
Newsletter of the **FRIENDS**
OF THE
FARLOW

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R. K. Edgar, editor

SEAWEEEDS & PROVIDENCE

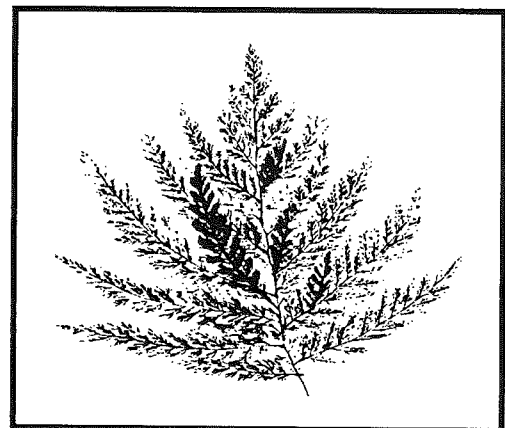
On Wednesday evening the 21st of November 1849, Rhode Island's Providence Franklin Society held the second lecture in its fall course for the public. His Honor the Mayor of Providence introduced the lecturer to the assembled audience as the distinguished Irish botanist, "Sir" William Henry Harvey, a misapplication of title that Harvey found thoroughly amusing. This evening Harvey lectured on the algae.

About one week later the *Providence Daily Journal* published an extensive summary of his speech: "one of the most interesting and instructive we have ever had the pleasure of listening to ... [and] in language divested of scientific technicalities." The summary indicates that Harvey discussed the morphological variety among the algae, their extensive ecological and geographical distributions, their means of reproduction, their parallel development in green, red and olive-brown series, their importance in food chains and human diets, and their relations to geology and the first creation of vegetable forms on the earth -- all illustrated with "a large series of beautifully executed drawings," crafted by his own hand. *Eight hundred* people attended. Harvey was pleased at the turnout. I was initially astonished at it!

My astonishment is akin to Darwin being "much struck," that is, of reacting to the substantial gap between what we have observed and what we expected to observe. Here was a truly remarkable event. Or was it? Because our observations are generally pretty sound, I presume the count of 800 was probably close. However, significant discrepancies between observed and expected also appropriately call into question our expectations and how we generate them.

Initially my being "struck" reflected my experience that capturing the interest of nearly 100 people, much less 800, from today's public (or university crowd) to attend an undisguised lecture on seaweeds is nearly impossible. But, the standard of assessment ought to be then, not now. Is there a case here for a love affair between Providence and seaweeds?

The immediate stimulus bringing Harvey from Ireland to America was his brother Jacob's death. In 1828, Jacob had married Mary Hosack, the eldest daughter of the prominent New York botanist and physician David Hosack, and set up business in New York. But, in the spring of 1848 he died of tuberculosis, leaving Mary and two daughters. Harvey considered a trip to America that summer but found the demands of his work and the expense too great, despite his "increasing desire to know you [Mary] and the children personally." He hoped next summer would be more favorable.



Callithamnion baileyi Harvey

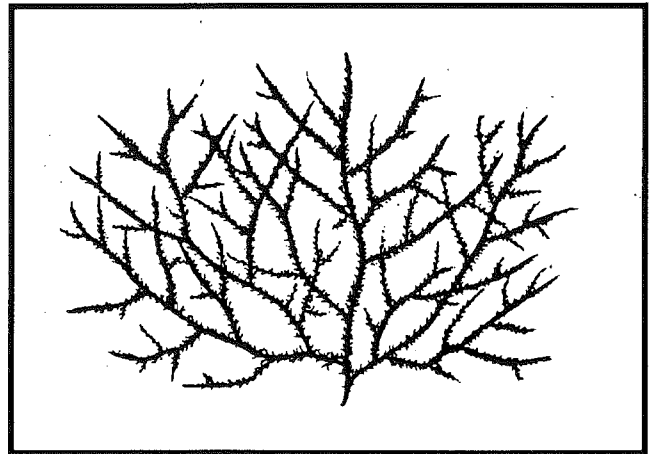
In response to his concerns, Mary and her brother, Alfred Eddy Hosack, also an influential New York surgeon, petitioned John Avery Lowell, the executor of the Lowell Institute in Boston, to consider Harvey for the lecture series it sponsored. Lecturing for a course at the Institute reaped about \$1500, a sum nearly commensurate with an American professor's salary for the full year. Lowell inquired of Asa Gray at Harvard about Harvey and received a favorable reply. Harvey received his appointment to lecture on the cryptogams in the spring of 1849.

