

Wells River, Ill., Apr. 9, '84.

Mr. G. E. Davenport,

Dear Sir,—

Please excuse this delay in acknowledging the receipt of the specimens. You certainly are very kind to send me so much,—specimens, prints and printed matter,—and I feel especially grateful. I am glad to be in touch with some who knows something. Somehow at first I little thought I was writing to the Davenport whose name I had seen.

In my early years of fern study I sent more than once and in different ways to have something determined, and was often surprised and almost discouraged and disgusted at the results. They certainly showed much lack of real study as I have since learned by observation and study some of the



things I wished to know.

I remember sending a few of the Botrychium groups and they all came back labelled var. obliquum. I had included what I now know to be var. intermedium (of the Ternate Grape Fern) and what I then knew was not obliquum.

I confess that I am puzzled with the Ternate Grape Fern <sup>and</sup> all its varieties. Some say it occurs here, and some not. I mean the real ternatum.

I am very glad of the specimen of the new fern <sup>var. Pittsfordense</sup> and very much wish I could know soon something about it. I would send at once for the Apr. number of "Rhodora", but do not know as it will be out. You call it a hybrid - between what? When was the fern found? <sup>what habitat?</sup>

I am getting something ready for publication and would like



to mention it. My manuscript must go to press  
there.

I am anxious to get at my  
roots of cristatum x marginalis,  
if roots there are. I wrote you  
so very hurriedly that I did  
not express myself very clearly,  
in writing of it. The fronds  
were clustered, but whether there  
were several roots I know not.  
I am inclined to think there  
were two at least. The narrow,  
seemingly abnormal fronds,  
were noticeable and what first  
attracted my attention to the  
plants, which if I remember  
correctly were separated by a  
few feet. I do not remember  
any cristatum or marginalis  
near it, but only have  
remembrance of Polypodium  
near by. Shall investigate



before very long.

One question which will display ignorance, but you labelled it - "forma Davenportii". Is this the same as a variety?

What number of the "Rhodora" contains notice of it?

One more question. If I find two or more roots of that cristatum ~~x~~ marginalis when will be the best time to take up a root for you?

Your idea of the specimen sent you labelled a weak form of Silvery Splenwort, is the same as mine.

Also the fragment of the fern which you thought resembled a floriat's form.



The Lady Fern. This was  
one which was returned to me  
once, labelled *Aspidium*  
*spinulosum* var. *intermedium*  
and I was not satisfied.  
If I can find it again  
I will send more  
specimens.

The *cristatum* ~~to~~ *marginal*  
I will send specimens of  
later. Unfortunately I did  
not secure much of it.

I am writing very hastily  
and trust you will excuse.  
and I may as well say that  
I am getting out an illus-  
trated (fully) field book, and  
they are hurrying me for the  
revised manuscript. Trusting  
for a reply soon, I remain  
Respectfully, Helen Eastman



Eastman, Helen. 1904. "Eastman, Helen Apr. 9, 1904." *George Edward Davenport correspondence*

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