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Nathaniel Goodrich

Born: 1880 Died: 1957

As a boy, Goodrich spend his summers at Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, where he developed his skills as a mountaineer, skier, and later as a photographer. Climbing was his first love, and he scaled over 100 peaks in the East.

Nathaniel Goodrich was born in Concord, New Hampshire, on February 9, 1880. After completing public school in Concord, Goodrich went on for his undergraduate work at Amherst College, graduating in 1901. His professional education as a librarian was secured in Albany, New York, at the New York State Library School, and he was awarded the Bachelor of Library Science degree in 1904.

After three years in charge of the order section of the New York State Library, Goodrich went on to the position of Librarian at the University of Virginia, and the University of Texas, coming to Dartmouth College from 1912 until 1950, the longest tenure as a Librarian of anyone in its long history, which dates back to 1769.

As a boy, Goodrich spend his summers at Waterville, New Hampshire, in the heart of the White Mountains, and here he developed his intense love of the outdoors, and began to develop his hobbies of mountaineering, skiing, and later photography.

Climbing was his greatest love. He climbed over 75 major peaks in the United States and Europe,

as well as nearly 100 minor peaks in Maine, Vermont, and New York.

When Goodrich arrived in Hanover, skiing was in its infancy. There were no instructors or tows, and only the beginning of the Dartmouth Outing Club. A group of Dartmouth faculty, Goodrich among them, took skiing seriously and taught themselves how to ski from books. The type of skiing of the day was adapted to cross country travel, the kind of skiing Goodrich preferred. He was very proficient on his skis though, and could take to the racing courses on Cannon Mountain or in the Alps with the best of them, and on occasion, had made winter trips to Switzerland and Austria to ski.

Goodrich wanted others to enjoy the mountains and skiing as he did, and this drew him into the activities of the Outing Club. He wrote two books on skiing, and was the Editor of the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association's Annual for six years, and a Contributing Editor to the National Ski Association. Along with Charles A. Proctor, Roland Palmedo, and Arnold Lunn, he was instrumental in the introduction of Alpine competition to America. His work laying out and cutting trails made possible the Mooselauke run where the first National Downhill competition was held.

Nathaniel Goodrich was responsible for the vast collection of books, maps, photographs, and journals, both American and foreign, on skiing and mountaineering that are now housed in the Dartmouth Library, probably the most comprehensive collection of ski and mountaineering material under one roof in the United States today.

Nathaniel Goodrich was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1971.