Harvey arrived in America in early August 1849 and spent much time at the Hosack family estate in Hyde Park, New York, preparing his lectures. In early October he received an invitation to give a single lecture to the Providence Franklin Society; he accepted immediately and would eventually get \$30 for his work.

I have not uncovered attendance figures for Harvey's Lowell Lectures, given in the Marlboro Chapel (part of the Marlboro Hotel) on Washington Street in Boston. Although in a letter to his sister-in-law he indicates the first one was "well attended", but he feared he bored his audience to death and would not fill half the house for the second lecture.

The Lowell Lectures -- begun in 1837 as a sort of oral "Bridgewater Treatises" -- were only a conspicuous tip of a larger Lyceum movement, which had begun in the early 1830's as a product of the Jacksonian brand of democracy. The lectures were generally to effect "the dissemination of useful knowledge" among not the culturally elite, but the recently electorally enfranchised. After a setback following the Panic of 1837, the movement found a second wind with the economic boom of the late 1840's. But it re-emerged transformed - the lecture remained the medium for the message, but the message was less informational and more cultural, and it was added to the rising tide of support for public schools and adult public education.*

In Rhode Island this resurgence was strong and largely effected by Henry Barnard, the Commissioner of Public Schools, later to be the first U. S. Commissioner of Education. By late 1849 he had stimulated 17 different courses of popular lectures throughout the state, and 29 of 32 towns in the state had libraries of more than 500 volumes. When Harvey visited Providence in 1849, the cultural appetite of its citizens had been considerably whetted.



Polysiphonia harveyi Bailey

Harvey began to interact substantially with the American scientific community in 1845. By then he was an internationally respected botanist, having published major works on the genera of South African plants and on the algae of Ireland, Antarctica and New Zealand; in addition he was preparing a large, illustrated treatise on the seaweeds of Britain. He had aspirations of publishing floras for all the major seas of the globe, using his own present and future collections and those of correspondents.

In 1845 Asa Gray wrote to him seeking the extensive plant collections made by Thomas Coulter in Mexico and California in the late 1820's which were housed in the Dublin herbarium in Harvey's charge. In addition to satisfying Gray's request, Harvey took the opportunity to use Gray to open correspondence with American botanists interested in seaweeds, ones with whom he could exchange information and derive specimens from the American coast.

By 1848 he had allied himself with Aaron Young in Maine, Professor Jacob Bailey in New York, Professor Lewis Gibbes in South Carolina and Stephen T. Olney in Rhode Island, as well as a handful of others. With Bailey he was also describing the algae collected during the Wilkes Exploring Expedition (1838-1842), as well as American specimens. Additionally, by 1845, Gray had decided he had no time to work on algae and shipped all his algal specimens to Olney in Providence. Olney was completing a flora of Rhode Island, which included the first substantial compilation of American seaweeds, and which would be published in the *Proceedings of the Providence Franklin Society* in 1846-47. In 1846, Olney, his Society colleagues, and his friend Professor Bailey of West Point, who had

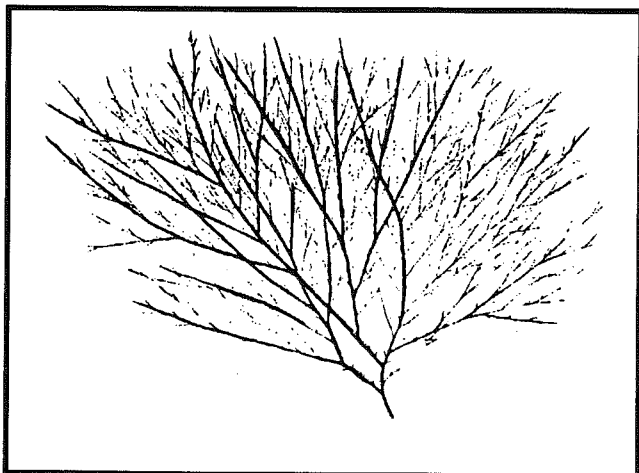
grown up in Providence and maintained strong ties to that community, collected the Rhode Island seaweed flora and sent it to Harvey for his assessment. The results of this collaboration endure in the seaweed literature of the southern New England coast:

Polysiphonia olneyi Harvey, *Polysiphonia harveyi* Bailey, and *Callithamnion baileyi* Harvey. Harvey was familiar with the Rhode Island flora and many of the leaders of the Providence cultural community were very familiar with him before he arrived.

