



FINDING AID



Colorado Mountain Club Summit Registers 1915-1976 (bulk dates: 1915-1945, 1975-1976)

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1/6/2012

National Park Service

Catalog Number: ROMO 22893

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HISTORY

The Colorado Mountain Club has a partnership with Rocky Mountain National Park, assisting with trail data.

The Colorado Mountain Club was founded in 1912, and it is a nonprofit organization now based in Golden, Colo. The organization seeks to gather and disseminate information regarding the Rocky Mountains that enhance enjoyment of the mountains. These methods include leading hiking trips and teaching mountaineering seminars. Part of the Colorado Mountain Club's mission is to reach out to any groups that would be in the Rocky Mountains including scientists, artists, and mountaineers. The Colorado Mountain Club has a long history and their archives contain accounts of early hikes in the Rocky Mountains. Throughout the organizations history they have sought involvement with local natural resources agencies, including Rocky Mountain National Park.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Colorado Mountain Club Summit registers
1915-1945, 1975-1976 (bulk dates: 1915-1976)

CATALOG NUMBER ROMO 22893

VOLUME 89 EA

DESCRIPTION This collection includes summit registers from Rocky Mountain National Park provided by the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) and signed by climbers and hikers. A summit register is stored on the mountain peak for climbers or hikers to record their names, addresses, and the date of the ascent.

The summit registers in this collection span five peaks: Mt. Copeland, Mt. Julian, Mt. Richthofen, Snowdrift Peak, Stones Peak, Boulder Field Shelter, and Longs Peak. The bulk of the summit registers regard Longs Peak.

ORGANIZATION Organized into 12 series: Series I, Baker Mountain; Series II, Boulder Field Shelter; Series III, Chief's Head; Series IV, Longs Peak; Series V, Mt. Chapin; Series VI, Mt. Chiquita; Series VII, Mt. Copeland; Series VIII, Mt. Julian; Series IX, Mt. Richthofen; Series X, Sprague Mountain; Series XI, Snowdrift Peak; Series XII, Stones Peak.

The series are arranged alphabetically by location name. Within a series, summit registers are arranged in ascending chronological order.

PROVENANCE Donated by the Colorado Mountain Club.

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS Some of the summit registers have been digitized and are stored on compact disc with the collection. One copy is stored in Box 1 and one copy is stored in the accession folder. Only Series II, IV, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII are digitized.

Colorado Mountain Club Archives: Rocky Mountain National Park Summit registers.

HIERARCHY

- I. Baker Mountain, August 5, 1940-August 2, 1951
- II. Boulder Field Shelter, Sept. 3, 1928 - June 26, 1932
- III. Chief's Head, July 23, 1935-Sept. 4, 1953
- IV. Longs Peak, July 18, 1915 - August 19, 1945
- V. Mt. Chapin, June 22, 1940-July 10, 1966
- VI. Mt. Chiquita, June 29, 1941-August 2, 1958
- VII. Mt. Copeland, Sept. 5, 1915 - July 4, 1976
- VIII. Mt. Julian, August 24, 1926 - August 19, 1945
- IX. Mt. Richthofen, July 22, 1932 - Sept. 2, 1945
- X. Sprague Mountain, August 11, 1948-August 24, 1959
- XI. Snowdrift Peak, Sept. 12, 1926-July 9, 1948
- XII. Stones Peak, August 13, 1924 - Sept. 8, 1945

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Baker Mountain, August 5, 1940-August 2, 1951

Baker Mountain is located in the Never Summer Range. It is one of the final peaks in the Never Summer Range towards Grand Lake, Colo. The mountain is named for John R. Baker of Indiana who was the first person to reach the summit of the peak in the late 1800s. It is accessed by the Bowen-Baker Trailhead that leads to both peaks.

This series includes one CMC register from Baker Mountain.

II. Boulder Field Shelter, Sept. 3, 1928 - June 26, 1932

The Boulder Field is one of the first big challenges that mountaineers seeking to ascend Longs Peak have to face. It was the place where horses could go no further, and the location of a backcountry ranger cabin. Backcountry rangers that patrol the Longs Peak trail are often stationed in this location, and in modern times it has been used as a Search and Rescue cache.

This series includes two CMC registers from the Boulder Field Shelter on Longs Peak Trail.

III. Chiefs Head, July 23, 1935-Sept. 4, 1953

Chiefs Head Peak is the third highest mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park and forms the southern rim of the upper cirque of Glacier Gorge. The peak had its name long before it was marked on any official maps. The name was given by local settlers and Native Americans describing the mountain as looking like the profile of a chief wearing a war bonnet. The Arapaho name for the mountain was Head Mountain. It is most often viewed from the Mills Lake area.

