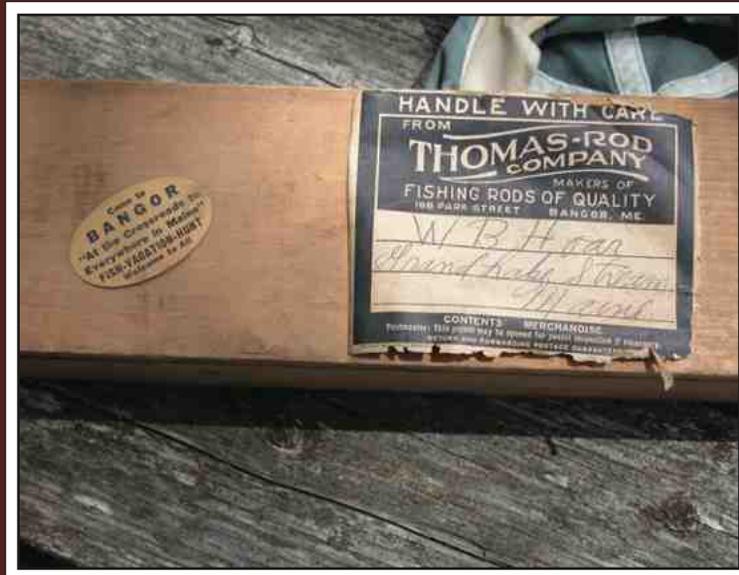


The American Fly Fisher

Journal of the American Museum of Fly Fishing



FALL 2012

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 4

Net

IMAY BE AMONG the last people on earth who made it through college with a typewriter. Do you remember the old manuals? The sound of the strike, the feel of the keys, the bell as you neared the right margin? The whack of the carriage return, the ink on your fingers when you changed the ribbon? I was left with a single hard copy of whatever I had written (unless I chose to embrace the mess of carbon paper). There were adventures with correction fluid; consequently, there was much less editing.

Back then, I also did research in libraries. What I mean by this is that I physically got myself to the building, stayed there until I found what I was looking for, and took notes. With a *pen*.

These words, I assure you, are not coming to you via pen or even typewriter. I am running Word 2011 on my MacBook Pro and moving copy around this electronic page with easy keystroke commands. I have the Internet open on the same screen for easy access to an online dictionary and general fact-checking.

The Internet makes all worlds—including the fly-fishing world—much smaller. An angler can research and book fishing trips online, and get tips directly from other anglers about gear, fishing holes, guides, and places to stay. There's endless information about fishing adventures as people blog or publish their stories and photos in online journals.

The Internet makes life easier for historians, too, who may be able to access in a matter of days what might have previously taken years. Reading the *American Fly Fisher* these days, you're likely to find citations to online references in as many articles as not. Editors have had to learn when to accept such references—which may not have the seeming permanence of physical books and journals—as legitimate sources.

The Internet made it possible for a sixth-grader to virtually visit the museum as part of a school project (see inside back cover). The Internet also made it possible for one museum member, after reading an article in this journal, to follow up on an intriguing detail without ever leaving his home.

When Dan Kennaley of Rockland, Ontario, picked up the Summer 2011 issue and read Ken Cameron and Paul Schullery's "A New Early Date for American Fly Fishing" (which placed the sport's first written mention in the Florida panhandle), his "interest was tinged a bit with disappointment that the Rodney Home letter of 1764 had supplanted the previous earliest

reference to fly fishing in the Americas"—a reference to *Canadian* waters. But the unclear signature on the letter intrigued Kennaley, and he began a journey into the Internet's searchable databases that took some unexpected turns and unearthed some surprising connections. For "More on the Home Letter"—Kennaley's map to Rodney Home's possible identity—turn to page 20.

The Thomas Rod Company has been making bamboo fly rods since the late nineteenth century; today it has a website. Longtime Mainer Richard Jagels, in "Thomas Rods: Connected to Place, Cosmic in Reputation," offers up a history of the company, from its beginnings in Brewer, Maine, to its move to Bangor, to its ultimate move *back* to Brewer when Steve Campbell purchased it in 1999. For their centennial this year, L.L.Bean commissioned Campbell to produce twenty-five special-edition rods with the look of early-twentieth-century F. E. Thomas rods. Read all about it, starting on page 2.

Had he written books for publication, Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr.'s role in American fly-fishing history, and his involvement with the Michigan grayling, would be better known. He was, however, content to share his knowledge of grayling and work for its conservation through correspondence with notable scientists and angling authors and by hosting these notables on the Au Sable and other Michigan grayling waters. The lifespan of the state's grayling fishery—from discovery of the fish's existence to its ultimate extinction—was approximately thirty years. "In Search of the Michigan Grayling," a two-part article by Robert E. Kohrman beginning in this issue, looks at Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr.'s involvement in the history of this fish, the fishery, and the Au Sable river boat. You can find Part 1, "Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr., The Father of Grayling Fishing," on page 11.

"Telling Tails" keeps us in Michigan a bit longer. When Steven P. Arnoczky's friend Rich gave him his 8½-foot, 9-weight bamboo fly rod, he first extracted a three-part promise from Steven: that he use it to catch a Michigan steelhead, that he take it somewhere exotic to fish, and that he give it to a worthy fisherman when his own fishing days were over. The story of fulfilling the first part of this promise is on page 22.

I believe he needed a net.

KATHLEEN ACHOR
EDITOR



CATCH AND RELEASE
THE SPIRIT OF FLY FISHING

Our Mission:

The American Museum of Fly Fishing is the steward of the history, traditions, and practices of the sport of fly fishing and promotes the conservation of its waters. The museum collects, preserves, exhibits, studies, and interprets the artifacts, art, and literature of the sport and uses these resources to engage, educate, and benefit all.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Peter Bakwin
Thomas Belk Jr.
A. S. Cargill
Tim Hixon
James Houghton
Peter Kellogg
Stephen Myers
Grant E. Nelson
Joseph R. Perella

STAFF

Catherine E. Comar
Executive Director

Yoshi Akiyama
Deputy Director

Sarah Foster
Development Assistant

Laura Napolitano
Coordinator of Membership and Operations

Alanna Reid
Coordinator of Events

Patricia Russell
Account Manager

Sara Wilcox
Director of Visual Communication

THE AMERICAN FLY FISHER

Kathleen Achor
Editor

Sara Wilcox
Design & Production

Sarah May Clarkson
Copy Editor



T R U S T E E S
 Michael Bakwin
 Foster Bam
 Pamela Bates
 Stephen W. Burke, MD
 Jane Cooke
 Peter Corbin
 Deborah Pratt Dawson
 E. Bruce DiDonato, MD
 Patrick Ford
 Ronald Gard
 George R. Gibson III
 James Heckman, MD
 Arthur Kaemmer, MD
 Karen Kaplan
 Woods King III
 William P. Leary III
 Christopher P. Mahan
 Walter T. Matia
 John R. McMahan
 William C. McMaster, MD
 Peter Millett, MD
 Bradford Mills
 David Nichols
 E. Wayne Nordberg
 Erik R. Oken
 Stephen M. Peet
 Leigh H. Perkins
 William Platt
 Frederick S. Polhemus
 John Rano
 Roger Riccardi
 Eric W. Roberts
 Kristoph J. Rollenhagen
 Philip Sawyer
 Franklin D. Schurz Jr.
 Robert G. Scott
 Gary J. Sherman, DPM
 Ronald B. Stuckey
 Richard G. Tisch
 David H. Walsh
 Andrew Ward
 James C. Woods
 Nancy W. Zakon

T R U S T E E S E M E R I T I
 Charles R. Eichel
 W. Michael Fitzgerald
 James Hardman
 William Herrick
 David B. Ledlie
 Leon L. Martuch
 Paul Schullery

O F F I C E R S
Chairman of the Board David H. Walsh
President James Heckman, MD
Vice President Gary J. Sherman, DPM
Vice President Richard G. Tisch
Secretary James C. Woods
Clerk Charles R. Eichel
Treasurer Philip Sawyer

The American Fly Fisher

Journal of the American Museum of Fly Fishing

FALL 2012 VOLUME 38 NUMBER 4

Thomas Rods: Connected to Place,
 Cosmic in Reputation 2
Richard Jagels
 In Search of the Michigan Grayling
 Part 1: Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr.,
 The Father of Grayling Fishing 11
Robert E. Kehrman
 More on the Home Letter 20
Dan Kennaley
 Telling Tails: Keeping a Promise 22
Steven P. Arnoczky
 Museum News 24
 Contributors 26

ON THE COVER: *Sturdy wooden box used in 1936 to ship a Thomas rod (while promoting Bangor). Box owned by Chris Wheaton, owner of Grand Lake Lodge and grandson of W. B. Hoar. Photograph by Richard Jagels.*

We welcome contributions to the *American Fly Fisher*. Before making a submission, please review our Contributor's Guidelines on our website (www.amff.com), or write to request a copy. The museum cannot accept responsibility for statements and interpretations that are wholly the author's.

The American Fly Fisher (ISSN 0884-3562) is published four times a year by the museum at P.O. Box 42, Manchester, Vermont 05254. Publication dates are winter, spring, summer, and fall. Membership dues include the cost of the journal (\$50) and are tax deductible as provided for by law. Membership rates are listed in the back of each issue. All letters, manuscripts, photographs, and materials intended for publication in the journal should be sent to the museum. The museum and journal are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, drawings, photographic material, or memorabilia. The museum cannot accept responsibility for statements and interpretations that are wholly the author's. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned unless postage is provided. Contributions to *The American Fly Fisher* are to be considered gratuitous and the property of the museum unless otherwise requested by the contributor. Copyright © 2012, the American Museum of Fly Fishing, Manchester, Vermont 05254. Original material appearing may not be reprinted without prior permission. Periodical postage paid at Manchester, Vermont 05254; Manchester, Vermont 05255; and additional offices (USPS 057410). *The American Fly Fisher* (ISSN 0884-3562) EMAIL: amff@amff.com WEBSITE: www.amff.com

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The American Fly Fisher
 P.O. Box 42
 Manchester, Vermont 05254

Thomas Rods: Connected to Place, Cosmic in Reputation

by Richard Jagels

There comes a time to the business man when he can no longer stand the strain and heat of the city life; when in fancy, he sees the rippling waves on lakes and streams, and hears the voices of the forest where nature is as wild and primitive as the aboriginal names of her leaf-fringed waters.

—James Churchward

A Big Game and Fishing Guide to
Northeastern Maine

INTRODUCING AN 1898 Maine hunting and fishing guidebook produced by the Bangor and Aroostook (B&A) Railroad, these words illustrate the transformation of the United States from a pre-Civil War farming, logging, and commercial fishing society to one that was fully engaged in the industrial system, but longed to occasionally return to its bucolic roots.

Railroads and steamships allowed urbanites from cities such as Boston, New York, and Philadelphia to find mental and physical respite in northern New England and upstate New York. Particularly alluring was the state of Maine. Steamships regularly sailed from Boston to Bangor, the rail hub for the Maine Central and B&A rail lines.¹ From Bangor, sportsmen could travel to the Moosehead Lake region on the B&A or Down East to Princeton on the Maine Central. A small steamship then took passengers across Big Lake to Gould Landing, where a 3-mile wagon ride brought “sports” to the village of Grand Lake Stream, replete with lodging, meals, and guides.

As the nation evolved from natural resource harvesting to industrial production, two men (brothers? father and son?) began publishing a journal in Bangor. E. M. and W. F. Blanding started the weekly *Maine Mining Journal* on 2 January 1880. By 1882, the name was changed to *Mining and Industrial Journal*, and in 1885, it became just the *Industrial Journal* until it ceased publication in September 1918.² This widely read journal provided not only commercial business information to its readers, but also a steady diet of recreational possibilities. (For simplicity, all three versions of the journal will be

abbreviated as *IJ* in this article.) The editors reported on hotels and summer resorts and ran a regular column titled “Fish and Game,” in which they culled articles from newspapers and magazines like *Forest and Stream*, but also provided their own local reports on fishing and hunting activities in Maine and occasionally maritime Canada. From the 24 July 1891 issue of *IJ*, we learn:

The landlocked salmon season at [West] Grand Lake is ended. More than the usual number of sportsmen have visited

the famous haunt, and the fly fishing has been beyond the average of late years. Mr. R. F. Wellington of New York, so the record shows, has led the score this year for the greatest number of fish taken in a single day. The largest fish taken was captured by Mr. N. T. Smith of Lynn, Mass., who went to the Stream in company with Mr. S. S. Pineo of this city. Mr. Smith hooked the fish with a “silver doctor” fly just below the dam, and was forced to struggle for nearly two hours before he brought his prize to the net. It required all the skill of an accomplished rodsman to manage and secure the



Portrait of Fred E. Thomas (date unknown). From the collections of the Maine State Museum, Augusta.

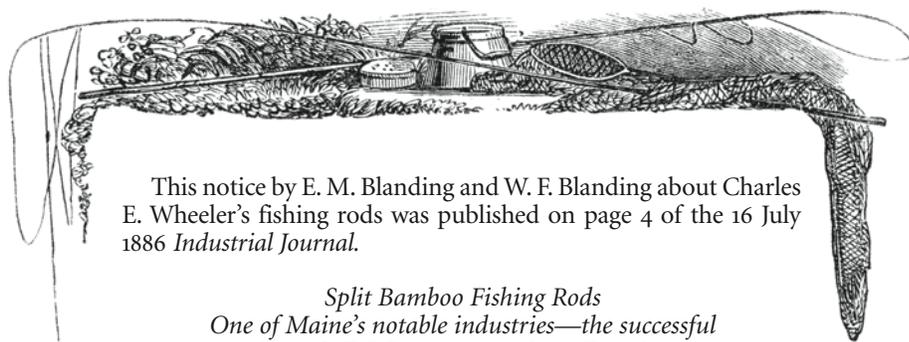
gamy salmon in the rough water at the spot named, but he was equal to the thrilling occasion. The fish weighed 8 pounds and 7 ounces, and was served at a dinner given by Mr. Smith to a party of 17 friends at the Boundary House in Milltown [near Calais]. This is claimed to be the largest landlocked salmon ever captured at Grand Lake. The fishes of greater weight that have been taken were either togue [lake trout] or genuine sea salmon. Mr. Smith says he will come again next year.³

I expect that dozens of readers of that news clip (as well as Smith's seventeen close friends) had similar dreams about a trip to Grand Lake Stream the following season. Until the late 1880s, Bangor was primarily a starting point for excursions to more remote destinations in Maine. Only in subsequent decades would this change. The 1860s, by contrast, saw the beginning of a rush of sportsmen to Farmington, gateway to the Rangeley Lakes area of western Maine, where anglers could test their skills against huge native brook trout. By the late 1870s, anglers were being actively courted to that region by Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby.⁴

TWO ROD MAKERS CROSS SWORDS

Amidst this backdrop, two Maine gunsmiths began producing split-bamboo fly rods: one in Bangor and one in Farmington. Hiram L. Leonard of Bangor needs no introduction, having been chronicled by numerous authors. Less well known until fairly recently was Charles E. Wheeler.⁵ Wheeler built his first split-bamboo rod in 1868 and Leonard in 1870 or 1871. Until Leonard was coaxed away to Central Valley, New York, a decade later, the Leonard and Wheeler operations were the primary "production" rod-making shops in Maine.⁶ They both entered rods in the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876, and each received bronze medals. Today Leonard rods are much better known, but in the 1870s and 1880s, Wheeler may have produced a larger quantity (see sidebar).

According to Dwight B. Demeritt Jr., Wheeler's rods sold for \$14.50 to \$16.50 at the time that Leonard rods sold for \$20 to \$30.⁷ Most Wheeler rods were sold under the trade name of Acme in the cities of Boston, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago. Wheeler had two other early advantages over Leonard. First, the "trout rush" to the Rangeley region began in the 1860s, at a time when Bangor was still a



This notice by E. M. Blanding and W. F. Blanding about Charles E. Wheeler's fishing rods was published on page 4 of the 16 July 1886 *Industrial Journal*.

