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Letters

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Letters

Rambling around Spooky Places

Reading William Geller's article ("White Mountain Mysteries," Winter/Spring 2023) makes me want to get out there. I love how he and his brother would go wherever interested them and took their time and figured things out and found things—the large cooking pot, the plaque, waterfalls. I also liked how they shared things they learned as they gained more and more experience.

They have me in terrible suspense about the spooky experience in the Mahoosuc Range. Talk about a cliffhanger ending!

—Candi Fletcher
New Vineyard, Maine

Indigenous Mountain Names and Other Thoughts

First, I wanted to relay to you and the production staff much appreciation for the joy *Appalachia* brings me each issue. I would have to say it is quite unique both in format and variety. One topic of interest that I might have missed is the pre-European views of the White Mountains. Way back in my childhood (the 1960s), we made routine family pilgrimages from Greater Portland to the mountains that left all of us with a lifelong passion of being outdoors and conservation minded.

In addition to exploring the various mountain trails and waterfalls, at one of the state-run concessions like at the Willey House site, we could listen to coin-operated player piano/calliope, or hope to acquire a trinket.

There hasn't been a year that we haven't visited the mountains to hike, ski, and explore, all the while noting the increased popularity of the region. Reading *The White Hills: Their Legend, Landscape, and Poetry* (originally published in 1859) by Thomas Starr King gives one insight that the emotional response triggered by the rugged hills isn't something new. He writes, "What a pity the hills could not have kept the names the Indian tribes gave to them." He goes on to list the early known names before the likes of Mount Washington, which was once known as Agiocochook. It gives one hope that, like Mount McKinley changing to Denali in 2016, some of our New England mountains might also someday pay homage to native peoples. Seemed interesting that

given what was going on in the West in 1860 that even a minority of contemporaries would seek to change back the European names.

Maybe a modern version of *The White Hills: Their Legend, Landscape, and Poetry* is needed. I guess that is what you do!

—Jeff Tarling
South Portland, Maine

Wrong Hut

Imagine my surprise to find that the Carter Notch Hut had been relocated to the Fishin' Jimmy Trail in Franconia Notch ("Slippage" in *Accidents, Winter/Spring 2023*). Was this move budgeted or was this an editorial boo-boo?

—Charles Sampson
Alexandria, Virginia

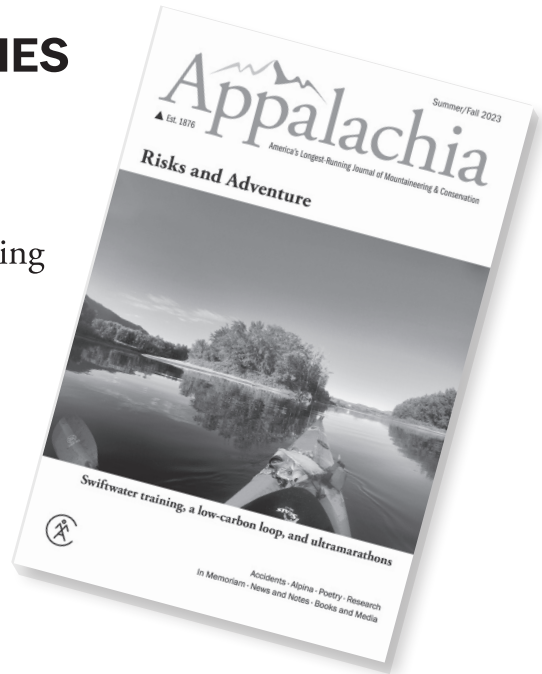
Editor's note: Our error. Laura C. fell on February 21, 2022, on the Fishin' Jimmy Trail more than a mile beyond the Lonesome Lake Hut, not the Carter Notch Hut. We appreciate your noticing.

“I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features.”—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber

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