between his elbow and hand, and because his children did not want the responsibility of ownership, Laban and Anna sold the Ravine House to William D. Bradstreet of Boston, MA in 1909. It was closed in 1960 and was razed in 1963. After the sale, Laban, Anna, and Cordelia moved to Cold Brook Lodge in Randolph, NH, and Laban continued farming, dealt with hay, and hauled wood to the Brown Mills Company in Berlin, NH.



*Laban Watson
Etching by
Leroy Woodard*

When Anna died in 1928, Laban lived with his daughter and husband, Edith Margaret (1878-1957) and John Henry (1868-1952) Boothman. They bought the Randolph Hill House, built in 1883, which they renamed The Mount Crescent House in 1894. It was torn down in 1971.

Although in his final years, Laban was feeble, he enjoyed playing cards and won a "Five Hundred" game two days before his death on October 1, 1936, at the age of 86. He is buried in the Durand Road Cemetery in Randolph, NH.

For additional information on the life and career of Laban Merrill Watson, you may want to read *Peaks and Paths*, by Judy Maddock Hudson, and Louis F. Cutter obituary for "Laban M. Watson", *Appalachia* 21 (1937) 416 et seq.. A big thank you to Yvonne Jenkins, Librarian, Randolph Public Library and Marcia Ann Gulesian for their assistance in documenting this article.

Frances Richardson has contributed many profiles to Mountain Passages of the people who made New Hampshire.