

OFFICE OF

E. B. HARGER,
CIVIL ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

Oxford, Conn., July 27 1904

P. O. ADDRESS, SEYMOUR, R. F. D. No. 2.

Mr. Walter Deanes.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir,

In the last number of Rhodora. I notice that you credit Hydrophyllum Canadense to Connecticut on the authority of the "Catalogue of the phænogamous plants and of the ferns growing without cultivation, within five miles of Yale College", published in 1831. In this connection I would ask if you have seen the note on this list by Prof. Eaton in the Introduction to the "Bergelius Catalogue" (1878), where he says; - "On examining this catalogue with some care, about twenty years ago, I found recorded in it the names of a good many plants which I could not find anywhere near New-Haven, and of some which I could not believe had ever been found within the borders of the State of Connecticut. The venerable Dr. Eli Dives was then living and when I questioned the accuracy of the Catalogue, he informed me that it was hastily prepared by Dr. William Sully, Dr. Melvin C. Leavenworth and himself. each person adding to the list all the plants he remembered to have seen, and, as two of the gentlemen had botanized in other parts of the country; it was possible that they had attributed to New-Haven some plants which they had seen only elsewhere. The explanation is perfectly satisfactory; but while it may account for the presence in the Catalogue of such names as

Abies nigra, Acer dasycarpum, Dirosma filiformis, Rhus
Mariana and Solidago Virga-aurea, it much diminishes the
value of the work as showing the species found here half a
century ago."

You say also that, - "The species of Phlox recorded are all
escapes"; a statement to which I am inclined to take exception
in the case of P. pilosa. As stated in my note in Rhodora (Vol 1, p 76)
the plant appears to be indigenous at Southbury. The station is
in a pasture where the only likely method of its introduction by
human agency would be by means of the railway which cuts
through it. This line of railway, however, was less than twenty
years old when I discovered the plant and a careful
examination of the locality at that time indicated to me that
the Phlox antedated the railway.

I have no further criticisms of the lists and perhaps these
are hardly worth writing about.

Sincerely,

E. B. Hager.



Harger, Edgar Burton. 1904. "Harger, Edgar Burton Jul. 24, 1904." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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