# Rebecca More Interview About the White Mountains by Alyssa Boehm Lamson Library, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH March 23, 2014

Because Ms. More was not able to meet for an extended amount of time, I had e-mailed her the White Mountain questions in advance and she answered them and sent the answers to me. The interview time was then used to gather basic information about her life, what she is doing know, and and questions that I had about the answers she had perviously given to me.

### Interviewee: Rebecca Weeks Sherrill More, PhD (age 66); March 9, 2014

# 1. What are your earliest memories of the White Mountains?

Traveling up old Route 3 through Franconia Notch to visit my grandfather, Hon. Sinclair Weeks, at his farm in Lancaster NH. Interstate 93 did not exist then, so the trip took most of the day. When we reached the "Old Man of the Mountains" in Franconia Notch I knew we were "almost there..." Our visits were primarily in the summer months, but we also went up for skiing at Cannon Mountain and Mittersill in Franconia during the winter. As a child, I was fascinated by the many "cabin motels" along Rte. 3, most of which are now gone or sadly dilapidated.

**2.** When was that earliest memory of the White Mountains? What age were you? My earliest recollections go back to about 1951, when I was 4 or 5.

# 3. Did your ancestors live in or were connected in some other way to the White Mountains?

One of my ancestors was one of the original grantees of Lancaster New Hampshire in 1763, Rev. Joshua Wingate Weeks. His younger brother, my great- great-great-great grandfather Capt. John Weeks removed from Greenland (Portsmouth) NH in 1786 to Lancaster along with his wife Deborah Brackett and four children. In the spring of 1786 Capt. John Weeks and two of his children drove their cattle up the Baker River Valley to reach their land at Lancaster. Franconia Notch had not yet been discovered in those days and the Baker River route through Haverhill NH was the main connection between the seacoast and the Upper Coos valley. In late October of that year Deborah Brackett Weeks and two very young children came north on horseback through Crawford Notch in company with her brother Lt. Joseph Brackett with his family. The two families farmed along the Connecticut River and also hunted and continued to conduct business and maintain family relationships with the seacoast region, traveling back and forth through the White Mountains for the next 200 years.

In 1820 my great-great-uncles Maj. John Wingate Weeks [I] and Adino Nye Brackett, from Lancaster, were in the party which climbed Mt. Washington and named Mts. Adams, Jefferson, Monroe, Madison, Franklin, and Pleasant (now Mt. Eisenhower) in the Presidential range.

My great-great-grandfather's cousin, Samuel Fitch Spaulding of Lancaster, built the Tip Top House on Mt. Washington in 1853.

My great-great-grandfather NH State Senator John G. Sinclair founded the Sinclair

Hotel in Bethlehem in 1857, the first Grand Hotel in Bethlehem, which burned in 1978. His son, Charles A. Sinclair was involved in bringing the Maine Central and Boston & Maine Railroads into the White Mountains region in the 1870s and 1880s. The Sinclairs were also part of mining and logging operations in the White Mountains during the same period.

My great-grandfather John Wingate Weeks [II] was a Lancaster native and in 1906 built a Library for the Town in memory of his father William D. Weeks, a farmer and Judge of Probate. As US Congressman from Massachusetts, he sponsored the Weeks Act of 1911 that established the legislation that enabled Congress to buy private lands for Federal Forest Reserves. The White Mountain National Forest is one result of the Weeks Act. His summer Lodge and farm on Mt. Prospect in Lancaster is now Weeks State Park dedicated to the demonstration of sustainable forestry practices and provides visitors a 360° view of the entire White and Green Mountain (Vermont) region.

My grandfather, Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce in the Eisenhower administration, maintained a farm in Lancaster overlooking the White Mountains. In 1947 he and his children built the Beatrice D. Weeks Memorial Hospital (now Weeks Medical Center) in Lancaster to serve the region. As Secretary of Commerce, he was charged with implementing Eisenhower's Interstate Highway program. However, in the 1960s, he and Governor Sherman Adams were instrumental in ensuring that Interstate 93 be reduced to a Parkway during its passage through environmentally sensitive Franconia Notch.