This series includes one CMC register from Chief's Head.

IV. Longs Peak, July 18, 1915 - August 19, 1945

Longs Peak is the highest mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park and is the park's most well-known peak. Visitors have been climbing this mountain since before the national park was even established. The peak was named for Stephen Long, the leader of a surveying expedition in the 1800s, Long never ascended the mountain named for him. The Arapaho name for Longs Peak was Beaver Mountain, referencing how one of the shapes to the left of

the peak can look like a beaver. It was said that when the snow was off “the beaver’s back” the tundra would be accessible.

This series includes 80 CMC registers from Longs Peak and one folder containing correspondence regarding a mountaineer that summited and could not find the register.

V. *Mt. Chapin, June 22, 1940-July 10, 1966*

Mt. Chapin can be accessed from Fall River Road on the East Side of Rocky Mountain National Park. It is commonly climbed in combination with its neighboring peaks, Mt. Chiquita and Mt. Ypsilon, due to their closeness. It is unclear for whom Mt. Chapin is named for, but it is assumed that it was named for Mr. Frederick Chapin from Connecticut who wrote about climbing the peak as part of a mountaineering trip with the Appalachian Mountain Club in the late 1800s.

This series includes one CMC register from Mt. Chapin.

VI. *Mt. Chiquita, June 29, 1941-August 2, 1958*

Mt. Chiquita is the most accessible peak over 13,000 peak in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is accessed from Fall River Road from the Chapin Pass Trailhead. It is often climbed as part of the CCY trail where hikers seek to claim the summits of Mt. Chapin, Mt. Chiquita, and Mt. Ypsilon in one hike. The mountain was first named on Enos Mills map in 1905.

This series includes one CMC register from Mt. Chiquita.

VII. *Mt. Copeland, Sept. 5, 1915 - July 4, 1976*

Mt. Copeland is located in the Wild Basin area of Rocky Mountain National Park. It is named for John B. Copeland, a pioneer from Central City; he began a homestead at Copeland Lake in the late 1800s. The mountain had several attempted name changes throughout the decades, but remains Mt. Copeland due to that being its most common local name.

This series includes two CMC registers from Mt. Copeland.

VIII. *Mt. Julian, August 24, 1926 - August 19, 1945*

Mt. Julian is one of the many peaks framing Forest Canyon in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is most commonly accessed using the trailhead for Mt. Ida at Milner Pass, although can also be reached hiking from Forest Canyon Overlook. This mountain is difficult to access from either location. It is named for Julian Hayden who accompanied his brother and Abner Sprague on a hiking trip into Forest Canyon.

This series includes one CMC register from Mt. Julian.

IX. *Mt. Richthofen, July 22, 1932 - Sept. 2, 1945*

Mt. Richthofen is the highest peak on the north end of the Never Summer Range in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is assumed that the peak is named for Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen of Germany who was a member of Clarence King's survey team in 1870.

This series includes one CMC register from Mt. Richthofen.

X. *Sprague Mountain, August 11, 1948-August 24, 1959*

Sprague Mountain is on the south side of Forest Canyon. The mountain is named for Abner Sprague, a homesteader, guide, lodge owner, and very influential individual in the Estes Park area until his death in 1943. It is a peak along the Continental Divide.

This series includes one CMC register from Sprague Mountain.

XI. *Snowdrift Peak, Sept. 12, 1926-July 9, 1948*

Snowdrift Peak is near Ptarmigan Pass deep in the heart of Rocky Mountain National Park. It was originally labeled as Mt. Fisher on a map in 1915, but the Colorado Geographic Board renamed it for its prominent snowdrifts, since Mt. Fisher had no local basis for the name. It can be accessed from Flattop Mountain in the Bear Lake area.

This series includes one CMC register from Snowdrift Peak.

XII. *Stones Peak, August 13, 1924 - Sept. 8, 1945*

Stones Peak is one of the more prominent mountains in Forest Canyon and can be seen from the Forest Canyon Overlook on Trail Ridge Road. The Peak is named for G.M. Stone who was a geology professor at Colorado College in the late 1800s. Chapin, Hallett, and Stone climbed this peak seeking to study a glacier that Hallett had discovered on an earlier climb. It can be accessed by the Fern Lake or Bear Lake Trailheads in the park.

This series includes one CMC register from Stones Peak.