September 2015

George S. Kephart Correspondence

George Stebbins Kephart 1894-1986

Shirley Thayer 1919-2001

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Please return to Shirley Thayer at your earliest convenience

Re GEORGE S. KEPHART

Place of birth: St. Louis, Mo.
Date of Birth: Dec. 30, 1894
Home address: 9501 St. Andrews Way - Silver Spring - Md. 20901

Publications:

Book: Campfires Rekindled - 1977 - Channing Books - Box 552, Marion, Mass. 02738

Periodicals

American Forests (American Forestry Association)
   The Truth About American Indian Forests - Oct. 1968
   Live Oak - The Tree with a Past - June 1972
   Problems in the Smokies - Aug. 1977

Journal of Forestry (Society of American Foresters)
   Forestry on the Klamath Indian Reservation - Oct. 1941
   Is Forester Becoming a Dirty Word - Again? - Sept., 1970

Journal of Forest History - Forest History Society
   The Pulpwood Camps - July 1970
   The Pulpwood Drive - Oct. 1976
   (The above are in Campfires Rekindled)

The 10th Engineers (Forestry) in France - to appear Oct. 1978

Biographical Information

The author comes by his love of the outdoors naturally, through his father Horace Kephart. One of his father's many books, CAMPING AND WOODCRAFT, published in 1913, immediately became a classic and an enduring reference in its field. George Kephart graduated from the School of Forestry at Cornell University in 1917, when there was but a handful of technically-trained foresters in this country. He served with a logging and sawmill regiment in France during the First World War, after which he was employed as a forester by paper companies in Maine for eleven years (Lincoln Pulpwood Co., a subsidiary of Eastern Mfg. Co., of Brewer; and Orono Pulp & Paper Co. of Bangor). Later he was with the Branch of Forestry of the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs for thirty years, retiring in 1964 as Chief of that Branch. He received the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award.
Ms Shirley Thayer  
Librarian for Maine Author Collection  
Maine State Library  
Cultural Building  
Augusta, Maine  04333  

Dear Ms Thayer,  

Acknowledging your letter of June 19, I am pleased to enclose an inscribed copy of CAMPFIRES REKINDLED for your collection of works by Maine authors. The biographical sheet is also enclosed.  

Thank you for the privilege of making this very modest addition to the collection.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]

GEORGE S. KEPHART
CAMPFIRES REKINDLED
A Forester recalls life in the Maine Woods of the Twenties

In Campfires Rekindled, George Kephart describes with clarity and humor the many facets of life in backcountry Maine as experienced by him as a young forester at a time when tree harvesting called for hard, back-breaking labor from stump to mill. We see the rugged individuals who peopled those woods; the painstaking work involved in surveying and estimating yields of timberland; the miseries of bugs, of heat, and of cold; the harsh, primitive living conditions of pulpwood camps; the danger and drudgery of a pulpwood drive; the hazards of canoeing with a stiff-legged, 200-pound ex-linesman; the questionable delights of lunching on sandwiches that froze stiff in winter and, partially thawed over a campfire, became a "sort of baked-Alaska biscuit." Around it all, Mr. Kephart paints a sensitive picture of the beauties of nature and the sights and sounds of the changing seasons.

THE AUTHOR of Campfires Rekindled comes by his love of the outdoors naturally through his father, Horace Kephart. One of his father's many books, Camping and Woodcraft, published in 1913, immediately became a classic and an enduring reference in its field. GEORGE KEPHART graduated from the School of Forestry at Cornell University in 1917, when there was but a handful of technically-trained foresters in this country. He served with a logging and sawmill regiment in France during the First World War, after which he was employed as a forester by paper companies in Maine for eleven years. Later he was with the Branch of Forestry of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs for thirty years, retiring in 1964 as Chief of that Branch. He received the Interior Department’s Distinguished Service Award.
George Kephart's *Campfires Rekindled* is a remarkably lucid personal account of his life in the Maine woods a half century ago. It is rich in detail and color, authoritative yet highly readable, and above all a delightfully nostalgic excursion into a time and place that has receded from all too many memories. Readers of the *Journal of Forest History* have been treated to two excerpts from this manuscript — 'The Pulpwood Camps' (July 1970) and 'The Pulpwood Drive' (October 1976). I'm glad to learn that the entire book is now available in published form.

Ronald J. Fahl, Editor
*Journal of Forest History*

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Marion, Massachusetts 02738

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