

*Full copy
J.F. Collins*

Mt. Albert trip of 1905
[From the Journal of J. Franklin Collins]

Aug. 1, 1905 (Tuesday)

Cloudy, windy, cold. After breakfast at Mont Louis Fernald and I walked to P.O. and learned that a letter addressed to me had been delivered to Mr. Allen G. Cameron, the Supt. of the Mt. Louis Seignory, so we called at the house and got it. We started about 8 a.m. in a barge with Mr. Bashier and another man for Ste. Anne des Monts. We were practically becalmed for an hour off Pt. de Chasse. The rest of the way we had a good fair wind. Reached Ste. A. about 4:30 p.m. nearly frozen. Went into Mr. Lemontagne's store and talked with him about boarding places, &c. We came to Lefrancois's place. Fernald has a down stairs room and I one upstairs. Before supper F & I walked up to Ste. Anne river and after supper down to P.O. after writing letters home.

Aug. 2, 1905 (Wednesday)

Rainy and cold. Stopped about Lefrancois' house most of day. Partially organized things to go up river. In p.m. Mr. Côté of Cap Chat and friend came and we decided to have Mr. Côté take charge of the trip and we made out a list of things for him to get tomorrow. We planned to start in early p.m. In p.m. we walked down through the village and back. In eve. talked with the Supt. of the mill.

Aug. 3, 1905 (Thursday)

Cloudy and foggy in A.M. Clearing in p.m. Clear and with aurora in evening. In a.m. spent most of time in getting ready to go up river. We had Mr. Lefrancois haul our luggage down to the river after dinner, and about 1:30 we started up river in two canoes; Fernald and part of baggage in one and I and the rest of baggage in the other. The river is a rather rapid one and we went up about 100 ft. in the first 9 miles, where we stopped for the night at Mr. Starkey's lower camp. Our canoe-men (Côté, Joe Fortin, Hector & Edouard Gagnon) pitched tent and Fernald and I dined with Mr. Thomas Starkey, upon his special invitation. Nice dinner and pleasant chat afterwards. F & I in tent; canoe-men in house for guides. From camp a fine view of first of the Shickocks is seen.

Aug. 4, 1905 (Friday)

Fair. Partly clear. Very warm in middle of day. We left the "9 mile" camp about 8 a.m. and stopped for lunch at 11:45. While at lunch two men came down with the skin of a bear they had killed at next camp (Starkey's camp) above. We camped near the head of a long and hard rapid known as "3 mile rapid" and above Grand Rapid. Near the upper end of "3 mile rapid" we passed through a wild and beautiful rocky gorge (Grand Rapid) where it was very difficult to get the canoes through. F & I in lean-to under canopies; men in tent.

Aug. 5, 1905 (Saturday)

Cloudy and somewhat showery. Warm in middle of day. Collected considerable number of specimens (F. did) and I got quite a number of mosses. In late p.m. we reached Riviere la Marte (Martin River) and camped about 1 mile above that on a gravel beach. Got some fine views of Tabletop Mt. (called locally Table Mt.). A few rods above our camp the top of Mt. Albert was seen--our first view of it--over the top of a great ridge. Heavy wind in the night. F & I in lean-to; men in tent

Aug. 6, 1905 (Sunday)

Cloudy and hazy. Spent the whole day on the river, going from Martin river camp to main camp a short distance below the Forks of the Ste. Anne River. Hard poling.

Aug. 7, 1905 (Monday)

Rainy last night and most of the day. Day spent mainly in toasting driers before fire and in fixing up camp to protect against rain. Cote caught 3 trout and shot 2 ducks. Breakfast of potatoes, coffee, &c. Dinner of trout, duck, tomato, &c.

