

## DR. THOMAS F. LUCY: EARLY BOTANIST OF THE CHEMUNG RIVER VALLEY, NEW YORK

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### ABSTRACT

Thomas Francis Lucy (1844–1906) was an eclectic medical doctor who devoted most of his life to studying the plants of the Susquehanna Valley, specifically the Chemung River Valley, Chemung County, New York. He also spent his later life collecting and exchanging specimens of North American plants. The main collection of the Flora of the Upper Susquehanna that he prepared for the Elmira Academy of Sciences is currently housed at ECH. Other specimens collected by Lucy are located at BH-CU, NYS, NY, F, US, and MIN. After his death, many of his North American specimens were deposited in BUF. These are currently being curated at ECH.

**Key Words:** Thomas Francis Lucy, Susquehanna Valley, Chemung County, Upper Susquehanna Flora, Elmira Academy of Sciences, Elmira College Herbarium, New York; Buffalo Academy of Sciences, New York

### INTRODUCTION

This biography summarizes the life and work of Dr. Thomas F. Lucy (1844–1906, Figure 1, Table 1), who lived and collected botanical specimens in the Chemung River valley, New York, for more than 30 years (1868–1900; Clute, 1898; Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 221). Lucy's herbarium and the records of other local botanists provided the framework for Clute's (1898) *Flora of the Upper Susquehanna and Its Tributaries*. Clute's book was important during this period, for it completed a "chain of local floras extending from eastern Pennsylvania to Lake Ontario" (Clute, 1898). In the late 1890's, Lucy donated more than 1500 beautifully mounted and meticulously labeled botanical specimens to the Elmira Academy of Sciences (Kelloff et al., 1990). Today this collection forms the nucleus of the Elmira College Herbarium (ECH).

### PERSONAL LIFE AND EDUCATION

Thomas Francis Lucy was born on 7 June 1844 in Bredons Norton Hall parish, Worcester, England. He was the son of Henry

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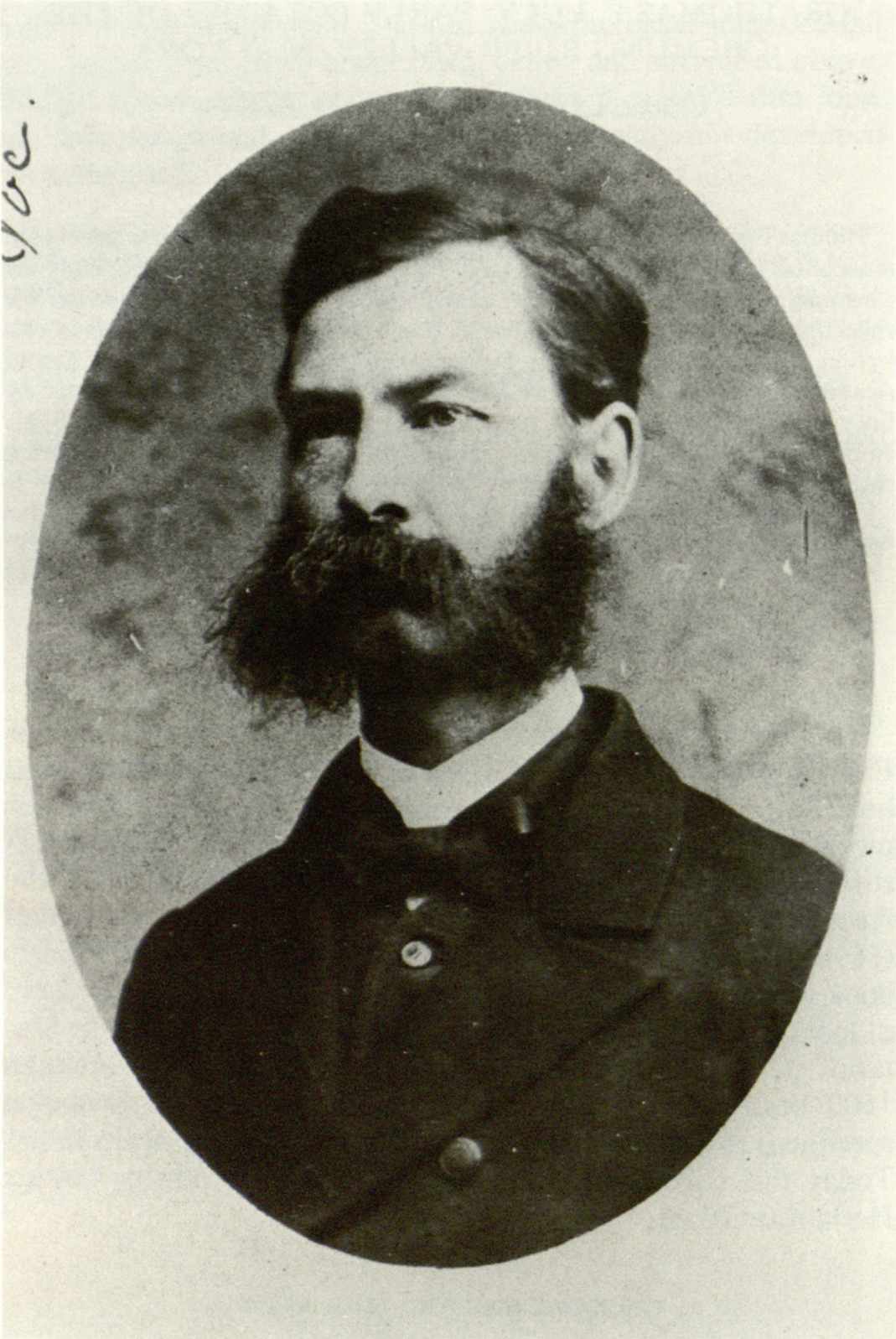