My mother and father lived in Lancaster from 1976 until 1998. During that time, my mother was actively involved in the community, working with students with language-based learning disabilities in the local schools and serving as Trustee of the Beatrice D. Weeks Memorial Hospital (now Weeks Medical Center).

Today our family Trust maintains Cat Bow Farm in Lancaster. I continue the family tradition of support for the White Mountains region, serving as trustee of Weeks Medical Center, on the President's Council and Museum of the White Mountains Advisory Council at Plymouth State University and on the Outreach committee for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

#### 4. Did you ever live in the White Mountain region? Where?

I have spent part of my vacations at our family farm in Lancaster New Hampshire from birth, but have never lived in the region full-time. In 1998, my husband Timothy and I took over my mother's house as a place for our children and grandchildren to enjoy the outdoors and stay connected to the natural world and family history.

# 5. What did you do in the White Mountains? Are you a hiker? climber? writer? Naturalist? Skier? other?

I have always loved hiking in the White Mountains to enjoy the natural history, flora and fauna. I am an amateur botanist and always eager to see plant material in its native habitat.

#### 6. How did your work/life connect you to the mountains?

Although my field of research as an historian is Early Modern England, I have done research on the White Mountain region for the past 43 years. In 2011 an article I wrote on

the early settlement of Lancaster was published in the anthology North of the Notches. During the years coming up to and since the centennial of the Weeks Act (2011), I have researched and lectured extensively on the connection between John Wingate Weeks's youth on a farm in the White Mountains with his sponsorship of two landmark legislative conservation acts, the Weeks Act of 1911 and the Weeks-McLain Migratory Bird Act of 1913

## 7. What is your favorite section/area/mountain in the region?

Mt. Prospect in Lancaster is my favorite. I have spent my life walking up it in every season, at all times of the day. I love the 360° view of the entire region, from Cabot to the East, Mt. Washington to Lafayette and Cannon to Camel's Hump and Burke in Vermont and up the Connecticut River to the Percy Peaks and Mt. Monadnock (VT) on a crystal clear day. The ancient caldera at Mt. Horn in Northumberland sits above the Connecticut and serves as a reminder that we are only a speck in the history of the earth.

### 8. What are good things about the White Mountains?

Everything - clean air, changing weather, healthful exercise, historical activity, beautiful views.....

## 9. Is there anything you didn't like about them?

No!

#### 10. Do you know what Title IX is?

Yes, but it is not relevant to my personal experiences in the White Mountains

#### Below is the interview held on March 23, 2014.

Alyssa Boehm: This is Alyssa Boehm. It is March 23 at noon and I am going to interview Rebecca More and I am interviewing her for my American Women's History class and we are going to be interviewing her about her experience with the White Mountains. I am at Lamson Library at Plymouth State University, and here we go.

AB: I'm going to start off with what is your name.

Rebecca More: Rebecca Weeks Sherril More

AB: And is that your birth name or your married name?

RM: Its a combination of both.

AB: Okay, and where were you born?

RM: In Boston, MA.

AB: In what year?

RM: 1947

AB: And did you grow up in Boston?

RM: I grew up, my father was a clergy man, so i lived in Virginia, Washington D.C., Michigan, Ohio, etc.

AB: Nice, and your favorite place?

RM: Well we always had a family home on Essex Bay in Massachusets. Both my grandparents, my paternal and maternal were in Massachusets, Here in New Hampshire.

AB: Oh so New England's your...

RM: Was our base anyway and i came back here for school when I was 14.

AB: Nice, where did you go to elementary school then?

RM: Oh I went to an elementary school in Ohio.

AB: Nice, and how big was it?

RM: Oh a small school

AB? One room school house?

RM: No, no not that small. Just a regular elementary school. A very nice school, got a good education.

AB: Okay, and how many siblings did you have?

RM: 2, but they were much younger than me. 7 and 9 years younger, so by the time I left for school when I was 14 they were 5 and 7.

AB: and when you say left for school..

RM: Well I went to boarding school and i never went back home again

AB: Was that for high school?

RM:Yes

AB: And how was that experience?

RM: Oh terrific, I loved going to boarding school.

AB: And what boarding school did you go to?

