

‡9 A DIO Commentary:

Unfalsifiability-Summit, Flub-Summit, Barometer-Bomb

A If you missed the truth, the movie's just as good

A1 Fake Peak, in spite of its geographical¹ insignificance (see Fig.28) — no contour surrounds it on even the largest-scale USGS topographic map — has played a famous role in the history of US alpine exploration. In light of Bob Bryce's epochal recovery and analysis of Cook's uncropped 'Summit' photo (‡7), it's worthwhile to review some of the more recent arguments put forth by Cook supporters, regarding the importance of this photograph. (Throughout the following appraisal, we will use the abbreviation "CTC" for the Cook Society's 1996 reprint-plus-commentary of Cook's 1908 *To the Top of the Continent*.)

A2 In his biography of Cook, Hugh Eames conceded (‡7 §E1) that the 'Summit' photo really showed Fake Peak, but he excused² the fraud (see ‡7 §E1) with this argument: Cook needed to raise money by lecturing, lecturing was a form of show business, and in show business everyone lies. Therefore, reasoned Eames, it's okay for Cook to lie, too. In Eames' end-justifies-the-means view, the fake photo was nothing more than an early form of Special Effects, then as now a device for bringing in the crowds. And their funds.³

A3 Eames had seen Adams Carter's photo of Fake Peak (reproduced here as Fig.5), but was unaware of the existence of Cook's diary.⁴ Thus, although Eames concluded that the 'Summit' photo was taken as a backup in case of camera failure, he also believed (1973 p.65) that it was taken on the way *down* the mountain. But Cook's diary p.59 shows (‡8 §B Sept.10) that the excursion into Fake Peak amphitheater was made on the way *up* the mountain. Taking a spare on the way up cannot be easily explained, except in the context of deliberate fakery. Not only was this before Cook could have known whether his climb would be successful or not (see ‡7 §H4, fn 49), but also any 'backup photo' excuse must now suppose that Cook knew ahead of time that his camera (or film) was going to fail on the way to the top.⁵ So the 'backup photo' argument casts Cook not just in the role of a cautious man, but less plausibly in the role of an honest psychic.

¹ Fake Peak (5338 ft) is located at 62° 54' 16" N, 150° 30' 21" W (Michael Schoder, AEROMAP, 907-272-4495). The South Peak of Mt. McKinley (20320 ft) is at 63° 04' 09" N, 151° 00' 23" W (Jeffrey Yates, DAT/EM, 907-522-3681); the slightly lower North Peak (19470 ft) is at approximately 63° 06' N, 151° 00' W. [DIO thanks Bradford Washburn for expert information on locating Fake Peak, and for much other advice on McKinley and Cook, as well as providing crucial photos from his vast and unique Mt. McKinley collection.]

² *Winner Lose All*, Little, Brown, & Co., 1973 (pp.64f), a book published, ironically, on the same day (1973/6/29) as DR's *Peary at the North Pole: Fact or Fiction?*, which (at chapters 6 & 19) provides a much less glowing review of Cook's career as hoaxer. Could Eames (writing at the high-Watergate period of US history) have been influenced by various defenses of presidential "corner-cutting"? — such alibis as, e.g., if Johnson earlier got away with Nixonian crimes, then Nixon must be innocent.

³ To take Eames' reasoning a step further: if Cook hadn't lied about the "summit" photo, he wouldn't have had enough money to try for the North Pole prize. So if, as Eames seems to believe, it's acceptable to fake for money, why would he object to Cook's lying about making it to McKinley's summit? Since Cook's motive in that was also to raise money for exploration. [See fn 28.]

⁴ Note that Cook's 1906 diary was entered into a register with preprinted-pagination. Since such a choice makes fakery harder, this provides some evidence in favor of the theory that Cook originally intended to climb McKinley. He probably also intended in 1908 to reach the North Pole — presumably via Crocker Land (thus explaining his odd westerly detour across Heiberg Land), which then turned out not to exist: *DIO 1.1* ‡4 §§B1-B2.

⁵ See *Cook & Peary* p.820 for an eyewitness account of an embarrassing slipup by Cook in this connection soon after his 1906 return.



IN THE SILENT GLORY AND SNOWY WONDER OF THE UPPER WORLD, 15,400 FEET

Figure 28: Another hugely mislabelled Cook 1906 photo, printed opp. p.226 of *To the Top of the Continent*. Original caption: “IN THE SILENT GLORY AND SNOWY WONDER OF THE UPPER WORLD. 15,400 FEET”. View actually looks a little east of south along the eastern edge of the Fake Peak amphitheater at merely 5305 feet. Barely 30 ft higher, Fake Peak itself is the tiny outcrop (5338 ft) indicated by the superimposed arrow. Ironically, the summit of Fake Peak was the highest altitude Cook attained on his 1906 expedition.

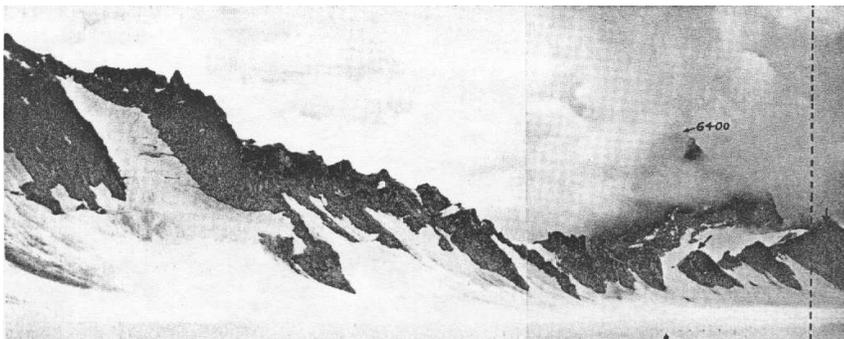


Figure 29: Bradford Washburn (*AJ 11.1* 1958) joined two of his 1956 photos to match Fig.28. (Tiny arrows point to Fake Peak and to the cliff of Fig.8. Dotted line equals right edge of Fig.28.) Accounting for Cook’s camera having been tilted 4° more clockwise than Washburn’s, the pictures (printed here to the same scale) will almost perfectly superpose. (Washburn’s location so closely matched Cook’s that, when photographing this scene, he found that he was virtually standing upon some of Cook’s 1906 camp-trash: Washburn 1958 p.16.) However (see §B3):

THE COOK SOCIETY IS NOT CONVINCED OF THE MATCH

B Similarities, Faking the Wrong Summit, & Legal Blindness

B1 According to Eames, “Cook chose the ‘fake peak’ to photograph because its tip resembled the tip of McKinley. The similarities between [them] are evidence that Cook’s memory of the scene as he struggled up the last hundred yards was very keen.”⁶

B2 But, even if one accepts this similarity (and other alleged ones), this is evidence only for the undisputed facts that: [a] Cook had eyes, and [b] McKinley (and some eastern ridges around it) are visible from the Gateway. (Note that, when he has to map the allegedly-explored area which is *not* visible from the Gateway, Cook’s putative ultra-keen memory fails horribly: see §§D4-D5.) However, this whole (already sufficiently ridiculous) line of argument ends up backfiring with high justice and higher comedy, due to a simple reality: the true, unsharp summit of McKinley is NOT seen as the highest point for an observer at Fake Peak or the Gateway: rather, narrow Carter Horn — 100 feet below and 1/5 mi east & south of the summit — seems angularly higher and intervenes;⁷ and pointed Carter Horn is in truth the sharp “Gun Sight” (Fig.27) that Cook, from his Ruth Glacier viewing position, mistook for the actual summit (which is not sharp: Fig.34). Therefore, by choosing acute Fake Peak specifically *for* this similarity (see ¶7§G7), Cook again bombs — and convicts himself of not arriving at the summit, where the actual situation⁸ would be obvious.

