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UPDATE: 89-year-old woman found safe after disappearing at campground

The Associated Press

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WILLIAMSTOWN — An 89-year-old New Hampshire woman who disappeared while camping with family members, triggering an extensive air and ground search, was found safe on Tuesday.

Mary Sweet, of Sunapee, N.H., told family members Monday afternoon she was going to sit on a park bench at Limehurst Lake Campground and disappeared shortly thereafter.

“She had asked one of the family members if she could sit on a bench out toward the pond area,” said Sgt. John Flannigan, a spokesman for the Vermont State Police. “They saw her walk over to that area. When they went and checked again, she was not there” about 15 minutes later, Flannigan said.

Sweet, who suffers from dementia and wears hearing aids in both ears, remained missing until midday Tuesday, despite an all-night search that included search dogs and, on Tuesday morning, a Vermont State Police helicopter.

She was warmly dressed, wearing a turtleneck, two sweaters and corduroy pants. She was with three family members when she arrived at the campground Sunday.

The search, which involved more than two dozen people on foot, in police cruisers and on ATVs, encompassed a 758-acre area around the campground, which is located about nine miles south of Barre.