RM: A place called Concord Academy in Concord, Massachusetts

AB: And was it all girls, all boys?

RM: All girls, but this was in the early sixty's so lots of single sex education.

AB: What was your favorite subject:

RM: Oh always history

AB: Any time frame?

RM: Well I was a medievalist until well into my thirties only later did I move my time period forward

AB: Did you continue, is that what you studied when you went away to college?

RM: Oh I have a PHD in history, and I have been a college professor now for 35, 40 years.

AB: Did you do any activities when you were in high school? Sports?

RM: Theater was my primary interest.

AB: Was it acting or singing and dancing on the side too?

RM: No, strictly acting

AB: Shakespeare?

RM: We did everything

AB: Do you remember your favorite?

RM: No, because I really enjoyed all of them. But I think Murder in the Cathedral, Thomas, T.S. Elliot's Murder in the Cathedral was probably my favorite play that we did. It had beautiful poems.

AB: Did you have any professors or teachers in high school that really inspired you, or pushed you into history or anything like that?

RM: No because I was interested in history literality from the time that I was a small child. It started at the age 2 or 3 being taken to [American] Civil War battlefields with my father. So it has been my life always.

AB: That's very similar to my background as well. What excited you about Civil War battlefields that made you go into history?

RM: Oh no, not Civil War battlefields, in fact I never did American history probably because personally growing up in New England and Ohio and being dragged around battle fields so I always did European history, always, it has been my specialty.

AB: And you grew up with that just stuck with you?

RM: Well I just always interested in Medieval and European history. I'm primarily interested into social values. And if you want to understand where most of our Western value systems come from you have to end up in the middle ages. So it was just similar to focus on that time period and really study it, get to know it and understand it. And that has been a life long interest.

AB: And it was more the Middle Ages of Europe more than of Africa or Asia.

RM: Strictly Europe. In my era no one really did, very few people did Asian history. You did in college and graduate school if you had access to professors. I mean archaeology was strictly ancient, and social arts. Fields have changed in their disciplines.

AB: After high school, boarding school, you went to higher education?

RM: Umhum

AB: What schools did you go to?

RM: I did two years at Skidmore College in upstate New York, and then I married at nineteen, and I ended up being the first women to graduate from the University of Virginia. Well, there were not any women, they took in transfer students and I was already there, I had been there for two years. I ended up graduating a year late, but I did get my degree at Virginia. And my husband was there at law school, and that was a long time ago.

AB: And what was your degree in?

RM: History of course.

AB: Any minors or focuses?

RM: Nope, that was never an interest of mine. I just did history.

AB: And were most of your professors male at that point?

RM: Oh at the University of Virginia? Yes, one hundred percent. There were no women students.

AB: So no women professors as well?

RM: No

AB: And did that influence you in any way?

RM: No, I really grew up in many ways because I had single sex education from the time I was in high school. The schools I did go to were very good schools. Concord Academy was one of the two best girls schools in the country. And we were educated that if we had a big brain and used it we could accomplish whatever we wanted. In many ways, gender issue became a problem after, not in school. In Virginia, obviously it was different. It was strictly a male institution. But I was married and lived off campus, definitely an anomaly education. Which turned out to be lucky because when I got at Brown, so I had spent the three years at Virginia making my own curriculum, and when I got to Brown in 1970 that was just when the so-called new curriculum came in. In which students have to create their own curriculum. I had already done it.

AB: So it was easy?

RM: So advising and teaching at Brown was very easy for me because i had already done this. And that is why i ended up running, creating and running, the faculty development center at Brown for twenty some-odd years.

AB: Wow, that is an impressive amount of time. So after you were at Virginia Tech?

RM: No, no, University of Virginia.

AB: Okay, did you go on to get a graduate degree?

RM: At Brown, So I did both my masters and my doctorate at Brown.

AB: In history?

RM: Umhum

AB: You're a history girl through and through!

RM: Yup!

AB: And you said you got married at nineteen. What is your husband's name?

RM: Timothy

AB: And how did you meet?

RM: Well we met when we were children. We went to the same elementary school.

AB: Aw that's adorable.

RM: Yeah, well that did happen a lot in those days.

AB: Did you have any children?