Aug. 8, 1905 (Tuesday)

Clearing somewhat last evening and cooler. Supper of trout, potatoes, tomatoes, &c. Cool last night. Broke camp ready to go up the mountain and left the river about 9:30 today; Fernald and I carrying small pack, camera and collecting box. We went up over a near ridge and then down through a ravine and up the main mountain, stopping every 10 or 15 minutes to rest. Cote, the two Gagnon boys (Hector and Eduard), and Joe Fortin carried heavy packs. We reached an altitude of 3250(?) ft. about 1:30 or 2 p.m. and decided to camp there. Cote, Fernald and I ~~stayed~~ stayed up on Mt. and the rest went down about 3 o'clock to bring up some more things. Fernald and I went up Mt. botanizing and left Cote to fix camp. He came up Mt. later. We found the nearest peak ("East Peak") about 3650 ft. high by aneroid, with a still higher peak to the w.n.w. To the south of these there is an immense tableland sloping gently to the southward. The eastern edge of the tableland is a great serpentine rock barren, and the western a bog or meadow. To the south of this is a deep gorge with 3 big snow banks in view. Beyond this is the main (highest) part of the mountain---a still larger desolate-looking rock-barren plateau, sloping gently up to the main peak (or rather a flat dome). We found extremely interesting plants--many of them unknown to Fernald. The black flies on the mountain, especially at the summit were something fearful and we are obliged to wear improvised head nets, and even then there is little comfort to be obtained, so numerous ^{was} were the fiends. I have never seen anything like them. Cote slept in lean-to with F. & I. Main tent down at river.

Aug. 9, 1905 (Wednesday)

Cloudy. Spent all a.m. putting up plants collected yesterday. Were obliged to do it inside canopies to keep away from the black flies and mosquitoes. In p.m. went up Mt. to barrens, thence across to North Peak, south to near head of gorge and back across barrens. Our four men met us on the barrens--three of them having reached camp from the river about 2:30 or 3 p.m.

Aug. 10, 1905 (Thursday)

Rain in night and early a.m. Very cloudy the rest of the day. Tent leaked in the night. Got blanket and inside of sleeping bag wet. Canopy soaked. Fernald spent a.m. taking care of plants; I in fixing tent and then putting in two sets of plants. Joe Fortin helping F. In p.m. finished putting in plants and then Fernald and Joe went up Mt. I stayed at camp drying out things.

Aug. 11, 1905 (Friday)

Cloudy. Worked all a.m. on plants collected yesterday by Fernald and Joe. In p.m. Fernald, Cote, Joe and I went up on north slope collecting. Got several sets. Flies villainous! Obligated to cover entire face. The two Gagnon boys went down to river for another load of goods.

Aug. 12, 1905 (Saturday)

Cloudy, Heavy shower in p.m. Much colder towards night. Worked part of a.m. on plants and at about 10 o'clock we all started for Snow Brook ravine collecting. On the way I deviated and walked over the n.e. barrens to above the point where Snow Brook leaves the gorge. Took some photos. We had lunch near the head of Snow Brook gorge. Before reaching the great snow arch we were caught in a shower or two. These showers continued most of the p.m.. At one time I got under the snow arch in order to get out of the rain. From there we walked down Snow Brook to where its n.w. branch joins it. We went up this to the barrens and thence back to camp.

Aug. 13, 1905 (Sunday)

Very cold and windy, and a slight snow flurry in p.m. Thermometer 38° at 5 p.m. Spent most of day in camp taking care of specimens. In p.m. (2 o'clock or later) Cote and I went up on Mt. I took a good many photos along the n. & e. sides of the Mt. as far as Snow Brook. Gale! on summit. Thermometer 39° at camp in eve.

Aug. 14, 1905 (Monday)

Snowing and hailing most of early a.m. Thermometer below freezing in early morning. In late a.m. 37°. Slept cold last night. Table Mt. covered with snow. Worked all a.m. on plants. Took a few photos about camp. Clear in late p.m. Have diarrhoea. Fernald and Joe went off to ravine to eastward about 2:30 p.m. I laid down and had nap. Took 2 sun cholera tablets and felt better. At 5 p.m. Cote and I went up to East Peak. I took a number of photos, including some of plants, before returning. I got back about 7 p.m. before Fernald arrived. Thermometer 42° on summit at 5:30 p.m. Snow still lingers in sheltered places.