B3 The defensive notion that “similarity” is as important as hard reality may also be found in an especially weird Cookite passage, in which Washburn’s *lock-in* 1956 photographic match (our Fig.29) to the topography of Cook’s “15,400 ft” scene (our Fig.28) is passed off as not establishing anything much, because Walter Gonnason (who has drawn Cook-clique funding for decades)⁹ had a vision. CTC pp.251-252 (emph added): “Washburn *believes that* he found a spot on the lower Ruth Glacier where Dr. Cook took the [15,400 ft] cliff photo. Gonnason believes that he has seen a *similar* cliff near the Thayer Basin, which would be at the 15,000 foot level.” [Photo *not included*.] (Analogous fill at CTC p.252-253, regarding the summit.) Any situation that can broadcast such stuff should put in a disability claim for blindness. Mental or whatever.

B4 The front cover of CTC is a photo of McKinley from azimuth¹⁰ c.120° (virtually the Carter Horn azimuth — what a coincidence! — as well as Cook’s azimuth at the Gateway: fn 7), deliberately¹¹ presenting a sharp-looking “summit” to the unwary reader, who will not know that it’s actually Carter Horn. Thus, one of Cook’s funniest giveaway blunders is repeated and perpetuated.

⁶ *Winner Lose All*, p.67. This passage, through the word “evidence,” was inserted into Eames’ text at the last minute. [The same argument is still repeated in 1998: see ¶7 fn 49.]

⁷ From the true summit, Carter Horn’s azimuth is c.120°; the Cook northermost camp’s (also Fake Peak’s) azimuth is very similar: c.125°. (Angle of depression from the summit to Carter Horn is less than 1/10 radian, but it’s 1/4 radian to the Gateway, or 1/7 to Fake Peak.) The summit of Mt. McKinley is triangular, extending into three “horns”, each roughly 1000 ft distant from the only-slightly-higher central summit (20320 ft): Farthing Horn (20125 ft) c.25° east of north; Kahiltina Horn (20120 ft) c.25° south of west; and the highest (and slightly more distant) of the three, Carter Horn (20220 ft) c.30° south of east. In Cook’s p.52 sketch (Fig.15), the South Peak “summit” is Carter Horn, and the bumps just below it on either side are Kahiltina Horn (left) and Farthing Horn (right).

⁸ Cook later got imprecisely imprecise about the summit’s character: see his peculiar remarks at pp.530-531 of his 1911 book, *My Attainment of the Pole* (and the 1913 edition’s update at p.534). See also *Amer Alp J 11.1* [1958] pp.12-13 for Washburn’s amused & just comments thereon, as he contrasts Cook’s slippery prose with genuine first Mt. McKinley conquerer (1913) Hudson Stuck’s precise verbal description of the top. For a full description of McKinley’s real summit, see Washburn *op cit* Appendix A. For Stuck’s photo of the vista from McKinley’s summit (the best proof — which cannot be faked, so Cook of course didn’t have it), see opp. p.102 of H.Stuck *Ascent of Denali* 1914. (Note that Cookites tend to speak of early explorers’ difficulty with getting photographs of the summit — without mentioning Stuck’s more crucial photo *from* the summit. See, e.g., Eames 1973 p.62.)

⁹ See *Polar Priorities 14* p.25 & ¶7 here at fn 28.

¹⁰ Miscalled as just “east” (Cook Society’s now-favored Cook 1906 approach: CTC Plate 2/12) in the caption to CTC’s Plate 2/15 (of which the cover is a detail).

¹¹ Has the Cook Society ever published a photo of the actual unsharp summit? — which it keeps claiming (*Polar Priorities 14* p.11 & CTC pp.252-253) looks *just* like Cook’s sharp Fake Peak photo.

C I'll know it when I see it, unless I don't

C1 A more convoluted argument on the Summit photo can be found in a tract authored by (lawyer) Sheldon Cook-Dorough (no family relation to F. Cook) in *Polar Priorities 14*. It is so gloriously bizarre that it deserves to be quoted here at length. (Bear in mind that Cook-Dorough was the last person known to have seen the sharp, clear print of the uncropped Summit photo. That print was last seen in early summer 1994 [¶7 fn 12], just a few months before the article quoted here was published.) Cook-Dorough's reasoning:

The primary item of evidence which is presented by Cook's adversaries as supposed proof that he did not reach the summit of Mt. McKinley in 1906 is their allegation that the photograph which is displayed in Cook's book, *To the Top of the Continent*, as the summit of Mt. McKinley is in fact a much lower and indeed insignificant peak in the foothills of Mt. McKinley located off the lower reaches of Ruth Glacier having and [sic] elevations [sic] of only 5,500 feet.

C2 At the outset, the controlling point should be clearly [sic] stated and that is simply this: Even if the peak depicted in Cook's summit photograph is not the true summit but is a peak at a much lower elevation, this fact would not prove that Cook did not reach the summit. At most, it would raise a question as to whether or not Cook had in reality attained the top. In order to make a determination whether or not Cook actually reached the summit, it is necessary to examine and weigh all the evidence pertaining to his climb, the entire body of the evidence, including the photograph in question. If there is other evidence, evidence which is extensive and significant and supports Cook's assertion that he reached the top, as there is, then such a photograph, though not of the true summit, would almost certainly have an explanation which is consistent with his having scaled Mt. McKinley to the top of its ultimate peak. [See Lewis source cited at fn 16. — ed.] If the evidence as a whole strongly indicates that Cook accomplished the ascent, as it does, then it is quite probable that he did, and that the photograph was used for purposes of illustration because he was unable to make a satisfactory photograph at the summit and the highest elevations; that Cook was compelled to use a photograph of a peak other than a true summit for a reason other than his failure to reach the top.

C3 But the second point is equally interesting and may be dispositive of the assertions of Cook's enemies during the last 80 years, that the peak depicted in Cook's summit photograph is, in fact, an unimportant peak located in the foothills of Mt. McKinley off Ruth Glacier between 14 and 20 miles southeast of the summit and having an elevation of only approximately 5,500 feet. Cook's adversaries have referred to this peak as "Fake Peak" in derision of Cook's assertion that he reached the summit of Mt. McKinley in September 1906. The second point to be made is this: While Parker, Browne, and Washburn maintain that "Fake Peak" is the peak depicted in Cook's photograph of the summit of Mt. McKinley, three careful and thoroughgoing students of the question during the last 80 years have concluded that the peak depicted in Cook's summit photograph and "Fake Peak" cannot be the same; that the peak in Cook's summit photograph is not "Fake Peak." Edwin Swift Balch, a distinguished American historical geographer and mountain climber, made a very lengthy study of Cook's photograph of the summit and of Browne and Parker's photograph of "Fake Peak" during the period 1912-1914. He found that while there are some similarities between the two peaks, there are also distinct dissimilarities between Cook's peak and "Fake Peak." Edwin Swift Balch thus concluded that "Fake Peak" is not the peak reflected in Cook's photograph of the summit, that it cannot be.

C4 E. C. Rost also studied the question whether Browne and Parker's "Fake Peak" as shown in their 1910 photograph is the peak depicted in Cook's summit photograph. Rost examined the question independently of Edwin Swift Balch but during the same period, 1912-1914. Rost came to the same conclusion which was reached by Edwin Swift Balch: the peak in Cook's summit photograph and "Fake Peak" captured by the camera of Browne and Parker in 1910 are not the same peak, the dissimilarities between the two peaks are clear. Thus, the peak depicted in Cook's summit photograph is not "Fake Peak" and cannot be "Fake Peak." Rost's conclusions are set forth in his monograph,¹² *Mount McKinley and Its Bearing Upon the Polar Controversy*, 1914.