RM: Yes we have two children that are grown, and have grandchildren.

AB: And have you taken your New England influences I how you raised them, and keep them around New England? Or did you move around?

RM: No, my children have ended back in New England, but they have spent time on the West Coast. That was their choice. My idea of raising children up is the same as students. My goal is to have them become independent. So if they came back it was their choice, and I of course was thrilled.

AB: Were you working when you were a mother, or did you stay home?

RM: I ran a cooking school for twenty years and then went back into teaching history when my children were teenagers.

AB:How long have you been cooking for?

RM: Oh I have been cooking since the sixties. I was just something that i did when the

children were small, I didn't want to work outside of the house. So i could do it at home.

AB: Any ethnic cooking?

RM: No I taught techniques, it was very similar to what I do as a historian. I am very interested in the fundamental structures of what makes things work. Its true in cooking, and its true in peoples behaviors, and it is true in how history works.

AB: Okay, so after you went back to history did you go back to Brown?

RM: Oh yes, I never left Brown. I have been at Brown since 1970.

AB: and Brown is in Rhode Island?

RM: Providence, Rhode Island.

AB: Do you mainly live in Rhode Island and come up to New Hampshire on the weekends?

RM: Yeah

AB: And did you do that as a child?

RM: Ah we did, as I put in my thing, we used to come up and visit my grandfather in Lancaster.

AB: In the summer?

RM: It depended, we would come sometimes if we were, depending where we lived in the winter, sometimes we would come up for skiing. But almost, virtually every summer we came for at least one visit.

AB: You wrote in your write-up that you were really into hiking, but that you were also into skiing, at what age did you start skiing?

RM: Oh I was probably six, six seven, right around there.

AB: And was it really difficult to learn?

RM: Well it was, because at that point we lived in Ohio so there was not much snow to practice on.

AB: Alpine or cross country?

RM: Oh people did not do cross country. That didn't come in until the seventies. I mean people did do it, but it was very rare. So it became popular in the seventies.

AB: And what mountain did you start on?

RM: Cannon

AB: And is that your favorite mountain now?

RM: No, actually I haven't skied in over twenty years because I broke my leg in the early nineties and I decided never to ski again.

AB: Oh, how did you break your leg?

RM: Oh just fell on black ice.

AB: Oh sounds dangerous and not fun. Alright, so you have been hiking as a young kid as well?

RM: Yup

AB: And you mention Mount Lancaster a lot, is that the one you mainly hike?

RM: Uhh, do you mean Mount Prospect? It's in Lancaster. Its just an easy hike, about half an hour hike.

AB: Have you done Mount Washington?

RM: I did many, many years ago. But I have had so many foot and ankle issues that I can do day hikes, but beyond that not anymore. And not for a long time, not for a few years. But I can do day hikes just fine.

AB: are there any ones that you do a lot besides Mount Prospect?

RM: Oh any of the ones in the Northern Presidentals, I mean the ones in the Presidental range in the White Mountain National Forest; the Sugarloafs, Pine Mountain and up the slopes of Adams and Cressant you know. All the ones that are kinda in our range. I don't want to spend the day in the car, so I prefer to go to something that is half hour, fourty-five minuets hour. Percy Peaks which is up north of Groveton, and in that direction.

AB: Alright so we are talking about the White Mountains, besides hiking and skiing, how else are you involved with the White Mountains?

RM: Primarily as a historian. Over the last thirty years, much more in that regard I mean I certainly enjoy them and I use them recreationally and I appreciate their beauty. But because I am a historian and that is where my work was, I spent the most of thirty years traveling to Europe in my free time to do my research, I wasn't really here except for

short vacation time or weekends. Fall weekend, winter weekends, whatever. But I was always buying history books, learning about the area, trying to understand my family's involvement which goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

AB: Well it is very lengthy and impressive.

RM: Well it isn't that, it is just a typical story of people that came up after the Revolution. So you know, being a historian, even though my field was medieval European history, I was still interested in learning. And then after the mid-2000s my feet disintegrated and I couldn't do anymore European research, at least not on the level I used to do. So I ended up focusing more on White Mountains, New Hampshire, New England history and led up to my research and lectures on the Weeks act. That was just how it came about. It was sorta here and I liked doing research, so that's what I did.

