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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

HELLER, A. A.

January 7, 1941.

Dr. A. A. Heller,
Box 300, Route 2,
Chico, Cal.

Dear Dr. Heller:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you concerning a matter of ancient history. In the work which I have been carrying on for several years on the Flora of Pennsylvania, one particular point which concerns your early collections has come up repeatedly. There are here, and at the Academy of Natural Sciences numerous specimens collected by you from Lily Lake in Luzerne County. There is at present no body of that name in that particular county, although there is a Lily Lake in Lackawanna County. At first I thought that perhaps you had merely made an error in having the county printed on the label. We have learned, however, that Lily Lake is an older name for what is today known as Long Pond which is about four miles east of Mocaqua, in Luzerne County. Most of your collections which are concerned in this matter, date from 1891 or 1892. These bear the locality "Lily Lake." Your collections of 1893 from the same county carry the statement, "Long Pond." My question, therefore, is whether you used these two designations on different occasions for the same locality, or whether some other interpretation is necessary.

I am well aware that I am asking you about a very detailed matter, dating back a good many years, but my hope is that you may have available notebooks or journals which might give some clue as to the exact localities at which your collecting was done. If you can, by any chance, answer this question for us it will enable us to locate very accurately a large number of important records which would otherwise have to be disregarded in mapping in the individual species.

I should be deeply grateful to you for any information which you can supply.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Asst. Prof. of Botany.

JMF:RS

Route 2, Box 300
Chico, California
January 15, 1941

Professor John M. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Professor Fogg:

Just why I changed the appellation of Lily Lake to Long Pond, I do not now recall, but the use of both names by me refer to the same body of water.

I got acquainted with the place many years ago while visiting a brother at Berwick, Pa., and found it a very interesting botanical ground. As I recollect, John Small and I once visited it together.

My latest visit there was in 1926 when we drove back east from here. In 1931 we were again back, but not having any collecting material along did no collecting, and I believe did not go to Lily Lake or Long Pond, as it is now known.

Manzanitas are in bloom here in California and I am studying them at present. Had planned to go down to Vacaville this week end to visit certain type localities in the Bay and nearby regions, but Jupiter Pluvius may interfere. We feel like paging Noah, after having had a succession of storms since December 10th, with about 18 inches of rainfall.

Very truly yours,

A. N. Heller

January 20, 1941.

Dr. A. A. Heller,
Chico, Cal.

Dear Dr. Heller:

Thank you a thousand times for your kind letter just received. It is a very great help to us to have this matter of Lily Lake clarified by you. We shall now be able to enter on our range maps a large number of dots, which heretofore we have been unable to utilize.

I am delighted to learn of your present activities in the field, and to know that you are still busily engaged in critical studies. I hope that the next time you return to your native state, I may have the pleasure of meeting you, and perhaps going into the field with you. My work on the Pennsylvania Flora is going ahead favorably, and hope within three or four years to be ready for publication.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.
Asst. Prof. of Botany.

JMP:RS