

IN MEMORIAM

ANDREW WALKER FLECK

Born October 16th, 1845

Died May 6th, 1924

On May 6th, 1924, the daily papers published notices of the death of Andrew Walker Fleck. These notices voiced the sorrow of the community at the passing of an honorable and public spirited citizen; they told of his birth in Montreal on October 16th, 1845, of his marriage to a daughter of J. R. Booth, of the many interests he shared with his father-in-law; they dwelt upon the splendid public spirit that placed him first in all that was best in the charitable and philanthropic work of Ottawa; they told, what his friends sadly realized, what an irreparable loss this work had sustained in his death.

Much as was known of Mr. Fleck's work for the public good, there was much more that was not known, for he went about his mission quietly, drawing as little attention to himself as possible, and there is much that will never be written of his usefulness.

Perhaps few knew Mr. Fleck as a naturalist, yet such he was, in the very truest sense of the word. Not, perhaps, a scientist, but a naturalist in the appreciation of all that is beautiful in nature, for no man without this appreciation could have had a garden such as was his delight; Nature gave his garden a beautiful setting—he gave it care and thought and made it a perfect thing

with its glory of bloom, its bird houses filled with busy guests, its pool fed by a bubbling spring where goldfish flashed and floated. But in this, as in all else, he was generous. His interest in nature was not a selfish hobby, for he was one of the small number of men who, by their interest and continued support, gave to Canada a society which from an inconspicuous local organization has grown into a nation-wide body—the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Mr. Fleck was one of the early members, having joined in 1899.

Canada owes a great deal to the men who, while not definitely following the natural sciences themselves, have still given their countenance and influence in support of the early endeavours of organizations engaged in teaching, recording and observing the history of nature. Besides the firm foundations laid for later progress, the older records of our Club contain accounts of Canadian Natural History as at a time long since changed and the club sees these old friends of its youth pass on with the deepest regret.

Mr. Fleck is survived by his wife; two sons, Messrs. Gordon Fleck and Bryce Fleck of Vancouver, B.C.; two daughters, Mrs. W. D. Herdridge,* of Ottawa, and Mrs. Gregor Barclay, of Montreal; and one brother, Mr. James G. Fleck, of Ottawa.—H. L.

*Died March 18, 1925

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Stachys germanica L. IN CANADA.—On July 11, 1924, upon my arrival at the Boy Scout Camp on the shore of Mink Lake, between Douglas and Eganville, Ontario, almost the first plant to arrest my attention was the one named above. At a distance of a few yards the white, felty leaves and stems might have passed for those of the common mullein, but for the different aspect of the plants. The first specimens, seen growing in the shade of the camp site, were scarcely in flower, but it was obvious that they must be Labiates; and, that being granted, it was far from obvious to me what might be the species. Hasty reference to my "Gray" failed to locate such a plant, for the sufficient reason that it is not included in that *Manual*; so I had to face the boys, "stumped" by my first difficulty.

Subsequent reference to Britton & Brown's *Flora*, backed by consultation of European works with the assistance of Dr. M. O. Malte, established the identity of the plant. It is included in the

above *Flora* on the sole strength of occurrence on "Roadsides near Guelph, Ontario". The herbarium of the Victoria National Museum was found to contain a specimen from that locality collected by W. C. McCalla, August 27, 1897.

Further information on the occurrence of *Stachys germanica* at Guelph appears in a note by the late T. J. Moore, of Guelph, in the *Ontario Natural Science Bulletin*, No. 2, 1906, page 47, which may be quoted in full.

"As Guelph is, I believe, the only station known in America for *Stachys germanica* L. (Mouse-ear) it appears to me that some notes on its distribution here might be of interest.

"It was first observed near the stables at the B.A.C. in 1895 by Prof. M. W. Doherty, and was first recorded in the appendix to Vol. III of Oritton & Brown's *Illustrated Flora*, published in 1898.

"It has now spread some three miles south-east, four miles south, and three miles west, and is a

bad weed in pastures and along the roadside."

More recently, according to Paul C. Standley, writing in *Rhodora* for July, 1920, "*Stachys germanica* L., has been found on ballast in the eastern United States."

At Mink Lake this interesting plant was found to have spread over many acres of rocky pasture land which had evidently been part of an inhabited clearing in the forest at one time. It is well established here, indicating that it could be an aggressive weed. Fortunately, it is isolated from farming country by the lake and by tracts of wooded land.