Split Bamboo Fishing Rods One of Maine's notable industries—the successful business C. E. Wheeler has built at Farmington

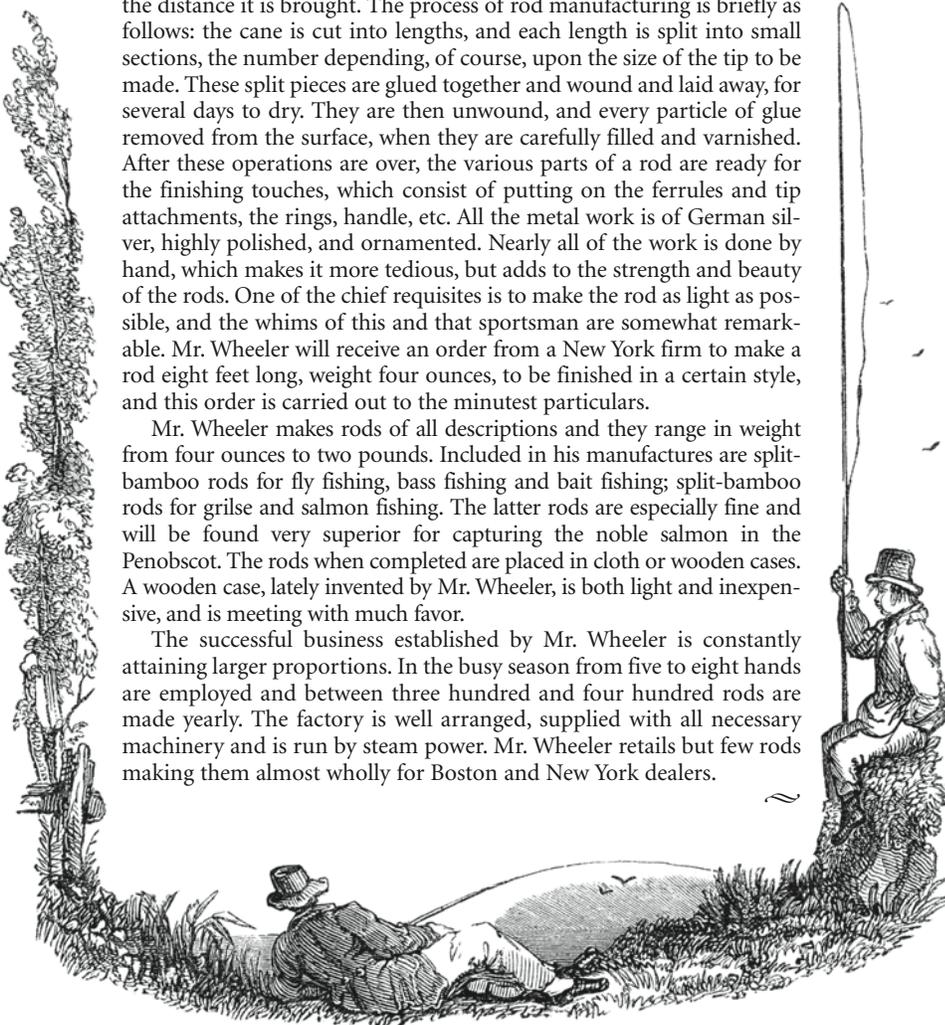
Among the novel industries of Maine the manufacture of split bamboo fishing rods by Charles E. Wheeler of Farmington is entitled to a prominent place. Mr. Wheeler was a gun-smith by trade, when, helping to make a rod for a party, he became convinced that rod-making had possibilities before it that his old business had not.

Mr. Wheeler soon began to turn out some rods. This was in 1868. His rods quickly found favor and the demand for them has been steadily increasing. In 1876 he received a bronze medal on an exhibit made at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Mr. Wheeler was likewise represented by a very creditable display at the late New Orleans Exposition. In the eighteen years he has been engaged in this business, the manufacture of rods has changed very remarkably, and not a few of the improvements are the ideas of Mr. Wheeler, while various machines used in their manufacture were first made by him.

The bamboo used in the manufacture of rods is from Calcutta. The bamboo comes in long canes and is not so very expensive considering the distance it is brought. The process of rod manufacturing is briefly as follows: the cane is cut into lengths, and each length is split into small sections, the number depending, of course, upon the size of the tip to be made. These split pieces are glued together and wound and laid away, for several days to dry. They are then unwound, and every particle of glue removed from the surface, when they are carefully filled and varnished. After these operations are over, the various parts of a rod are ready for the finishing touches, which consist of putting on the ferrules and tip attachments, the rings, handle, etc. All the metal work is of German silver, highly polished, and ornamented. Nearly all of the work is done by hand, which makes it more tedious, but adds to the strength and beauty of the rods. One of the chief requisites is to make the rod as light as possible, and the whims of this and that sportsman are somewhat remarkable. Mr. Wheeler will receive an order from a New York firm to make a rod eight feet long, weight four ounces, to be finished in a certain style, and this order is carried out to the minutest particulars.

Mr. Wheeler makes rods of all descriptions and they range in weight from four ounces to two pounds. Included in his manufactures are split-bamboo rods for fly fishing, bass fishing and bait fishing; split-bamboo rods for grilse and salmon fishing. The latter rods are especially fine and will be found very superior for capturing the noble salmon in the Penobscot. The rods when completed are placed in cloth or wooden cases. A wooden case, lately invented by Mr. Wheeler, is both light and inexpensive, and is meeting with much favor.

The successful business established by Mr. Wheeler is constantly attaining larger proportions. In the busy season from five to eight hands are employed and between three hundred and four hundred rods are made yearly. The factory is well arranged, supplied with all necessary machinery and is run by steam power. Mr. Wheeler retails but few rods making them almost wholly for Boston and New York dealers.



Line art from P. Fisher, *The Angler's Souvenir* (London: Charles Tilt, 1835).



Re-creation of a corner of the workroom at the Thomas Rod Company; a display at the Maine State Museum, Augusta. From the collections of the Maine State Museum, Augusta.

weir-fishing port; second, Cornelia Crosby received three “gift” rods from Wheeler, the first in 1878, which was, in fact, the rod that initiated her to fly fishing and later led to her hugely successful career as a Maine outdoor promoter. Crosby’s endorsement of Wheeler rods must have been very helpful to his business.

How much this competition influenced Leonard’s decision to move to Central Valley we don’t know, but we do know that during the depression of the mid-1870s, he reduced rod prices and offered other incentives, such as a free rod to angling clubs that sold a certain number.⁸ It is interesting to speculate that if Leonard had stayed in Bangor, the Thomas Rod Company might never have been formed. Fred E. Thomas might have simply continued work as a rod maker in the Leonard firm.

But, of course, that didn’t happen. At the urging of William Mills, Leonard took Fred Thomas, “Billy” Eustis Edwards, Edward Payne, and Hiram and Loman Hawes to Highland Mills, New York, in 1881.⁹ For various reasons, Thomas, Loman Hawes, and Edwards formed their own company in 1889 and began producing rods using the double-saw beveler designed by Loman at Highland Mills. In 1891, Loman left and was replaced by Ed Payne; this formed the Thomas, Edwards, and Payne group that began producing the now-famous Kosmic rods. In 1893, Thomas traveled to Chicago to promote his Kosmic rods, winning a gold medal for the rods and an expert artisan diploma for himself. (This diploma currently hangs on the wall in the shop of Steve Campbell, current owner of the Thomas Rod Company, in Brewer,

Maine.) Four or five years later, the partners sold the business to U.S. Net and Twine, providing them with capital to boost production. But then, around 1896, Fred Thomas returned to Maine and settled in Brewer, just across the Penobscot from Bangor.¹⁰

SALMON SPORT FEVER SETS THE STAGE

In my research, I have not discovered exactly why Thomas decided to leave what appears to have been a successful business in New York State to strike out on his own in the Bangor area. Perhaps he just grew tired of his life away from home. Even today, young people leave Maine for jobs elsewhere and then spend years hoping to return.

Another possibility is that Bangor in the mid- to late 1880s was transforming from a primarily commercial port for weir-caught fish to a destination for fly fishing for Atlantic salmon. The earlier trout rush in the Rangeley region became the salmon rush of the mid-1880s in Bangor. Examination of issues of *IJ* reveals a marked change in reporting during this period. In 1882, the editors reported:

Orland derives quite an annual income from her fisheries. . . . The markets are Boston and New York. . . . The salmon weirs are arranged on a large scale and at considerable cost. The shores from Orland extending to Fort Point are well occupied by weirs extending into the river, but many [salmon] are taken at different points along the shore, extending nearly up to Bangor.¹¹

But then in 1885, on July 3, *IJ* revealed: “Messrs. F. W. Ayer and E. M. Hersey have taken good sized salmon with the fly rod at the Water-Works dam, Bangor, this season. Mr. Ayer has been particularly successful, having landed several fish in the most artistic way.”¹² (For more on Fred Ayer and the history of fly fishing on the Penobscot, see John Mundt’s article in the Summer 1996 issue of this journal.¹³)

On 15 January 1886, *IJ* published a letter from State Fisheries Commissioner E. M. Stilwell of Bangor to U.S. Fish Commissioner Spencer F. Baird, in which Stilwell complained:

I suppose the newspapers have reported our success in introducing salmon angling to our Maine rivers. For the last twenty years we have been continually annoyed with the question as to why Maine salmon would not rise to the fly? My continual success in capturing them with the rod in the waters at Bucksport, where they were packed for spawning purposes, seemed to have no influence in removing the doubt.¹⁴

Suddenly, the flood gates were opened. On 7 May 1886, *IJ* reported:

Fly fishing for salmon has frequently been attempted on this river, but has not been attended with success until last season when a large number of fine fish were landed by expert fishermen just below the Water-Works dam. Since then, Bangoreans of angling propensities have been in a state of excitement. The dealers in sportsmen’s outfits have experienced a run on their stock of tackle and flies, and there has daily been a lively scene at the fishing grounds, every trade and profession being represented among the crowd of enthusiastic anglers.¹⁵

Finally, on 8 April 1887, *IJ* noted:

Police Officer Allen of this city, who recently secured a ten year’s lease of the shores comprising the salmon fishing privileges at the waterworks dam, is forming an anglers’ club, to be known as the Penobscot River Salmon Club, with a membership fee of \$10. It is intended when the organization is perfected to erect a fine clubhouse at the fishing grounds, to be fitted with all conveniences and comforts for the accommodation of members and their guests.¹⁶

FRED THOMAS BUILDS A BUSINESS

Was Fred Thomas watching this angling transformation from New York and plotting a return to Maine? We only know that around 1896 Thomas moved to Brewer and in 1898 encouraged



Thomas Rod Company building at 168–170 Park Street, Bangor, Maine. Photo taken sometime between 1923 and 1938. From the collections of the Maine State Museum, Augusta.

Edwards to join him, but despite their friendship (they lived in houses across the street from each other), the partnership soon dissolved.

The first Fred E. Thomas listing in the *Bangor Directory* is in 1901, at 52 Center Street, Brewer. Fortunately for Thomas, his fame as a rod maker preceded his return. In a widely distributed 1898 B&A railroad publication, author James Churchward provided detailed instructions to potential sportsmen planning angling trips to Maine. In choosing a fly rod, Churchward suggested, “The best and most reliable rod in the world is a genuine hand-made split bamboo, and the worst is a machine-made one got up to imitate the genuine article.”¹⁷ He recommended only three rods, one of them a Kosmic, and his only recommendation for fly line was Kosmic.

In the 1903 *Bangor Directory*, Thomas had moved to 117 Exchange Street, Bangor (the same address as the offices of the *Industrial Journal*—coincidence or connection?), where he stayed until 1923. I wondered if the Thomas shop survived the great fire of 1911. With assistance from Dana Lippitt, curator at the Bangor Museum and Center for History, I learned that embers from J. Frank Green’s hay shed, where the fire started, blew diagonally across Kenduskeag Stream, setting fire to the buildings on both sides of Exchange Street between York and State streets. Fortunately for Thomas, his shop was spared by less than a hundred

feet. Had the wind been blowing directly across the Kenduskeag, the Thomas shop would have been one of the first casualties in that April conflagration.

In the 1921–1922 *Bangor Directory*, the listing changed to “Thomas Rod Co. (Fred Thomas and Leo A. Broad).” No one I spoke with could identify this partner. Did Thomas need more capital? Deeds (copies in files at the Bangor Museum) show that the Thomas Rod Company purchased half of the property at 168 Park Street in 1921 and the other half in 1922. Perhaps Leo Broad helped with this purchase, but his name does not appear again in the *Bangor Directory*. In

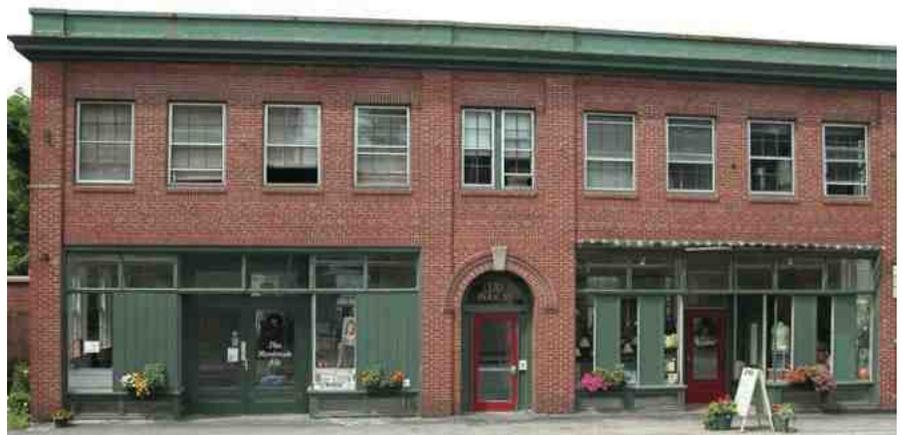
1923, Thomas moved into his new two-story, 32-by-60-foot brick building.¹⁸

The rod model most emblematic of the company, from beginning to end, is the Dirigo. *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines *dirigo* as “I direct,” but in Maine, we interpret the state motto as “I lead.” Thomas appears to have possessed both attributes. Within a few years of establishing himself in the Bangor area, demand for new rods and repair of old ones compelled Thomas to hire additional workers.¹⁹ His son, Leon, joined the firm around 1911. Many of those hired over the years had no previous experience but developed into skilled craftsmen. In 1920, Fred Thomas hired his brother-in-law, woods worker Edwin Houston, who developed into a first-rate machinist and rod builder, eventually becoming foreman. When Leon sold the company in 1958, he anointed Ed as the person to continue repairing and building Thomas-style rods (but without the Thomas name, which was bought by Clarence “Sam” Carlson).

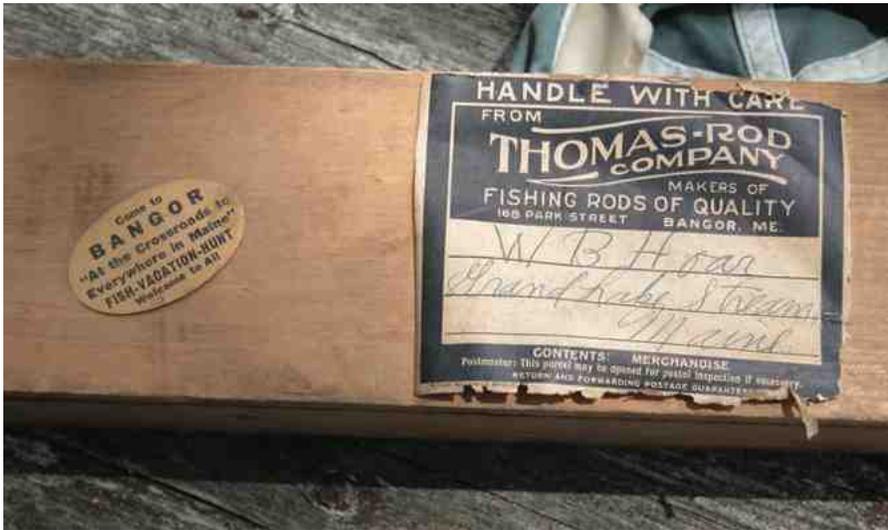
ATTENTION TO CUSTOMERS AND QUALITY ENHANCES REPUTATION

In a 1982 interview with Ed Houston by Sandy Ives, folklorist at the University of Maine, Houston reported that one of his fondest memories from an impoverished childhood was finding a three-piece steel rod in the woods and taking it home and sanding off the rust. It was his first real fishing rod. Decades later, his tastes had barely changed. Despite more than sixty years of bamboo rod making, Houston felt compelled to tell Ives about his wonderful old telescoping steel rod (probably a Bristol) and avowed he “wouldn’t sell it for nothin.”²⁰

Richard Jagels



The Thomas Rod Company building today. Steve Campbell dreams of turning this building into a museum.



Sturdy wooden box used in 1936 to ship a Thomas rod (while promoting Bangor). Box owned by Chris Wheaton, owner of Grand Lake Lodge and grandson of W. B. Hoar.

We generally blame the advent of fiberglass rods as the cause for the demise of bamboo rod making; Leon Thomas gives this as a reason for selling the company in 1958.²¹ But in earlier decades, telescoping steel and beryllium copper rods were actively competing with bamboo. In a 1919 edition of *Forest and Stream* (June 1919, vol. 89, no. 6), the Horton Manufacturing Company (Bristol steel fishing rods) took out a full page ad (10¼ x 7 inches), whereas a Thomas Rod Company ad occupied a tiny corner of a page (2¾ x 1½ inches). Even revered companies like Abbey & Imbrie and Abercrombie & Fitch had only partial-page ads in that issue. Yet through good business instincts and excellent people skills, Fred and Leon Thomas persevered and built a thriving business that spanned six decades.

From the Bangor and Dirigo models to the Specials and Browntones, from wet-fly to dry-fly and streamer versions, from trout to salmon, and later, to casting and trolling rods for other fresh- and saltwater species, father and son tried to meet all the needs of actual and potential customers. Leon Thomas's daughter, Sue Cox, remembered her father always welcoming anglers into the shop to discuss having a rod designed to their special needs. He would even lend a rod for someone to try, sometimes never seeing it again.²² During the peak years, Thomas Rod Company employed fifteen to eighteen highly skilled craftsmen and produced as many as 1,200 rods per year, which were sold all over the United States as well as in England, Norway, Ireland, and Australia. Thomas rods won a gold medal at the Chicago World's Fair (1933) and a silver medal at the World's Fair in San Francisco (1939).²³ Displaying rods at sportsmen's shows was a key strategy

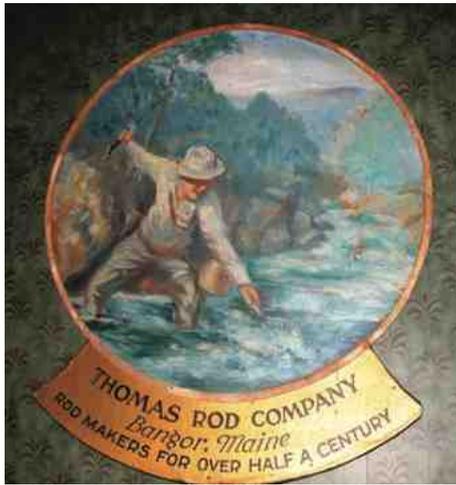
of the company. Sue Cox recalls traveling to shows in Boston and New York with Leon, and she showed me a 6-foot, 6-inch Thomas fairy rod that baseball legend Ted Williams had used to demonstrate fly casting at a Boston show.

