

**THE BALSAM GROVES OF THE
GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN: A
TALE OF THE WESTERN NORTH
CAROLINA MOUNTAINS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649080755

The balsam groves of the Grandfather mountain: a tale of the western North Carolina mountains by Shepherd M. Dugger

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Cover @ 2017

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SHEPHERD M. DUGGER

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Frontispiece.

THE
BALSAM GROVES

OF THE
GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN:

A TALE OF THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MOUNTAINS.

TOGETHER WITH
INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SECTION AND ITS
HOTELS, ALSO A TABLE SHOWING THE HEIGHT
OF IMPORTANT MOUNTAINS, ETC.

BY
SHEPHERD M. DUGGER.

ILLUSTRATED.

BANNER ELK:
SHEPHERD M. DUGGER.
1892.

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PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA.

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TO THE LOVERS OF
THE SUBLIME AND THE BEAUTIFUL,
AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE GRASPED MY MOUNTAIN PALM,
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED.

THE AUTHOR.

GIFT, JOHN L SANDERS

PREFACE.

As the firm foundation of a house is less attractive than the painted columns and modillions which it supports, so the first chapter of our story is the stratum of understanding that underlies a more beautiful fabric of knowledge. It locates the scenes in Western North Carolina, on the great evergreen Grandfather Mountain, whose highest point is the everlasting cornerstone of three counties, Watauga, Caldwell, and Mitchell.

The object of the author has been to supply the great need of a book that would introduce to the outside world a section of country which, until recently, has been almost unknown and obscure, but nevertheless is rich in soil, replete with iron ore, and with fine forests of valuable trees, checkered with rapid, flowing streams of limpid water, decked with a thousand hills, fortified with ponderous mountains tall and rugged, and pictured with wild and varied landscapes.

The writer was cradled in the loving arms of

maternal toil in one of the first rude log cabins constructed in the morning and evening shadows of the beautiful mountains with which he has grown up in love, and every scene described is as familiar to him as were the blooming vines in which the humming-birds nestled around the home of his childhood.

“The Balsam Groves of the Grandfather Mountain” is a story founded on facts. The roads, streams, fountains, places, mountains, and distances are real; the picture of the character Rollingbumb will be hailed with delight by thousands of mountaineers, who will recognize it as the likeness of a familiar friend; the description of the Salmer estate on the banks of the Linville will touch to tears a prominent gentleman now residing in the city of Richmond, Virginia; and the genuine name William West Skiles will thrill the hearts of many a North Carolinian.

“The Western Gate-way to the Highlands,” following the story, is as fair a representation of truth as the writer could possibly formulate; and “The Hotels in the Land of the Sky” is intended to be such an unerring guide to health- and pleasure-seekers that strangers will not be disappointed when they visit the scenes.

The search for the body of Rev. Elisha