PART 1 –

The History of Maine’s Early Fishing Lures and Their Makers

by William B. Krohn
Cover Photograph. – A hand-made, wood tackle box discovered by the author. When found, this box contained a Lake Auburn Trolling Spoon made by Charles H. Morse, Auburn, Maine; a double-bladed Rangeley Spinner made by the Murray Bait Co., Auburn, Maine; and 3 Six-Ball Swivels made by Bill Burgess, Minot, Maine. Other fishing tackle made by Morse, the Murray brothers, and Burgess have been added to this box to demonstrate the variety of fishing lures made by these skilled craftsmen. Photograph by Ellen Conant Krohn.
Dedication

Above Photograph.— Henry O. Stanley (on the right) during a fishing trip to western Maine in the early 1900s. Today, Stanley’s personal fishing tackle is still relatively intact and is owned by a private collector. Included in this collection are three items shown above: Stanley’s Vom Hofe tackle box (made in Brooklyn, New York), his Daniels bamboo trolling rod (Auburn, Maine), and the Philbrook and Payne reel (Bangor, Maine). Stanley was one of Maine’s earliest makers of fishing lures and a long-time Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game for the State of Maine (see Stanley Chapter in this book). Two of the four fishing lures invented by Stanley were so successful that they continued to be made. Stanley’s friend and fishing partner (on the left) was Theodore L. Page who, in addition to owning the Mooselookmeguntic House (building in the background), was proprietor of the Senate Cafe in Washington, D.C.

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