

= Harry Fox (sportsman) =

Henry " Harry " Fox (30 September 1856 ? on or after 30 August 1888) was an English businessman , sportsman , and adventurer . He played cricket and rugby for his county , and began climbing mountains in the mid @-@ 1880s . He was part of the Fox family of Wellington , Somerset , and was a partner in the family business , Fox Brothers , a prominent textile manufacturer .

Fox played and financed cricket and rugby in Somerset ; he played cricket for Somerset County Cricket Club from 1877 to 1882 , and remained as a vice @-@ president of the club until his death . He founded Wellington Rugby Football Club in 1874 , and was an administrator and captain of the Somerset Rugby Football Union . After retiring as a rugby player , he continued to take part as an umpire . In 1884 he started mountaineering , and within two years he was well @-@ known in the mountain climbing community , and a well @-@ regarded alpine explorer . In 1888 , he and William Frederick Donkin travelled to the Caucasus Mountains in the Russian Empire in a bid to be the first ones to climb Koshtan @-@ Tau . The pair , along with their Swiss guides , died in an accident during the expedition .

= = Early life and sporting exploits = =

Henry Fox was born on 30 September 1856 as the second son of Dillworth Crewdson and Mary Augusta . He was educated at Sherborne School . His family owned Fox Brothers , of which he became a partner . In 1874 , he founded Wellington Rugby Football Club . Three years later , he became the honorary secretary , treasurer and captain of the Somerset county rugby football team upon its formation . He was captain in both 1877 and 1878 , playing as a three @-@ quarter back , and remained secretary and treasurer until 1882 . After retiring from the game , he continued as an umpire . Fox appeared in his final match in 1887 , officiating the game between Somerset and Yorkshire .

As well as rugby , Fox also played cricket for his county , first appearing for Somerset County Cricket Club in 1877 during a match against Wiltshire . He tended to play as a lower @-@ order batsmen for the county . His highest score in county cricket was 42 runs , made against Kent in 1881 , prior to Somerset 's elevation to first @-@ class status . In June 1882 , he was part of the Somerset team that competed in first @-@ class cricket for the first time , losing by an innings and 157 runs to Lancashire ; Fox scored no runs in either innings , and did not bowl . He made two further first @-@ class appearances that season , and did not appear for Somerset again , due to business engagements . In all , he scored sixteen runs in first @-@ class matches for Somerset at an average of 2 @. @ 66 . After retiring as a player , Fox continued to provide financial support to the cricket club , and remained a vice @-@ president until his death .

Fox was also a keen mountaineer ; having started mountain climbing in 1884 , he joined the Alpine Club the following year . He received training initially from William Woodman Graham and then William Cecil Slingsby . According to an article in The Times , he was well regarded by his peers as " a climber of great skill and daring " . He was a very experienced alpine climber , and often climbed without guides , ascending Aiguille du Dru , Fletschhorn , Ober Gabelhorn amongst others in this fashion . With guides , he climbed some of the toughest mountains in the Alps , such as the Matterhorn and the Eiger .

= = Death in the Caucasus Mountains = =

Fox left Wellington in late July 1888 for the Caucasus Mountains in the Russian Empire , joining up with William Frederick Donkin and Clinton Dent . The three were aiming to become the first climbers to scale Koshtan @-@ Tau , one of the few mountains in the region yet to be scaled . The three started from Nalchik , though Dent was forced to return home due to ill @-@ health , leaving Fox and Donkin to attempt the climb , along with two Swiss guides . Their initial plan was to climb a glacier on the northern slopes of the mountain , and then make their final ascent on the western side . However , a rock wall on the western slopes prevented this , and they changed their plans to attack

the mountain from the east . They planned to meet up with their outfitter to the south @-@ east of the mountain , but after they missed that meeting , a message was sent back to Dent reporting the climbers missing . The Times reported on 6 October that Donkin and Fox , along with their guides , had suffered a mountaineering accident that had led " to the almost certain loss of four lives " .

Multiple searches were carried out , including one on the direct order of Tsar Alexander III , but no evidence was found . The Russians did recover items from the climbers ' base camp , including Fox 's diary . Russian authorities , possibly for political reasons , claimed that the climbing party may have probably strayed into Svaneti , Georgia , and may have been murdered by the local population , who had rebelled against the Russians not long before . In 1889 , Dent and Douglas Freshfield led an expedition to search the area . Although they were unable to find any remains , they did discover a bivouac at around 14 @,@ 000 feet (4 @,@ 300 m) on the Ullu @-@ auz pass between two glaciers . They recovered a number of personal items from the camp , but found that light climbing gear ? rope , ice axes and a camera ? were missing . The search party concluded that Donkin and Fox had continued their climb , intending to return to the bivouac , but had fallen while navigating a narrow ridge higher up the mountain . Such a fall would have been thousands of feet , and the winter snow would have covered the climbers ' bodies . So despite conducting a search of the valley floor , no bodies were recovered .

For the purposes of his will , Fox 's death was recorded as being " on or since the 30th August , 1888 , at some place unknown . " The value of his personal estate was just over £ 7 @,@ 639 . As he was not married and had no children , his estate was shared between his eldest brother , Charles Dillworth , and his four sisters , Sarah , Anna , Alice and Louisa . A cricket pavilion was erected in his memory at Wellington Cricket Club in Somerset , and a mountain in the Dawson Range in Canada was named Mount Fox in his honour .