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## John P. Carleton

Born: 1899 Died: ?



*As a young man, John P. Carleton jumped in the first Dartmouth College Winter Carnival, in 1910. He was captain of the ski team at Dartmouth and later, when he entered Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, he became captain of its team.*

John P. Carleton was born on September 13, 1899, in Hanover, New Hampshire. As a youngster, he jumped in the first Dartmouth College Winter Carnival in 1910. As a school boy attending Phillips Andover Academy, John competed in both nordic and alpine events. After graduating, he enrolled at Dartmouth College, where he was captain of the Dartmouth Team. Carleton later went on to captain the Oxford University Ski Team, while attending the prestigious school as a Rhodes Scholar. He received his legal education at Oxford and became a partner in the law firm of McLane, Carleton, Graf, Greene & Brown. He was also a veteran of both World War I and II.

The only non-Scandinavian member of the first United States Olympic team, he competed at Chamonix, France, in 1924, in the nineteen-kilometer cross-country event as well as the nordic combined, where he placed 22<sup>nd</sup>.

His feats in the East were legendary. To everyone's amazement, he perfected a somersault he had learned from Gustav Paulsen of the Nansen Club in Berlin, New Hampshire. "Ace" Carleton's loop-the-loop became a mainstay of the Dartmouth Winter Carnival for a number of years.

Although Carleton's acrobatic feats undoubtedly drew people to the meet and interested many youngsters in the sport of skiing, he was more than an acrobat on skis. He was one of America's top pioneer athletes, as attested by his championships in the Eastern U.S. and Europe in both nordic and alpine events.

He and his good friend Charles N. Proctor first climbed and skied down the 50-degree headwall at Tuckerman Ravine, in 1931. Since there was a shortage of terrain for alpine skiing, Charleton had called on James E. Scott, supervisor of the White Mountain Nation Forest, in 1932. As a result, the New Hampshire Development Commission, which was already promoting the sport, formed a committee to develop trails specifically for skiing. When Carleton received state funds, the CCC set to work in 1932 on fifteen trails – which were later criticized for their difficulty.

In 1932, Carleton competed in the Eastern Amateur Ski Association's first Downhill Championship race on Mount Mooselauke, near Warren, New Hampshire. Although informal for the spectator, the race was deadly serious for the competitors. It was held on a long, winding trail down the mountain, which required extreme stamina and determination to negotiate. Carleton possessed the fortitude to perform fearlessly in any situation on skis.

In a letter to Jack McCrillis, dated March 1, 1968, he stated, "This is not to be considered an accomplishment, but I suppose I must hold the record for hospitalization from skiing accidents, all as a result of trying to ski faster and jump farther than my abilities permitted."

John P. Carleton was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1968.



1924 Olympic Ski Team Members

From left: Anders Haugen, Le Moine Batson, Harry Lien, Sigurd Overbye, John Carleton