Figure 1. Photo of Dr. Thomas Francis Lucy from a postcard written ca. 1900 to his daughter Maud (Mrs. Hattie "Maud" Seaman), who donated it to the New York State Museum at Albany, NY (1938b).



Table 1. Chronology of the life of Thomas Francis Lucy M.D. (1844–1906).

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1844	Born in Worcester, England
1850's	Lived in Corning, New York
1865–66	Attended Hobart College, Geneva, New York; Member Chi Phi Fraternity
1868	Naturalized Citizen of USA
1870–77	Married Josephine Searles, had two daughters; Lived in Ashland, New York
1879	First main botanical collections
1881	M.D. Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York Chairman of Botany, Elmira Academy of Sciences First botanical publication
1880's–1900's	Collected plants for "Upper Susquehanna Flora"
1882	Elected to American Society of Microscopists
1883–1900	Lived in Elmira, New York
1888	Listed in Cassino's <i>International Scientist's Directory</i>
1891	Corresponding member Torrey Botanical Club
1892–1900	Prepared Herbarium of "Upper Susquehanna Flora" for the Elmira Academy of Sciences
1895	Listed in Cassino's <i>Naturalist's Directory of the United States and Canada</i>
1898	Publication of Clute's <i>Flora of the Upper Susquehanna and Its Tributaries</i>
1899	Advertised sale of duplicate specimens for "Flora of the Upper Susquehanna"
1900	Moved to Buffalo, New York
1906	Died in Buffalo, New York Lucy's duplicate plant specimens donated to Buffalo Academy of Sciences

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Lucy, an English barrister, and Sarah Hook Lucy (Bureau of Vital Statistics—Buffalo, 1906; New York State Museum at Albany, 1938a). The Lucy family came to America in the mid-1850's, settling in Corning, New York (New York State Census, 1855). Thomas F. Lucy and his younger siblings, Ellen S. Lucy and Harry W. Lucy, lived in Corning with their mother and attended school (Federal Census Records, 1860). Henry Lucy, apparently unable to find work in the Corning area, became a merchant in New York City (New York State Census Records, 1865).