But it was customer testimonials that probably helped sell more rods than World's Fair medals. A 1940 letter to Leon Thomas from Donald H. Wilson, owner of Wilson's on Moosehead Lake (a sportsmen's lodge still in existence), says, in part, "I have used practically all of the best known fly rods and it is my opinion that the Thomas Rod is the finest rod that can be bought. They not only have the best action, but their durability cannot be surpassed."²⁴ As owner of a sixteen-year-old Dirigo, and with his father in possession of a forty-year-old Thomas, Don Wilson probably convinced many anglers who visited his camps to get a Thomas rod for themselves.

Both Sue Cox and Barney Thompson,²⁵ who worked for the Thomas Rod Company in the 1940s, independently confirmed that quality control was critical to the success of the business. Thompson noted that any subgrade rods were immediately destroyed; not even the shop craftsmen were allowed to take less-than-perfect rods home. Final assembly of rods and testing of their actions was performed by Fred or Leon. Thompson recalls seeing Leon bend a tip nearly double to test for



Leon Thomas at work in 1939. From the collections of the Maine State Museum, Augusta.



Left: Thomas Rod Company advertisement used at trade shows. Currently owned by Leon Thomas's daughter, Sue Cox.

Below left: The Leon Thomas home from 1947 to 1958, on the banks of the Penobscot estuary in Winterport, Maine.

Below: Tom Hennessey's bargain special-edition Stan Bogdan fly reel.



any defects. *Bangor Evening Commercial* writer Earle Doucette wrote, "To get a perfect three-section rod, many sections have to be tried in combination until Leon Thomas is satisfied. This task he trusts to no one but himself."²⁶

ARTISTIC PERSONALITIES TAKE VARIED FORMS

In their quest for perfection, Thomas craftsmen needed to spend long hours focused on the tiniest of details. This artistic but repetitive concentration seems to have spawned some quirky personalities among the crew (or perhaps quiriness was a prerequisite for bamboo rod building). When I first met Barney Thompson, he indicated that Ed Houston had a reclusive personality and worked by himself in a separate room away from the other rod builders. Sue Cox revealed even less complimentary opinions; yet for Fred and Leon Thomas, diligence and rod-making skills clearly trumped personality quirks.

For many of the Thomas craftsmen, socializing while fishing at the Bangor Pool seemed to provide mental release. Tom Hennessey, outdoor writer and artist now living in Hampden, Maine, grew up in Brewer and began fishing the Bangor Pool in his teens, often meeting the old-timers there. He visited the Thomas Rod Shop at the top of Park Street, where he was mesmerized "by the rows of gleaming rods and cases of colorful flies."²⁷ He credits Leon Thomas for getting him started with fly tying by giving him a Hardy catalog that contained fly patterns. Among the fishermen he met during this period was one who would become Tom's longtime fishing partner: Arthur "Pug" York. After World War II, York went to work for Thomas, filling in for craftsmen who did not return from the war.

In keeping with other Thomas rod makers, Pug had his quirky side—in his case, a life hobbled by deeply held superstitions, according to Hennessey. Pug once refused to accept a Hardy reel he

had asked Tom to purchase for him because it was a Marquis-2. Anything that ended in an even number was jinxed for Pug. Tom still has the reel, but made up for it another day while fishing with Pug in Tom's double-ender at the Bangor Pool. Pug hooked into a good-sized salmon and played it for quite a while, but then it broke off. Pug immediately blamed his reel and told Tom he would never use it again. Tom asked if he would sell it and offered \$150. Pug immediately took up the offer and handed over the reel. Tom still has this Abercrombie & Fitch, special edition, gold-anodized Stan Bogdan reel.

THOMAS RODS HIBERNATE

In *Casting a Spell: The Bamboo Fly Rod and the American Pursuit of Perfection*, George Black quotes Clarence "Sam" Carlson (who bought the company): "Leon Thomas, at the end, from what I understand, he just drank his way out of the thing."²⁸ Sue Cox stoutly

was also a fly-rod maker. Steve asked George to make him a graphite fly rod and George, according to Steve, said “Make it yourself.” But while Steve was in George’s shop, he saw and smelled the bamboo splinters on the floor, and that was a transforming moment for him. He started getting into books on bamboo rod making and eventually found Everett Garrison and Hoagy B. Carmichael’s 1977 classic, *A Master’s Guide to Building a Bamboo Fly Rod*.

As he was undergoing this mental transformation, he got a phone call one day from artist and bamboo fly-rod maker Arthur Taylor, who had seen one of Steve’s ads for a refurbished bamboo rod. For Steve, that was the final push; they became friends, and Taylor became his mentor.²⁹ According to Steve, Arthur knew everyone in the rod-making world. I only met Arthur Taylor shortly before he died, but he was one of the kindest, most modest gentlemen I have met.

Arthur began to introduce Steve to Maine rod builders like Cecil Pierce, and eventually to Sam Carlson. That introduction set Steve to thinking about bringing the Thomas Rod Company back to its home base, something he finally accomplished in 1999.

The new home of Thomas Rod Company is Steve Campbell’s converted garage attached to his house at 19 Sargent Drive, Brewer. As a one-man shop, his rod production for the past decade has been about a dozen per year, limited in part by holding down a full-time job at a local paper mill and a year-long deployment to Iraq with the Maine National Guard. But then in March 2010, Steve received a phone call from Jeff Miller (senior product developer, hunting and fishing) at L.L.Bean. He asked Steve if he could produce twenty-five special-edition rods to be sold through L.L.Bean for their one hundredth anniversary in 2012. I learned about this

deal from Steve in fall 2010, and he was on cloud nine.

The centennial rods were to have the look of early-twentieth-century F. E. Thomas ones with the red intermediate wraps. When I interviewed Jeff Miller at corporate headquarters in Freeport (11 August 2011), he said that he was very excited about the partnership between two old Maine companies and expressed an interest in marketing future rods from Steve. He expected that the centennial rods would sell quickly, as samples that he had taken to a Salt Lake City show had generated considerable interest.

In the era of graphite and boron rods, it is unrealistic to expect that the Thomas Rod Company will ever have the output of the 1920s and 1930s, but it is good to see that Maine pluck, ingenuity, and dogged determination has returned a venerable company to its home place.



Steve Campbell splitting a bamboo culm in his shop in Brewer, Maine. On the wall behind him is a 1982 Bangor Daily News article by Tom Hennessey about Thomas rods and Ed Houston.

Photos by Richard Jagels



Steve Campbell setting up the milling machine to run a bamboo strip through.



Bamboo strips in Steve Campbell’s workshop, ready for node filing and milling.

ENDNOTES

1. "Bangor History" *Bangor Daily News* (28 June 1984), B1.
2. Bangor Public Library microfilm archives, Bangor, Maine.
3. E. M. Blanding and W. F. Blanding, "Fish and Game," *Industrial Journal* (24 July 1891), 7.
4. Julia A. Hunter and Earle G. Shettleworth Jr., *Fly Rod Crosby: The Woman Who Marketed Maine* (Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, 2000).
5. Dwight B. Demeritt Jr., *Maine Made Guns and Their Makers* (Augusta, Maine: Friends of the Maine State Museum, 1997), 171–78; A. J. Campbell, *Classic and Antique Fly-Fishing Tackle: A Guide for Collectors and Anglers* (New York: Lyons and Burford, 1997), 39–43.
6. Campbell, *Classic and Antique Fly-Fishing Tackle*, 49.
7. Demeritt, *Maine Made Guns and Their Makers*, 174.
8. Mary Kefover Kelly, "Early Leonard," *The American Fly Fisher* (Winter 1979, vol. 6, no. 1), 27.
9. *Ibid.*, 28.
10. Campbell, *Classic and Antique Fly-Fishing Tackle*, 133.
11. E. M. Blanding and W. F. Blanding, "Fisheries," *Mining and Industrial Journal* (27 January 1882), 59.
12. E. M. Blanding and W. F. Blanding, "Nuggets," *Industrial Journal* (3 July 1885), 6.
13. John Mundt, "The Historic Penobscot: America's Atlantic Salmon Fishing Legacy," *The American Fly Fisher* (Summer 1996, vol. 22, no. 3), 2–9.
14. E. M. Blanding and W. F. Blanding, "Salmon Angling in Maine," *Industrial Journal* (15 January 1886), 3.
15. E. M. Blanding and W. F. Blanding, "Salmon on the Fly," *Industrial Journal* (7 May 1886), 5.
16. Blanding and Blanding, "Nuggets," 6.
17. James Churchward, *A Big Game and Fishing Guide to Northeastern Maine* (Bangor, Maine: Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, 1898), 79–82.
18. "New Building for Thomas Rod Co.," *Bangor Daily News* (9 May 1923), 3.
19. Fred E. Thomas obituary, *Bangor Daily Commercial* (18 July 1938), 14.
20. Recorded interview between folklorist Sandy Ives and Edwin Houston, 12 August 1982; on file at the Folklife Center, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.
21. Bill Geagon, "Famous Thomas Fishing Rod Industry at Bangor Is Sold to Connecticut Firm," *Portland Sunday Telegram* (17 August 1958), B4.
22. Author interview with Suzanne (Sue) Cox, 4 August 2011, at her home at River Road, Orrington, Maine. Sue also kindly allowed me to photograph a Thomas Rod Company promotional item hanging on the wall of her dining room.
23. Geagon, "Famous Thomas Rod Industry at Bangor Is Sold," B4.
24. Donald H. Wilson, letter to Leon Thomas, 11 November 1940, Maine State Museum Archives, Augusta, Maine.

25. Author interview with Barney Thompson, age eighty, at his home at Beacon Street, Brewer, Maine, 18 July 2011. Thompson, related to Leon Thomas's wife Marion, worked in the Thomas Rod Shop from 1948 to 1949, while still in high school. He said he would have stayed on but was enrolled in a "commercial" program and was required to take an industrial internship. He did this with Great Northern Paper Company and after that became a professional arborist until he retired.

26. Earle Doucette, "Thomas Fish Rods A Noted Maine Product," *Bangor Evening Commercial* (24 August 1953), 1B.

27. Interview with Tom Hennessey, 1 September 2011, at my home in Winterport. Hennessey is an outdoor writer and artist, and longtime columnist for the *Bangor Daily News*.

28. George Black, *Casting a Spell: The Bamboo Fly Rod and the American Pursuit of Perfection* (New York: Random House, 2006), 122.

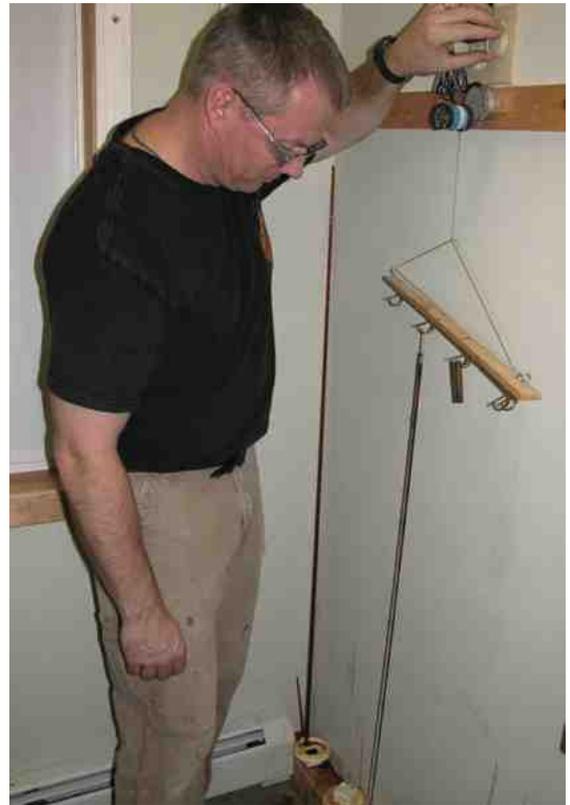
29. For more on Arthur Taylor, see James E. Butler and Arthur Taylor, *Penobscot River Renaissance* (Camden, Maine: Downeast Books, 1992).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the persons cited in this article, I wish to thank the following for their assistance in my research: Kate McBrien, curator of historic collections, Maine State Museum, Augusta; Jon Johansen, Winterport, who provided leads to *Industrial Journal* articles;

Pauleena McDougal, Maine Folklife Center, who provided a CD copy of the Ed Houston interview; Abbie Stover, Winterport, who was the first to tell me about the Thomas Winterport house; Jeff Cyr, current owner of the Thomas house, who kindly allowed me to photograph it; and, not least, my wife Sue, who provided support and insightful comments.

Richard Jagels



Steve Campbell operating a motorized rod lifter at a varnish dip tank (similar to what Sam Carlson used).

Richard Jagels



Steve Campbell inspecting a recently completed two-piece, two-tip Browntone rod at his bench.

In Search of the Michigan Grayling

Part 1: Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr., The Father of Grayling Fishing

by Robert E. Kohrman

One of the least recognized names in American fly-fishing history is that of Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. Although not a well-published author, his contributions to knowledge about the Michigan grayling came from a devotion to fly fishing and his sustained efforts to inform those whom he believed were in a position to influence fisheries conservation.

This two-part article provides first, in this issue, a discussion of what we know about Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. and early Michigan grayling history and, second, in the Winter 2013 issue, an account of his important legacy to today's anglers: his invention of the Au Sable river boat. The iconic Thaddeus Norris was instrumental in ensuring that this early 1870s watercraft was given national recognition.

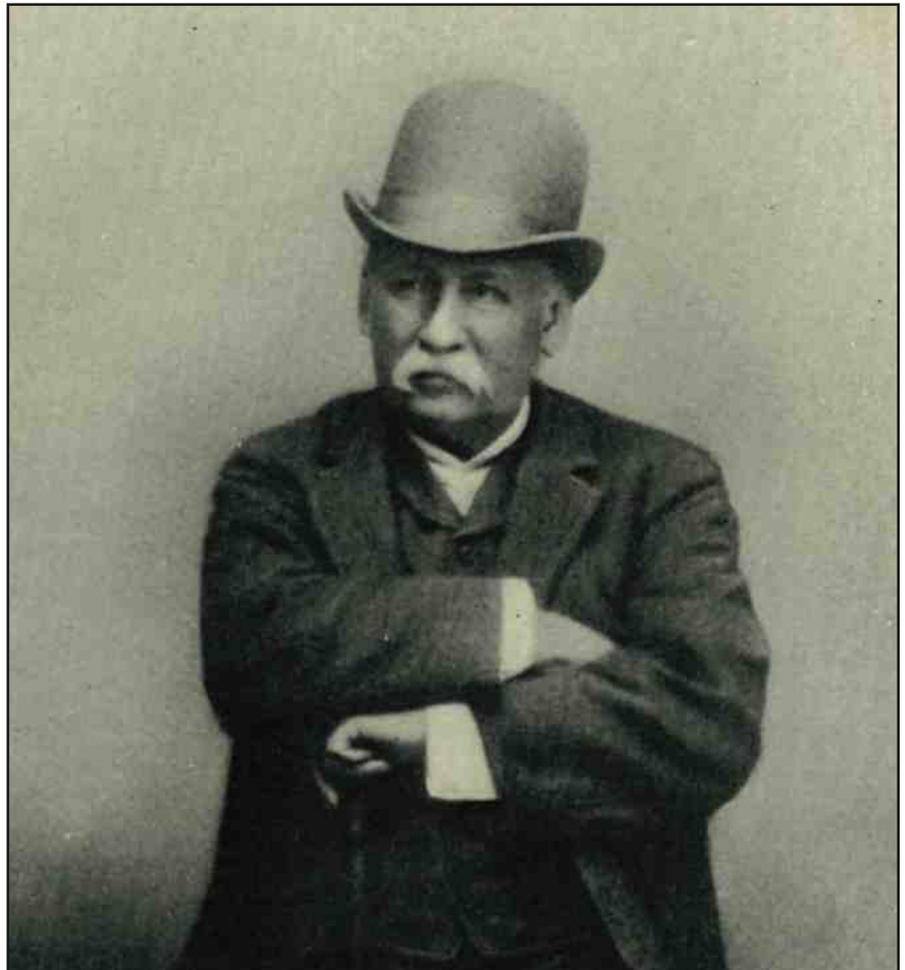
AN ILL-FATED episode in American fly-fishing history was the discovery of the Michigan grayling fishery in the late nineteenth century, followed very shortly by its rapid collapse. In the lower peninsula of Michigan, this fishery lasted, at best, approximately thirty years from the widespread disclosure of the fish's existence in 1873 to the turn of the century, by which time it was rare to hear reports of a grayling being caught. The famous Michigan sportsman and conservationist William B. Mershon caught his last grayling in 1903.¹

