My Dear Horace Kephart:
Letters from George Mac Reynolds and Louise Rhead

Transcribed by Alex Foote
Dr. Brian Castle
Eng 618
Dec. 2 2015
Introduction

Horace Kephart was a renaissance man of his day. A librarian, author, and impassioned outdoorsman, he maintained a career at the St. Louis Mercantile Library before moving to North Carolina in 1904. Kephart wrote extensively on camping, woodcraft, and wildlife. He also worked to establish the smoky mountain national park. To offer a sense of his personality and appreciation for both the human-made and the natural world, he wrote the following in a letter dated Oct. 2, 1888 to friend Harry Koopman: “Imagine Boston or Florence set in the midst of the Yellowstone Park with no suburbs or even a farm within 200 miles – that’s my idea of paradise! When a fellow wanted to he could go to the public library or the opera, when he wanted to, he could walk right out into the primeval truth of things and cuss the universe of shams – be Samuel Jonson and Daniel Boone by turns!”(26). The ensuing letters from 1916 reflect Kephart’s foothold in both the professional and natural worlds. The first is an entreaty to Kephart by editor of Pennsylvanian newspaper The Doylestown Democrat to be granted permission to reprint part of a speech Kephart gave to the St. Louis Society in 1901. The second letter is from naturalist, artist, and author Louis Rhead, who responds to Kephart’s inquiry regarding Rhead’s hand-crafted fishing lures and flies. These letters are housed in Western Carolina University’s Special Collections, which “focuses on manuscripts documenting southern Appalachian life and natural history, with particular attention to Western North Carolina” (“Horace Kephart”). The documents themselves are in good condition, though yellowed and fragile. Reynold’s letter is comprised of two pieces of stationary, each approximately 6 x 5. Written in impeccably neat, contained cursive and in blue ink, each page has two creases as the letter was folded into thirds to fit inside the envelope. Rhead’s letter was a full 8 x 11 and was folded into fourths, so has a ‘t’ shaped crease straight down the atlas and axis lines. His was a black-inked cramped hand, and the minuscule script, which made a few words impossible to decipher, took up the whole of the front page. Rhead taped two newspaper clippings to the back of this page; they remain in tact.

Explanatory Notes

The following letters are transcribed in the fashion of the diplomatic edition, the objectives of which Erick Kelemen describes in Textual Editing and Criticism: “The diplomatic edition aims to report the text of a single, usually unique and usually notable document with as little editorial intrusion as possible” (Kelemen 109). Therefore, the formatting of the transcribed letters mirrors their originals; additionally, no punctuation or spelling was altered. If it was impossible to decipher a word, it is indicated with a [?]. Footnotes are included at the bottom of the page for the reader’s accessibility, and the image of the letter itself precedes each transcribed page. Because the final image consists of newspaper clippings, instead of annotating the text with footnotes I offer an explanatory addendum, in paragraph form, below the image.
Facsimiles of the letters are included in the transcription so as to invite the reader into the letter’s aesthetic realm. There is a sensory experience involved with seeing (more so with holding) these hundred-year-old documents. The words themselves remain stationary, but the experience thereof is fluid. Kephart, to whom the letters were addressed, had a unique experience receiving and opening the letters 100 years ago; the experience shifts with the reader and the times, as it is a very different occurrence to hold the fragile, yellowing parchment today and it is still another thing altogether to read the typed, transcribed material. While digital transcription has revolutionized the way people can share and access documents and information, it can, at times, remove readers from an understanding and appreciation of text’s nascent forms, and the understanding that those forms influenced every aspect of their construction and reception. The visual images have been included in hopes of persevering a sense of the reality of the manuscript that is untenable with the transcription alone.
Doylestown, Pa., June 12, 1916.

Hon. Grace Neffart,
New York City, N.Y.:—

Dear Sir:—

In the "Department of Local History" of The Democrat we are publishing material relating to early emigration from Pennsylvania to the South and West. We have just published Daniel Borne's "Letters," written by himself, taken from an old volume in my library, entitled "History of the Discovery of America," etc., published in 1590. At one time we also published a short sketch of the Borne family, which was resident here before Daniel was born. My object in writing to you is to ask your consent to republish a pamphlet, embodying an address on "Pennsylvania's Part in Winning the West," which you delivered before the Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis, December 12, 1701. This, in my opinion, is a most excellent piece of literature, and I would like our Bucks county people to have the benefit of it, giving you, of course, due credit as its author.