Is there a case for a love affair of Providence with seaweeds? Apparently, there is. But, unfortunately, the case is not readily divorced from the one for Providence's apparent love affair with the cultural enlightenment of the lecture system - *and* the fact that Howard Hall, where Harvey lectured, was newly constructed and Providence's first substantial public auditorium - *and* the fact that in the late 1840's New England had seen a large wave of Irish immigration - *and so on*. What a wonderfully complex and delicately balanced sociological algorithm the historian must construct to fairly test the apparent puzzle of the 800. If only we could have cloned Harvey, what an experiment we might have conducted - what factors we might have teased apart. Being "much struck" in history and in science presents an immediate problematical dichotomy: Have I encountered some truly extraordinary event or only my own ill-informed expectations?

ROBERT K. EDGAR

* C. Bode, *The American Lyceum*, So. Ill. Univ. Pr. (1968).
 Drawings extracted from W.H. Harvey's *Nereis-Boreali Americana*, Pt. 2 (1853).



Polysiphonia olneyi Harvey

FARLOW VISITORS

(April -October 1993)
 Excluding members of the Harvard
 University Community

T. Ahti (Helsinki), R. Angelo (Cambridge), S. Balandin (Moscow), C. Baska (New York), L. Berard (Cambridge), R. & A. Beynon (Nahant), D. F. Bobrott (Allston), R. Coleman (Prairie Village, KS), C. Clarke (Portland, ME), L. Clarke (Portland, ME) T. Coleman (Baltimore), R. Cooke (Rochester, NY), S. Cooper-Ellis (Northampton), R. Cox (New York), M. Graglia (Livingston, NJ), R. & P. Griffith (Belmont), A. Gurenday (Afton, MN), M. J. Heerbeas (Victor, NY), J. & P. Hinds (Orono), N. Hinsman (Rome, NY), S. L. Hooker (Farmington, ME), P. Johnston (Auckland, New Zealand), H. Krog (Oslo), D. & R. La Fontaine (Hartland, VT), S. Landry (Arlington, MA), D. MacFarlane (Boston), J. D. Martignon* (New York), C. Martinez (Austin, TX), P. G. Meyer (Clifton, NJ), P. Noell (Baltimore), L. Page (New York), R. Quint (Jerusalem), A. Sennov (Moscow), H. Sipman (Berlin), M. Stern (New York), N. Taras (Walnutport, PA), J. D. Vansant (Hopewell, NJ), E. Varvey (Somerset, NJ), R. & H. Wagner (Utica), M. Watkins (New York), R. Wilhelm (Hopewell Jct., NY), W. K. Williams (New York), E. Yetter* (New York)

*new FOF members

Lichenologist Launched!!

Champagne corks popped amid the general celebrations of Commencement Day, 1993, and the Farlow Herbarium saw Sam Hammer, lowly graduate student, transformed into Samuel Hammer, Ph.D. In the five years Sam has been at the Farlow, he has delighted us all with his wit and good humor while juggling his studies with teaching and raising a family. The FOF awarded Sam partial funding last year to attend the American Bryological and Lichenological Society Symposium in Hawaii where he won the A. J. Sharp Award for the best student paper at the symposium. We are all delighted however that, though Sam is officially "through", he is still close by; he has begun teaching in the College of General Studies at Boston University, a work address even closer to his home than the Farlow. Sam is now an Associate of the Farlow Herbarium (and, of course, a Friend!) and continuing to do research here on a weekly basis.

CAROLYN HESTERBERG

FRIENDS OF THE FARLOW ENDOWMENT FUND

On January 1, 1993, the Friends of the Farlow achieved a long-hoped-for goal — the establishment of an Endowment Fund.

