

H
Wellington Field Naturalists' Club
Guelph, Ont.

President—Prof. Doherty, M.A.

Secretary—A. B. Klugh.

9 July 1903

George E. Davenport. Esq.

Dear Sir:—

I take the liberty of writing you to ascertain what you think of the idea of the Fern Students of North America forming a society to decide upon a stable nomenclature for our ferns, and to oppose the "name-tinkering" which is at present being done by Underwood and others. I propose that Messrs Eaton, Gilbert, Parish, Robinson, Clute, Waters, Fernald and yourself, and others whose opinion carry weight in the fern world, constitute the committee of the society, and besides fixing the nomenclature, they decide such points as "Shall all specific names be written with a small initial no matter of what derivation?" "Shall diphthongs be written out? (as Pellaea)" "Shall common names be written with capitals?"

and all other points about which a difference of opinion exists. I may say that personally I favour the writing of all specific names with a small initial for the sake of uniformity, as is done by all Zoologists, also the writing out of diphthongs as doing so save a vast amount of time when one is doing much writing of scientific names, and it appears to me as absurd to write "john smith" as "marginal shield fern".

I am confident that if this society is formed, the great body of Fern Students will accept their nomenclature, and will not heed the constant and unnecessary changes made by the "name-tinkers".

Kindly give the matter your earnest consideration, and let me hear your opinion on the subject. Also kindly let me know of any men of the right stamp of whom you may think.

Yours truly
A. B. Illugh.



Klugh, A. B. 1903. "Klugh, Alfred B. 9 Jul 1903." *George Edward Davenport correspondence*

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