Although several prominent fish culturists of that era thought that populations of the fish could be sustained with hatchery supplements, it was not to be. One of the most intriguing and informative contemporary debates about the culprits in this catastrophe occurred at the fifteenth annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in 1886. At the conclusion of a presentation titled "The Michigan Grayling" by Herschel Whitaker, the conference attendees discussed the reduction of grayling populations in the state. Whitaker thought it was "unaccountable . . . in late years the grayling should have so rapidly disap-

peared from these streams; yet the fact remains that many of the streams that once knew them now know them no more."² W. David Tomlin of Duluth argued that invasive trout were "cleaning out our grayling," and the well-known fish culturist Frank N. Clark of Northville, Michigan, stated that the "driving of logs is cleaning the grayling streams out of those fish."³ However, Clark

expressed confidence that the "grayling is the easiest fish to propagate" and could be done for one quarter of the cost of brook trout.⁴

During the discussion, Clark used the phrase "the streams are fished out," but none of the participants pursued that line of reasoning in the debate.⁵ Although there had been many previously published accounts of enormous catches of



This photo of Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. appeared in "Men I Have Fished With," Forest and Stream (22 May 1897) and My Angling Friends (1901), both by Fred Mather, as well as in Transactions of the American Fisheries Society (1897).

the fish, it was simply inconceivable to them that grayling were unusually vulnerable to angling and that too much fishing pressure was the root cause of the problem. Others had already come to that conclusion years earlier, however. The author of the first American book dedicated to fly fishing, George Dawson, recounted in the *Chicago Field* that while in Michigan he “met a party of three who counted their trophies by the thousand, and who took away with them eight or ten large boxes filled with odorous proofs of their prowess . . . how long, think you, can either the Au Sable or Manistee stand such ignominious drafts upon their present abundance . . . some of the juvenile anglers of today will live long enough to see both of these magnificent rivers as barren of grayling as these merciless pot-hunters and cockney anglers are of the true spirit of the gentle art.”⁶

The first scientific description of the grayling found in Michigan appeared in an 1865 journal publication wherein Edward Cope of the Academy of Sciences in Philadelphia categorized the fish as a new form of grayling (*Thymallus tricolor*).⁷ During the following years, only brief reports of the Michigan grayling were published until Charles Hallock revealed the geographical distribution of this new sport fish and the accompanying opportunities to access the grayling in his important 1873 book, *The Fishing Tourist*.⁸ In February 1873, renowned Harvard scientist Louis Agassiz published a note in the *New York Times* that confirmed the classification of this new fish.⁹ It was later revealed that the grayling examined by Agassiz came via Charles Hallock but had originated from Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. of Bay City, Michigan. In September 1873, Hallock founded what was to become one of the country’s most important sporting periodicals, *Forest and Stream*. This new journal had a formidable objective; it was “devoted to field and aquatic sports, practical natural history, fish culture, the protection of game, preservation of forests, and the inculcation in men and women of a healthy interest in out-door recreation and study.”¹⁰ As the next few years demonstrated, this periodical admirably met these goals. An example of its aggressive agenda was seen in the flood of

information it provided related to the grayling found in the rivers of Michigan’s lower peninsula.

From a marketing perspective, it was certainly advantageous for editor Hallock to take every opportunity to extol the virtues of the newly discovered fish. In the very first issue of the publication, Hallock described the grayling “as a fish peculiar to Michigan and noted to take the fly boldly.”¹¹ In a succeeding issue, he included a letter that he had received



This rare photo of James W. Milner appeared in Charles B. Kimbell, *History of Battery “A,” First Illinois Light Artillery Volunteers* (Chicago: Cushing Printing Company, 1899).

from D. H. Fitzhugh of Bay City, Michigan. Hallock identified Fitzhugh as “a gentleman who has been chiefly instrumental in identifying the American grayling and adding it to our game-fish.”¹² Fitzhugh’s letter reported that he had just returned from the Au Sable River in Michigan, where he and a young Norwegian guest, proficient in fly fishing, had together landed 220 grayling, averaging one-half pound, but ranging up to 2 pounds in size. After this letter was printed, *Forest and Stream* continued to publish many additional glowing reports of grayling fishing in northern Michigan. Eventually, in a June 1874 issue, the sporting journal published the first engraving of this Michigan fish.¹³

A FISH OF INCREDIBLE BEAUTY

Another important early booster of the grayling was Deputy United States Fish Commissioner James W. Milner. In a very thorough 1874 report, Milner published a comprehensive review of the grayling in North America.¹⁴ Through careful morphological analyses, his paper confirmed the earlier classification by

Cope and attempted to distinguish the Michigan grayling (*Thymallus tricolor*) from those relatives found in the western United States and in the northern reaches of Canada and Alaska. Following accepted nineteenth-century grayling taxonomy, Milner drew distinctions between these geographical varieties; however, today’s ichthyologists classify all North American grayling as one species (*Thymallus arcticus*). In gathering information and specimens for this study, Milner—accompanied, according to some accounts, by Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr.—had gone to the Jordan River in Michigan in 1871 and had been unsuccessful in using the fly to capture any grayling.¹⁵ Despite his lack of success in obtaining any fish, later that same year Milner had several samples of grayling from the Jordan sent to him at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Chicago. Regrettably, those specimens were destroyed by the famous Chicago fire of October 1871. Milner persevered, however, and, as a guest of Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. in September 1873, he went to Michigan’s Au Sable River and was able to procure 143 speci-

mens of this newly discovered fish.¹⁶ He was awestruck by the vivid colorations of the grayling and described them as follows:

There is no species sought for by anglers that surpasses the grayling in beauty. They are more elegantly formed and more graceful than the trout and their great dorsal fin is a superb mark of beauty. When the well-lids were lifted, and the sun’s rays admitted, lighting up the delicate olive-brown tints of the back and sides, the bluish-white of the abdomen, and the mingling of tints of rose, pale blue, and purplish-pink on the fins, it displayed a combination of living colors that is equaled by no fish outside the tropics.¹⁷

Although James Milner's job required him to travel extensively and visit many ports, lakes, and rivers associated with American fisheries, he was unusually impressed by his 1873 trip to the Au Sable River in the presence of Fitzhugh. Milner wrote:

In these days of extensive pioneering and wholesale exploration, the man is favored who finds himself in the midst of a really untrodden wild. The character of the land and the timber in this locality have little attractions for the seeker after productive soil or investment, and the sportsman and the naturalist find here a patch of nature left in almost primeval purity. As we embarked in our light boats, in the early morning, and our bows broke the trailing mist that covered the river, it was as if brushing the fresh bloom from newly plucked fruits, so untouched by the hand of man did everything seem.¹⁸

In his later U.S. Fish Commission report of the expedition, Milner commented that he found grayling willing to take the

fly and the "equal of the brook trout on the table; and for grace and form of beauty of color on the body and the great dorsal fin . . . they surpassed all so-termed game fishes."¹⁹ Some of the grayling that he and Fitzhugh caught were enjoyed for supper around the campfire, but numerous fish were saved for the U.S. Fish Commission and the Smithsonian Institution; and, even after 1873, Fitzhugh and his guests continued to provide additional specimens as needed by the museum.

FISH CULTURISTS TRAVEL TO MICHIGAN

Fred Mather was the fishing editor of the agricultural newspaper *Live Stock Journal* and, as a fish culturist, the owner of a fish pond and hatching house in Honeoye Falls, New York. In 1873–1874, he joined the growing number of ardent supporters of the Michigan grayling and aggressively took up its cause. He pub-

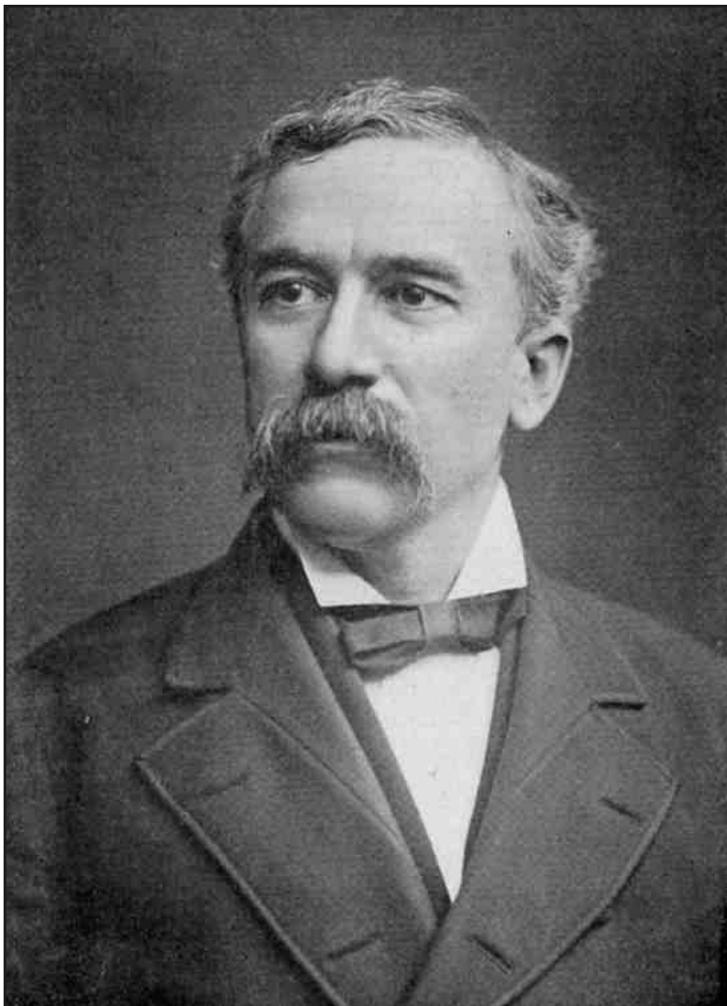
lished many articles in both the *Live Stock Journal* and *Forest and Stream* about the opportunities to raise this species using the techniques of fish culture.

Mather was a strong advocate of fish farming. The 1871–1872 broadside advertising his trout ponds and hatching house in Honeoye Falls, New York, proclaimed that "fish are as easily kept as chickens; much less trouble than bees, and never sting like the latter, nor destroy the peas and tomatoes like the former."²⁰ His evangelical fervor regarding the grayling ultimately led to a very bitter, personal dispute with W. A. Pratt (a fish culturist from Elgin, Illinois) that began in the pages of a sporting magazine titled *Field and Stream* and continued for several years.²¹ Even though the content of their vitriolic exchanges had implications for the future failures in the pisciculture of the grayling, these articles seemed to have had little effect in diminishing the published enthusiasm promoting the fish.

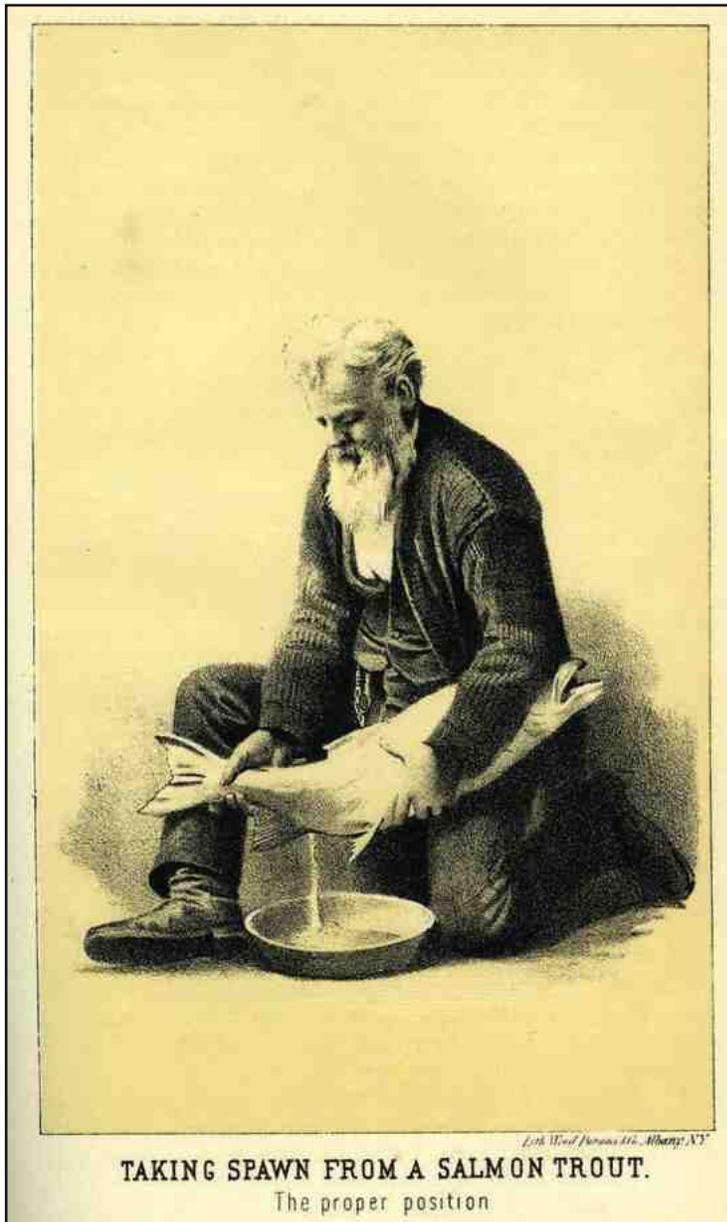
Indeed, because of his active support of the grayling, in the early spring of 1874, Fred Mather was invited by Fitzhugh to come to Michigan to secure some samples of grayling eggs for potential fish culture.²² Learning that his fellow upstate New York colleague had been on the Au Sable River caused the famous fish culturist Seth Green of Caledonia to come to Michigan, also as a guest of Fitzhugh, to seek grayling eggs in April 1874.²³ The word of this wonderful game fish continued to spread, and later in the summer of 1874, even the preeminent angler, fish culturist, fly-rod builder, and author Thaddeus Norris ventured from Philadelphia to the Au Sable River in Michigan at Fitzhugh's invitation. This was an extraordinary nexus of events; during a period of just a few months in 1874, three of the country's most celebrated fish culturists, angling authors, and fishermen made pilgrimages in search of the Michigan grayling with Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. as their host. Moreover, it was later revealed that the important author and salmon fly fisherman Dean Sage had been to the Au Sable with Fitzhugh, probably during the summer of 1873.²⁴

PLASTER CASTS OF *THYMALLUS TRICOLOR*

During the mid-1870s, the Smithsonian had a practice of making plaster casts of fish specimens it received; and in 1875, Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. and Fred Mather forwarded a group of live grayling to Spencer Baird for this purpose.²⁵ At the time, Spencer Baird was assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and head of the U.S. Fish Commission. Baird



Fred Mather avidly pursued the fish culture of grayling and was a booster of it as a sport fish. This image of a relatively youthful Mather is from Charles Hallock, An Angler's Reminiscences (1913).



Seth Green was widely regarded as the preeminent American fish culturist of the later nineteenth century. Although he is not identified in this engraving from the Seventh Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries of the State of New York, 1875, it is likely that Seth Green is the individual extracting the eggs from the salmon trout. At this time, Green was the superintendent of fisheries for the state of New York.

acknowledged the receipt of these fish and informed Fitzhugh that the Smithsonian wished to make and paint casts of them, presumably to provide long-lasting representations and to render them as lifelike in appearance as possible.²⁶

Plaster casts of many fish became a large part of the fisheries portion in the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. J. S. Ingram's comprehensive summary of the exposition stated that the plaster casts of fish were "by far the most interesting portion of the fishery exhibit."²⁷ He further noted that J. H. Richard, a prominent artist and illustrator at the Smithsonian, first painted on paper with

watercolor the fish as he saw them "fresh from the water," and then, using oil paint, gave life to the casts "in imitation of the water-colors."²⁸ The cast paintings were done in extraordinary detail with "each scale being painted separately."²⁹ At the Philadelphia Exposition, a total of 408 different fish were ultimately represented in this fashion. The collection of watercolor sketches, as well as the oil paintings on plaster casts of fish of North America, received awards at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition "for exceeding truthfulness in the coloring of the plaster casts of fish, and for the pains-taking labor and artistic effects."³⁰

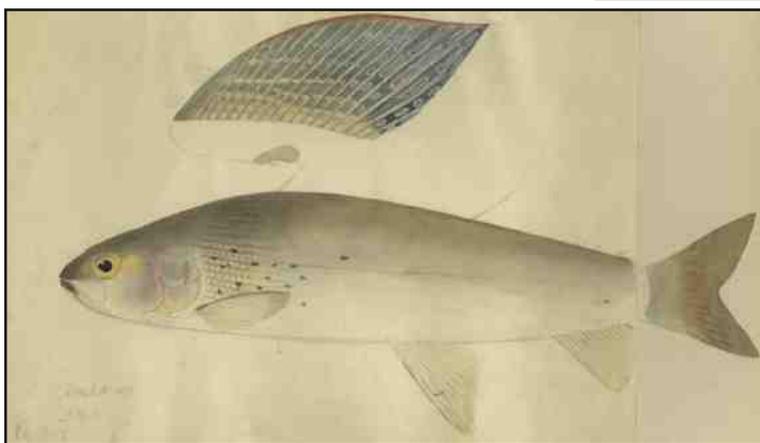
J. H. Richard had earlier been recognized for his outstanding color illustrations, which were produced between 1852 and 1855 in association with the United States Exploring Expedition as well as the U.S. Pacific Railroad Expedition and Surveys.³¹ Photographs of the grayling as well as Richard's painted plaster cast of the Michigan fish were part of the 1876 exhibition and were also displayed at the International Fishery Exhibition in Berlin in 1880.³² Unfortunately, most of the painted plaster casts of fish prepared for the Centennial Exposition—including that of the grayling—have been lost over time, and only six examples of painted fish casts from 1876 survive today.³³ Two of J. H. Richard's original watercolors of the grayling still exist, though, and are the first color images of the Michigan grayling.³⁴ These paintings were derived from live fish provided by Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. and Fred Mather, who accompanied Fitzhugh to the Au Sable River.