C5 Hans Cornelius Waale made an exhaustive study of this question in the 1970s and 1980s and concluded that the peak in Cook's summit photograph and "Fake Peak" are different peaks. He found marked dissimilarities between them, although like Rost and Edwin Swift Balch, he discovered some resemblance between the two peaks. But the pronounced differences between the two, in his view, make it impossible that they are the same. Waale concluded that whether or not Cook's summit photograph depicts the true culminating peak of Mt. McKinley, there is no question that Cook's summit is not "Fake Peak."

C6 Bradford Washburn contends that Parker and Browne were correct and that "Fake Peak" is the peak depicted in Cook's summit photograph. [*American Alpine Journal 11.1*, 1958] Neither explains satisfactorily how "Fake Peak" and Cook's Peak can be the same peak yet display certain marked dissimilarities.¹³ It seems most unlikely that the peak captured in Cook's summit photograph is "Fake Peak."

C7 To conclude with a reference to the first point made in this discussion: Even if it were shown that Cook's Peak is "Fake Peak," this would not prove that Cook did not reach the top of Mt. McKinley. The question whether or not Cook scaled Mt. McKinley to its summit must be resolved on the basis of all the evidence pertaining to his climb of the mountain in September 1906, the entire body of the evidence, including this photograph, and if the evidence as a whole supports the reality of his ascent, then it must be concluded that Cook probably, indeed almost certainly, reached the top and that the photograph has an explanation consistent with the reality of his achievement. The evidence as a whole very strongly supports Cook's claim to the first ascent of Mt. McKinley and renders it highly probable that he accomplished the feat.¹⁴

C8 Cook-Dorough starts by saying that if the summit photo shows Fake Peak, that would not prove that Cook didn't climb McKinley. In this way, lawyer Cook-Dorough tries to shift the burden of proof off Cook, in effect saying that Cook doesn't have to prove he reached the summit, rather his critics must prove he didn't. (Not the first time the legal profession

¹² Rost was Cook's often-acute paid Washington lobbyist, who later sued Cook for non-payment of wages. (The accurate title of his [atypically bad] monograph is *Mount McKinley, its bearing on the Polar Controversy*.) See Rawlins Peary . . . *Fiction* pp.247-248 and Bryce Cook & Peary, pp.599-601.

¹³ This argument tries to exploit nature's alteration of Fake Peak (including collapse of its right side). The reasoning is about on a level with disputing a coroner's identification, of a corpse whose right hand is missing, by protesting that the left hand's perfect fingerprint-match proves nothing without the other hand. If we add-in suspicion of forgery (§G), the parallel would be to suppose that the coroner could fabricate the corpse's left hand — but was stumped (if you will) by the task of faking the right hand.

¹⁴ *Polar Priorities 14* (October 1994) pp.14-15, note 2. Cook-Dorough (name now legally changed to Sheldon Shackelford Randolph Cook) can be reached in care of the Frederick A. Cook Society, Sullivan County Museum, P.O. Box 247, Hurleyville, NY 12747 (telephone 914-434-8044), which also handles membership-subscriptions (\$10/yr). Submissions to *Polar Priorities* go to editor Russell W. Gibbons, P.O. Box 11421, Pittsburgh, PA 15238; telephone 412-782-0171, fax 412-784-8801.

has turned sensible philosophy-of-science upside-down.)¹⁵ Then he rolls out an attempt at appealing to Authority, quoting experts who state flatly (and incorrectly) that “there is no question that Cook’s summit photo is not Fake Peak.” Then he reverses course again and says that, oh-by-the-way, just in case the summit photo really *is* Fake Peak, we must look at (all the other) evidence, (Of course, Cook-Dorough had seen the uncropped Summit photo — ¶7 fn 10 — and therefore must have known that his cited experts’ opinions were false.) Particularly precious is Cook-Dorough’s insistence that the Summit photo, even if fake, must have some perfectly innocent¹⁶ explanation. (Fn 17. Similar slipknot-thinking at fn 28.)

C9 Those who run out of hard evidence are prone to ask for a Larger View — appealing to the whole-of-the-evidence (§§C2&C7), or CTC p.253: whether-or-not-Cook’s-summit-shot-is-faked-is-secondary, because, “The real resolution to this dispute is to examine Dr. Cook’s complete route along the East Ridge to the summit.” (Which rather takes for granted that the route was completed. Or even started. After all, the more serious controversy here isn’t: did Cook get to Mt. McKinley’s top? It’s rather: did he even get to McKinley’s bottom?) There are several lawyeresque advantages of this wholistic approach: [a] No possibility of a crucial experiment is permitted — *the* prime condition for maintenance of an unfalsifiable mentality. [b] No matter the weight of evidence, the controversy’s loser can avoid admitting the embarrassing truth by eternally generating nit-picks and alibis.¹⁷ [c] Indisputable hard evidences are less important than our Expert Team’s superior understanding of the Whole Situation.¹⁸

C10 The trouble with item [c] is that it tends away from logic and towards personal attacks, an effect which may help explain the Cook Society’s peculiar venom towards the world’s leading Mt. McKinley expert, Bradford Washburn (longtime head of Boston’s Museum of Science),¹⁹ whose overwhelmingly conclusive 1950s photographic²⁰ investigations would have ended the Cook-McKinley controversy forever among persons of balanced judgement. A likely purpose of the recent Cook Society expedition to the McKinley area was the establishment of we’ve-been-up-there Expertise. None of which will impress scientists who observe the Society’s diary-p.52 four-way-disaster (see §F) or its mangling of the mere printing of basic surveying equations.²¹

¹⁵ E.g., the discovery-rule and the Mirandization of suspects are both flagrantly contrary to creating conditions in which competing theories’ credibility & fruitfulness can be tested by incoming evidence.

¹⁶ By golly, there must be *some* logical reason why the unimpeachable evidence does not fit the sacred theory, if only we could discern it. Readers with the wit to solve this riddle may also wish to help C. S. Lewis out of his equally self-imposed animal-pain dilemma: see *DIO* 4.3 ¶15 §I3, fn 42. Suggestions that either sacred theory might possibly be *wrong* will be received with predictable&invincible deafness.

¹⁷ A gem, by Cook-Dorough, from *Polar Priorities* 15: “The reasons for Cook possibly not having a photograph of the summit . . . could be weather conditions, snow, haze, extreme cold. Conditions are so poor on some days, particularly at the highest locations, that no good, clear photographs can be made. Thus a substitute photograph of similar features found at lower elevations might be used for purposes of illustration.” As Washburn notes, a poor-visibility excuse is pretty odd for an explorer who claimed (§D6) that he could see distant volcanoes from the summit! So CTC p.260 turns around and — in a master-display of swivel-hipped zigzag-unfalsifiability — offers that Cook’s very *claim* of seeing the volcanoes is evidence in his favor *regardless of whether it’s dead wrong* (which it positively is: §D6): “If someone were faking an ascent, it seems highly unlikely [that he] would provide refutable observations. [He] might easily claim that it was too cloudy to get a photo or see distant peaks.” This is typical (see also §D6) of the Cook Society’s evasion (noncitation) of Washburn’s demonstration that higher & nearer mountains are in a direct line with (and so make impossible) two of Cook’s reported volcano-sightings.

¹⁸ Eminent professors are not immune to such delusions: see *DIO* 1.2 fnn 66&100.