In 1865, at age 21, Thomas F. Lucy enrolled at Hobart College, Geneva, New York (Catalogue of Hobart College, 1865–66) and was initiated into the Upsilon Chapter of the "Secret Order of Chi Phi" on March 14 (Chi Phi Centennial Memorial Volume,



1924; Hobart College, 1865, 1867; Robson, 1977). During the late 1800's it appears to have been the custom for college authorities to grant charters to secret societies, wherever established. The Alpha Omega Fraternity of Hobart College was established in 1866. Lucy is listed as President and provider of this society (Hobart College, 1866). The objective and number of society members are unknown. The Alpha Omega Fraternity dropped into obscurity as quickly as it was established. During his sophomore year at Hobart, Lucy was the class historian (Hobart College, 1866). It was noted in the Catalogue of Hobart College (1866-67) that Lucy was not in residence when the Catalogue went to press. According to the President's Report (1909-1911), Lucy was listed as being a "non-grad."

Sometime prior to September 1868, Lucy submitted his application and petition for naturalization to the Steuben County Courthouse, Bath, New York. On 28 September 1868, as witnessed by Frank Brown and George Graves of Corning, New York, Lucy became a citizen of the United States (pers. comm.—Marianne Springer, County Clerk's Office, Bath, New York).

Sometime after 1870, Lucy married Josephine Searles, born 1849 (Chemung County Historical Society, 1976) and daughter of Alfred Searles, farmer and mill-wright (Child, 1868) and Sarah Baker Searles of Pennsylvania (Bureau of Vital Statistics—Elmira, 1890). Josephine was a school teacher in Ashland, New York (Federal Census Records, 1870). They lived on the Searles farm in Ashland and had two daughters, Anna May, born 1876, and Hattie Maud, born November 1877 (Federal Census Records, 1880a, 1880b, 1900a).

In 1881 Lucy received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Eclectic Medical College of New York City (Barnhart, 1965). According to the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York Annual Announcement (1867), the goal of "eclecticism [as practiced at the college] aim[ed] to enlarge and improve the most important portion of practical medicine, . . . in exploring our indigenous medical botany, and obtaining the medicinal principles isolated from each plant, so as to administer in the smallest dose and most agreeable form." In addition, ". . . no medical treatment should be allowed that permanently impairs the vital powers." The candidates were required "to have attained the age of 21" and be "of good moral character." Requirements for graduation included the stipulation that candidates must have studied med-



icine with a “respectable practitioner” for 2–4 years and must have attended several “full courses of lectures” at an accredited college. Since it was required for the candidate to attend the last lectures at the Eclectic Medical College, Lucy probably resided in New York City during this time. The Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York closed its doors in 1913 due to an inability to meet American Medical Association supported guidelines (Letter from W. C. Black, Archivist, Lloyd Library and Museum, to L. Kass and C. Kelloff, 4 August 1992).

We believe that Lucy’s interest in botany was reinforced by his education in Eclectic Medicine. Although Lucy is listed as a physician in the 1887 Elmira City Directory and the 1901 Buffalo City Directory, we were not able to find that he had any affiliation with local hospitals or local or regional Medical Associations. If he was a practicing physician he may have initially collected plants for use in treating his patients. It appears, however, considering his affiliations with scientific societies, his interests in medicinal plants led to his life’s work of studying the natural history of the plants of Chemung County and surrounding regions. He may have been able to devote time to his interest in botany due to the financial support provided by his wife.

In August 1882, the American Society of Microscopists held their fifth annual meeting in Elmira, New York. It was on the 15th of August that, “on recommendation of the Executive Committee,” Thomas F. Lucy was “elected to membership in the Society” (Proceedings of the Amer. Society of Microscopists, 1882). Lucy was dropped from the rolls in 1889 when the society had failed to receive correspondence from him in the preceding three years.

Lucy and his family initially lived in the New York towns of Wellsburg, Lowman, and Chemung. Lucy botanized these areas, as his herbarium labels revealed (Figures 2A and B). From Lucy’s (1883a, 1883b) “Notes from Chemung county, N.Y.,” published in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*, we learned that Lucy had moved to Elmira, New York, where he subsequently developed an affiliation with the Elmira Academy of Sciences. On 14 April 1885 Josephine Lucy purchased a house for \$600 at 215 Mt. Zoar Street, Elmira, from Charles and Aurelia Davis (Chemung Deeds, 1885).