AB: And your family has a lengthy history with the White Mountains, how do you feel you have continued that family history in the White Mountains, and the legacy?

RM: Quite honestly, in the last, as it happened while I was very involved with the Week's Act centennial and getting it started and then seeing it through and giving lectures and giving interviews and writing articles, and as it happened many of the lessons that I felt were important in the creation of the White Mountains National Forest and the Eastern forests in general after the Weeks Act of 1911 were lessons that had to do with grass rout support and getting together and collaboration, both governmental vertically and governmental agency standard grass roots and horizontally agencies working together and starting in 2010 with the announcement of the Northern Pass Project which proposes to bring power transmissions motors through the White Mountain National Forest, I have worked very hard against that project. I feel that it should be buried, if it has to go through than it should be buried on existing transportation carriers. I have testified in hearings and written position papers and filed intervenor statuses. I feel like I am honoring my great-grandfather's legacy and my grandfather's by standing up to make sure that the White Mountains National Forest has a chance because it benefits so many people.

AB: Can you add a little more on why you think the power lines should be buried.

RM: Well the power lines that we have are forty-five feet high, the power lines that are proposed are roughly three times that size, so three times that size power lines going through the forest, its 185 miles long the project, so it will all along 93 and 3 from South Concord all the way to the Canadian boarder. The big power lines, there like the ones that you see in Canada, because they have to be in order for them to carry these high voltage power lines. So given the size, there are two issues. One of which is that they will be visible to tourists so they will have a negative impact on tourism coming through the area. They just will distract from the sense of wilderness which is part of why people come up here for. The Application Mountain Club has done a study to see just how visible they will be at different points in the White Mountain National Forest all the way along. So there is the tourism issue which here in Northern New Hampshire, tourism is our only

industry. So if you destroy tourism or in anyway decrease it you are affecting the lively hood of many many thousands of people, young people, old people. So that alone would be a reason to fight it. But I think that the other issue is, is from an environmentalist point, you have to maintain very wide corridors, and those will be subject to people taking heavy machinery across them, spread of invasive plant material, they will have to be maintained. If they are vulnerable, they're vulnerable to terrorism, they're vulnerable to ice storms. So why not bury them? Yes it is more costly in the initial phase, but in the long run it will be cheaper price. Where I am in Rhode Island, I live in an 18<sup>th</sup> century, mid-18th century house, very old, and they buried our power lines along our street but it is the most historic street in Providence, about fifty years ago, we have never lost power in 43 years. That alone ought to be as important, and when I testified in front of the Department of Energy that was one of the points I made.

AB: That is a pretty big point because we lose power up here all the time.

RM: Anyway, I hope that has answered the question.

AB: No, that's great I don't know much about the Northern Pass...

RM: Well you should learn about it Alyssa. It's important, actually there is a petition out right now.

AB: is there?

RM: Yes, on the AMC website and the Forest Society's website, you can go and click, and it will send a note to, it would be great if every Plymouth State Student went and signed the petition.

AB: and would that make a difference?

RM: It goes to the Governor, and it lets her know that people in the state really do care.

AB: Now you wrote a book in 2011 called *North of the Notches* 

RM: No I wrote an article. *North of the Notches* is a big, if you haven's seen it you should. Because if you are interested in the White Mountains, that's what it is about, it is about the area north, and it was put together by Franklin Pierce University and it is a companion of artwork, articles, mine is probably the only scholarly article but they did not publish my footnotes. My footnotes, I did give a copy of it with footnotes to the library in Lancaster. So it is on file, but its got articles by very good writers, E.D. Clark wrote on the log drives and things like that. So it is a wonderful book. So I just did an article in on the settlement history. The settlement history of Lancaster. So I wrote about two maps which had been redone. One had been done just at the time the town was just finishing, the Revolution was just over. The second one was done about twenty years later. And these two studies bracket the period in which the town was making the transition from being a colony, a colonial entity, to a state, so that was interesting.

AB: Now, Lancaster I'm assuming was a smaller town.

RM: Well it was the county town, it was and has been the biggest town in Coos County for forever.