Stachys germanica was planted in the Central Experimental Farm Botanic Garden in 1897, and proved hardy, but has not been kept. It is quite probable that it has been similarly planted in other places; and that the two infestations known, and perhaps others not brought to our attention, have arisen in this way. Parts of Renfrew County, including the neighborhood of Eganville, received Central European immigration, during the last century, which might well have brought along for planting a species such as this.

A strikingly similar European species, *Stachys lanata* Jacq., is also represented in the National Herbarium, Ottawa, by one specimen, collected in Sydenham Township, Ontario, by W. R. McColl of Owen Sound.

The article in *Rhodora*, quoted above, reports this occurrence near Owen Sound, stating that it "has perhaps not been reported previously from North America, although no thorough search of literature has been made for verification of this point." In the same article Newton Tripp, of Forest, Ontario, is credited with finding a specimen.

Stachys germanica is described in Britton & Brown's *Flora* as an erect annual, one to three feet high, simple or somewhat branched. Its best field mark of distinction from our other Woundworts is its densely villous covering throughout. The basal leaves are also characteristically oval in outline.—HERBERT GROH.

Segmentina crassilabris Walker IN MANITOBA.—The discovery of the snail, *Segmentina crassilabris* Walker², in two Manitoban localities is of some interest, since it extends the known distribution of this species into the Hudson Bay drainage system.

This species was first taken by me at Waugh, Man., the eastern terminus of the G.W.W.D. Ry., which is situated on Indian Bay, a few miles west of the Ontario boundary. Indian Bay forms part of Shoal Lake, the waters of which flow into the

Lake of the Woods. My field notes regarding this species are as follows, "*Segmentina* found on underside of pieces of driftwood, near mouth of Falcon River, water six inches deep, sand bottom." At this point the water has the color of very weak tea, due presumably to the presence of extracts of decaying vegetation.

S. crassilabris was also obtained from a small pond in St. Vital, a suburb of the city of Winnipeg, in April, 1924. In this pond it was associated with *Planorbis umbilicatellus* and *Lymnea palustris*.

Walker (*loc. cit.*) described the types of *crassilabris* from Hamtramck, Wayne Co., Michigan, and also reported the following localities: Muscatine, Ia.; Knox Co., Vincennes, and Brunston, Ind.; Munroe and Kent counties, Michigan. Walker³ has also reported it from Charity Island, Lake Huron. Adamstone¹ found it a rare shell in Lake Nipigon, Ontario. It is of interest to note that Whittaker⁴ did not find this species in the Mackenzie River district, although the related and equally inconspicuous *S. armigera* and *S. christyi* were both found. Winslow⁵ also failed to obtain it in North Dakota. Thus *S. crassilabris* has up to the present time been obtained in the Mississippi, St. Lawrence (Canadian), and Hudson Bay drainage systems. In order to establish the identity of this species beyond doubt, I submitted it to Dr. Bryant Walker, to whom I wish to express my thanks.—ALAN MOZLEY.

NESTING OF RICHARDSON'S OWL.—On the 11th April, 1924, the writer discovered a nest of the Richardson's Owl on one of the smaller islands of the Grand Manan (New Brunswick) group. This island is approximately three miles long and has an average width of about one-half a mile and is largely covered with a growth of thick, stunted spruces, gnarled and twisted from many years of exposure to the elements.

Several acres of the more fertile parts of the island have been converted into hay-fields where the run-ways of innumerable field-mice were noted and it seems highly probable that these attracted the small Owls which, it was reported to me, have frequently been seen on this particular island for many years.

For the most part the land is very low-lying and the highest ridges would not be more than twelve feet above sea level. It was on one of

²Walker, Bryant. *Results of the Mershon Expedition to the Charity Islands, Lake Huron, Mollusca*, Occ. Prs. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich. No. 7, 1915, pp. 1-7.

¹Adamstone, F. B. *The Distribution and Economic Importance of Mollusca in Lake Nipigon*. Univ. Tor. Biol. Studies, No. 22, pp. 67-119, 1923.

⁴Whittaker, E. J. *Freshwater Mollusca from Mackenzie River Basin, Canada*. Nautilus, XXXVLI, 1924, pp. 8-12.

⁵Winslow, M. L. *Mollusca of North Dakota*. Occ. Prs. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich., No. 98, 1921, pp. 1-18.

²Walker, Bryant. *A New Species of Segmentina*. Nautilus, XX, 1907, pp. 122-124.



Groh, Herbert. 1925. "Stachys germanica L. in Canada." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 39(4), 84–85. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338510>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89256>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338510>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/338510>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.