

The LONG TRAIL

George F. E. Story

George F. E. Story was born in 1885 and raised on a farm in Essex. He studied animal husbandry at the University of Vermont. In 1909 George Story married Alma Montague at Malletts Bay. Story graduated from Ohio State University in 1910. Story worked on the staff of the extension service while at Ohio State, and then took similar role at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. While at Amherst, he researched livestock farming and dairying. Story returned to Vermont in 1915 to become the head of the Department of Animal and Dairy Husbandry at the University of Vermont. In 1918 Story was hired as the first director of the Worcester Country Extension Service. He built up the new organization, and developed contacts with about twenty-five hundred farmers, with methods such as twice-weekly radio broadcasts over 580 WTAG. George and Alma raised two sons and a daughter together.

In 1923 George Story chaired the meeting that founded the Worcester Section of the Green Mountain Club. He was a very active member of the section, serving as section president in 1926 and 1927. For many years Story served as the sugarmaster of the Worcester Section's annual maple syrup events, called Sugaring Off parties. He served as sugarmaster until 1960. In 1945, George Story was recognized for hiking the entire Long Trail. Story was also active in the affairs of the main club, serving as a trustee from 1926 through 1932, and was elected chairman of the Green Mountain Club Membership Committee in 1926, 1927, and 1928.

George Story participated in the project to extend the Long Trail to Canada. In 1926, Story and other members of the Worcester Section, spent a week working on the trail between Hazen's Notch and Jay Peak. In 1927, he led the Worcester section in trail work on the Marjorie Hulburd Section, which runs from the Lamoille River to Belvidere Mountain.

The first route of the Long trail between New England Route 9 and Stratton Mountain originally followed a low-elevation route near the Somerset Reservoir. George Story and Louis Bigelow scouted a new route for the Long Trail from Glastenbury Mountain to Kelly Stand Road. Story, members of the Worcester Section, and students from Amherst College worked throughout the summer, and they completed the new route in October of 1928. The section of trail between the summit of Glastenbury

Mountain and Glen Haven mostly still follows this route.

When the Willis Ross Camp was dedicated on Stratton Pond in 1929, George Story presented a metal scroll to the boys of Camp Najerog for their help in transporting material to the construction site. "Each year the name of the boy who has done the best work on the Long Trail is to be engraved on the scroll." From 1929 until 1968 youth attending Camp Najerog helped to maintain the Long Trail between Big Rock and Black Branch. George Story oversaw this trail maintenance and presented the award to a boy from the camp.

George F. E. Story died in Leicester, Massachusetts, in 1963, at the age of 77. Later that year the United States Forest Service built a frame shelter near a reliable spring. The spring is the source of the North Alder Brook and is about 3-4/10 miles (5-1/2 kilometers) South of the Kelly Stand Road, on the Long Trail. The members of the Worcester Section of the Green Mountain Club had referred to this as the Story Spring even before the shelter was built. As noted in *The Long Trail News*, "For it was here, for many years, that George F. E. Story quenched his thirst as he labored faithfully on the trails of the Worcester Section.