DANIEL H. FITZHUGH JR.

Despite his involvement with the history of the Michigan grayling and the many anglers he hosted on the Au Sable and others rivers, Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. has received little recognition for his efforts. His role in American fly-fishing history would have been more evident had he written books and articles for publication; yet it seems apparent that he was content to allow others to gain attention for adventures that he sponsored. But for his extensive correspondence and the writings of several angling contemporaries, Fitzhugh's accomplishments as a sportsman and conservationist might never have been acknowledged.

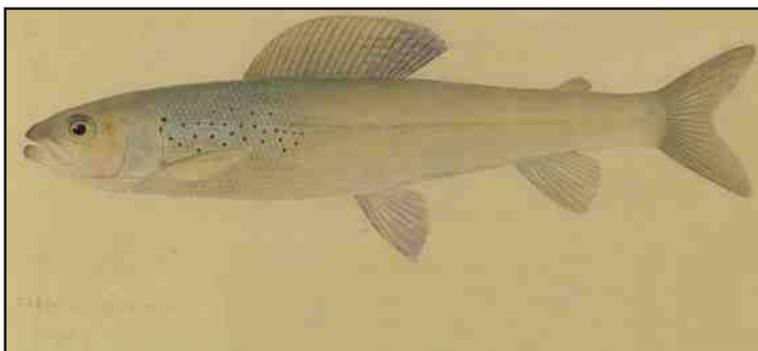
Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. came from an important and wealthy upstate New York family. His grandfather, William Frisby Fitzhugh (1761–1839), was a land speculator from Maryland who became one of the cofounders of Rochester, New York, along with Nathaniel Rochester and Charles Carroll.³⁵ His father, Dr. Daniel H. Fitzhugh Sr. (1794–1881), settled in Livingston County, New York, at his estate known as Hampton and lived in that vicinity throughout his life. As a young man, while in the military during the War of 1812, Dr. Fitzhugh practiced medicine for a short period before pursuing a career in farming, real estate, and other investments. While retaining his home in New York, he became an important land investor in the lower Saginaw River area of Michigan and acquired extensive real estate holdings in the region—especially in and around Bay City. He married Ann Frisby Dana, and

J. H. Richard in his studio, ca. 1878–1880, surrounded by painted plaster casts of fish. Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution, NMNH, Division of Fishes.



J. H. Richard watercolor of Michigan grayling completed in 1875. Note the vivid colorations in the dorsal fin. A painted plaster cast of the grayling by Richard was exhibited in both the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and the 1880 International Fishery Exhibition held in Berlin. Image courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution, NMNH, Division of Fishes.

This 1879 watercolor of the Michigan grayling (Thymallus tricolor) was painted by J. H. Richard. Image courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution, NMNH, Division of Fishes.



during their twenty-five-year marriage, they had thirteen children, including a son, Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr., who was born on 27 January 1827.

At the age of twenty, Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. was encouraged by the senior Fitzhugh to go to Bay City, Michigan, to promote the senior Fitzhugh's real estate interests. The young man promptly built a large riverfront home in the community—just the seventh home in this new town—but he lived there for only a short time. Around 1850, he moved back to the Rochester, New York, area, and in 1851 became a teller at a new bank located in Geneseo, New York, that was partly financed by his father.³⁶ Not much is

known about the next period of his life, but he may have gone on to New York City, where he engaged in a brokerage business. In 1870, he returned to Bay City, where he worked in real estate and resumed—with two of his brothers—overseeing his father's businesses in Michigan.³⁷ He had married Catharine Brent in 1852, and although they had no children, when his brother-in-law, Henry May Brent, died in 1892, the couple became responsible for two of his children. At the time of Fitzhugh's death in 1896, these two foster children were living with Daniel and Catharine in Bay City.³⁸

As a prominent landowner, Daniel Fitzhugh Jr. was able to enjoy a comfort-

able living in the real estate business during the booming years of the lumber industry in the Saginaw Valley. His financial circumstances and the proximity of Bay City by railroad to the grayling streams of Michigan provided him the opportunity to enjoy his primary avocation of fly fishing. He became the preeminent grayling fisherman in the country and a leading activist for conservation of the fish that rapidly disappeared from the state's waters.

In 1874, Fred Mather wrote that Fitzhugh had fished for grayling during almost every month of the year and had done so for the past three years.³⁹ Some years later, Fitzhugh confirmed that he

caught his first grayling in 1871.⁴⁰ Before late 1872, he fished various streams such as the Rifle and Au Gres rivers, which are in relatively close proximity to Bay City; and by riding the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad for five hours to Reed City, Michigan, he could fly fish the famed Hersey River. During the winter of 1872–1873, it was this stream that provided the samples of grayling that Fitzhugh sent to Charles Hallock before two of the fish were ultimately forwarded to Louis Agassiz.⁴¹ In the fall of 1872, the newly constructed Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw Railroad (JL&SRR) finally reached the Au Sable River at Crawford Station (renamed Grayling in 1874), which allowed Fitzhugh to get there in four to five hours.

Beginning as early as 1871–1872, Fitzhugh began what was to be a continuing effort to share knowledge about the

grayling as well as to learn from others how the grayling fishery might be protected and sustained. Although he did not write for publication, he corresponded with notable scientists and angling authors, as well as with famous fish culturists. His list of correspondents included Charles Hallock, Seth Green, Fred Mather, Thaddeus Norris, B. F. Bowles, George Dawson, James W. Milner, G. Brown Goode, and Spencer Baird—all luminaries of the late-nineteenth-century American fly-fishing and fish-culture world. This correspondence, coupled with his financial resources and access to leisure time, allowed Fitzhugh to invite, as his guests, those anglers who might want to come to Michigan to fish for grayling and to gather fish samples or fertilized eggs to take back to their hatcheries.

Because of the wave of publicity that the Michigan grayling received after 1873,

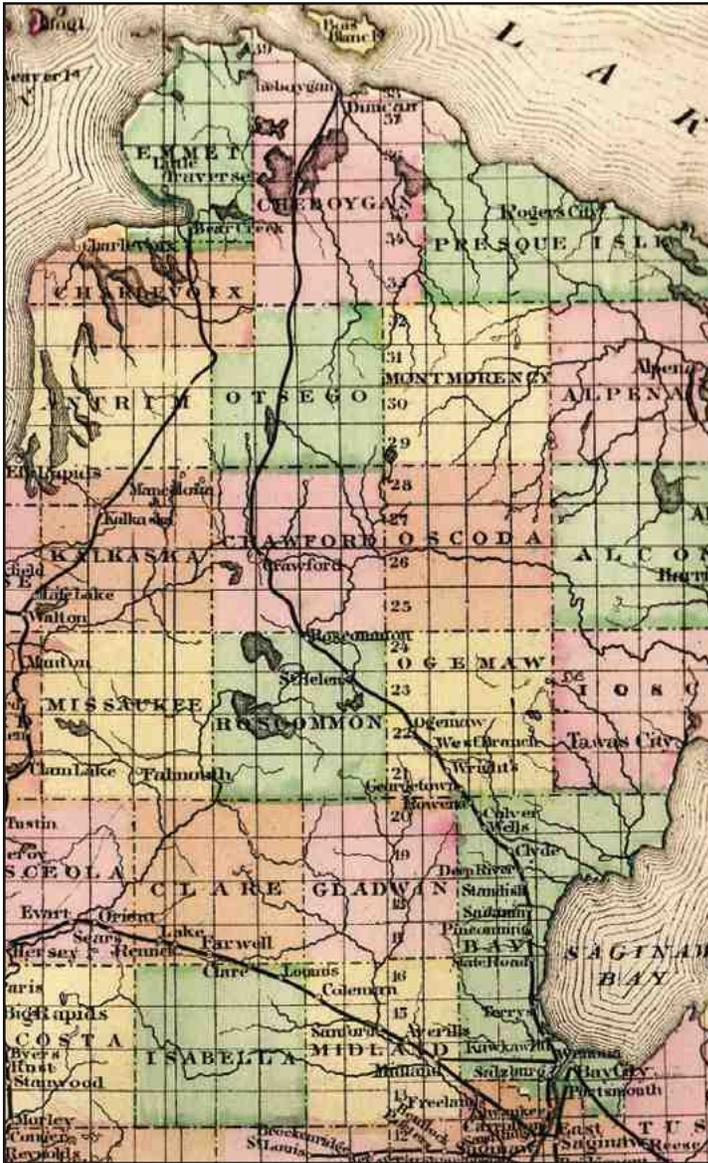
followed by sharply increased fishing pressure, Fitzhugh recognized as early as 1875 that *Thymallus tricolor* was doomed to extinction in Michigan.⁴² For several years he continued to support the research of national fish culturists who came to Michigan. He also financed the local efforts of N. W. Clark and his son, Frank N. Clark, fish culturists at the U.S. Fish Hatchery in Northville, Michigan, to find ways to raise grayling. In 1877–1878, Fitzhugh hosted two trips of the Michigan Fish Commission to the Manistee River in an attempt to gather the fish's fertilized eggs.⁴³ Subsequently, Michigan Superintendent of Fisheries George H. Jerome noted "that veteran angler and prince of good fellows, Daniel H. Fitzhugh, Jr. of Bay City, who in his knowledge of the haunts, habits, and instinctive traits of character of the grayling is, by the unanimous admission of men renowned in the gentle art, without a peer or rival."⁴⁴ Fred Mather once asked him why he spent a small fortune on such endeavors, even inquiring why he had paid all expenses for Mather to enjoy three trips fishing and hunting in northern Michigan. The answer was partly contained in a letter from Fitzhugh to Mather that stated:

You say you would like to go after grayling if it will not interfere with my business. I am quite a busy man, and never allow pleasure to interfere with my business. My pleasure is to look after a lot of lumbermen, log drivers and others, keep account of the amount of lumber they get out and make out pay rolls. My business is fishing, shooting and vagabondizing in the woods, and pleasure is never allowed to interfere with it. I am at your service if you come.⁴⁵

In retrospect, Fitzhugh's expenditures of both time and money in pursuit of his "business" seem extravagant, but they reflect his lifelong commitment to the sport of fly fishing and to the Michigan grayling. By all accounts, Fitzhugh was a generous, self-effacing, genial, and charming companion who had a limitless fund of humorous anecdotes to share around the campfires. Thaddeus Norris, however, described him as a "rigid" Presbyterian.⁴⁶ When streamside, Fitzhugh usually asked that the entire fishing party stop its angling activity on the Sabbath. His assiduousness in following matters of principle was particularly seen in the spring of 1874 when Fred Mather came many miles across the country to capture grayling eggs. After dedicating their first campsite, Camp Hallock, on March 28, he and Fitzhugh rested on the next day because it was Sunday. Then Fitzhugh insisted that they sit tight in the



An Ernest Schwiebert drawing of Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. taken from his book, *Trout*, Volume 1 (1978). Fitzhugh was not a judge, however; he enjoyed a career in real estate. The original drawing is from the collection of Robert E. Kehrman.



Map taken from H. F. Walling, Atlas of the State of Michigan, 1873.
 The J.L. & S.R.R. is shown having been completed from Bay City to
 Crawford Station and on to Cheboygan on upper Lake Huron.

camp for two more days until April 1 because he had actively promoted successful legislation that created a closed season for grayling before that date.⁴⁷

Fitzhugh was also a confirmed fly fisherman. On one occasion, when the grayling were not biting so freely, he learned that one of the guides had used bait to procure some fish for the table. Fitzhugh immediately asked that all captured grayling be released back to the stream.⁴⁸ Mather noted that “a prominent trait in the character of ‘Dan’ Fitzhugh, as I soon learned to call him, was that his guest always was put in the best boat, given the best guide, and was put in the most likely spots for fishing that he knew of.”⁴⁹ Mather continued to write that the other anglers who were also hosted by Fitzhugh thought that “this trait was one of the first things

[they] mentioned, and it may be taken as an index to the character of one of the kindest-hearted, whole-souled gentlemen whom I ever wet a line with.”⁵⁰

On the conservation front, Fitzhugh helped bring about changes in Michigan laws to create a limited fishing season for grayling and to prevent the use of nets and spears in grayling fishing and, a bit later, a law prohibiting the killing of grayling less than 6 inches in length. In an effort to promote better laws relative to the preservation of fish and game, the Michigan Sportsmen’s Association was begun in 1875 at an organizing meeting held in Detroit. At that meeting, Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. was elected as a vice president and one of five members appointed to the group that wrote a constitution and created bylaws for the future government of the organization.⁵¹ During the

following year, 1876, he was elected as treasurer and was asked to represent the group at the national convention of sportsmen in Chicago.⁵² In subsequent years, he often served on the association’s standing committees of Game Laws and on Rules and Regulations. He also was an officer, serving on its board from 1878 to 1883. However, even while he was quite active and a key person in the Sportsmen’s Association, he never sought the limelight, preferring to work behind the scenes, writing letters to legislators and other sportsmen on proposals to institute laws related to fish and game conservation. Evidently, he mimicked both his father and grandfather in this attribute, as his father’s obituary noted that Dr. Fitzhugh “shrank from promotion and public notice” and found happiness in his family and friends.⁵³ In 1892, presumably for his many contributions to conservation and leadership in grayling fishing, he was one of only two persons accorded honorary membership in the newly formed and exclusive Fontinalis Club located near Michigan’s Sturgeon River.⁵⁴ During 1896, club records showed 2,116 brook trout being caught along with only four grayling. These statistics reflected the change in the grayling fishery seen on all northern streams of the lower peninsula of Michigan by the late nineteenth century.

Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr.’s entire life was closely associated with the Michigan grayling and fisheries conservation and research. According to Frank N. Clark, Fitzhugh was the first person to plant rainbow trout in the state of Michigan and in 1876 did so in the Au Sable River.⁵⁵ In August 1874, Fitzhugh forwarded to Spencer Baird of the Smithsonian a small Penobscot salmon that had been caught with a fly on that river.⁵⁶ From today’s vantage point, it might seem inappropriate that Fitzhugh and others were involved in placing nonnative species into the Au Sable. However, during the later part of the nineteenth century, the widespread planting of salmon, trout, and other species by federal and state fisheries commissions and even private organizations and individuals was a standard practice and generally applauded by most sportsmen and conservationists. It was seen as “practical and desirable” that 3,000 Atlantic salmon fry were introduced into the Au Sable River—and many other locations—by the Michigan Fisheries Commission on 30 May 1873, followed by additional plants in 1874.⁵⁷ These early introductions of salmon took place before most sportsmen had an appreciation of the existing grayling fishery. A few prescient observers recognized salmon planting as a problem,

though. The editor of the *Jackson (Michigan) Daily Citizen* warned, “it will hardly be a benefit to the sportsmen or the epicurist to stock the only grayling stream in the state with salmon . . . at the expense of the extermination in a few years of our newly found and much prized grayling.”⁵⁸

Fitzhugh was a prolific correspondent and active conservationist, but he especially was a dedicated angler who thrived on fly fishing and camping. It was remarkable how much time and energy Fitzhugh invested in the pursuit and support of the Michigan grayling during its halcyon years. Upon his death in June 1896, a published newspaper obituary mentioned his unusual kindness and stated, “Mr. Fitzhugh’s name will be a familiar one among anglers for many years. He came into public service by discovering grayling in the Au Sable River and by having them classified. He has often been termed ‘the father of grayling fishing,’ for none knew as much of this fish as he. An expert fisherman himself, his ideas on that subject were always valuable.”⁵⁹ Interestingly, this obituary also mentioned Fitzhugh’s innovations in the creation of much shorter fly-fishing rods than were typically used in that era. Even the American Fisheries Society took note of his passing and printed his photo in their *Transactions*. The society’s president, Herschel Whitaker, stated, “He was one of nature’s noblemen, a true sportsman, a brave spirit and a heart as gentle as a woman’s.”⁶⁰

Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. developed an unusually close relationship with the iconic Thaddeus Norris. Norris’s accounts of their angling adventures together in 1874 and in 1875 provide more commentary on Fitzhugh’s personality and demonstrate how these kindred spirits combined to create not one, but two fly-fishing trips of a lifetime—even for such experienced anglers as Fitzhugh and Norris. Historians are also indebted to Thaddeus Norris for writing about Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr.’s most lasting legacy to fly fishing: his creation of the Au Sable river boat. Part 2 of this article (to be published in the Winter 2013 issue) will examine the history of Fitzhugh’s unique watercraft.



ENDNOTES

1. William B. Mershon, *Recollections of My Fifty Years of Hunting and Fishing* (Boston: The Stratford Company, 1923), 166–67. Mershon reported that in August 1903 he and his colleagues caught 398 brook trout along with 11 grayling in the Black River.

2. Herschel Whitaker, *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 15th Annual Meeting* (April 1886), 61. At the time, Whitaker, from Detroit, was a member of the Michigan Fish Commission and later became president of the American Fisheries Society.

3. W. David Tomlin in Whitaker, 66–67; Frank N. Clark in Whitaker, 66. W. David Tomlin was a prominent sportsman of this era, frequently fishing Michigan waters for grayling and trout. He wrote many articles under the pseudonym “Norman” and contributed more than a page of flies to Mary Orvis Marbury’s book, *Famous Flies and Their Histories*. He (and his spouse) also contributed papers to the eighth edition of Chubb’s Fishing Tackle catalog. In 1888, he wrote a review article for *Wildwood’s Magazine* that concluded that the grayling was no match for the incomparable brook trout.