¹⁹ Science Park, Boston, MA 02114-1099, telephone 617-589-0229, fax 589-0363.

²⁰ The sheer beauty of Washburn’s pictures is assisted by use of large negatives. Cook made the same wise choice.

²¹ Compare CTC p.302 to the original Russell Porter rendering at p.41 of A. Brooks, “Mount McKinley Region, Alaska”, Dep’t Interior, USGeolSurv, Professional Paper 70 (Wash, DC, 1911).

D Doc Cooked: the unequal battle between Faith & Data

D1 So let’s follow Cook-Dorough’s advice and look at the evidence. The real evidence. Here we will include only evidence directly from Cook himself: his diary, his photography, and his published accounts. Much of this evidence has already been discussed in ¶7, but we will add one new exhibit here: the map published by Cook in his *Harper’s* article of 1907. Fig.31 is a detail of this map, enlarged 6 times; the original map was published in small scale, perhaps deliberately²² so as to obscure non-existent features.

D2 Compare this to a real map of the same area (Fig.32). Note particularly that the southern part of Ruth Glacier is drawn correctly, including the alcove on the eastern edge that contains Fake Peak. The westward curve of the lower glacier is also accurate. The tributary glacier west of Glacier Point is there, as is the narrowing of the Ruth Glacier north of Glacier Point. All of this is mapped correctly. (The map is the work of Russell Porter, a member of the 1906 expedition who had seen this portion of the Ruth Glacier from the west [short dash-dot line in Fig.31], before turning back to the coast in the late Summer.)

D3 But beyond the point Barrill said they turned back, the map is pretty bad. Ruth Glacier does not extend more than a few miles beyond Barrill’s turnaround point, but Cook’s map shows it becoming a huge serpentine²³ glacier curving far north-northeast, then backtracking far southwest to a point just below the summit.

D4 More important is the topography along Cook’s claimed route beyond the point that the map shows they left the glacier. The map has a continuous ridge line running northeast-southwest, leading directly to the summit in a roughly straight line for about 20 miles. Actually, there is a network of fairly short branching ridges leading to the summit. Of these, only Karstens Ridge runs northeast, and it peters out after about six miles. The East Buttress ends about seven miles from the summit, and it does not run in the direction Cook’s map shows. Bryce has plausibly suggested that Cook confused the East Buttress with Karstens Ridge; but this could only have happened had Cook *not* climbed the mountain.

D5 Even supposing Cook climbed the East Buttress and had mistakenly thought that it ran northeast, he would have been able to see from its top that the Ruth Glacier looks nothing like the way he mapped it. And most critically, he would have been able to see the region beyond the East Buttress: the Traleika Glacier and the upper Muldrow Glacier. Cook would have been the first person to have seen these features. Why are they missing from his map? In the area he indisputably traveled, his map is correct in all details; in the area in which his travel is in dispute, his map is suspiciously inaccurate.

D6 Here’s what Cook *did* claim to see from the top: “The icy cones of the burning volcanoes Redoubt, Iliamna, and Chinabora . . . were clearly visible with their rising vapors.”²⁴ To test this claim, Brad Washburn took a photograph from 1000 feet above the summit of McKinley on a perfectly clear day. With Mt. McKinley in the foreground, the photo shows that both Redoubt and Iliamna (modern spelling) are hidden from view by higher and directly-intervening topography, especially Mount Spurr. With Velikovskian invincible-unfalsifiability, the Cook Party does not cite the Mt. Spurr blockage and merely responds (CTC p.261; see also fn 17): “future observers may resolve this disputed item.”²⁵

²² Definitely deliberate: when virtually the same map was published in *To the Top of the Continent* (1908 pp.152-153), Cook’s 1906 route was omitted. Odd behavior for an allegedly honest man.

²³ The serpentine glacier of Fig.31 is evidently just a speculative extrapolation by R.Porter (an early skeptic about the climb: Cook diary p.164, CTC p.291), linking two prior (then-separate) dotted-line semi-conjectural glaciers. For the evolution of this mapping, see the 1906-data-based maps (XV vs. III&IX) in A.Brooks 1911 (cited in fn 21). (Bryce has wondered whether the serpentine glacier is ultimately based upon a huge Cook exaggeration-misplacement of the Ruth Glacier’s West Fork.)

²⁴ *To the Top of the Continent*, p.232. (See Washburn 1958 p.12.)

²⁵ Same defense for Cook’s lack of McKinley summit compass data (§E) and for his “North Pole” fantasy’s navigational howlers. The Cook Society contains no navigators, and for decades the Society has been unable (despite DR’s urging) to find — or even to ask publicly for — navigational experts who will vouch for the non-farcicality of Cook’s purported 1908 sextant “data”. (For which planet these alleged data put Cook on, see Rawlins Peary . . . *Fiction* 1973 pp.86-87.)

D7 The foregoing highlights a recurring theme in all of the evidence from the 1906 non-climb: absolutely everything can be verified below the point that Barrill said Cook & he turned back, and absolutely nothing can be verified beyond that point. Below the point Barrill said they turned back, we have:

- A complete photographic record, including many striking & beautiful photos;
- Several sketches in Cook's diary of views from the lower Ruth Glacier;
- Two sets of compass bearings²⁶ on visible peaks from the lower Ruth Glacier;
- Two sketch-maps in Cook's diary of the lower Ruth Glacier;
- A fine, accurate map representing the lower Ruth Glacier, published in *Harper's*.

D8 And above the point Barrill said they turned back:

- Not one photograph;
- Not one diary sketch that is a credible match to real terrain;
- Not one compass bearing;²⁷
- Not one diary sketch-map (the contrast to §D7 was suppressed in CTC: §F);
- A suspiciously incomplete map of the region north of the Gateway, published in *Harper's*.

D9 Final score on the hard evidence (see also ¶7 §H2): Cook is five-for-five in providing evidence below the point where Barrill said they turned back, as against zero-for-five in providing evidence beyond that point. And this score is charitable, since the published cartography is not merely lack of evidence but positive evidence for fraud. (Washburn notes: the map appeared 2 months before Cook left the US, for his polar hoax.) So if Cook reached the summit, not only did he stop taking photos at the precise point Barrill said they turned back, he also: stopped making sketches, stopped taking compass bearings, stopped making maps (did he lose his compass and his map-sense to the same gremlin who stole his films?),²⁸ and began to falsify the topography of the region. All at the same critical point.²⁹

²⁶ First recognized as such by Ted Heckathorn. See Cook diary pages 50 & 56, reproduced here as Figs.20&30 (also at pages 283&285 of Heckathorn's afterword to CTC). *DIO's* analyses of these two bearing sets put Cook on the Ruth Glacier at 62°47'N, 150°38'W (diary p.50), and 62°52'N, 150°.6 W (diary p.56). Both points (accurate to about a mile) are well south of where Barrill said Cook & he turned back. Most of the compass data on diary p.51, CTC p.283, are nothing but p.50 data offset by 1°1/2. (The same mountain [perhaps the 11530 ft peak at 62°57'N, 150°59'W] is called "Mt. Hunter" [¶7 fn 38] on p.50, "McK" on p.51.) So, the site was likely that of p.50. As for the 1°1/2 differential: its steadiness is a credit to Cook's vision, but its size shows poor accounting for compass deviation.) Note that the bunching of the p.56 bearings of peaks suggests that these data were taken as an afterthought during the return south — because it would be odd to observe such crowded bearings if one were moving northward, with the prospect of soon being more athwart the line of peaks.