The Neffarts are an old family here. I presume you are a descendant of the Bucks county Neffarts.

Very truly yours,

Geo. MacReynolds,
Editor The Democrat.
Hon. Horace Kephart

New York City, N.Y.

June 12, 1916

Dear Sir:

In the “Department of Local History” of The Democrat we are publishing material relating to early emigration from Pennsylvania to the South and West. We have just published Daniel Boone’s “Adventures,” “written by Himself,” taken from an old volume in my library entitled “History of the Discovery of America,” etc., published in 1812. Some time ago we also published a short sketch of the Boone family, which was resident here before Daniel was born. My object in writing to you is to ask your consent to republish a pamphlet embodying an address on “Pennsylvania’s Part in Winning the West,” which you delivered before the Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis, December 12, 1901. This, in my opinion, is a most excellent production and I would like our Bucks county people to have the benefit of it, giving you, of course, due credit as its author.

The Kepharts are an old family here. I presume you are a descendant of the Bucks county Kepharts.

Very Truly Yours,

Geo. Mac Reynolds
Editor The Democrat

---

1 The Doylestown Democrat, published in Doylestown, Pennsylvania from 1861-1923.
2 Nov. 2 1734-Sept. 26 1820; celebrated American frontiersman. Known for discovering a trail west through the Cumberland Gap, his involvement in the French and Indian war, and being among the first to settle in Kentucky despite Indian resistance. “Historically and imaginatively, perhaps no single individual is more central to the frontier experience” (Lofaro).
3 Boone was born in Burkes County, P.A.
4 Kephart’s speech looks at the history of pioneer’s Western settlement, the challenges therein, and particularities associated with the Scotch-Irish, Pennsylvania German, and Pennsylvania Dutch.
5 Comprised of Pennsylvania citizens resident in St. Louis; included a social and historical division.
6 Horace Kephart was born in Pennsylvania in 1862; according to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania’s genealogical research, Reynolds is correct in his claim.
LOUIS RHEAD
217 OCEAN AVE.
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

[Signature]
4 Jan 1896

My dear Mrs. Reinhart,

To me it is indeed very gratifying to get such letters from you.

The well-known and often distinguished literary experts concerning my work—though delighted
labors in the scenes,
now make me one of their exclusive agents for the "Nature Series." They sent me back by the best house in England
from pictures I make direct from colored pictures of living insects. They are very beautiful, and, from what
they've eventually come into universal use.

Because of the cost, Willis was very late getting them ready last season, yet the price was $200 apiece.
This have been such a pet to look at, if you express the wish

Regarding the nature lines, I made all myself paper and must make eventually have change them as
with the series. Should you care to examine them, I will put a selection and point them out to
look at, placing them in a brown folder to prevent the paste. You can retain what you like, at a
liberal discount from the prices shown below. They take considerable time to make, as when done by a manufacturer
with a press, it costs so much cheaper.

I had to partly redo "Field & Nature" because they returned (and lost) a page of my "Nature Notes"—the originals being
the only example I could not duplicate them. I transferred my contribution to "Front & Frame" which has
being the last few issues published the page, everything else printed the same as many moons. The Field & Nature
will have the big front page illustrating the famous cherries for the ladies' front, solemn and majestic, highlighting the
most perfect line as yet done, every page being a frontispiece in color & line drawings.

All these articles have been put together carefully for periodical, and are now in the press to be issued by Street &

I want to find a place at an early mail to send you, in Georgia or South Carolina, to test some
lines on these subjects. Landscape will take something in the nature of both: plants and scenery. If you like, I will
finish a page with a rear jungle of some palms and ficus.
My Dear Horace Kephart

To me it is indeed very gratifying to get such letters from you, Emerson Hough and other distinguished outdoor experts concerning my difficult—though delightful labors on the streams.

William Mills and Son are exclusive agents in the “nature flies.” They get them tied by the best house in England from patterns I make direct from colored pictures of the living insects. They are very beautiful—and from experts so far, they will eventually come into universal use.