4. Clark in Whitaker, 65.

5. *Ibid.*

6. “G.D.” [George Dawson], *Chicago Field* (14 December 1878, vol. 10, no. 18), 275.

7. E. D. Cope, “Partial Catalogue of the Cold-blooded VERTEBRATA of Michigan, Part II,” *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* (April–June 1865, vol. 17, no. 2), 78–88.

8. Charles Hallock, *The Fishing Tourist* (New York: Harper Brothers, 1873), 206–09.

9. Louis Agassiz, *New York Times* (5 February 1873), 4–6. The *Times* printed a copy of a letter by Agassiz addressed to J. Sutherland, a New York City restaurant owner who had been instrumental in forwarding on to Agassiz the grayling specimens given to him by Charles Hallock. Hallock later noted in *Forest and Stream* (23 April 1874, vol. 2, no. 11, 168) that *The Fishing Tourist* was in press during late January 1873. Because the book contains a copy of Agassiz’s letter to the *New York Times*, he must have delayed publication of the book until later in 1873 to incorporate the new material on the grayling.

10. Charles Hallock, *Forest and Stream* (14 August 1873, vol. 1, no. 1), 8; the quotation is found on masthead of the editorial page.

11. *Ibid.*, 13.

12. Charles Hallock, *Forest and Stream* (18 September 1873, vol. 1, no. 6), 92.

13. [Charles Hallock], “The Michigan Grayling—(*Thymallus tricolor*),” *Forest and Stream* (4 June 1874, vol. 2, no. 17), 265. I believe that the artist responsible for the engraving may have been Edwin Forbes (1839–1895), a well-known illustrator during the Civil War.

14. James W. Milner, “Notes of Grayling in North America,” *United States Fish Commission Report for 1872–1873* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1874), 729–42.

15. Both G. Brown Goode and Ernest Schwiebert have written that Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. accompanied Milner on his August 1871 foray to the Jordan River. There is a lack of evidence confirming that Fitzhugh participated in this trip because Milner does not mention it in letters sent back to his mentor, Spencer Baird. Fitzhugh was an expert fly fisherman, and success in obtaining grayling

specimens would have been more likely had he been along for the 1871 expedition to the Jordan. Fitzhugh later communicated to Spencer Baird that he had taught Milner how to fly fish, but that was most likely on the Au Sable in 1873. See also G. Brown Goode, *The Fisheries and Fishery Industries of the United States, Section I, Natural History of Useful Aquatic Animals*, text (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1884), 505; and Ernest Schwiebert, *Trout, Volume 1* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1978), 352.

16. James W. Milner, “The Michigan Grayling,” *Forest and Stream* (11 December 1873, vol. 1, no. 18), 280.

17. *Ibid.*

18. *Ibid.*

19. Milner, “Notes of Grayling in North America,” 731.

20. Language taken from an 1871–1872 broadside advertising Fred Mather’s trout ponds. U.S. Fish Commission, Letters Received, 1871–1872, Records of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Record Group 22, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland. In the early 1870s, Fred Mather served as fishing editor for the *Live Stock Journal* and later worked for the U.S. Fish Commission. He became fishing editor of the *Chicago Field* for a time and in 1897 published a series of biographical sketches of different sportsmen in *Forest and Stream*. These were later published by the Forest and Stream Publishing Company in two separate books titled *Men I Have Fished With* and *My Angling Friends*.

21. The magazine *Field and Stream* that existed in 1874 had no relationship to the similarly titled magazine that is published today. The 1874 version shortly changed its title to *The Field*, then to *Chicago Field*, and finally to *The American Field*.

22. Fred Mather, “The Michigan Grayling and Its Habits,” *Forest and Stream* (23 April 1874, vol. 2, no. 11), 164–65. In this article, he used the name “Grayling” instead of “Crawford Station” for the settlement found on the Au Sable River at the railroad crossing. Mather’s appellation may represent the first published use of the new name of the town.

23. Seth Green, “The Michigan Grayling,” *Forest and Stream* (14 May 1874, vol. 2, no. 14), 212.

24. A. N. Cheney, “Angling Notes,” *Forest and Stream* (8 June 1901, vol. 56, no. 28), 447. Dean Sage’s father, Henry W. Sage, built what at the time was the largest lumber mill in the world across the river from Bay City in Winona. Fitzhugh’s father, Dr. Daniel H. Fitzhugh Sr., and Henry Sage were both major investors in the creation of the Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw Railroad.

25. Letter from D. H. Fitzhugh Jr. to Spencer F. Baird, 18 April 1875, Record Unit 52, Smithsonian Institution Archives.

26. Letter from Spencer F. Baird to D. H. Fitzhugh Jr., 24 April 1875, Record Unit 53, Smithsonian Institution Archives.

27. J. S. Ingram, *The Centennial Exposition, Described and Illustrated* (Philadelphia: Hubbard Brothers, 1876), 127.

28. *Ibid.*, 147.

29. Ibid.

30. *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1877), 83.

31. According to www.si.edu/oahp/ScientificIllustrators/JHRichard.htm, Richard worked on illustrations from those expeditions between 1852 and 1855. This source also mentions his work for the Philadelphia Exposition and shows images of the few plaster casts of fish painted by Richard that survive today. Other comments about Richard's illustrations for the United States Exploring Expedition can be found in Herman J. Viola and Carolyn Margolis, eds., *Magnificent Voyagers, The U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838–1842* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985).

32. G. Brown Goode, "Catalogue of the Collection to Illustrate the Animal Resources and Fisheries of the United States," *Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 14* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1879), 58.

33. www.si.edu/ahhp/ScientificIllustrators/JHRichard.htm.

34. Probably the most well-known color image of the Michigan grayling is the beautiful chromolithograph by S. A. Kilbourne published as part of the set of twenty total fish prints in G. Brown Goode and S. A. Kilbourne, *Game Fishes of the United States* (New York: C. Scribner and Sons, 1879). The grayling print in this set is dated 1880.

35. Robert F. McNamara, *William Frisby Fitzhugh, Co-founder of Rochester* (Rochester, N.Y.: The Rochester Historical Society, 1984), 5.

36. *Livingston Republican* (17 May 1851), 1.

37. Ernest Schwiebert suggested that Fitzhugh was engaged in the legal profession. See Ernest Schwiebert, *Trout, Volume 1* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1978), 269. Despite Ernest Schwiebert's use of the title "Judge" Daniel Fitzhugh, there is no evidence that Fitzhugh either practiced law or was trained in the field. Schwiebert may have read articles in *Forest and Stream* or the *Chicago Field* that mentioned a "Judge Fitzhugh" who fished, sometimes with bait, in upper New York State. That individual was not Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. of Bay City, Michigan, but was probably a relative. See *Forest and Stream* (4 September 1879, vol. 13, no. 4), 604, and *Chicago Field* (22 February 1879, vol. 11, no. 2), 20.

38. Henry May Brent was the U.S. consul to Peru, 1879–1883. As Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. was their guardian, Brent's daughters are mentioned in Bay County's Probate Records following Fitzhugh's death.

39. Fred Mather, "The Michigan Grayling and Its Habitat," *Forest and Stream* (23 April 1874, vol. 2, no. 11), 163.

40. *Transactions of the Michigan Sportsmen's Association for the Protection of Fish Game and Birds* ([Grand Rapids, Mich.]: Eagle Print, W. C. Dennis and Co., 1878), 80.

41. A detailed account of these grayling is found in Charles Hallock, "In Quest of Grayling," *American Angler* (6 October 1888, vol. 14, no. 14), 211–12; Hallock, "The Michigan Grayling," *Forest and Stream* (23 April 1874, vol. 2, no. 11), 168; and Milner, "The Michigan

Grayling," *Forest and Stream* (11 December 1873, vol. 1, no. 18), 280. At the urging of Charles Hallock, Fitzhugh also sent samples of grayling to Spencer Baird in February 1873. See 14 February 1873 letter from Fitzhugh to Baird, Record Unit 52, Smithsonian Institution Archives; and 18 February 1873 letter from Baird to Fitzhugh, Record Unit 53, Smithsonian Institution Archives.

42. Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr., letter to Charles Hallock, *Forest and Stream* (23 December 1875, vol. 5, no. 20), 308.

43. George H. Jerome, *Third Report of the Superintendent of the Michigan State Fisheries for 1877–8* (Lansing, Mich.: W. S. George & Co., 1879), 29–31. The 1878 trip is also mentioned in Fred Mather, "Saving the Grayling," *Chicago Field* (1 June 1878, vol. 9, no. 16), 243–44.

44. Ibid.

45. Fred Mather, *My Angling Friends* (New York: Forest and Stream Publishing Co., 1901), 227.

46. Thaddeus Norris, "Down the Au Sable," *Forest and Stream* (27 August 1874, vol. 3, no. 3), 33. It is not clear that Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. was any kind of Presbyterian. Norris surely intended the description to imply the strong religious character of Fitzhugh. His father and grandfather were devout Episcopalians but, according to his published obituary, Daniel Fitzhugh's funeral services were conducted at St. James, a Catholic church in Bay City.

47. Fred Mather, "The Michigan Grayling and Its Habitat," *Forest and Stream* (23 April 1874, vol. 2, no. 11), 163.

48. Fred Mather, "Alas! The Poor Grayling," *Chicago Field* (16 August 1879, vol. 12, no. 1), 4.

49. Fred Mather, *My Angling Friends*, 221.

50. Ibid.

51. "Sportsmen in Council," *Detroit Free Press* (29 April 1875), 1; *Third Annual Book of the Michigan Sportsmen's Association* (East Saginaw, Mich.: Courier Co., Printers and Binders, 1880), 4.

52. "The State Sportsmen's Association Convention," *Jackson (Michigan) Weekly Citizen* (9 May 1876), 6.

53. Obituary of Dr. Daniel H. Fitzhugh, *Livingston (New York) Republican*, 28 April 1881, as quoted in Robert F. McNamara, *William Frisby Fitzhugh*, 19.

54. Personal correspondence to the author from Mark C. Dilts, 31 January and 12 February 1990. Dilts was the author of a book on the history of the club.

55. Unfortunately, there appears to be no good contemporary reference for the rainbow trout planting by Fitzhugh. It is curious that in 1880, Frank N. Clark presented a paper titled "The Red Banded Trout of California" to the Sportsmen's Association of Michigan and did not mention the recent involvement of Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. in planting rainbow trout in the Au Sable River. A possible explanation for this omission is that in 1875 Fitzhugh was primarily working on such matters with N. W. Clark, the first fish culturist in the state of Michigan and the father of Frank Clark. In 1875, N. W. Clark was sixty-seven years old and Frank was only twenty-

six. Frank became the principal operator of the hatchery in 1876 upon his father's death.

At the 1902 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Frank N. Clark of the United States Fish Hatchery at Northville, Michigan, attributed the first planting of rainbow trout in the Au Sable to Daniel H. Fitzhugh Jr. and noted that this event occurred before any brook trout were planted in that stream. At the 1909 meeting of the organization, Seymour Bower, superintendent of the Michigan Fish Commission, presented a paper titled "The Rainbow Trout in Michigan" and stated that Fitzhugh and N. W. Clark—father of Frank Clark—collaborated during the "middle seventies" in planting rainbow trout in the Au Sable River. At that same meeting, and in response to questions, Frank N. Clark confirmed that before 1876 rainbow trout eggs were present in the Clark hatchery. Fitzhugh apparently planted fry from those early eggs in the Au Sable River. These eggs probably originated with the California Acclimatization Society and came to N. W. Clark from Seth Green, who had "California Brook Trout" as early as 1875, or directly from J. B. Campbell, who lived near California's McCloud River and who was responsible for shipping rainbow trout eggs east before the establishment of the U.S. Fish Commission on that same stream. See Frank N. Clark, "The Red Banded Trout of California," *Third Annual Book of the Michigan Sportsmen's Association*, 41–45; *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* (August 1902), 87; *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* (July 1909), 142; J. H. Wales, "General Report of Investigations on the McCloud River Drainage in 1938," *California Fish and Game* (October 1939, vol. 25, no. 4), 272–309; Robert J. Behnke, *About Trout* (Guilford, Conn.: The Lyons Press, 2007), 4; and Fred Mather, ed., "Spawning of California Brook Trout," *Chicago Field* (6 April 1878, vol. 9, no. 8), 115.

56. N. W. Clark, *Pisciculture: An Address on the Artificial Breeding of Fish, Etc., Delivered before the Detroit Scientific Association* (Detroit: Tribune Publishing Company, 1875), 20; letter from D. H. Fitzhugh to Thaddeus Norris reported in "Salmon in the Affluents of Lake Huron," *Forest and Stream* (3 September 1874, vol. 3, no. 4), 52.

57. George H. Jerome, *State of Michigan, First Report of State Commissioner and Superintendent of State Fisheries for 1873–4* (Lansing, Mich.: W. S. George & Co., 1875) 16, 22.

58. James O'Donnell, editor, "Operations of the Fish Commission," *Jackson Daily Citizen* (28 December 1874), 4.

59. "He Was a Good Citizen: A Tribute to the Late Daniel H. Fitzhugh," *Bay City (Michigan) Tribune* (28 June 1896), 1.

60. Herschel Whitaker, as quoted by J. C. Parker on behalf of the society's Memorial Committee, *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* (May 1897, vol. 26), 64.



More on the Home Letter

by Dan Kennaley

IT WAS WITH GREAT interest that I read Ken Cameron and Paul Schullery's article in the *American Fly Fisher* (Summer 2011, vol. 37, no. 3) about a new early date for fly fishing in the Americas.¹ In that issue, Ken and Paul discussed the "Rodney Home" letter, written to a Mr. Blacket, now in the collections of the University of Virginia Library, and noted that Rodney Home "appears to have been a member of the entourage of George Johnstone, the first governor of the then-new West Florida Colony."² Of course, being Canadian, my interest was tinged a bit with disappointment that the Rodney Home letter of 1764 had supplanted the previous earliest reference to fly fishing in the Americas—that of British naturalist Joseph Banks, who had written in 1766 about fly fishing in what are now Canadian waters.

The second intriguing and puzzling aspect of the Home letter was that, as Ken and Paul observed in their article, although it was identified in the University of Virginia Library records as the Rodney Home letter, the first name in the signature was unclear. The article included a photo of the letter itself, and I much appreciated the inset that featured an enlarged copy of the signature. As the authors indicated, it looked more like *Rod in Home* than *Rodney Home*.

My first thought was that "Rod in Home" might be a nickname. It seemed entirely too coincidental that the new earliest reference to fly fishing in North American waters should be from a person whose first name was Rod. So I e-mailed Paul, who also passed my e-mail on to Ken, and asked what they thought about this possibility. I have to admit, I sent that e-mail to Paul with some trepidation. Ever since I read his book, *American Fly Fishing: A History*, Paul has been a hero of

mine, and in sending that e-mail, I felt like a shy fan asking for a baseball great's autograph. Paul and Ken were both quick and gracious in their replies.

Paul acknowledged that he had not considered the possibility that Home might have been using a nickname but indicated that until someone actually does the necessary homework on the Johnstone entourage and figures out who this Rodney Home actually was, "we won't be able to settle any of this."³ Ken was even more skeptical of the possibility that it was a nickname but agreed with Paul that what was really needed was evidence concerning the mysterious Rodney Home.⁴

So on an evening in early January, when I should have been doing something else, I decided to see what I could find on the Internet. I started with George Johnstone. One of the things I noticed in reading the Wikipedia reference for George Johnstone (1730–1787) was that he had been appointed first governor of West Florida by then-British Prime Minister John Stuart in November 1763.⁵ The reference went on to say that Johnstone was friends with Stuart's secretary, John Home. It seemed a promising lead.

I also came across another Internet reference to George Johnstone that consisted of Oxford history professor J. H. Elliott's review of a book, *The Inner Life of Empires*.⁶ The book was written by Emma Rothschild, a Harvard history professor. It turns out that Johnstone was one of seven brothers and four sisters and that all the siblings were very ambitious. They became very well connected, and several married strategically. Most notably, William (Johnstone) Pulteney "married an English heiress, Frances Pulteney, changed his name to Pulteney, and was a member of Parliament for thirty-six years. He owned property in

Dominica, Grenada, Tobago, Florida, and New York and was a prominent parliamentary supporter of the slave trade. He died intestate in 1805, one of the richest men in England."⁷ Brothers James, George, and John also became members of parliament, and John "made a large fortune overseas."⁸ In her book, Rothschild presents the Johnstone family history as a portrait of the age in which they lived and as a new window that sheds light on the Age of Empires. However, it was comments from Elliott on how Rothschild put together her history that particularly encouraged me in my Internet search for Rodney Home.

Elliott notes that Rothschild's history relies on new information technology or what Rothschild herself described as "a world of searchable databases and digitized archive catalogues."⁹ Elliott goes on to say that this new style of discovering history enables today's historians to assemble in a matter of days vastly more facts and figures than their predecessors could have assembled in a lifetime of archival research. He also says that this new method of investigating history is particularly good for finding unexpected connections between individuals—inspiring words that spurred me on in my Internet search. Prophetic words too, as it would turn out.