²⁷ In spite of Cook's claim that he took "a round of angles with the prismatic compass" from the top of Mt. McKinley (*To the Top of the Continent*, p.233), his own diary contains no compass data except from Ruth Glacier (fn 26). Explaining-away this glaring omission requires an extra-epicycle alibi entirely separate from the other baseless excuse (film-going-bad) — and so we have the proto-makings of a burgeoning-out-of-control disconnected-alibi goulash, which obviously isn't going to make the Occam's-Razor cut. See §D9 & *DIO* 4.3 ¶15 §F5. (Also *DIO* 1.1 ¶7 §D1, *DIO* 1.2 §F4, fnn 103&209, 2.3 ¶8 §C20 & fn 46, 6 ¶1 fn 47.)

²⁸ [See ¶7 fn 49, where unshakable faith in Cook leads to the transformation of a desperately-conjured-up wispy speculation — that Cook's film suddenly went bad at the Gateway — into a concrete-positive conviction of this. No matter that Cook never publicly said so. Instead, he palmed off low-altitude photos as high-altitude. Which proves him a liar. OK, OK, so he lied about the film — but not the summit-conquest! (Note: the ability to be sure of this improbably disproportionate fine-distinction is what makes a Cookite. See fn 3. Also R.Newton at *Q. J. Roy. Astr. Soc.* 20:390 [1979], & 21:390 [1980], and *DIO* 1.2 §H3.) The sole, entire basis of the bad-film alibi is need: Cook-lovers crave a controversy-loser's escape-hatch, some way — any way — of continuing to insist that being on the wrong side of 100% of the photographic evidence proves nothing. *Nothing*. (See also fn 16.) Certainly, this overwhelming evidential situation cannot prove that Cook-junkies have for decades — i.e., for most of their research-lives — been wrong. Utterly & spectacularly wrong. Ironically-upside-down wrong: conned, into decades of dedication, by the clumsiest hoaxer in exploration history. No, *not for all those years* — during which devotees increasingly insulted the intelligence, integrity, and motives of those who have now been proven absolutely correct on THE key photo of the case.]

²⁹ Another type of hard evidence runs out at the Gateway: remains of Cook's camps have been found by both Washburn (see Fig.29 caption & *AAJ* 11.1 [1958] p.14) and Okonek (1993/1/13 letter to Bryce). But no traces of Cook's 1906 trip have been found closer to McKinley than the Gateway.

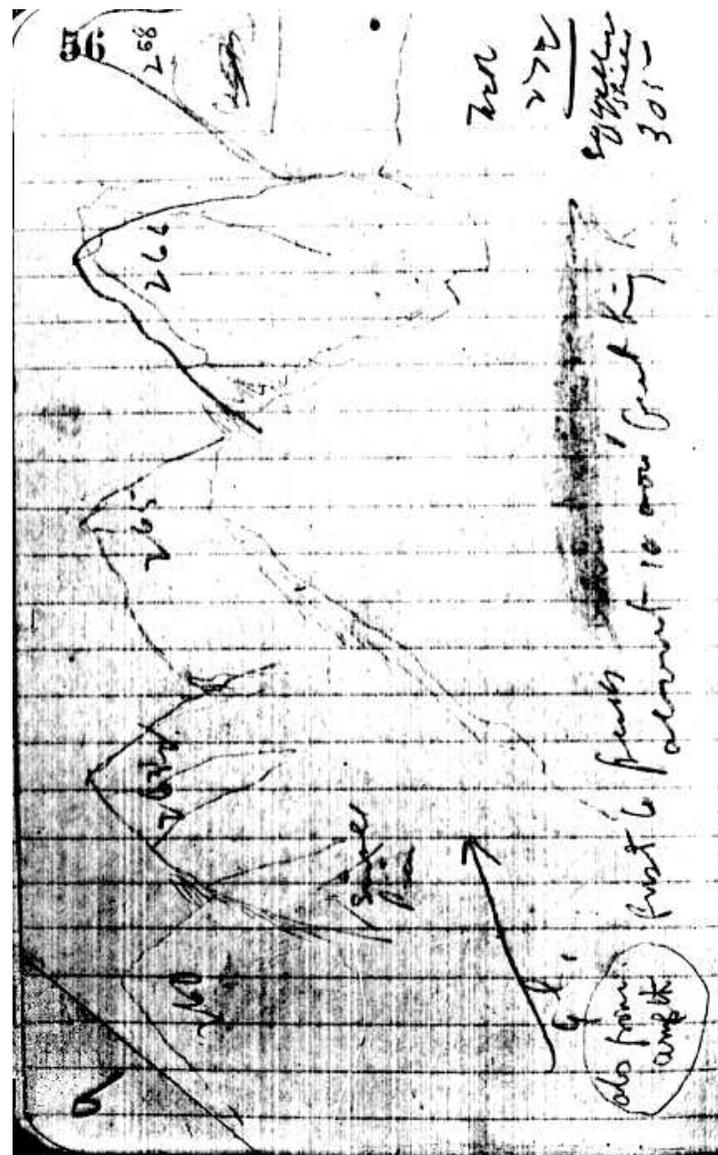


Figure 30: Page 56 of Cook's 1906 diary, showing a sketch of the peaks (Mt. Church, Mt. Grosvenor, etc.) along the western edge of the Great Gorge. (See Fig.1 & ¶7 fn 33.) Numbers on the peaks are Cook's measured compass bearings. The notation "obs from amp th" suggests that (at least part of) the drawing was made from the Fake Peak amphitheatre. However, the raw bearing-data indicate that they were observed south of Glacier Point. (See fn 26.)

D10 Cook's 1906 farthest north is also obvious from a glance at Fig.12 (diary p.44), where his own marks of activity — and the lack of a sketch-map farther north — show that he never even approached any of the four peaks he numbers #9-#12, which he merely saw³⁰ (at the Gateway) from the south, in the distance.³¹ Friendly Peak was probably peak#11 of the four. As Bryce correctly remarks (¶7 §G6), the Cook Society photo of Friendly Peak (Fig.26, same as CTC Plate 2/7) does not especially resemble Cook's "Gun Sight peak" sketch (bottom drawing at Fig.15), though the Society claims it does. This despite the neat assisting ploy of shooting this photo from a point³² less than 7000 ft above sea-level, more than 3000 ft lower than Traleika Col, from which the Society states³³ Cook drew Friendly Peak, and from which the Society claims (fn 33) its 1994 expedition swiftly spotted Friendly Peak as a match to the drawing. However, neither *Polar Priorities 14* nor CTC includes a photo of Friendly Peak taken at Traleika Col — from which point it in fact does not look like the lone peak depicted in Fig.15 or Fig.26: [a] it cannot there be seen against the sky (since it's much lower than Traleika Col); and [b] it merely looks like the front peak of a bunch of in-line peaks, Cook's #11-#9 (#10 peeking up from behind, on the left) — and anyone drawing it would obviously have depicted that situation.³⁴

D11 Unsurprisingly, Cook stopped just where the going got tough (as also in his try for the N.Pole). The Gateway is only 12 mi from McKinley's summit horizontally, but nearly 3 mi vertically, a huge 25% mean grade. Indeed, the entire McKinley massif is noted among alpinists for some of the steepest grades in the world. The East Buttress route currently favored by Cookites is particularly difficult. Cook at the Gateway was staring at a grade of over 100% (much tougher than what stopped him in 1903) just to get onto the E.Ridge at all. And, once up, he would have had to traverse a feature Washburn calls "Hairy Ridge" (Fig.33), which is so horrible that Gonnason and three others gave up their try after just 100 feet. In 1994, S.Fischer reached Hairy Ridge's start but didn't bite, obviously realizing³⁵ Cook couldn't have finished it without special equipment he lacked.³⁶

³⁰ Fig.12 & *Top* p.197 suggest probable (though not certain) identification of the four peaks #9-#12 which line up (both in reality and on Fig.12) with peaks #1-#8 (see Fig.1 & ¶7 fn 33). Heights of #9-#12 (S-to-N): 7272 ft, 7400+ ft, 8425 ft (Friendly Peak), and 9150 ft. The Cook Society 1994 expedition attempted (CTC p.245) to photograph the whole line of twelve, but the result is not in CTC.