Because of the generous support of the membership over the past decade, the Executive Committee was able to vote to transfer \$25,000 to establish a new Harvard University account — the "Friends of the Farlow Fund." Henceforth, our funds will earn interest and share in the appreciation of the institution's very large managed endowment funds. So far, that is, from January 1st to June 30th of this year, the Fund has appreciated by \$1193.94, which we can either spend or plow back into the general fund for further appreciation.

Our Friends of the Farlow Fund
*is to be used at the discretion of the
Curator of the Farlow Reference
Library and Herbarium of Cryptogamic
Botany, in consultation with the
Committee of the Friends of the
Farlow, to support, promote and
enhance the use, development and
care of the collections of the Farlow
Library and Herbarium.*

We thus join and complement other long-established Farlow endowment funds, some of which follow:

- 1898 The John S. Farlow (William's father) Fund, which supported the Cryptogamic Laboratory.
- 1923 The William G. Farlow Fund, dedicated to the care and administration of the Library.
- 1923 The Lilian H. Farlow (William's wife) Fund, dedicated to the care and administration of the Library and Herbarium.
- 1981 The Geneva Sayre Fund, used for travel and housing of Senior Scientists who come to study at the Farlow.
- 1986 The Edwin B. Bartram Fund, designated for the study of mosses

During the last ten years we have not only saved enough to establish the Fund, but we have also helped about a dozen graduate students and young post-graduate students to further their work by using the resources of the Farlow and have supported a

variety of other activities at the Farlow as noted in past newsletters. Thanks are due to our members for their loyal and generous support.

HARVEY POFCHER

FOF FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE on hand 7/1/92	\$26,212.23
INCOME	
Members & donations	\$ 2 890.00
Book Sales	1 648.62
Total	\$ 4 358.62
EXPENSES	
Library Staff Travel	\$ 510.26
Postage	155.69
Farlow Fellowship	530.00
Annual Meeting	457.02
Book Binding	440.00
Publishing	971.25
Special Award	750.00
Library Flat File	531.40
Miscellaneous	197.92
Transfer to Endowment Fund	\$ 25 000.00
Total	\$ 4 543.54
BALANCE on hand 6/30/93	\$ 1 027.31

HARVEY POFCHER

W. G. Farlow Biographical Notes

Notes toward a biography of William Gilson Farlow were made in the late 1940's and early 1950's by Andrew Denny Rodgers III. A biography was never completed and the notes were ultimately given to the late Emanuel D. Rudolph, who himself had an interest in writing a biography of Farlow. These notes, along with some original materials were recently given to the Farlow Library by Ron Stuckey of Ohio State University. Rodgers had transcribed and excerpted many of the letters in the Farlow archives and had specifically studied the letters of Farlow to Erwin F. Smith, bacterial phytopathologist. These well-organized materials are a fitting addition to the Farlow's archival holdings. Rodgers wrote several biographies of botanists, particularly noteworthy for the Farlow Herbarium in his biography "Noble Fellow," William Starling Sullivant (G. P. Putman, 1940).

DON PFISTER

Friends of the Farlow Head for the Hills

In mid September as fall colors were starting to appear, ten Friends of the Farlow with their sleeping bags, waders, hiking shoes and high hopes headed for Adirondack Park in upstate New York to join some forty other cryptogam and nature enthusiasts at the American Bryological and Lichenological Society's 18th Annual Leroy Andrews Foray. Numbered among those attending was a past FOF Fellowship recipient, Sabine Hundorf.

Staying in the rustic accommodations of SUNY Albany's Camp Dippikill located in the southeastern corner of the six million acre park, the participants had the opportunity to botanize a variety of nearby habitats, which included spruce/tamarack swamps, northern hardwoods, marble and anorthosite outcrops, fens, bogs and Hudson River icefields. Bravely signing on for what was undoubtedly the most challenging field trip of the Foray, the ascent of treacherously steep Mt. Crane, were intrepid FOF lichen buffs Phil May, Elizabeth Kneiper, Elizabeth Lay and Claire Schmidt.