With Elliott's observations about connections ringing in my ears, I next queried Rodney Home and George Johnstone together. What turned up, among other things, was a reference to the Rodney Papers: selections from the correspondence of an Admiral Lord Rodney (1718–1792), a famous British naval officer. At first I thought that the reference was a spurious connection, something that happens often with Internet queries. For all I knew, the reference had come up because of a connection between George Johnstone and Admiral Lord Rodney and a meaningless further reference to one of Admiral Lord Rodney's homes. However, I thought I should have a look and clicked on the reference.

A few years ago, I was fishing my favorite trout stream, one of the many tributaries of the Saugeen River here in southern Ontario, which, as I am sure you will understand, must remain nameless. It is a beautiful, fairly small, headwater stream where it is almost impossible not to get a triple—brook, brown, and rainbow—on any given day. This particular



Signature from the Rodney Home Letter, 1764, Accession #13918, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Virginia.

day the *Isonychia* mayflies were hatching, and I was catching lots of the 7- to 10-inch trout that are the usual size for this stream. At one point, I cast my *Isonychia* Comparadun into a little run that I was expecting would produce another couple of trout. A fish dutifully took my fly. There was nothing unusual about the take, and I set the hook. I was surprised and excited to find not another 7-incher on my line, but a much bigger fish that turned out to be a 20-inch brown.

What appeared on my computer screen after clicking on that reference produced a similar feeling of surprise and excitement. It was a letter from George Johnstone to Admiral Lord Rodney dated 28 March 1772, which started: "Mr. Roddam Home, the young gentleman who will have the honour of delivering this letter into your hands, has been brought up with me from a boy and out of the number I have assisted in life, I would give him the preference in diligence and sweetness of disposition. Being disappointed in *missing* his preferment as lieutenant at the end of the war, he went out with me to West Florida where he commanded the government schooner while I remained there."¹⁰ The letter goes on to ask Admiral Lord Rodney to appoint Roddam Home as a lieutenant and adds to his case that Roddam Home is "brother in law to John Home the poet" and "cousin to David the historian."¹¹

So I now had an explanation for that perplexing signature at the end of the fly-fishing Home letter. It wasn't Rodney Home, but rather *Roddam* Home. More importantly, I now had the right name for making further Internet inquiries.

Finding the reference to Roddam Home in George Johnstone's letter to Admiral Lord Rodney was serendipity at its finest. The reason I found Johnstone's letter was that until that point, Roddam had been mistakenly identified as Rodney, and my query based on the wrong first name had taken me to the papers of Admiral Lord Rodney. If I had queried "George Johnstone R Home," for instance, I wouldn't have found Admiral Lord Rodney's papers, I wouldn't have found Johnstone's letter, and I wouldn't have been able to determine Home's correct first name.

I quickly located a website—Three Decks: Warships in the Age of Sail—that showed that Roddam Home, after fly fishing in West Florida, went on to have a very successful naval career.¹² He received his lieutenant's commission—the one that George Johnstone had been asking Admiral Lord Rodney to confer—on 21 November 1772. Roddam then received a captain's commission in 1779 and participated in a couple of signifi-

cant battles in 1781 (the Battle of Porto Praya and the Attack in Saldanha Bay) with George Johnstone as his commodore. On 14 February 1799, he was promoted to Rear Admiral of the Red, and he died almost exactly two years later, in Inveresk, East Lothian, Scotland, on 13 February 1801, a Friday.

According to their online records, no portrait of Roddam Home exists at the National Portrait Gallery in London, England, but searches of genealogy websites indicate that Roddam Home was one of eight children born to the Reverend William Home (d. 30 October 1784) and Mary Roddam (d. 10 September 1788). Roddam, in turn, married Catherine Ramsay, and they had two children, John and Charlotte. We don't know when Roddam and Catherine were married, but Charlotte was born in 1783.¹³

Roddam Home, unfortunately, appears not to have left behind a collection of papers, as did Admiral Lord Rodney. Consequently, we don't know a lot about Roddam's interest in fly fishing beyond his letter of 1764 to Mr. Blackett.

The two relatives of Roddam Home whom George Johnstone mentioned in his letter to Admiral Lord Rodney were, however, two pretty good names to drop. John Home (1722–1808) was not only a poet, but, as previously noted, he was also secretary to John Stuart, the British prime minister who appointed George Johnstone the first governor of West Florida.¹⁴ David Hume (1711–1776), born David Home, was a Scottish philosopher, historian, economist, and essayist, but is best known for the important contributions he made to philosophy during the Scottish Enlightenment of the 1700s. He changed his name to Hume in 1734 because the English had difficulty pronouncing Home in the Scottish manner. Hume's influence, particularly on the scientific method, was significant.¹⁵ Albert Einstein, even all those years later, credited Hume with helping formulate his theory of relativity.¹⁶

There is even a connection, albeit an indirect one, between naturalist Joseph Banks, the previous record holder, and Roddam Home, the new record holder for the earliest reference to fly fishing in North America. That connection lies in the person of James Macpherson, another Scottish poet, who not only knew fellow poet and secretary John Home, but was himself appointed to be Governor George Johnstone's secretary in West Florida and, along with Roddam Home, accompanied Johnstone to the new colony.¹⁷ Sir Joseph Banks was a fan of Macpherson's poetry and in 1772 renamed a spectacular cave on the Scottish island of Staffa after a character in one of Macpherson's poems: Fingal's Cave.

Making Internet inquiries about George Johnstone and Rodney Home was somewhat akin to casting flies on new waters. Finding the letter from George Johnstone to Admiral Lord Rodney with its reference to Roddam Home and solving the mystery of who wrote the oldest letter that is the earliest reference to fly fishing in North America was surprising and exciting—not unlike catching a good fish where you didn't expect one.



ENDNOTES

1. Ken Cameron and Paul Schullery, "A New Early Date for American Fly Fishing," *The American Fly Fisher* (Summer 2011, vol. 37, no. 3), 16–17.
2. *Ibid.*, 16.
3. Paul Schullery, e-mail message to Dan Kennaley, 5 January 2012.
4. Ken Cameron, e-mail message to Dan Kennaley, 5 January 2012.
5. "George Johnstone (Royal Navy officer)," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Johnstone_\(Royal_Navy_officer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Johnstone_(Royal_Navy_officer)) (accessed 7 January 2012).
6. J. H. Elliott, "How They Made the Empire," *New York Review of Books* (August 2011), Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, www.wcfia.harvard.edu/node/6745 (accessed 7 January 2012).
7. Emma Rothschild, *The Inner Life of Empires* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2011), 20.
8. *Ibid.*, 18–20.
9. Emma Rothschild, quoted in Elliott, "How They Made the Empire," paragraph 26.
10. David Syrett, ed., *The Rodney Papers: Selections from the Correspondence of Admiral Lord Rodney*, vol. 2, 1763–1780 (Aldershot, England, and Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate Publishing Company, copyright the Naval Records Society, 2007), 84–85, Google Books, http://books.google.ca/books?id=hUDom6Ak4GYC&dg-george+johnstone+rodney+home&source-gbs_navlinks_s (accessed 9 January 2012).
11. *Ibid.*, 85.
12. Simon Harrison, *Three Decks: Warships in the Age of Sail*, http://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_crewman&id=1342 (accessed 9 January 2012).
13. Family Search for Rev. William Home, <http://histfam.familysearch.org/getperson.php?personID=I8875&tree=Fasti> (accessed 9 January 2012).
14. "John Home," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Home (accessed 15 June 2012).
15. "David Hume," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DavidHume> (accessed 15 June 2012).
16. *Ibid.*
17. "James Macpherson," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Macpherson (accessed 15 June 2012).

Keeping a Promise

by Steven P. Arnoczky

WE ARE ALL taught as children that promises are to be kept, and heaven help the parent who promises his or her child something in a moment of weakness and later fails to deliver. Unfortunately, it seems that as we grow older, the obligation that accompanies a promise is often lost or simply ignored—like the promise you make to your parents as a teenager when you tell them that you’ll *never* ask for anything else if only they would just buy you the newest, coolest thing. Or the promise many of us have made in the wee hours of the morning to no one in particular, while hugging the porcelain bowl, to *never* drink alcohol again. In these cases, nobody, not even the person making the promise, is sure that he or she will actually keep it. But the promise you make to a dying friend is sacred and one that must be fulfilled. Such was the promise I made to my friend and mentor, Rich.

Rich had been my student/mentor back in veterinary school in the early 1970s and was the person who introduced me to steelhead fishing in Michigan a decade later. Since that first outing, Rich and I were able to spend many glorious hours together over the years on the Betsy, Two-Hearted, Little Manistee, and Pere Marquette rivers of Michigan in pursuit of steelhead. We were never very successful (in terms of number of fish) during these outings, but the laughter and camaraderie we shared made every adventure memorable. As we grew older, the responsibilities and intrusions of life intervened and, as often happens with the best of friends, Rich and I lost touch for a while.

Then one day, some thirty years after our first fishing trip together, Rich called to tell me his heart was failing and that he was getting his affairs in order. He said he wanted to see me again so he could give me something, and a few days later we met for lunch. When I saw him, it was hard to believe he was sick. His ever-present wry smile and easygoing manner belied the severity of his illness. We had a long visit, reliving old fishing exploits and laughing at our past follies. It was a bittersweet afternoon, but one I’ll never forget. When we got to Rich’s car, he reached into the backseat, pulled out a scratched and tarnished rod tube, and handed it to me. It was his prized 8½-foot, 9-weight bamboo fly rod. “I want you to have this,” he said. As we both held onto the rod tube, he looked me in the eye and continued, “But promise me that you will use it to catch a Michigan steelhead, that you’ll take it someplace exotic to fish, and that you will give it to a worthy fisherman when your fishing days are over.”

Now, I knew how much Rich loved this rod, and I was deeply touched that he wanted me to have it. So, of course I

agreed without hesitation. After a few personal words to each other, we said good-bye and awkwardly hugged the way guys do. The fact that I was at least a foot taller than Rich made it even more awkward, and we both were still laughing at our clumsiness as he drove off. When I got home, I put the rod tube in a safe place and the promise in the back of my mind.

I was out of the country when Rich passed away a few months later. When I heard the news, my mind raced back to that day in the parking lot, the bamboo rod, and the promise. Soon after, I took out the rod and began casting it in the backyard. I had never cast a bamboo rod before and had no idea as to its capabilities or limitations. But the rod cast a 9-weight line beautifully, and I spent the better part of that afternoon thinking about Rich and trying to match my casting stroke to that demanded by the rod. Once I felt comfortable casting the rod, I began to think about the *promise*.

Something you need to know about me is that I am a classic worrier. Rich’s bamboo rod was skillfully crafted, but it had only one tip. Rich had told me that he broke the other while unsuccessfully trying to keep a steelhead out of the wood on the Betsy River several years ago, and he hadn’t used it again for steelhead for fear of shattering the remaining tip. So, instead of looking forward to planning the special steelhead trip, I began to worry about breaking the remaining rod tip while trying to land one. It was a forty-plus-year-old bamboo rod. Could it stand the pressure? Could I? Perhaps keeping this promise wouldn’t be as easy as I thought.

Rich was a fly-fishing purist, so I knew to keep my promise I’d need to catch the steelhead on a fly, cast on a fly line. None of the chuck-and-duck technique that I usually employed when fishing for steelhead would do. I decided that my best chance to fulfill these criteria would be to swing streamers on the Muskegon River. The Muskegon is a big, western-style river that empties into Lake Michigan. It has excellent runs of salmon in the fall and steelhead in the fall and spring. Fall is the best time for swinging flies for steelhead on the Muskegon, so I booked a trip with Matt Zudweg, who specializes in this type of fishing. Matt is a first-class guide and as nice a person as you could ever meet. He had guided me and a friend on a salmon trip on the Muskegon the year before, and we had a great day. I knew I would be in good hands.

It was mid-November. A drier-than-usual fall, along with several preceding days of sunshine and bright blue skies, had slowed steelhead fishing on the Muskegon considerably. I had told Matt about my mission when I booked the trip, and as we left the boat launch, he told me that he had been looking for-

ward to this day and helping me keep my promise. He had already scouted a couple of potential hot spots the day before, and soon I was swinging an egg-sucking leach pattern through a promising stretch of water.

While I fished, I told Matt stories about Rich and our friendship. As I began to recount one of our more memorable fishing escapades, a dime-bright steelhead smashed the fly, came out of the water, and headed across the river. I managed to bring the fish next to the boat three times, only to have it speed away when it saw the net. I was babying the fish and I knew it, but I was scared of breaking the rod tip, so I had backed off the drag on my reel. (See what I mean about worrying?) After two more jumps, the hook dislodged, and the fish was gone. My disappointment was obvious, but Matt was undeterred. "Not to worry," he said. "I've got a good feeling about today."

We all know that guides must always exude a positive attitude toward their clients, even under the most dire of circumstances. But I could tell that Matt was earnest in his words and, consequently, my confidence began to rise. I knew I was not under any time limit to fulfill my promise to Rich, but I really wanted to accomplish a portion of it that day, and so did Matt. A little farther downstream, Matt anchored at another promising spot. Before I cast, he said, "Steve, this is a very good rod. It can handle a big fish. Tighten up the drag, and let's get one in the boat for Rich."

A few casts later, as the fly reached the end of the swing, the line pulled tight, and I set the hook on a beautiful male steelhead. I could almost hear Rich yelling "Fish on!" as it blasted

out of the water. The fish jumped a half dozen times; Matt cheered louder with each successive aerial display. With the drag set tighter and my increasing confidence in the sturdiness of the rod, the fish was soon in Matt's net. After a quick picture, Matt slipped the fish back into the current. As I sat down to catch my breath, I thanked Matt for his help, and, with a lump in my throat, told him, "That one was for Rich."

"He knows," Matt assured me. "I'm sure he knows."

With a great sense of accomplishment and relief that I hadn't broken the thing, I placed Rich's bamboo rod safely back in its tube. I fished the rest of the day with a newer graphite rod but did not have another hit. That, of course, is the way of steelheading. It is all about being at the right place at the right time with the right fly and the right presentation. Still, I can't help but think that it was a special rod from a special friend that made the difference.

As I drove home that night, I started thinking about the next phase of my mission. "Take it someplace exotic to fish," Rich had told me. But where? Perhaps bonefishing on Andros Island or Belize? I am not quite sure where I will be going, but I do know that Rich's bamboo rod will be with me. After all, a promise is a promise.



Steven P. Arnoczky, DVM, is the Wade O. Brinker Professor of Veterinary Surgery at Michigan State University. He and his wife have a log cabin in northern Michigan near the Holy Water section of the famed Au Sable River, where he pursues his passion for fly fishing.

Matt Zudweg



The rod, the fish, and the author (2010).



Staff Updates

Recent staffing changes call for an introduction.

Laura Napolitano, the museum's new coordinator of membership and operations, was born in Colorado Springs and raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Temple University in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in communications and minor in English. Before moving to Vermont, she worked for a market research firm recruiting medical professionals to participate in paid opinion studies. As a child, she spent her summer vacations and Thanksgiving with her family here in Vermont and right now lives with her grandmother, longtime museum volunteer Rose Napolitano, in Tinmouth. Outside of work, she enjoys playing softball and participating in a variety of other outdoor summer activities, spending time with friends and family, and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.



Staff photos by Sara Wilcox

A self-professed nomad, the museum's new coordinator of events, **Alanna Reid**, was born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but calls Laramie, Wyoming, home. She received a bachelor of fine arts at the University of Wyoming with a minor in gender and women's studies in December 2011. She has worked for the Wyoming Women's Foundation and has been known to make a mean latte at Night Heron Books and Coffeehouse. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, creating enormous drawings, midnight bike rides, reading classical literature, making messes in the kitchen, and snowshoeing.



Diane Mahaney, who staffs the museum on weekends, was born in Maryland and grew up near the Antietam battlefield. She received a bachelor of fine arts at Towson State University in Maryland and worked in the graphic arts in Washington, D.C., for many years in a variety of fields, including calligraphy, fabric design, and natural sciences illustration. In 1997, she moved to Vermont to work at the British School of Falconry in Manchester, leaving the arts behind to pursue the outdoor life wholeheartedly. These days her pursuits include hiking, gardening, horseback riding, and falconry. She also raises sheep for wool and recently began learning how to fly fish. In addition to spending her weekends greeting museum visitors, Diane works full-time during the week next door at the Orvis rod shop.



Sarah Foster, after having spent the last four years as the museum's membership coordinator under the name of Sarah Moore, has been promoted to the role of development assistant. As such, she works closely with Jill Alcott, the museum's development consultant, and is involved with all aspects of the research, analysis, planning, and implementation of the museum's overall development and marketing program. She's also focused on building relationships with supporters nationwide to begin laying the foundation for increased museum exposure. Sarah married her longtime boyfriend Lee Foster in July.



Recent Donations

Thomas Aquinas Daly of Arcade, New York, donated one of his original watercolors, *Some Sunny Days*. **Bob Stearns** of Miami, Florida, gave us two saltwater flies tied by Lee Wulff in Costa Rica in 1990.

Frank H. Skidmore Jr. of Durham, North Carolina, and Simon Cain of Wiltshire, England, sent us a limited-edition copy (21/100) of Bernard Venables's *A Rise to the Fly* (Robert Hale, 2000). **Robert DeMott** of Athens, Ohio, gave us a signed copy of his book, *Astream: American Writers on Fly Fishing* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2012).

John Falk of Stephenson, Michigan, donated items belonging to Leonard Halladay of Mayfield, Michigan. For a detailed list, please contact the museum.



Alanna Reid

Ice cream and fly fishing were made for summer! The museum's Ice Cream Social, complete with clown flies, made a big splash in July.