³¹ There is an unexplained "26 mi" written near Glacier Point on Fig.13 (rule [10]). It seems to refer to the total distance travelled since leaving the boat. The same "26" appears on Fig.12 (rule [11]), just south of Glacier Point (scratched out at rule [8]). We also find purely northward distances given: at rule [13], "15 miles from boat"; and at rule [12], "16". So, the nearby "26" may reflect the addition of a leg up&back, perhaps into the Fake Peak amphitheatre (though, in Fig.12, "26" is a bit far south for that interpretation), perhaps to the Gateway. In any case, what is glaringly missing from Cook's diary is: sketch-map distance-data for his claimed travel beyond the Gateway.

³² Friendly Peak's location is accurately provided at CTC Plate 2/12. The Society's Friendly Peak photo (Plate 2/7, reproduced here at ¶7 Fig.26) was taken [also *PolPri 14* p.7 photo] from very near the center of CTC Plate 2/13, itself an aerial photo (with Friendly Peak stretching upward&rightward of center). Both of these CTC photos of Friendly Peak (Plates 2/7&13) are aimed roughly SSE.

³³ CTC Plate 2/12 caption. (Also p.245 & *Polar Priorities 14* p.7.) The E.Ridge viewing-site is probably not accidental. Without it, the drawings' order is odd: why should Cook draw Friendly Peak (which he encountered first) at the *bottom* of diary p.52 (Fig.16), and then later draw Pegasus Peak at the *top* of the same page? (So the Traleika Col site recommends itself to Cookites because it is the lowest point on the ridge from which Pegasus & Friendly peaks can both be seen.)

³⁴ One fails to see what a data-bare cult hopes to accomplish — other than soaking up tens of thousands of Cook Society dollars (which might be more profitably spent in glorifying Cook's genuinely heroic rôle on the *Belgica* expedition of 1897-1899) — by flying and climbing around the McKinley area, looking in all directions to try vindicating an isolated rough drawing by finding a *sharp peak*. As if that's a shockingly unusual sight in such a geologically new region.

³⁵ CTC p.262 counters with a (verbal) quote from a (deceased) guide (Cook Society-funded): "It was doable." Like "Can Do", *Guys&Dolls*' hymn to tout sheets and "a handicapper [who's] real sincere".

³⁶ Hairy Ridge is still unconquered by any human being. One can only hope that no misguided Cookite will be killed or injured on it, attempting [note Bryce 1997 p.731] a vain rescue of the lost Cook myth. [Recent close calls warn us of McKinley's mortal threat to real climbers (91 dead since 1932): *Newsweek* 1998/7/6 p.40. They also remind us of the dangers skillfully overcome by genuine summit-attainers, such as Brad Washburn — and his wife Barbara, the 1st woman ever atop McKinley.]

E Charge of the Slight Brigade — into the Valley of Eternal Reruns

When Cook's papers were finally opened a decade ago, his shrinking circle of loyalists jumped eagerly into them, nakedly hopeful of finding, e.g., the compass-data Cook claimed (fn 27) to have taken from the summit. *Polar Priorities 14* p.5 (similarly at CTC pp.239-240), bright with initial optimism upon the finding of his compass data, reported: "This new evidence warranted further investigation." But when this very investigation proved that *all* these compass data place Cook in the lower Ruth Glacier (fn 26), the Society neither learns anything nor informs its members. (See fn 16.) When every hope for hard-data vindication *came up utterly dry*, no then-sympathizer for Cook (except Bryce) was all-there enough to ask a simple question: does such total failure, on every evidential front, favor or disfavor³⁷ Cook's claims? Instead, the Cook Society began a well-funded diversion-campaign: [a] Glossing its publication, *Polar Priorities*. [b] Claiming Cook's film must have become damaged [fn 49]. [c] Spending tens of thousands of dollars upon its inner circle, and upon a prayerless-wheel of expeditions aimed at the chimera of generating convincing evidence for Cook's claims. (Cook himself having neglected to do so: CTC pp.261&265. Question: who would wish to squander his life in the rôle of a perpetual quixote — charging into one hopeless battle after another — defending so sloppy and feckless a "hero"? See *Cook & Peary* p.944.)

F Self-Destruct Bombs on Diary Page 52

F1 It is an appalling measure of the bareness of Cookism's evidential cupboard that, in pathetic apposition to the 5 hard-data blanks,³⁸ the only document in Cook's hand that the Society attempts³⁹ to call undeniable, startlingly specific proof⁴⁰ (that Cook passed much beyond the Gateway) is p.52 of the diary, i.e., the muddled sketches of Fig.15.

F2 The very idea of fighting perfectly & very-multiply-consistent photographic proof by adducing an isolated (¶7 §G16), discordant⁴¹ page of sketches (by an untalented and questionably honest artist) is wild, right on its face. But, as well, this "evidence" itself (Fig.15) cries out⁴² *in Cook's hand* with so many fatal contradictions of the very cult-theories it is supposed to confirm, that it may represent history's first known case of serial-suicide:

[a] The page is explicitly labelled "McK", which clearly backs the Okonek-Washburn-Bryce theory (¶7 §G5) that McKinley (not Pegasus-Friendly) is the subject of the drawings. The Cook cult simply ignores "McK" and claims that the upper p.52 drawing is of irrelevant Pegasus Peak, a view implicitly accepting that Cook was so smitten with Pegasus (unmentioned in his public or private writings) that he drew a closeup picture of it (and of minor Friendly Peak) — but none of his expedition's goal, Mt. McKinley.

[b] The Society's insistence, that p.52's upper drawing was made on the east ridge, has another unobvious difficulty, namely, this drawing's distant foreground is labelled "east ridge". (See Fig.15.) How could a ridge at the drawer's feet also be part of the horizontal-vista-drawing? (See ¶7 §G9.)

[c] The lower drawing is labelled as being from "gl. opp. peak 7", which is not anywhere near the east ridge. (See ¶7 §G7.) However, this contradiction would mean nothing to CTC

³⁷ The strongest admission (§C2): this "would raise a question" of possible non-success. "At most".

³⁸ See §§D7-D8.

³⁹ E.g., ¶7 §G.

⁴⁰ *Polar Priorities 14* cover, inside cover, p.8; CTC pp.248, 249, 253. Also here at fn 44 & ¶7 §G3.

⁴¹ One is reminded of the case of the Piltown "discovery", which — as anthropological data accumulated afterwards — was increasingly isolated-inconsistent with respect to the wider corpus of evolutionary knowledge.

⁴² There's a simple rule of investigative research: don't talk to evidence; listen to it. If you make up your mind before evidence arrives, then your intelligence will be spent not upon induction from the evidence, but upon resilience to it — and, when evidence gets overwhelmingly one-sided, the determined Believer eventually becomes as comic as Joe E. Brown in *Some Like It Hot*'s final scene.

readers, since CTC pp.281-282 fails to reproduce (or even provide the texts of) Cook diary pp.44&46 (Figs.12&13), both of which place peak 7 just short of the Gateway. (See also Bryce's comments at ¶7 fn 25.) Incidentally, as to the larger question of why Cook has sketch-maps south of the Gateway (but not north): the §D7-vs-§D8 contrast is also lost on CTC readers, again because the Cook Society has never published the sketch-maps.