Josephine Lucy died on 21 January 1890 after a long illness (Bureau of Vital Statistics—Elmira, 1890). In her Will (Chemung



HERBARIUM AMERICANUM.  
Nom. Bot. *Equisetum hyemale* L.  
Nom. Vul. *72*  
Situs *Her. Runkles Elmira Chem. Co.*  
Dist. Geo. ....  
Observ. *Frequent*  
Dies *June 20 - 1886* Num. Ind. *9545*  
Ex Herbarium, Dr. T. F. Lucy, Elmira, N. Y.

A

FLORA OF NEW YORK.  
Nom. Bot. *Antennaria margaritacea* R. Br.  
Nom. Vul. ....  
Situs *7. W. Town of Ashland - Chemung Co. N.Y.*  
Dist. Geo. ....  
Observ. *Elmira Hill*  
Dies *Aug - 10 - 1879* Num. Ind. *1553*  
Herbarium, Dr. T. F. Lucy.

B

FLORA AMERICAE SEPTENTRIONALIS.  
*Carex setifolia* (Desv.) Britton.  
Situs *Pine Island*  
Habitat *Mount. Sands.* Ex Herb. *N. Y. Bot. Gard.*  
Geog. Dist. ....  
Fl. *Tracy 1.* } 1896, HERBARIUM, No. ....  
Fr. .... T. F. LUCY, M.D., ELMIRA, N.Y.

C

FLORA OF THE UPPER WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA.

*Physalis pubescens* L.  
*Elmira City Garden Chem. Co. N.Y.*  
No. *947* *Frequent*  
Coll. T. F. Lucy, M. D., Elmira, N. Y. *July 13 1897*  
*Aug 3/98*

D

Figure 2. Examples of the various types of herbarium labels used by Thomas Francis Lucy. These labels are less documented compared with the labels Lucy prepared for the Elmira Academy of Sciences “Upper Susquehanna Flora (Kelloff et al. 1990).” A. and B. Unmounted labels from Lucy’s collection given to BUF after his death in 1906. C. Label from herbarium specimen at US obtained in an exchange with NY. D. Label from herbarium specimen at CU in the herbarium of Stewart H. Burnham.

Deeds, 1889), Josephine left “all of [her] estate real and personal” to her two daughters “May Lucy” [14 yr.] and “Maud Lucy” [12 yr.]. To her husband she left “all monies accruing from [her] shares in the . . . Chemung Valley Mutual Loan Association over and above sufficient to pay all [her] obligation hereto. . . .” and “one complete set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica [sic] to complete [her] last wishes as a gift intended for him.”

After Josephine’s death, Lucy married Martha “Emma” Shirey, and remained at Mt. Zoar Street with his two daughters, Anna May and Hattie M. [Maud] (Chemung County Census Records, 1892). Emma was born December 1862 (Federal Census Records, 1900a) in Clearfield, PA (New York State Museum at Albany, 1938a). By 1896, Emma’s brother, Wallace Shirey, a Linotype operator for the Gazette office in Elmira, also boarded at Mt. Zoar Street (Hanford, 1896). The Elmira City Directory for 1896 (Hanford, 1896) does not list Anna May as a resident at Mt. Zoar. According to the Indenture (Bill of Sale) for the Mt. Zoar property



(Chemung Deeds, vol. 102, p. 432), Anna May was married to a Mr. Smith (date unknown) and lived in New York City. In a postcard written ca. 1900 (New York State Museum at Albany, 1938b), Lucy expressed his concerns to Maud about his older daughter: "wrote to May at Buff[alo] [but have] not heard anything from her since she wrote before Xmas." He asked Maud how she liked the photo of him (Figure 1), which was printed on the card, and sent his love to the "babes."