AB: And how did the American Revolution affect that?

RM: well it affected it, well there were only twenty-five people living in the town. This gives you an idea of how few people lived in Coos County at the time of the Revolution. And what men there were went and served.

AB: And did a lot of them return?

RM: Well those that made it did. Yeah, now after the Revolution there were maybe a handful of men who had served and came back to the town and helped it get really organized as a state-township which meant a lot of organizational issues had to be dealt with. And then after the Revolution a lot of people, or a number of people grew and a lot of people started coming up. One of my ancestor's older brother was a proprietor and I wrote that in section three, he had been a proprietor under the colonel governor in the 1760s, that brother remained a Loyalist and ended up in Nova Scotia, but the younger brother did move to Lancaster from the Portsmouth area. As did a lot of people, the town i think quadrupled inside fifteen years.

AB: And what attracted them to Lancaster?

RM: Well if you have never been up there, the meadow lands are fantastic. Starting from Haverhill New Hampshire and going up, there are these areas called intervales and back in the early days before they were dams, they were flooded every winter which ment that the soil was phenomenally rich, perfect for grazing. So if you are interested in cattle, it's fantastic land for cattle, and for sheep.

AB: And from that Lancaster just boomed?

RM: Well it's a natural area. Haverhill also. Haverhill was the Grafton County town. So these towns that were on the river, the ones where they could move products out, they did the best earliest. Berlin became a city much later, because of the saw mills. So Berlin's history doesn't really begin until the nineteenth century. I mean it was there, but it was a hamlet.

AB: And did these towns see a big increase in people when we started getting more tourists and the grand hotels.

RM: Oh sure, I mean there was work for people to do. They would run the hotels in the summer, and then do logging in the winter time.

AB: Oh that makes sense, I never thought of it that way.

RM: And a lot of hotels began as, and if you go up and tour around, hotels started as farm houses where they took in farm visitors. And then they would add onto the house. So the Mountain View House, which is in Whitefield, there are still pictures that show it started off as a small house. My Grandfather, my great great grandfather, who started the first hotel in Bethlehem, again it was just a small house on the main street and then it added and added and added and then it finally became a huge hotel. Well that is how most of them began. And then many of them burned and then were finally rebuilt, and were build as what we call grand hotels. But most of them began, that were in towns as a house or as a farm house and then they grew. The historical society in Concord has a very good, they did an exhibition of a book about the Grand Hotels and it describes that process. You will have to read it sometime.

AB: I will put it on my list. I love the historical society down there. So it sounds like you are very knowledgeable..

RM: Well I am a bit knowledgeable

AB: Where do you do all your research?

RM: Oh all over the place.

AB: Do you go into town historical societies?

RM: Absolutely. Dartmouth has a fantastic collection, New Hampshire Historical Society. I have worked down in Boston at the New England Genealogical Society, the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel in London. I do a lot work with the British Records because I am familiar with them and I have worked for years in the Public Record Office. It just depends on where I am and what I need.

AB: And do you use public records.

RM: Everything

AB: or journal and diaries

RM: Everything

AB: What's your favorite to work with?

RM: No, I like everything. My feeling is because I tend to do social history and social values I work often on a slightly more detailed level than the average historian. So I virtuality always look to create social networks and in order to that you end up having to do a far amount of genealogical work which means looking at probates, wills, deeds, I've become an expert at looking at and tracking deeds. These are just things you need to do.

The work I did in England, I reconstructed a village, based on the original road systems. And that was done by a combination of all maps, deeds, old deed searches, manuscripts, houses, everything.

AB: Oh what village?

RM: Oh it is a village in southwestern England by Montague

AB: That sounds absolutely fascinating

RM: Well it was, but it took a long time.

AB: And did you have to look at tavern records and house records?

RM: Not tavern records. Those aren't really relevant and in fact they don't really exist. At least in the places that I have worked with. But letters certainly.

AB: What's your research project that you are working with now?

RM: It's a diary of a Loyalist named Joshua Weeks who was the proprietor of Lancaster, I have been working on his diary. So I will end up putting together an annotated edition of it and then we'll see. Who knows where it will go.