[d] But the p.52 datum that definitively torpedos the whole east-ridge-Pegasus-Peak crock is the briefest entry on the page, "Bar 24" (right side of Fig.16) — Cook's barometer reading of 24 inches. This corresponds⁴³ to about 6000 ft; while, for 11,000 ft (the altitude the Cook Society has broadcast⁴⁴ for these drawings), the correct barometric reading would be 20 inches. (As to the likelihood of a 4 inch error: none of Cook's other real barometer readings vary from mean expectations [fn 43] by more than about 1 1/2 inches.) So, say goodbye to the Cook Society's prime new McKinley-data exhibit, by far the most-advertised evidence from its 1994 expedition, which drained the Society's coffers by roughly \$40,000.

F3 As the Cook Society falsely accuses (fn 46) others of forging material, even while the Society itself juggles (and repeatedly ignores inconvenient or even glaringly contrary parts of) its own sliver of self-proclaimed new-vindication p.52-evidence, it's time to reflect upon the psychological definition of "projection".

G Apostacy, Apotheosis, & Apology

G1 Returning to crucial-experiment-finality: the significance of the uncropped "Summit" photo is twofold: First, it shows indisputably that Cook lied in his display of the most important physical evidence from the climb. Cook's veracity is of central import when the only evidence in favor of his claim is his own unsupported word. Second, it shows that Belmore Browne, Herschel Parker, and Brad Washburn were not satanic defilers of The One True Explorer, but were legitimately attempting to determine the truth in their *now completely vindicated* investigations of Fake Peak. Past defenders of Cook (inspired by Cook himself)⁴⁵ have imputed various dishonest motives to these men [*Polar Priorities 15* pp.32&35], and their charges are still faithfully cited by Cookites today.⁴⁶ (*What does all*

⁴³ A convenient expression for the mean relation of height z (in statute miles above sea-level) to barometric pressure P (in inches of Hg) is: $z = 12 \cdot \log[30/P]$. That Cook's barometer was not seriously defective is acknowledged at CTC pp.269-270, and is obvious from the barometer data in the diary (CTC pp.283f). At diary pp.59&65, the barometer twice indicated P close to 24.6 inches (CTC p.286) for Glacier Point ("Cercac Pt.": ¶7 fn 19). Evidently working (accurately) from a table based on the above formula, Cook (diary p.59, CTC p.286) placed Glacier Point at about 5500 ft (5280-12·log[30/24.6]), though it is actually only 3753 ft above sea-level. The error could be from slight instrumental miscalibration or local atmospheric pressure-variation or both. Correcting for the effect, we can estimate that 24 inches on Cook's barometer at this time corresponded to almost 5000 ft, which is about consistent with his actual altitude in the Fake Peak-Gateway area, where he drew the p.52 sketches.

⁴⁴ E.Ridge 11000 ft altitude: *Polar Priorities 14* inside cover, p.8; CTC pp.245-248. And see fn 40.

⁴⁵ F.Cook *My Attainment of the Pole* 1913 ed. p.534, on Peary, Parker, & Browne: "bribery, conspiracy, and perjury." He continues (with unwitting irony, given his own later term in Leavenworth for mail fraud): "That such men can escape the doom of prison cells is a parody upon human decency."

⁴⁶ See §§C3-C5, CTC pp.252-253. Attacks summarized in Bryce's *Cook & Peary* pp.816f. Ted Leitzell's claim that Browne's photo was doctored (a charge spread by Cook himself: *My Attainment of the Pole* 1911 p.531) is published in *Polar Priorities 14* (1994) p.17. (Browne is an odd target of attack for fraud since he on 1912/6/29 got within a few hundred feet of McKinley's summit — all the way to Farthing Horn [fn 7] — yet honestly admitted he'd fallen short of the exact summit, entirely unlike the big-lie hero of those who keep denigrating him.) A more recent Cook Society attack on Browne claims (CTC p.261) that he temporarily mis-located Fake Peak on a map. Comments: [a] Since Browne was eventually the first post-1906 explorer to locate Fake Peak (demonstrably correctly — his written cairn-record was found on the spot: Washburn *AAJ 11.1* [1958] p.21 & plate 16), why obfuscate with such an obsolete nit-pick? [b] The Cook Society's own map (CTC Plate 2/12) mislocates its fave formation, "Pegasus Peak", placing the 12200+ft & 12060 ft peaks in its photo (our Fig.14) north instead of south of West Fork Traleika Glacier. (To prevent any unfair conclusion: the mapper in this case, Ted Heckathorn, is not ignorant of where these peaks are; i.e., this is just a meaningless slip. But, if one generates a nit-contest, this is the sort of thing that can get unmercifully blown out of proportion

this say about the Cook Society's ability to detect a genuine conspiracy?) In particular, Browne's Fake Peak photo was allegedly retouched and Browne himself was said to have been a party to fraud (allegations shown here to have been flat-out false all along). Question: *Why have such hysterically extreme charges persisted* (for over 90 years), if the Fake Peak photo's location is now being hurriedly re-classified as just ho-hum "irrelevant" (¶7 §G3) — as is certain to be the Cook party's permanent future party line?

G2 Cook's more imaginative supporters have (*Polar Priorities 15* p.36, 1995) accused Brad Washburn of ignoring or "suppressing evidence" as part of a "Peary-Browne-Washburn vendetta . . . a nasty⁴⁷ historical coverup" — and have tried portraying Washburn as a Peary-cult stooge (partly because Peary-backing National Geographic had the excellent good sense to award Brad its medals — and to reject Cook's gross hoaxes). Comments: [a] Anybody who knows Brad Washburn quickly realizes that his frank temperament is utterly antithetical to covering up anything. [b] Right in the preface to his crucial 1958 *Amer Alpine J* paper, Washburn pointedly criticized the over-aggressiveness of Peary's supporters. [c] The only time *DIO's* publisher and his wife have ever met Brad and Barbara Washburn (1995/7/16), Brad openly mentioned that Peary's failure, to take navigator-witness Bob Bartlett on the last leg of his famous 1909 trip, left Brad (& Bartlett, whom Brad knew) suspicious of the Peary North Pole claim. Such (typical) openness by Washburn — who is perfectly happy with our publication of his skepticism here — seems rather odd behavior for a National-Geographic-puppet-conspirator! (Further: the best review of Rawlins' disbelieving 1973 book, *Peary . . . Fiction*, was by Brad's protégé, Dave Roberts, in the 1973/7/19 *Wash Post*.) Since the Cook movement continues to focus on the theory that Pearyite forces are responsible for the nonrecognition of Cook's claims, it should be added further that this *DIO's* author, editor, and publisher are *all* utter disbelievers in Peary's North Pole claim. But the three of us agree with Washburn that Peary came much closer to the Pole than Cook, and the majority of the four of us believe that the immortal Peary at least tried his best in 1909 (short of suicide) — and was worth ten of Cook as an explorer.

G3 Questions for the suppression-loathing Frederick A. Cook Society: [a] Is *Polar Priorities* willing finally to publish the full "summit" photo (preferably the "lost" sharp copy: ¶7 fn 12) and its mate? (Our Figs.18&4, respectively.) Indeed, why has it not already long since done so, having (¶7 fn 9-12) possessed both for years? [b] Can *Polar Priorities* cite⁴⁸ this *DIO 7.2-3* and our address and phone&fax numbers? No need to suppress *Polar Priorities* readers' access to both sides of the McKinley controversy.