The Indenture (Chemung Deeds, 1899) also revealed that Maud had married a Mr. Seaman and was living in Elmira. The Federal Census Records (1900b) revealed that Maud was married to Willice M. Seaman, lived at 507 Baldwin, Elmira, and had a daughter, Irene D., born May 1900. They later moved to 153-½ Steuben Street, Utica, New York, where Willice worked for Martin & Seaman (Utica City Directory, 1904; Anon., 1906). From the file to which the above mentioned postcard is attached, we learned that in 1938, Mrs. Hattie "Maud" Seaman, the donor of this postcard, resided in Little Falls, New Jersey.

Lucy purchased the house on Mt. Zoar Street from his two daughters, Anna May Smith and Hattie M. Seaman, on 27 May 1899 for the sum of \$1500.00 (Chemung Deeds, 1899). In a letter to New York State Botanist Charles Peck (1833–1917), 6 October 1900, Lucy stated that he had recently moved to Buffalo, New York (New York State Museum at Albany, 1900). He may have made this move to be closer to his daughter May and his wife's sister Mrs. Lewis C. Lanich and her brother Wallace, who boarded with Lanich (Federal Census Records, 1900a). Lucy died in Buffalo on 29 October 1906 of Bright's Disease (Bureau of Vital Statistics—Buffalo, 1906). Emma is believed to have died only a few months later in February 1907 (New York State Museum at Albany, 1938a).

#### EARLY INTERESTS IN NATURAL SCIENCES

Thomas F. Lucy had a broad interest in the natural sciences. In 1878, he wrote to Spencer F. Baird (1823–1887), Secretary Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. requesting information and an assortment of publications. Baird was pleased to write back (Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 33) that he was able to "supply [Lucy] with a copy of Morris' [1862] Synopsis



of Lepidoptera, as requested." Lucy had also offered to collect birds and their eggs for the National Museum, but Baird stated that the Museum would only be interested in "specimens of the rarer species." In this same correspondence, Baird referred Lucy to J. M. Emerton of Salem, Mass., as an authority on spiders. In other letters to Baird, Lucy requested copies of H. Loew (1862, 1864, 1873) and R. Osten Sacken's (1869) *Monographs of the Diptera of North America*, parts 1-4; *Classification of the Coleoptera of North America* (Le Conte, 1862, 1873), and also requested "M.O. Vol. 3<sup>d</sup> 1862" (Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 28). Lucy also requested the Toner lectures I-VII (Woodward, 1873; Brown-Sequard, 1877; DaCosta, 1874; Wood, 1875; Keen, 1876; Adams, 1877; Shakespeare, 1879), which were given in Washington, D.C. on medical subjects.

At Elmira College we located a large  $10\frac{3}{4} \times 16\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$  inch leather-bound book in which Lucy kept notes on his readings and research in natural science. This notebook is currently housed in the Elmira College Herbarium (ECH) and will be deposited in the Elmira College Archives. Among his first entries were tables, notes and descriptions of "Coleoptera" [beetles] "common to the Eastern and Western Continents" as well as those "peculiar to America, concentrating on Russian America" and species found in Oregon and California. In addition to beetles, Lucy kept notes on fishes from California, Rocky Mountains and the Oregon Territory as reported by "Hayden's Survey of Montana and adjacent Territories 1891." Other "orders" of organisms he listed from Hayden's survey are "Odonata" [dragonflies], "Hemiptera" [true bugs], "Lepidoptera" [butterflies and moths], "Orthoptera" [grasshoppers] and "Plants."

Lucy listed 384 plants including their localities and abundance from "No. 3 Catalogue of Plants collected in Washington Territory Vol. 12 Part 2<sup>d</sup>. Plants Collected from the Summit of the Cascade Mts. Eastward to the upper Columbia River, and Northward to the 49<sup>th</sup> Degree of Latitude between July & Sept. 1853 [No author cited]."

In one 38-page section of his notebook Lucy listed a "Flora New York State," beginning with "Order I Ranunculaceae" and ending with "Order 120 Lycopodiaceae." Using red ink he listed genera and species followed in black ink by counties where the plants should be found and often a date when he apparently located them.



i.e., "Coptis trifolia [in red ink] Salisb. Cohocton Stub.

1872

[Steuben] Co. Aug. 3. Bogs. Chemung Co. [underlined in red]  
Lowmans Swamp."