AB: And what research questions have you come up while looking into this diary?

RM: Oh that is a good question Alyssa. I think the question is, I'm interested in is the degree in which the diary describes, a lot of American history, because I am a member of the British Studies, a lot of British historians who do what they call British Atlantic, look at the American Revolution as a civil war, rather than a patriotic revolution. And I tend to think that that is a more accurate way of looking at it. And certainly the letters that I have read that go with this diary that are in my family papers are would agree with that. So in one case, twenty years after he had left the New England area and was in Nova Scotia, he was still concerned about his property. So he still felt connected to sea coast New Hampshire even though he had been, for fifteen years he had been in out, had not been living here. And I think, there is a very good new book out by Maya Jasanoff, I think it is called *Liberty's Exiles*, and it's about many of these people that were Loyalists and went across the border into lower Quebec and straight over to Nova Scotia. You know they considered themselves just as much a part of New England as the so called patriots. I think that it makes it a much more interesting story.

AB: Do you know why he remained a Loyalist instead of wanting to fight for the patriots?

RM: Well because first of all he was an Anglican minister, that is, he felt, that was the established religion. Here in the colonies at this time, there were non-conformists, what the English would call non-conformists. But remember I am a British historian, so from

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the British perspective the people that came to American were non-conformists. So they did not want to fit in. They also did not want to, they were already paying double taxes. So anyone that came and was already paying taxes, was paying for the established church. Plus, if they belonged to a non-conformists church, whether they were Puritans or Baptists, Muggletonians, whatever it happened to be, Quakers, they were still having to pay two churches. So a lot of them when they came, when they immigrated, were probably hoping to get away from paying double duty. So when the British began to impose new tariffs and things like that, they felt like they had escaped this, and now they were stuck with it again. The Anglican church in New England, and Virginia as well, The Anglican church was the church of England but it was not state supported on this side of the Atlantic. So many Anglican clergy ended up immigrating. Only in Virginia, the Anglican church in New England became the Protestant Episcopal Church. And funny enough, on my father's side of the family they were all episcopalians, and I grew up in that. And my grandfather on that side was the presiding bishop of the Episcopal church. So I and all my uncles, and everybody going back, I actually know about the Episcopal Anglican Church from that perspective, not from my New Hampshire perspective. So in some ways I am uniquely positioned to look at because I understand what is going on having lived with both of them. Well we will see what happens, it is a project.

AB: well I am really curious to see what the outcome is on that.

RM: well we will see. But you will be a lot older, this will take me years.

AB: You wrote in your write up that your earliest memory...

RM: We have five minutes I think

AB: Oh I thought it was one thirty?

RM: It's one, that's what it says on all the sheets.

AB: alright I'll go through this really quickly. So your favorite earlies memory was going to to Franconia and seeing the Old Man of the Mountain. Can you describe your first feelings whey you saw the Old Man of the Mountain?

RM: Well I don't remember the first feeling. It was just one of those things that we knew was coming. And I would get very excited as we came along Profile Lake and then you would come along the edge of it and be albe to see him and sometimes it was moonlight and sometimes it was day time. So you know it was a marker, it was a real land mark.

AB: and were you really sad when it fell?

RM: Oh I was, I was. But, that's life. When you study millenniums like me, in the big of schemes, it happens.

AB: So you said that you enjoy natural history. Do you know your favorite natural history

mark around the White Mountains? A glacier or rock?

RM: No, I actually what I am interested in is alpine plants. I'm a gardener and a horticulturist, I almost became a landscape architect. It was one of my other interests in addition to cooking. So I love alpine plants and that is something that I studied for a long time.

AB: is there any particular plate that you are absolutely in love with?

RM: No, I'm interested in how they fit into the landscape. And there is a lot, everything from lichen to actual plants that bloom.

AB: and is there any specific plant that you can only find in the White Mountains and no where else that you know of?

RM: Oh that's a good question. There are a couple but I wouldn't be able to come up with them quite that quickly with which ones. There are one or two that are fairly unique to our area.

AB: And do we have to be careful not to pick them?

RM: Oh always, period. And not walk on them either.

AB: Okay I think that is pretty much all I have.