

Kin of North Pole Discoverers Arrive for Visit

Harvard Scholar Tracked Sons Conceived in Greenland During Peary's 1906 Expedition

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 30—Two sons of North Pole discoverers Robert Peary and Matthew Henson arrived from icy Greenland today during a New England heat wave for a week-long reunion with relatives. **MAY 31, 1987**

Karree Peary and Anaukaq Henson are both 80. They had never been far from their remote villages in northern Greenland until they went from dogsleds to a helicopter that carried them to an Air Force jet, which flew them and 10 family members, most of them full-time hunters, to the United States.

Henson was so affected by the roughly 100-degree difference in temperatures between Greenland and Cambridge today that doctors examined his swollen leg.

"It is hot here," Peary said through a translator. "Even the wind is warm." The two men said they normally dress in polar-bear skin pants and sealskin tops.

They were located last summer by Harvard Prof. S. Allen Counter, a neuroscientist and black historian who was told that Peary and Henson had fathered children by Eskimo women during their 1906 expedition to the North Pole.

Though Peary, who was white, is

credited with the discovery of the North Pole in 1909, it was his black assistant, Henson, who was the first to step on the spot and plant the American flag at the pole.

The reunion was organized in part to recognize Henson, Counter said. Though he shared a long and close friendship with Peary, Henson was classified as a "valet" and his accomplishments were played down, the professor said.

"In those days, you had to hitch your star to a white man," Counter said. "It was the traditional position for nonwhites. But to the Eskimos, Henson was a real hero."

While the two are in the United

States, they will visit Peary's grave at Arlington National Cemetery, where his son will lay a wreath prepared by his family in Greenland. Henson, who outlived Peary by 35 years, is buried in New York City.

Counter said 50 Henson relatives will meet with the two men during their trip, which includes visits to Peary and Henson relatives in Maine and Maryland. **MAY 31**

Peary and Henson spent their first 15 years in adjacent igloos and tents in various villages, Counter said. Their mothers then moved away from each other, and the two were not reunited until Counter brought them together last summer.



Karree Peary, left in picture at right, and Ahnaukaq Henson are here to visit the grave of Cmdr. Robert E. Peary, above, at Arlington, and the birthplace of Matthew Henson, Peary's assistant, in Maryland.



BY DUDLEY M. BROOKS—THE WASHINGTON POST