Because of the war, Mills was very late getting them ready last season, yet he paid me royalty on 300 dozen. I will have him send you a set to look at if you express the wish. Regarding the “nature lures” I make all myself—so far, but Mills will eventually have charge of them as with the flies. Should you care to examine them I will pick out a selection and send them to you to look at—placing them in a basin of water to see how they act. You can retain what you like, at a liberal discount from the prices I am usually paid. They take considerable time to make and when done by a manufacturer will, of course be much cheaper.

I had to suddenly drop Field and Stream because they retained (said lost) a page of my “shiny devils” the originals being the only samples, and I would not duplicate them. I transferred my contribution to Forest and Stream which has, during the last six issues published the frog, crawfish, grasshopper, and many minnows. The few members will have the big seven inch silver shiner and yellow chub for big lake trout, salmon and mascalonge trolling, the most perfect lure as yet done, every one of which I made from pictures in color of the living creatures.

All these articles have been gathered together hopefully edited and revised, and are now on the press to be issued by early in April elaborately illustrated in line and color under the title American Trout insects: and nature lures.

I want to find a place for a visit in early March to someplace in Georgia or South Carolina to test some lines on shad which I believe will take something in the nature of bait, just as salesmen do. If they do, it will furnish anglers with a new game fish as good as salmon fishing.

With Best Regards,

Louis Rhead

7 Nov. 6 1857-July 29 1926. Born in England, immigrated to America at 22, he was an artist, illustrator, author, and angler (fisher with a rod and line). He is most known and celebrated for his comprehensive work, American Trout Stream Insects of 1916, the result of seven seasons fishing in the Catskills collecting and studying the insects of the trout’s diet. He included his color illustrations of the insects, and the work was heralded as America’s first angling entomology. Additionally, he crafted and sold his own flies, or lures.

8 1857-1923. Accomplished author and enthusiastic outdoorsman.

9 NYC tackle-firm that continued selling Rhead’s lures through the 1940s.

10 Monthly magazine established in 1895; merged with like periodicals in 2003 to become Field & Stream. Features include hunting, fishing, and wildlife preservation.

11 Rhead’s illustrated lures.

12 Founded in 1873, merged with Field and Stream in 1930.

13 Trolling is a method of fishing that involves slowly dragging a line through deep water. In his book, American Trout Stream Insects, Rhead wrote: “I have a particular antipathy to that horrible method known as ‘trolling’…” (Rhead 156).

14 Type of fish, valued in sport.
### Calendar of the Trout Stream Insects

**PLATE IV—JULY INSECTS**

Hereby we issue the fourth of Mr. Louis Shenk's Nature Fly Charts to enable our readers to fish intelligently according to time, date and rise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Rise</th>
<th>Time of Day</th>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golden drake</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>Evening and dull days</td>
<td>Warm evenings</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pinkgall</td>
<td>8 to red</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Warm evenings</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Silver gray</td>
<td>Late fly</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Warm evenings</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sparkle</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Warm evenings</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Olive drake</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Warm Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Orange drake</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Warm Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Warm days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A.</td>
<td>White miller</td>
<td>Early</td>
<td>Evening and dull days</td>
<td>Any time</td>
<td>Moth</td>
<td>Lepidoptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tiger beetle</td>
<td>Early</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Any time</td>
<td>Beetle</td>
<td>Deleptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Brown spinner</td>
<td>Early</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Any time</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Deleptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Golden spinner</td>
<td>Early</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Any time</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Deleptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Brown wing storer</td>
<td>Late</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Any time</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Deleptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Orange spinner</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Any time</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Deleptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Two wing fly</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Lepidoptera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Calendar of the Trout Stream Insects

