NOTE

THOMAS F. LUCY’S PLANT COLLECTIONS, DONATED TO THE BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

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The botanical collection of Thomas Francis Lucy (1844–1906), which includes voucher specimens for The Flora of the Upper Susquehanna and its Tributaries (Clute 1898), was rediscovered at Elmira College, Elmira, New York in 1984 (Kelloff et al. 1990). These specimens were originally part of the “Elmira Academy of Sciences, The Upper Susquehanna Flora” herbarium, as identified by Lucy’s herbarium labels, and they were transferred to Elmira College around 1881 (Kelloff et al. 1990). This rediscovered herbarium formed the basis for the Elmira College Herbarium (ECH), established in 1985 (Holmgren et al. 1990). Lucy’s Upper Susquehanna flora specimens at ECH-Lucy were believed to be the key to another set of his specimens donated to the herbarium of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences (BUF), Buffalo, New York following Lucy’s death in 1906. Much of the history of the Lucy collection has been documented by Kelloff et al. (1990) and Kelloff and Kass (1993).

Since Lucy’s field notebooks and catalogue did not accompany the collection that BUF acquired in the early 1920s, the BUF curators had no way to identify the species of most of the unmounted specimens, which were coded only with numbers written on the newspapers that contained them (Kelloff and Kass 1993). Learning that ECH had Lucy’s fully identified and labeled original collection,