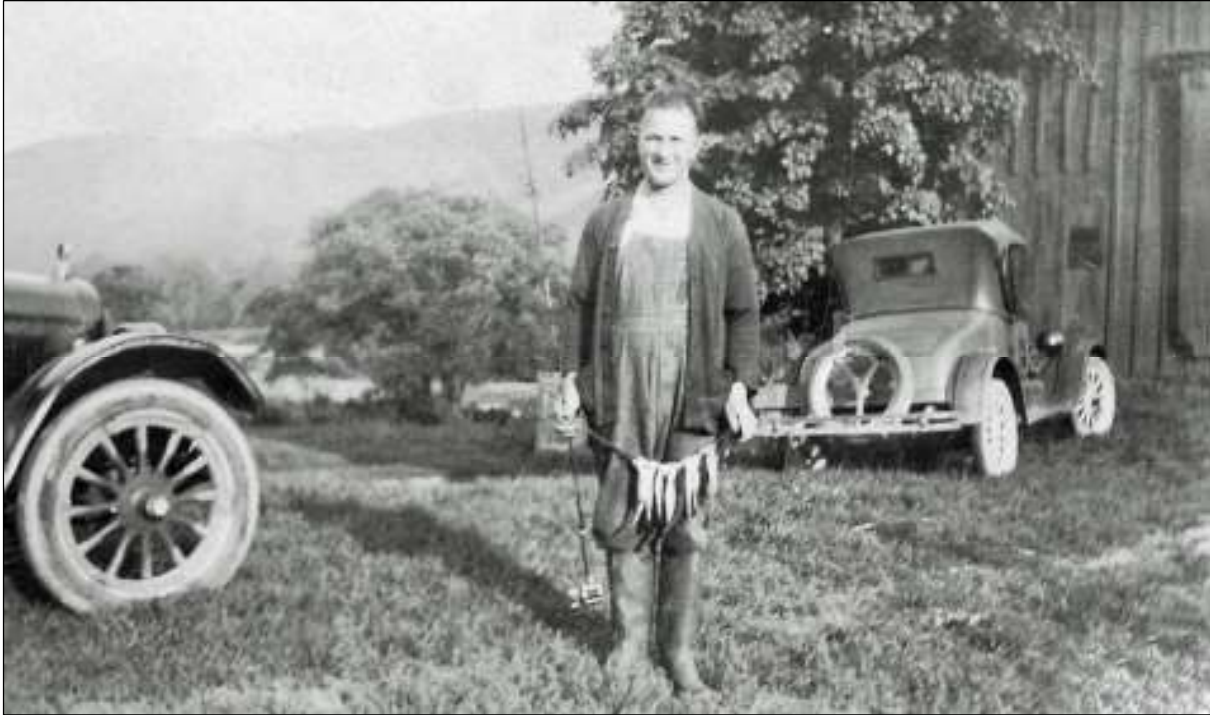


# Colchester Fishing Brooks and Rivers



Baxter, Brock, and Campbell Mountains form the spine of the township, and our rivers and brooks are the arteries and veins of Colchester. The East Branch of the Delaware River flows through the township from east to west and provides part of the water supply for New York City. The trout fishing along this part of the Delaware River is matched in the other valley by the famous Beaver Kill, which flows near the eastern border of Colchester.

Several brooks flow into these streams feeding the rivers and kills. The Berry, Spring, Russell, Cook and Horton Brooks enter the Beaver Kill. Downs, Trout, and Campbell Brooks all feed into the East Branch of the Delaware River.

From the earliest times Colchester's waters have been a means of transportation, power for early industries, provided an important food supply, and wonderful recreation to local residents and visiting tourists.

In 1785, Joshua Pine, submitted an affidavit that 1300 American Shad were taken in one day below Downsville and that the settlers dried and salted the shad which supplied food for the entire settlement for that year.

Shad fisheries declined through the centuries but fly fishing for shad continues to challenge sport fishermen.

Large quantities of American Eels were also taken by rock V-dams; remnants of these eel weirs can still be seen.



Plank smoking American Shad

In the late 1800's, the Catskill Mountain's East Branch of the Delaware River and the Beaver Kill region gave birth to the American fly fishing tradition.

"I early learned that from almost any stream in a trout country the true angler could take trout, and that the great secret was this, that, whatever bait you used, worm, grasshopper, grub, or fly, there was one thing you must always put upon your hook, namely, your heart: when you bait your hook with your heart the fish always bite.." John Burroughs



Early tourist postcards