Upcoming Events

Events take place on the museum grounds in Manchester, Vermont.

November 1–30
First annual online auction

November 10
Free admission all day to honor veterans

December 8
Hooked on the Holidays and Community Open House

Always check our website (www.amff.com) for additions, updates, and more information or contact (802) 362-3300 or events@amff.com. "Casting About," the museum's e-mail newsletter, offers up-to-date news and event information. To subscribe, look for the link on our website or contact the museum.

In the Library

Thanks to the following for their donations of 2012 titles that have become part of our permanent collection: Skylight Paths Publishing sent us Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer and Rev. Michael Attas, MD's *Fly-Fishing—The Sacred Art: Casting a Fly as a Spiritual Practice*. Frank Amato Publications, Inc. sent us Michael Gorman's *Steelhead Fly Angling: Guerilla Fly-Rod Tactics*, Craig Schuhmann's *Get Started Fly-Fishing!*, Angelo Peluso's *Saltwater Flies of the Southeast & Gulf Coast*, and Jeff Morgan's *Productive Trout Flies for Unorthodox Prey: Ecology & Imitation*.



Sara Wilcox

Reception guests admire a painting by Andrew Orr at the museum's Angling & Art benefit sale held in August. Other participating artists this year were Susan Balch, Stella Ehrich, Luther Hall, Matthew Lerman, Sylvie Malo-Clark, Adriano Manocchia, Virginia McNeice, Diane Michelin, Dave Morse, Matt Patterson, Mark Susinno, John Swan, David Tibbetts, Mark Tougias, and George Van Hook.

BACK ISSUES!

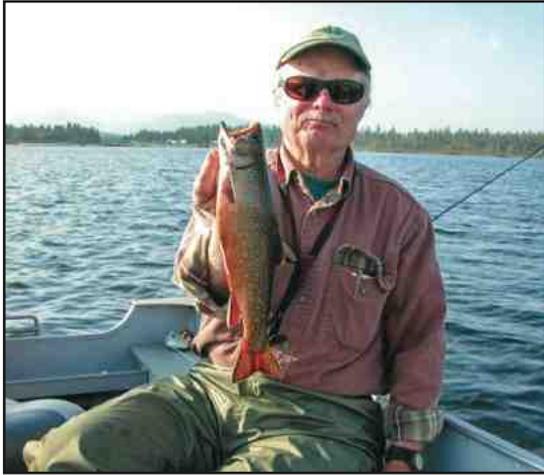
Vol. 6: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4	Vol. 23: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 8: Nos. 3, 4	Vol. 24: Nos. 2, 3
Vol. 9: Nos. 1, 2, 3	Vol. 25: Nos. 1, 3, 4
Vol. 10: No. 2	Vol. 26: Nos. 1, 2, 4
Vol. 11: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4	Vol. 27: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 12: No. 3	Vol. 28: Nos. 1, 3
Vol. 13: No. 3	Vol. 29: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 14: No. 1	Vol. 30: Nos. 1, 2, 3
Vol. 15: No. 2	Vol. 31: Nos. 1, 2
Vol. 16: Nos. 1, 2, 3	Vol. 32: Nos. 1, 2, 3
Vol. 17: Nos. 1, 2, 3	Vol. 33: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 18: Nos. 1, 2, 4	Vol. 34: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 19: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4	Vol. 35: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 20: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4	Vol. 36: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 21: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4	Vol. 37: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4
Vol. 22: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4	Vol. 38: Nos. 1, 2, 3

Back issues are \$10 a copy for nonmembers, \$5 for members.

To order, please contact Laura Napolitano at (802) 362-3300 or via e-mail at lnapolitano@amff.com.

CONTRIBUTORS

Hank Metcalf



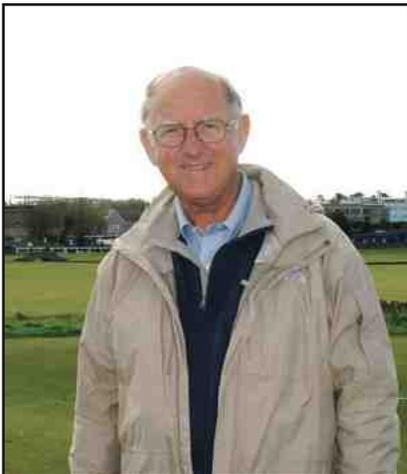
Jan Kennaley



Richard Jagels, pictured here with a male brook trout in breeding color at Nesowadnehunk Lake, Maine, recently “graduated” to emeritus professor, School of Forest Resources, University of Maine, after thirty-one years of teaching and research. For even more years, he has been a regular columnist for *WoodenBoat* magazine. An avid fly fisherman, he was recently elected to the board of the Penobscot Fly Fishers and hopes to trade pen for fly rod more often as he enters retirement. His article “Bangor Pool Peapods: Reviving a Tradition and a River” appeared in the Summer 2011 (vol. 37, no. 3) issue of this journal.

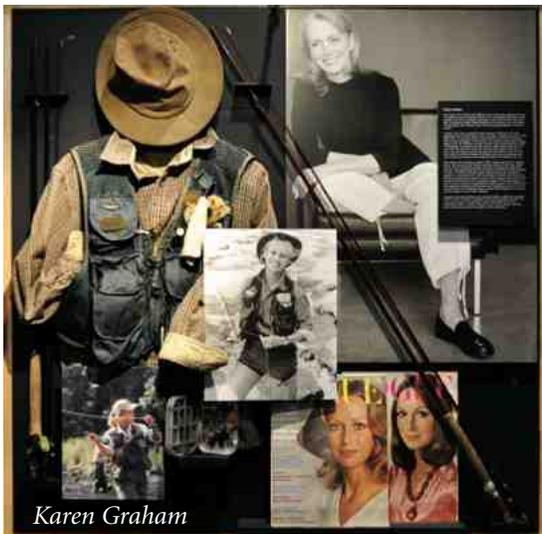
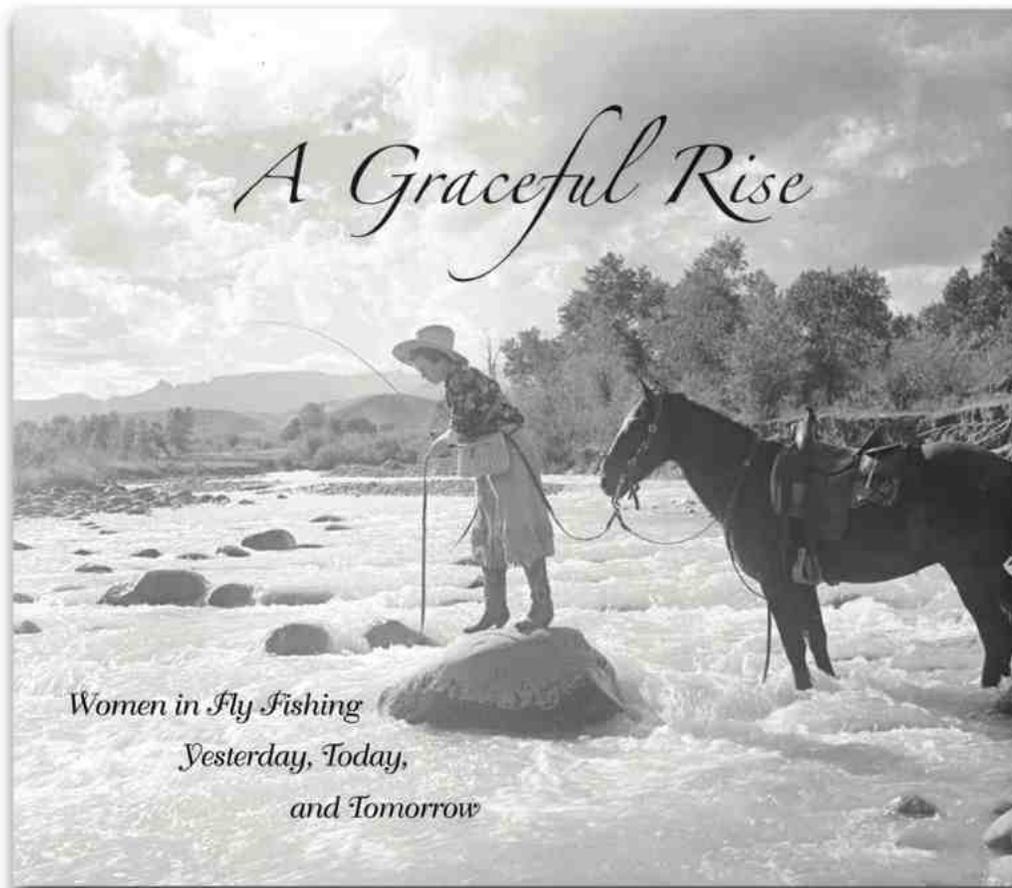
Dan Kennaley has been the fly-fishing editor for Ontario *OUT OF DOORS* magazine since 1998. Dan enjoys fly fishing in all its dimensions, including the history, art, and literature of the sport, and, of course, fishing for trout and other species. He is a member of the Outdoor Writers of Canada, the American Museum of Fly Fishing, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Dan has been an adjunct lecturer in the outdoor recreation program at the University of Waterloo and, in 2008, won the Greg Clark Award for outstanding contributions to the arts of fly fishing at the Canadian Fly Fishing Forum. He has been a popular guest speaker at fly clubs across the province, at the Canadian Fly Fishing Forum, and at the Grand Opportunities Fly Fishing Forum and has been a fly-tying instructor at the Canadian Fly Tying Symposium. A land-use planner by profession with specialties in cultural heritage and environmental and recreation planning, Dan is also the director of engineering and planning services for the Township of Woolwich near Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario. He lives with his wife Jan, son Ian, and daughter Erin in Rockwood, Ontario.

Dee Kohrman



Robert E. Kohrman is a retired dean and professor of organic chemistry at Central Michigan University who lives in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. He enjoys fishing streams in Michigan and on the north shore of Lake Superior and is an avid collector of nineteenth-century sporting periodicals. He is interested in the history of the Arctic grayling in Michigan and has caught grayling while fly fishing Zimmerman Lake in Colorado, a location where they have since been removed. He previously published a checklist of pseudonyms of angling authors in the *American Fly Fisher* (Summer 1987, vol. 13, no. 4).





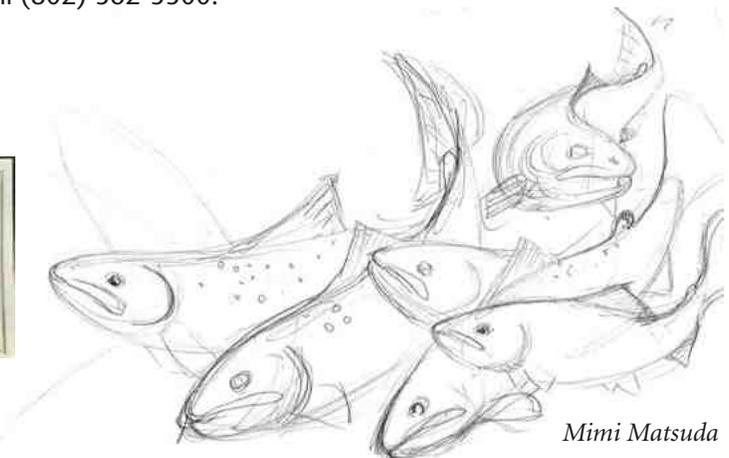
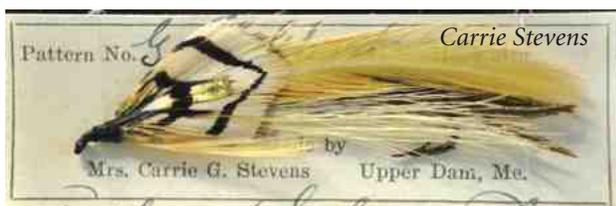
Karen Graham

Stumped as to what to give to the anglers on your list this holiday season? Try the official catalog for the American Museum of Fly Fishing's groundbreaking exhibition, *A Graceful Rise: Women in Fly Fishing Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*.

This 105-page book profiles all of the women featured in the exhibit. Hundreds of images, both color and black-and-white, complement their stories, ranging from photographs, mementos, and other items from various personal collections to materials and artifacts from the museum's own archives.

\$19.95 (plus postage and handling)

To order, please visit the museum store online at www.amff.com or call (802) 362-3300.



Mimi Matsuda

THE BROOKSIDE ANGLER

From AMFF logo merchandise to unique gifts for any angler, the museum's store, The Brookside Angler, has something for everyone. Either visit us in person or shop online at www.amff.com



Keep warm this winter with our new fleece blanket, which comes with its own black tote bag for storage.



Whether it's coffee, tea, or hot cocoa, enjoy sipping your favorite beverage from our new AMFF mug.

Our AMFF logo hats and bandanas come in a variety of colors.



Also available is the museum's award-winning DVD *Why Fly Fishing*, as well as instructional and inspirational DVDs from A Graceful Rise exhibition participants Fanny Krieger, Barbara Klutinis, and Kathryn Maroun.



Just in! Our t-shirts now feature our new tag line on the back (right). A great way to show your support.



School of Fish glasses from Rolf Crystal are some of our most popular items.

Visit & Discover



The new website features a rotating slideshow with six different images, including images from the collection of Cathy and Barry Beck.

WE OFTEN RECEIVE letters from both members and non-members asking about artifacts, telling us about a recent visit, or bestowing kudos for an event or program, and we enjoy hearing from everyone. We become especially excited when the outside of the envelope shows signs of school-age penmanship. One such letter recently came to the office.

Sixth-grader Austin Gardner of Clark Wood Elementary School (Elkland, Pennsylvania) sent us a copy of his language arts museum project report. Each student in the class had to first select a state, then select a museum within that state that caught their attention. Austin selected Vermont and the American Museum of Fly Fishing. Because of his locale, and probably because of his being part of the Internet-savvy generation, he relied on our website as his main source of information. He obviously pored over the many landing pages and discovered our exhibitions, our collections, our programs, and our events. Austin's conclusion stated, "This museum is for people who love to fish and people who like to try new things."

Austin certainly understands our message, but I wish he had been able to use our new website and all it has to offer!

Several of our trustees donated funds in 2011 for the museum to design a new website. Requests for proposals were sent to some leading website design firms within a three-hour driving distance. We selected LMW Designs in Rutland (Vermont) and evaluated what we wanted to see in a new website. I will

not divulge too much information here, but I encourage you to go to www.amff.com to take a look.

This new website has a lot of potential for future components. Like all museums, we would like to improve access to information about our collection, as well as offer a complete list of the books in our Gardner L. Grant Library, create virtual exhibitions to complement the installations in the Leigh H. Perkins Gallery, and offer a blog for insightful conversations. One improvement we plan to offer in early 2014 is a full archive of the *American Fly Fisher*. The museum was recently awarded a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to electronically archive our journal from its first issue. Stay tuned for more details.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the many trustees, staff members, and consultants who helped to make this project a great success: Yoshi Akiyama, Sarah (Moore) Foster, Sara Wilcox, Kate Achor, Laurie Musick Wright, Ashley McVeigh, Jill Alcott, Mike Bakwin, Gardner Grant, Jim Heckman, Karen Kaplan, Brad Mills, John Rano, Philip Sawyer, Dave Walsh, and one additional trustee who usually likes to remain anonymous! We also appreciate the opportunity offered by Cathy and Barry Beck and Patrick Ford to use their stunning images.

And to Austin Gardner, please visit our new website and send us a new report!

CATHI COMAR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The American Museum of Fly Fishing

4070 Main Street • PO Box 42
Manchester, Vermont 05254
Tel: (802) 362-3300 • Fax: (802) 362-3308
E-MAIL: amff@amff.com
WEBSITE: www.amff.com

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF FLY FISHING, a nationally accredited, nonprofit, educational institution dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of fly fishing, was founded in Manchester, Vermont, in 1968. The museum serves as a repository for and conservator to the world's largest collection of angling and angling-related objects. The museum's collections, exhibitions, and public programs provide documentation of the evolution of fly fishing as a sport, art form, craft, and industry in the United States and abroad from its origins to the present. Rods, reels, flies, tackle, art, books, manuscripts, and photographs form the basis of the museum's collections.

The museum provides public programs to fulfill its educational mission, including exhibitions, publications, gallery programs, and special events. Research services are available for members, visiting scholars, students, educational organizations, and writers. Contact Yoshi Akiyama at yakiyama@amff.com to schedule a visit.

VOLUNTEER!

Throughout the year, the museum needs volunteers to help with programs, special projects, events, and administrative tasks. You do not have to be an angler to enjoy working with us! Contact Laura Napolitano at lnapolitano@amff.com to tell us how we would benefit from your skills and talents.

JOIN!

Membership Dues (per annum)

Friend	\$10,000
	\$5,000
	\$1,000
Sponsor	\$500
Business	\$250
Benefactor	\$100
Associate	\$50

The museum is an active, member-oriented nonprofit institution. Membership dues include four issues of the *American Fly Fisher*; unlimited visits for your entire family to museum exhibitions, gallery programs, and special events; access to our 7,000-volume angling reference library; and a discount on all items sold by the museum on its website and inside the museum store, the Brookside Angler. To join, please contact Laura Napolitano at lnapolitano@amff.com.

SUPPORT!

The American Museum of Fly Fishing relies on the generosity of public-spirited individuals for substantial support. Please contact us if you wish to contribute funding to a specific program, donate an item for fund-raising purposes, or place an advertisement in this journal. We encourage you to give the museum consideration when planning for gifts, bequests, and memorials.