

Southbridge, Mass.

July 14, 1899.

Mr. Walter Deane,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter of June 23d and
I thank you for your information about the flora
of Monadnock, which proved to be of some assistance
to me.

As I suppose you would like to know how my
trip turned out, I will tell you about that first.

I started from here early Sunday morning, July 2nd,
with my bicycle, to which were attached my
collecting-box, a light press with drying papers,
a roll of topographic maps (of the U.S. Geological
Survey) covering my whole route, and a box of lunch.
In my pockets I carried a camera, some more maps,
note-paper, etc.

That day I passed through ^{nearly} all the towns on
the western border of this county, viz., Sturbridge,
Brookfield, West Brookfield, New Braintree, Hardwick,

Dana, Petersham, Athol, and Royalston. Several of these towns have apparently never been botanically explored, and I had intended to make some observations worth recording on the flora of each.

But I passed through them so rapidly that I found it impracticable to pay much attention to the flora.

I succeeded, however, in adding one more plant to the flora of Worcester Co., *Centaurea nigra*, which I found by the roadside in Hardwick while I was walking up a long hill.

I reached Fitzwilliam, N. H. that evening about sunset, and spent the night at the Cheshire Hotel.

Leaving my bicycle and press there, I started out toward the mountain the next morning, with my collecting-box, maps, etc. I first went over Gap Mountain, which Mr. Williams recommended to me as a good botanizing place when I saw him at the meeting last month. The rest of the way I found so many things to interest me that I did not reach the summit of Monadnock until nearly noon.

I found *Potentilla tridentata* by the roadside on the south side of the mountain as low down as 1341 feet.

While passing through the woods on Monadnock I saw *Oxalis Acetosella*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Pyrus Americana*, and several other such plants which do not grow around here.

On the bare summit, above the woods, I found a great many interesting plants, such as *Vaccinium*, *Vitis-Idaea*, *Juncus trifidus*, *Arenaria Groenlandica*, *Lycopodium Selago*, *Smilacina tufolia*, etc. I saw quantities of what I suppose is *Rhododendron Rhodora*, though I had never seen it before, and it was of course past flowering. I only found one small patch of *Lycopodium Selago*, but I suppose I would have found more if I had had more time to look for it. The *Smilacina* grows around the margin of one of the miniature lakes near the summit, together with *Carex canescens*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, and another small *Eriophorum* of unfamiliar appearance. It looks somewhat like *E. gracile*, but is smaller, with nearly sessile spikes, and the wool much shorter (or perhaps immature). I saw the same thing in a bog at the base of Gap Mountain, on the west side. Perhaps you have seen it and can tell me what it is. If not, I will send you a specimen when

I send the other plants. Among the rocks near the summit I collected a few specimens of a *Carex* of the straminea group, probably var. *cumulata*.

I saw some *Solidagos* near the summit, but did not collect ~~them~~, as they were too immature. There were also a few grasses up there, but I did not collect them either.

I only stayed on the summit a few minutes, and did not go down the north side of the mountain at all. I saw Mr. Fernald's *Scirpus atrocinctus*, var. *brachypodus*, above the woods, where Dr. Swan collected it in 1883, but I thought at the time that it was an immature form of the type, and did not get any of it. I knew that Mr. Fernald had cited a specimen of some *Scirpus* from Monadnock, but I had forgotten about there being a variety of *S. atrocinctus*.

On the way down I found ^{what seems to be} *Antennaria canadensis* along the road below the Mountain House, probably one of the places where Mr. Rand and Dr. Robinson collected it. This of course was not known when you were there in 1890. I had intended to look for it in this county on my return, but forgot all about it, as the *Antennarias* are not conspicuous enough at this

season to attract much attention. I am sure it can be found in Worcester Co. however, as it grows so near the line. It ought to be around Mt. Wachusett if nowhere else in the county. I do not remember seeing any other *Antennaria* on my trip but *A. nodosica*.

On my return the next day, July 4th, I went over Mt. Wachusett, but did not find much of interest there. I did not see or hear of any other botanist on my whole trip.

Well, I have taken so long to describe my trip to Monadnock that I do not believe I will write any more at present. I would be glad to hear from you again soon. Possibly your ^{letter} will suggest something that I have forgotten to write about.

Sincerely yours,

Roland M. Harper.



Harper, Roland M. 1899. "Harper, Roland McMillan Jul. 14, 1899." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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