Lucy made notes on "the Geographical Distribution of British Mosses" and "Outlines of British Fungology" by the Rev. N. J. Berkley; an "Introductory Essay to the Flora of Tasmania" by J. D. Hooker, and various plant classification systems including an extensive listing of "Bentham and Hooker's Classification. Reg.[num] Veg.[etabilia]." Tables of fossil animals and plants are listed throughout the notebook. It is obvious from his notes and letters to Dr. Lucy was interested in all aspects of natural history.

#### LUCY'S BOTANICAL INTERESTS

Although Lucy's initial interest in natural history was entomological, the first record of his interest in botany was published in 1881, the year he graduated from medical school, as a note in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* (Lucy, 1881). Here, he commented on finding a single specimen of "*Cacalia atriplicifolia* L. at the side of the railroad at Wellesburg [sic]" in 1874. Having not seen the plant again, Lucy wondered if the seed had been dropped by a passing train. Lucy reported (1891) that his first main botanical collections were made in 1879. Between 1895 and 1898 Lucy sent 266 of his specimens to the University of Minnesota Herbarium (MIN, letter from B. G. Ownbey to C. Long, 4 Nov. 1986). Clute (1898) reported that Lucy had probably been botanizing since ca. 1868. From Lucy's notes (Lucy 1883a) and herbarium labels (Figure 2) we know that he also made collections in the New York counties of Livingston and Steuben. But Lucy concentrated his collecting in the small County of Chemung, New York (Lucy, 1882, 1883b, 1891; Millspaugh, 1887). Most of the specimens reported by Clute (1898) for Chemung County were collected by Lucy. His herbarium labels indicate that Lucy was also interested in plants of North America (Figure 2A and C).

In a 25 June 1890 letter to the specialist in grasses George Vasey (1822–1893); see Ewan, 1969, and (Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 220), Lucy thanked Vasey for sending him the No. 1 Contributions of the United States National Herbarium (Vasey and Rose, 1890a, 1890b). He also stated that he was "particularly interested in the *Solidagos* and *Asters*" and wanted spec-



cies from the southern states for comparison in order to complete his herbarium. He was willing to exchange specimens with any southern botanist. In the same letter, Lucy commented that Millspaugh said he, Lucy, had a finer collection than Cornell University. He also told Vasey that his collection was filled with northwestern species and that Dickenson [whom we believe to be J. Dixon] & [D.] Drake of Portland, Oregon, "say I send them the best specimens they receive."

Lucy was listed in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* (1891) as a corresponding member, was listed in the *Naturalist's Directory of the United States and Canada* (Cassino, 1895) and the *International Scientist's Directory* (Cassino, 1888).

THE ELMIRA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES—  
UPPER SUSQUEHANNA FLORA

Lucy's botanical career advanced after he moved to Elmira and became affiliated with the Elmira Academy of Sciences. This society was established in 1861 for the "pursuit of astronomical and scientific studies" (Elmira Academy of Sciences, 1881) and was housed in the Observatory opposite the Elmira Female College (name changed to Elmira College in 1890—Barber, 1955). The Observatory was acquired by the college in 1881 (Barber, 1955; Kelloff et al., 1990). Lucy is listed as Chairman of the Elmira Academy of Sciences' Section of Botany (Elmira Academy of Sciences, 1881, 1897) and a member of the Council of Administration for the year 1886 (Elmira Academy of Sciences, 1881).

As reported by Clute (1898) in the preface to the *Flora of the Upper Susquehanna*, "Dr. Lucy has also presented to the Elmira Academy of Sciences a nearly complete collection of the plants of our region." This collection is currently housed in the Elmira College Herbarium (ECH, Kelloff et al., 1990).