G4 The bottom line of §G1 and of the now-*complete* vindication of those who contended that Fake Peak was the site of Cook's "summit" photo: Cook's advocates obviously now owe Washburn — and the shades of Browne & Parker — an apology for their ironic⁴⁹ slurs. No matter how well deserved,⁵⁰ it is an apology that one sadly suspects will not come. If it does, *DIO* will be happy to report it.

and slung back at one. I.e., it's best if all sides simply stick to basic issues & logic.)

⁴⁷ More projection (§F3)? After evidence proves them wrong in a controversy, some openly acknowledge the fact (see, e.g., *DIO 1* ¶1 §C3, ¶9 fn 7, *DIO 6* ¶3 §F2), while others (the bad losers) can never forgive the bearer of that evidence — and find compensatory satisfaction in launching attacks upon him forever after. (See, e.g., *DIO 2.2* fn 14, and *DIO 2.3* ¶9 fn 32. Or the stalkeresque behavior of Keystone-CSICOPs-archon P.Klass — the goons' goon — towards Tom McIver [tel. 216-252-5715].)

⁴⁸ In as full & detailed a fashion as fn 14 & ¶7 fn 30, which here inform our readers: how to contact all the central Cook loyalists, how to obtain *Polar Priorities 14* & other issues, and how to subscribe and/or contribute to the Cookites' house journal.

⁴⁹ See disappearances: ¶7 fn 9-12, fn 25, §E2. (Also: *Skeptical Inquirer 2.1*:62 [1977] pp.73-74.)

⁵⁰ [On 1998/7/29, Washburn got new precise data on key controversy sites. Adopted here.]

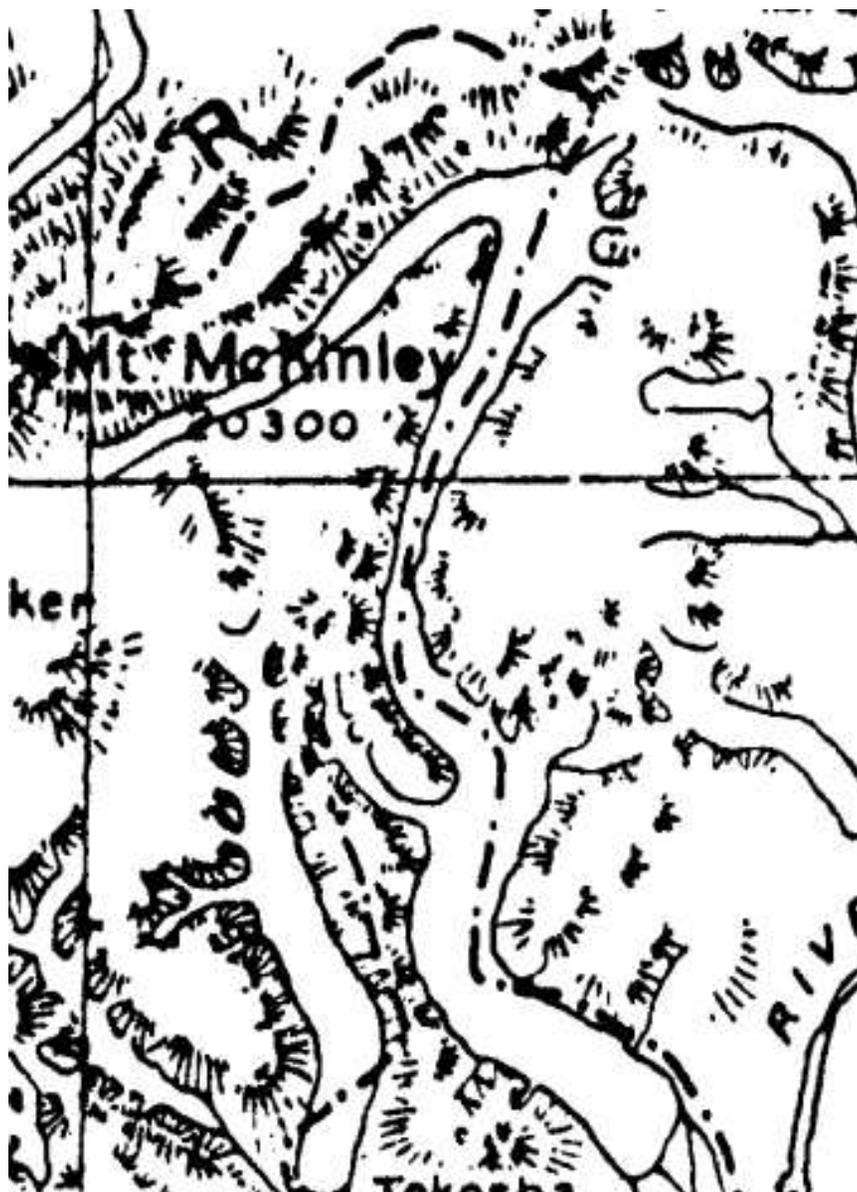


Figure 31: A detail of Cook's map from p.826 of *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, May 1907 (enlarged so scale equals that of Fig.32). N-S solid line is longitude 151°W; E-W solid line is latitude 63°N, just north of the point Barrill said they turned back. The dash-dot line is the route Cook claimed he took to the summit. This path (like ‡7 §A1) is dramatically different from the Cook Society's proposed (E-to-W) East-Buttress route: CTC Plate 2/12. No path at all was provided on the map appearing in *Top* (1908 pp.152-153 or CTC Plate 1/5).



Figure 32: A simplified map of Ruth Glacier & the approaches to Mt. McKinley as they really are. Boundaries of glaciers in their upper reaches are approximate. The small glacier just northwest of Karstens Ridge is Harper Glacier. Scale: 2 1/2 statute miles per centimeter, same as for Fig.31.



Figure 33: Hairy Ridge, looking roughly northwest, at a little over 11,000 feet. (Location: just east of last “s” in “East Buttress” on Fig.32.) The Cook Society’s East Buttress Route supposes Cook went along the top of this serrated knife-edge from right to left, then straight up the icy cliff beyond. The opposite side of the Hairy Ridge is nearly as forbidding as the face shown. Photo courtesy of Bradford Washburn.

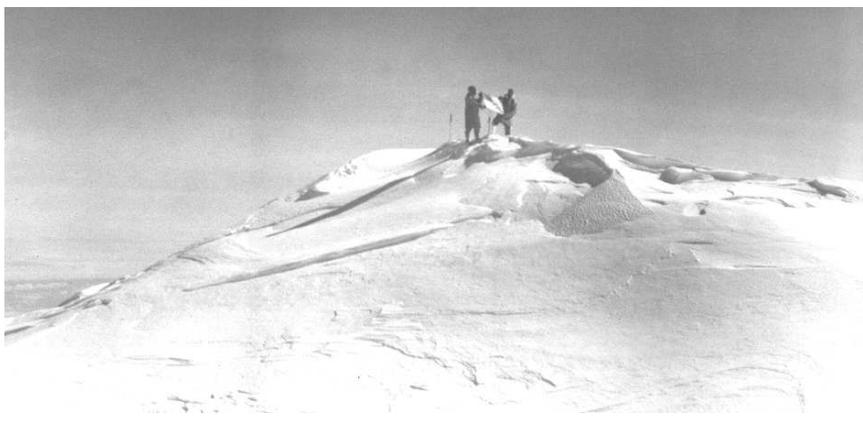


Figure 34: The summit of Mt. McKinley as it really is, looking due south. Terris Moore & Bob Bates, July 1942. Comparing to Figs.2, 3, & 18, it’s impossible to see any similarity. Photo by & courtesy of Brad Washburn.

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