Aug. 15, 1905 (Tuesday)

Clear and cold. Got up about 3:30 a.m. on account of cold, and built a fire. Got up for good about 5 a.m. and Fernald and I worked on plants until 10:30 a.m. when Eduard and Hector Gagnon went down the Mt. with their packs. About noon Fernald, Cote, Joe and I started down the Mt. We kept along together until nearly down to where the trail runs close to brook (alt. 2100 ft.). Fernald and I went down the brook collecting, until we reached the point where the trail crosses the stream (alt. 1175 ft. or perhaps 1275 ft.). We followed trail to a blow-down where we lost it. Swinging to the s. we followed down the same brook, that we had been following farther up, to the Ste. Anne river at the Forks. Very hard travelling from there to the camp which we reached about 7 p.m., only about a quarter of a mile distant. Sweaty and chilly. Cold. After supper built up a big camp fire and toasted ourselves before going to bed. Flies bad on brook today (Macoun's Brook). Colder this evening.

August 16, 1905 (Wednesday)

Clear. Very cold. 31° at 5 a.m.. Had to get up on account of cold. Fernald and I built big fire and got warm. Fernald put some *Cystopteris montana* in press that had some ice on the fronds. Trout, potatoes, bouillon for breakfast. Fine! Put quite a number of plants in press and then broke camp and at 8:40 a.m. started down river. Reached one of our "up trip" camps at 10:30 and Martin River at 11 o'clock, Starkey ~~middle~~ camp at 12 m. Left Starkey camp at 1:30

upper camp at 12 m. Left Starkey upper camp at 1.30. Arrived at Starkey middle camp at about 6 p.m. and found Dr. & Mrs. Smillie (?), son and daughter there. They gave us 5 trout for supper and some cake and candy. We gave them some Peter's chocolate. Guides in house; F. & I in tent on beach.

August 17, 1905 (Thursday)

Slept well last night. Got up at 6:30. Breakfast at 7; trout, potatoes, tomatoes, &c. Dr. Smillie and family left for up river at same time we started down. Clear. Warmer than yesterday. Reached mill at mouth of river at 11:40 ~~pm~~ a.m. Cote went up and had Lefrancois come down with team for our baggage. Had it put in sample room. Most of p.m. F. & I were working on plants. In eve wrote letters home.

Aug. 18, 1905 (Friday)

Cloudy. Fernald and I have been at work all day on plants. Found most of plants from Mt. trip had gathered moisture and we had to overhaul all of them. Joe Fortin been helping us. In eve. walked through town and back.

Aug. 19, 1905 (Saturday)

Hazy. Warm. Worked most of a.m. on plants. Joe drying driers on beach (by fire). In p.m. Fernald, Joe and I went along salt marsh east of mill, up to boom and across there, down west side of river, across ferry and out to salt marsh again. In eve. made out lists of sets of plants collected.

Aug. 20, 1905 (Sunday)

Cloudy, Rainy after middle of p.m. In a.m. worked on plants collected yesterday. In p.m. changed driers and did some trunk packing. In eve. sat in office dozing in chair while Fernald wrote to Thaxter and Williams.

Aug. 21, 1905 (Monday)

Cloudy and threatening during early a.m. Clear in p.m. Soon after breakfast (7 o'clock) Fernald and I went in buckboard with Eduard Lefrancois as driver to Pt. Tourelle, Cap Tourelle, Potato river and ~~Ruisseau~~ Ruisseau Castor. Found the best collecting at R. Castor. Took quite a number of photographs. Had lunch at a brook this side of Castor. In eve. F. & I picked over plants collected.

Aug. 22, 1905 (Tuesday)

Cloudy in early a.m. Mostly clear later. Worked practically all day taking care of plants and packing trunks. Joe Fortin helping us most of time. In eve. F. & I crossed ferry and walked part way out to Pt. Ste. Anne des Monts and back.

Aug. 23, 1905 (Wednesday)

Cloudy and windy. Most of a.m. stopped about Eduard Lefrancois' house waiting for Str. Campana to arrive. F. & I walked up to Lemontagne's point in middle of a.m. Had dinner at Lefrancois' about noon. Campana appeared off point Tourelle about 1 p.m. Went out in Lefrancois's boat. Lt. Col. L.E. Starkey, Mr. Thos. Starkey and Mr. Cladwell, all of whom we met on Ste. Anne river were on board the Steamer, on way to Quebec City. During evening talked with the Capt. and also with a Mr. Roi, a Canadian historian. Music and "Gaspé" dancing during evening.



1905. "Aug. 1905 [journal]." *James Franklin Collins materials related to Gaspé Peninsula plant collecting trips*

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