*Flora of the Upper Susquehanna* was part of a "general plan for an extended study of the flora of the headwaters of the Susquehanna river" (Clute, 1898). Based in Binghamton, Broome County, New York, Clute (1869–1950) found that very little had been published on the flora of this region. The collections and notes of local botanists provided the needed information for this project. As described in Clute's (1898) preface these botanists were "Mr. Frederick V[ernon]. Coville [1867–1937], Botanist of the



United States Department of Agriculture, [who] made a very careful examination of the botany of central Chenango county. Dr. C[harles]. F[rederick]. Millspaugh [1854–1923], now curator [appointed 1894] of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, made many observations upon the flora in the vicinity of Binghamton and Waverly during ten years' practice of medicine [1881–1891] in these places. It was in this region that most of the plants figured in his "American Medicinal Plants" [1884] were studied and depicted [in 1920, Millspaugh published *The Bahama Flora* with N. L. Britton (1854–1923), curator at NY]. Mr. David F[letcher]. Hoy [1863–1930], Registrar of Cornell University, has collected several seasons in the Susquehanna valley in Delaware county. Dr. Thomas Francis Lucy [1844–1906] has devoted much of his time to the botany of the Chemung valley for the past thirty years. Mr. James A[nsel]. Graves [1828–1909], has botanized extensively in the lower Chemung valley, and for the past twenty years has made careful observations on the flora in the vicinity of Susquehanna borough, his home. Prof. Frank E[rnest]. Fenno [d. 1920], in the past three years has been indefatigable in investigating the botany of Barton, Apalachin and intermediate points. Mr. W[illiam]. C[lay]. Barbour (1877–1933), has contributed many notes on the plants of Sayre, Athens and Waverly, and Miss S. A. Brown, has favored us with a very complete list of plants with notes from the vicinity of Unadilla Forks. The author's knowledge of the flora was acquired during a ten years' residence at Binghamton, in which time the greater part of the region came under his observation (Clute, 1898; Ewan, 1969; Barnhart, 1965; Stafleu and Cowan, 1979)."

In a letter to New York State Botanist Charles Peck (New York State Museum at Albany, 1900), Lucy reported: "I have just completed my work for the Elmira Academy of Sciences, which I commenced in 1892." It was during this time that Lucy began to advertise the sale of his duplicates for the "Flora of the Upper Susquehanna . . . at the rate of Five Dollars per 100 species," or priced according to their rarity, in a flyer dated December 1899 (Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 221). This flyer sent to the Smithsonian, stated that "lists of species per Patterson's [1892] or Heller's [1898] check-list could be purchased." In response to receiving Lucy's flyer, F. V. Coville (1867–1937) Botanist, United States Department of Agriculture, asked J. N. Rose (1862–1928), Assistant Curator, Department of Botany, Smith-



sonian Institution, his thoughts on this flyer. Rose replied to Coville on 25 January 1900 (Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 221), "Mr. Pollard (1872–1945) [Curator of Plants, Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution (1895–1903)] thinks that Dr. Lucy's collection from the Susquehanna would be of undoubted value," although the National Herbarium must already "have abundant material" from this area. Coville again asked Rose what he recommended. Rose then replied "simply make a selection of the most desirable of these plants." On the back of the memorandum, C. L. P[ollard] commented to Rose, "this set would be of undoubted value [since] we have very little from the Chemung Valley." It was noted on this same memorandum that a letter was sent to Dr. Lucy on 6 February 1900. Lucy replied to Coville on 12 February 1900: "Herewith I send you a list of my Susq. Flora species, numbered according to Patterson's check-list for all those I can now supply. Please check those which you may desire and return same." We found no further correspondence in the files. According to the National Museum of Natural History Registrar's Office, the Smithsonian never purchased nor received directly Lucy's collections from the Susquehanna Flora. However, in that same year Lucy donated 100 specimens from the Susquehanna Valley, New York, to the newly established herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden (*Journal of the New York Botanical Garden*, 1900). Additionally, another 200 specimens from western New York were sent on exchange to the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden (*Bulletin of the New York Botanical Garden*, 1900). The Smithsonian eventually acquired some of Lucy's specimens in an exchange with the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden (Figure 2C). In 1990, at the New York State Museum herbarium (NYS), we located a number of Lucy specimens collected during the 1880's. Some of these specimens were obtained in exchange with NY. The curators at NYS informed us that they do not have the acquisition records or details of their holdings of Lucy's specimens.