**PLATE III—JUNE INSECTS**

Hereby we issue the third of Mr. Louis Shenk's Nature Fly Charts to enable our readers to fish intelligently according to time, date and rise. July chart will appear in that month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Rise</th>
<th>Time of Day</th>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female given eye</td>
<td>First three weeks</td>
<td>Day, best at evening</td>
<td>Warm Drake</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Male given eye</td>
<td>First three weeks</td>
<td>Day, best at evening</td>
<td>Warm Drake</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Broadtail</td>
<td>Early and late</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Cold windy days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Green back</td>
<td>Early and late</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Cold windy days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yellow tip</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Cold windy days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Spot wing</td>
<td>Entire month</td>
<td>Afternoon, evenings</td>
<td>Warm Drake</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lemon tail</td>
<td>Entire month</td>
<td>Afternoon, evenings</td>
<td>Warm Drake</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Army tail</td>
<td>Early to middle</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Cold windy days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>Middle to late</td>
<td>Afternoon, evenings</td>
<td>Warm Drake</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Orange back</td>
<td>Entire month</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Cold windy days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tuscar drake</td>
<td>Entire month</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Cold windy days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Black head</td>
<td>Middle to late</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Cold windy days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Polychrom tall</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Cold windy days</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Evershred</td>
<td>Entire month</td>
<td>Afternoon, evenings</td>
<td>Warm days</td>
<td>Some fly</td>
<td>Perlidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Little yellow stone</td>
<td>Entire month</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Warm days</td>
<td>Some fly</td>
<td>Perlidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Hairy spinner</td>
<td>Middle to late</td>
<td>All times</td>
<td>Warm days</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Diptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Hair spinner</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>Evening, afternoons</td>
<td>Warm days</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Diptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>Evening, afternoons</td>
<td>Warm days</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Diptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Tiger spinner</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>Evening, afternoons</td>
<td>Warm days</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Diptera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Whirling spinner</td>
<td>Early to late</td>
<td>Evening, afternoons</td>
<td>Warm days</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
<td>Diptera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The markings “F+S” in the upper left corner of both images refers to *Field and Stream*, which published the lower image in June of 1915, the upper in July, as the pencil markings indicate. These images appear as taped to the back of Rhead’s letter to Kephart. In 1916, Rhead published these, along with fly charts for April, May, and August, in his book *American Trout Stream Insects*. The two charts are similar, though not identical, in organization. The lower clipping, inserted here in alternative font for differentiation, reads:

Calendar of the Trout Stream Insects
Herewith we issue the third of Mr. Rhead’s Nature Fly charts to enable our readers to fish intelligently according to time, date, and rise. July chart will appear in that month. Plate III – June Insects

The table listed below this introduction has seven columns, which include: Number of insects listed (in the June issue, there were twenty-two), Name (of insect), Date of Rise (i.e., when the insects first appear in the season), Time of Day (i.e., time the insects are out most abundantly) Weather (in which they’re most likely to be seen), Family, and Order. The July table is similar; its only organizational difference is that the Plate number appears before the introductory statement, as follows:

Calendar of the Trout Stream Insects
Plate IV – July Insects
Herewith we issue the fourth of Mr. Louis Rhead’s Nature Fly charts to enable our readers to fish intelligently according to time, date, and rise.

This table has fewer insects than the first, a total of seventeen (with an interesting organizational choice; the insects are Numbered 1-10A, continuing to number 16, and then picking up again with 10B. 10A was the White Miller, 10B the Orange Miller). Because the charts are already available as facsimiles above, they are not reproduced here.
Bibliography


This Library of Congress file offers information concerning the Doylestown Democrat, including place and date of publication, subject headings, preceding titles, and current holdings information.


The Oxford English Dictionary provided information regarding angling.


Ulrichs database provides information regarding periodicals; for this transcription, it was used to research Field and Stream, Forest and Stream, and the subsidiaries thereof.


This yearbook provided information about the Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis, i.e. their social and historical divisions.


This file is comprised of genealogical information and research regarding the Kephart and related families. It was published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.


This site provides further biographical information on Kephart.


This library site page offers a miniature biography of Horace Kephart and describes the material housed in the special collections section of Western Carolina University.


Kelemen’s chapter explains the uses of and approaches to different editorial styles and practices.

This text provides an exemplary introduction to Kephart, and includes the letter fragment quoted in this introduction in which Kephart describes his idea of paradise to friend, Harry Koopman.


Kephart’s extensive lecture looks at Pennsylvanian pioneer migration patterns and challenges.


This article offers a brief biography of Daniel Boone’s life and significance in American history.


Rhead’s book explores angling; the newspaper clippings he attached in the letter to Kephart were later reprinted in this book.


Scholz’s article provides a relatively extensive biography of Louis Rhead, detailing his early life, artistic career, and contributions to the angling arts.


Provides information on the shad fish.


Weiser’s article details Hough’s authorial work and life, and provides links to a selection of his work.