

Origins of the DOC

By Ian Sullivan

Before the DOC

The Dartmouth Outing Club was conceived in December, 1899. That month, as nearly as it is possible to fix a date, marks the start of a movement which has spread throughout America, an acceptance of the appreciation of the out-of-doors as a vital need in modern life.

It is difficult to picture a Hanover winter before the ski and the now seldom-used snowshoe were owned by a majority of students. Tradition tells of stuffy rooms, hot stoves, card games, and general sluggishness resulting from a lack of exercise. It is all too easy to jump to uncomplimentary conclusions regarding those Dartmouth men of another generation. That would be unfair, for it was only the leisureship that was lacking. The individualist alone knew the satisfaction of exercise on the snow-fields above Hanover on a clear wintry day.

Almost from the time Eliazar Sheelock chose Hanover as the site for his Indian school that spirit of the out-of-doors has been present. Isolated accounts come down to us, such as

F.H. Harris '11

The winter sports that a ski and snowshoe club in Hanover, the pleasure of them would be:

1. To be able to attend in winter-time school courses.

2. To have about snowshoeing even would not only being recreation with exercise (they do however).

3. To build a ski, and also to build the snowshoe.

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Initial Response in D.A.M., 2012

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Almost from the time Eleazar Wheelock chose Hanover as the site for his Indian school that spirit of the out-of-doors has been present. Isolated accounts come down to us, such as

...the winter, detailed by John Ledward to the height

F.H. Harris '11

The writer suggests that a ski and snow-shoe club be formed, the purpose of which would be:

1. To stimulate interest in out-of-door winter sports.
2. To have short cross-country runs weekly and one long excursion each season (Say to Mooselac).
3. To build a big ski jump and hold ski jumping contests.
4. To hold a meet or field day during February at which a program of events similar to the following may be contested:

100 yard dash on snow-shoes, cross-country run on snow-shoes, obstacle race on snowshoes, 100 yard dash on skis, cross-country run on skis, ski jumping contest, and other events that may be suggested.

The Dartmouth organization... encouragement... during its brief... plished a large... undergradua... Hanover and... to counterac... sults of cl... other influen... brought to... the eyes of... to the possib... holding a... combination... event and... made it a r... for a similar... ing month p... to consequen... gins to look... distant when... can not ski... toboggan do... be ashamed

Initial Response in D.A.M., 2012

The Dartmouth Outing Club is an organization highly deserving of encouragement and respect. Already, during its brief existence, it has accomplished a large work in revealing to the undergraduates the real charms of Hanover and has probably done more to counteract the sometimes vicious results of close hibernation than any other influence that could have been brought to bear. Last year it opened the eyes of students and friends alike to the possibilities of winter sports, by holding a February carnival whose combination of picturesque athletic event and pleasing social diversion made it a memorable occasion. Plans for a similar exhibition during the coming month point to a wider interest and to consequently greater success. It begins to look as if the time might not be distant when the Dartmouth man who can not ski and snowshoe and guide a toboggan down the steepest slopes will be ashamed to confess it. The students

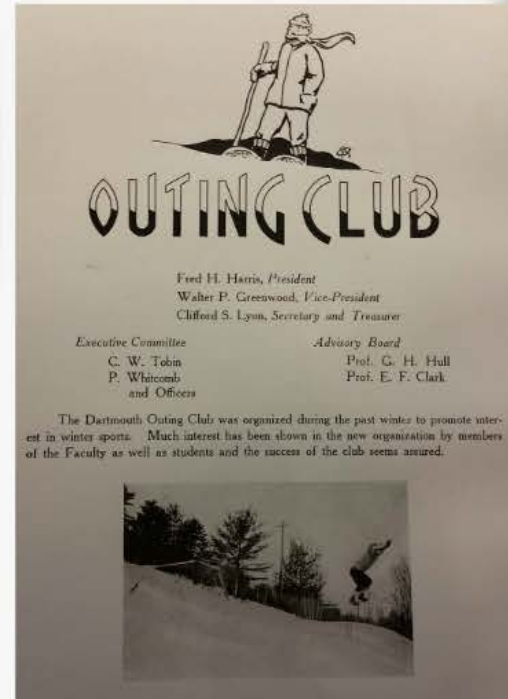
breeding. They left a tradition of strength and hardihood which is dear to the College, but whose continuance is now more dependent upon the development of the men during their four years' course than upon their condition at the time of matriculation. In Hanover, Nature will work wonders if given a chance. The Outing Club is making a large part of its business the affording of that chance, and, in so doing, is a potent element in the maintenance of Dartmouth's proud position as a maker of men.

Winter Carnival and the Map

Since its institution by the Outing Club two years ago, the winter carnival has steadily grown in favor and size until it is becoming a real mid-winter prom. House parties are planned by some of the fraternities for carnival week and many guests have been invited to be present by men not in these societies. The carnival affords a much needed break in the long winter siege between Christmas and Easter.

PROFESSOR GOLDTHWAIT'S MAP

From the greater popularity of snowshoeing, skiing, and walking trips, due to the activities of the Outing Club, has



F.H. Harris: Dartmouth Out O'Doors

"It was hoped that the Club could teach its members new secrets of the woods; that through it they could enjoy the tonic that nature puts for them into the wind, the sky, the sunshine, the spices of the pine and hemlock odors and ozone of the great out-of-doors."

"The Cross-country trips to points of interest are the [real purpose], after all. This shows true love of the sport for the sport's sake, and it is among the men who join these week-end trips that the Club will need to look for its real supporters."