Dr. Lucy's specimens have been reported by Chaudhri et al. (1972) as being located at F, MIN, NY, NYS, and BUF. We have also located specimens at US, on exchange with NY as noted above, and at BH-CU (Figure 2D) probably in exchange with Stewart Burnham (1870–1943), Assistant Curator at CU, whose specimens are in the Lucy collection at EC.



## LUCY IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

In a letter to Charles Peck of 6 Oct 1900, sent from Niagara Street, Buffalo, N.Y., Lucy expressed an interest in getting a position that he had learned of from Miss Sletron of the Buffalo Academy of Sciences. The position was on the State Botanical Survey. We do not know whether Dr. Lucy received this appointment.

Lucy was also interested in *Salix* of northwestern United States. In March 1904 he wrote to C. V. Piper (1867–1926) (Office of the Agrostologist), requesting specimens of *Salix* from that region (Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, 1904a). Lucy received a reply from Carlton R. Ball (1873–1958), Assistant Agrostologist, informing him that he would be “glad to negotiate exchange for material from the Southern and Eastern United States” (Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, 1904b). Lucy replied to Ball’s letter on 3 May 1904 thanking him for his information (Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, 1904c). In this same response he informed Ball that he now had “7583 sheets” of North American species and that he would be glad to send some of them in exchange, if he received a list of required species listed by Patterson’s [1892] or Heller’s [1898] check-list numbers.

## CURRENT STATUS OF LUCY’S PERSONAL HERBARIUM

After Lucy’s death in 1906, his botanical collection, still in newspapers, was donated to the Buffalo Academy of Sciences by Emma’s sister, Mrs. L. C. Lanich (New York State Museum at Albany, 1938a; letter from R. Zander to C. Long and L. Kass, 21 January 1986).

In 1986, when it was shown to us, the collection was in the original condition; except that some specimens having complete label information had been filed in the BUF collection. Until that time BUF curators had no way to identify most of the specimens by the numbers that were written on the newspapers. However, by using the Lucy specimens at Elmira, we determined that the numbers were either Patterson or Heller check-list numbers (Kelloff et al., 1990). Apparently the donated specimens had not been accompanied by Lucy’s catalogues or field notebooks. In 1988 arrangements were made for these duplicate specimens to be cur-



ated. The Lucy duplicate collection from BUF is currently being compared with the original Lucy collection at ECH. ECH will provide full labels and a complete set of duplicates to be sent back to BUF.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Although Thomas F. Lucy pursued a degree in medicine, he apparently did not practice this profession. Prior to his pursuit of medicine, he seems to have been widely interested in natural history, concentrating initially on insects and birds and subsequently on invertebrates, vertebrates and then plants. The year he graduated from medical school his interests in botany seemed to swell and he became the Chairman of Botany for the Elmira Academy of Sciences. It appears that he had time to pursue his botanical interests due to the financial support provided by his wife. Because he prepared a meticulously labeled plant collection for the Elmira Academy of Sciences and kept extensive notes on his research and readings, it is difficult to believe that he did not have a carefully kept field notebook or catalogue of his collections. Unfortunately, we have not located such a book and believe that it may have been lost prior to his sister-in-law's donating his private herbarium to the Buffalo Academy of Sciences. It pleases us to have been able to uncover so much information on Dr. Lucy and his contributions to the flora of New York State. This in spite of the amount of time that has passed since he began his studies of the flora of one small county.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the following people for their help and encouragement during this project. Dr. Steve Clemants for locating the photograph of Dr. Lucy at the New York State Museum, Albany; Robert Dirig for continued encouragement and professional assistance; Richard Hurley for locating information on Chemung County; Anita Jacobs for locating Dr. Lucy's obituaries in Buffalo; Anita Karg for bringing to our attention the Carlton Ball Letters at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation; Jan Kather for preparing Dr. Lucy's photograph; Dr. Malcom Marsden for ms. proofreading; Dr. Bryan Reddick for making available financial support from Elmira College; and Dr. Richard Zander for help with the Lucy Collection at BUF.



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