Rumor has it that several Boston area Friends will be scouting out interesting botanizing sites and modestly priced accommodations with the hope of bringing the Foray to New England in 1995. Foray ideas and suggestions are welcome and can be submitted c/o Friends of the Farlow.

GERRY CACAVIO

FOF at NEMF

The Farlow was well represented at this year's Northeastern Mycological Foray. Sponsored by the Boston Mycological Club, this year the Foray was based at St. Mark's School in Southborough, Mass. The Foray, August 12-15, attracted members of mushroom clubs as far away as Washington, DC and Montreal, Canada.

Prof. Donald H. Pfister served as the Principal Mycologist for the gathering. Prof. Pfister also presented a talk, "New England Fungi Through the Years", that highlighted noted amateur collectors from the region, and, together with Roz Lowen, New York Botanical Garden, offered an Advanced Microscopy workshop that concentrated in discomycetes. David Hibbett, a post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard Herbaria, presented to the Foray audience an "Introduction to Fungal Molecular Taxonomy." Jean

Cargill spoke on the topic of "My Favorite Fungus Books from the Farlow" as well as receiving at the Farlow, a busload of mushroom lovers who chose the Farlow Herbarium and Library as their Friday Fieldtrip. Jean showed off rare and new items from the library while Prof. Pfister gave tours through the Herbarium. Judy Warnement, Botany Librarian, and Elizabeth Kneiper, FOF president, were also on hand during the fieldtrip to help welcome the crowd. Finally, Elizabeth also assembled a lucrative display of Farlow materials at the Foray base at St. Mark's.

JEAN CARGILL

NOTES

The FOF provided partial support for Jean Cargill for participation in the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC, "Spinach," June 8-13th, 1993, Victoria, British Columbia. Jean attended the workshop "Archives in Natural History Collections," presented the paper "A Deacidification Pilot Program for Library and Archival Materials Using Diethyl Zinc Processing" and demonstrated the use of a GOPHER client to access the Harvard Herbaria Type Specimen and Gray Index during the meeting's computer workshop.

Benito Tan taught a four-week course in the "Mosses of New England", which was fully enrolled, at the Farlow with field trips to the Blue Hills Reservation. He was assisted by Sarah Cooper, a master of science candidate at Smith College.

Elizabeth Kneiper gave "An Introduction to New England Lichens," a four-hour workshop taught at the Garden in the Woods in Framingham, Massachusetts. Both courses were co-sponsored by the New England Wild Flower Society and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Elizabeth Lay assisted Sharon Gowan, a former post doc at the Farlow in teaching her course in summer lichenology at the Eagle Hill, in Maine. Elizabeth is now at the New York Botanical Garden working with Richard Harris on the Clara Cummings Collection of western North America.

A "Diatom Flora of Kenya" has been initiated involving the cooperation of the biologists at the Farlow, Kenya Marine and Inland Fisheries Research Institute and New England Aquarium. The "Flora" will include both exsiccata and printed resources to support the use of diatoms in studies by Kenyan scientists, and additionally to support fish conservation efforts and paleoenvironmental studies in East Africa. Robert Edgar is coordinating the project.

The FOF welcomes Deborah Miller to the Farlow. Debbie is a graduate student working under Don Pfister and Naomi Pierce (OEB) on the population biology of *Septobasidium* and associated scale insects.

FIRST CLASS

20 Divinity Avenue • Cambridge • Massachusetts 02138 • U.S.A.

FRIENDS of the FARLOW

BOTANY • HARVARD UNIVERSITY



OF CRYPTOGAMIC

FARLOW REFERENCE LIBRARY

Friends of the Farlow is an international group of amateur and professional botanists concerned with supporting the programs and resources of the Farlow Reference Library and Herbarium of Cryptogamic Botany of Harvard University. Membership categories are: Associate member, \$5-25; Full member, \$25; Sponsor, \$50-100; Benefactor, \$1000 or more. To join please make your check payable to the **Friends of the Farlow** and send to the address below. The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Members receive a discount on Farlow publications and services, participate in book sales, annual meetings and other events, and receive a special welcome at the Farlow. This newsletter is published twice a year, in April and October. For more information, contact the Farlow Reference Library, 20 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138 USA (Tel. 617-495-2369; FAX 617-495-9484).