

Acknowledgements

THE IDEA FOR THIS BOOK emerged during hallway discussions between two of the authors at the Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta in Camrose, Alberta. Glen Hvenegaard had created an environmental science program at Augustana and Jeremy Mouat taught an environmental history course as part of that program. Both of us knew something of the career of local naturalist Frank Farley, and sometimes we would stop to chat about him. Our conversations typically ended with us agreeing that while it would be fun to collaborate on a book, it was likely impractical. Lacking significant sources from which to build a coherent narrative, we would be unable to do the project justice. Then, quite by accident, Jeremy stumbled upon a significant trove of Farley's letters to Percy Taverner, one of Canada's noted ornithologists, held in the archives of the Canadian Museum of Nature (at the Natural Heritage Campus) in Gatineau, Quebec. Our initial reaction was, "Great, now we have enough to do something." We initially planned to write a biographical essay on Farley, which would be published along with some of Farley's own articles and letters. We were fortunate to receive grant funding, which enabled us to recruit Heather Marshall to the project. Heather was an Augustana student who had taken courses with both of us. Her sleuthing soon added more material to the growing pile. We started to find Farley material everywhere.

Marianne Ainley's biography of William Rowan, *Restless Energy*, led us to his papers at the University of Alberta Archives, where we discovered Farley's numerous letters to Rowan. Then Heather found another

collection of letters in the federal records related to the Miquelon Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary, where Farley had been a game officer for ten years through the 1920s. A reference in Don Wetherell's book, *Wildlife, Land, and People*, alerted us to Farley's extensive correspondence with Dewey Soper. In search of more sources, the three of us went on a road trip to Red Deer. The papers of the Alberta Natural History Society, held in the Red Deer and District Archives, included yet more letters written by Farley. And then, by chance, we discovered audio recordings of interviews with three Alberta naturalists, held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton. These three men had known Farley well, and they discussed his work and influence in the interviews.

Heather's research—including a trip to southern Ontario—allowed us to assemble and organize a growing body of research on Farley. Glen started to keep track of the many articles Farley had published, and we began to appreciate how well-connected Farley was in the world of ornithology. It turned out that we had more than enough material for a book.

Digitization has been an enormous boon to researchers and—like many others—we have benefited from sources that can now be accessed online. For our purposes, the richest online source that enabled us to follow Frank Farley's activities was the local Camrose newspaper, *The Camrose Canadian*. (It is now digitized and part of the Early Alberta Newspapers collection housed within the University of Calgary's Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections.) The western Canadian database, Peel's Prairie Provinces, available through the University of Alberta Library, was also extremely valuable, not least because its newspaper collection is fully searchable. Other online resources that we found particularly useful were two journal collections in which Farley frequently published, *The Auk* and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, and the newspaper database, <https://www.newspapers.com/>.

In addition to the material we could assemble on Farley through these sources, we also benefited from the growing body of work in the history of ornithology generally and the environmental history of Canada in particular.

We also received significant help from numerous archivists, librarians, and other colleagues. They were kind enough to take the time to respond to our questions and/or to reply to emails out of the blue. The following list acknowledges those to whom we are particularly indebted.

We were delighted when Farley Mowat replied to our letter, telling us he was glad to hear that we were writing about his great-uncle Frank and offering any help he could give us. Heather was writing back to him the day we heard the sad news of his passing.

Our sincere thanks also to Claire Mowat for sending us family letters that mentioned Great-Uncle Frank and for allowing us access to the six surviving letters that Frank Farley wrote to Farley Mowat, held at McMaster University.

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