BIG FISH

April 2018

We always knew that Alfred Townshend Cobbold (1852-1934) (#253 on the web family tree) was a keen fisherman and we knew that he passed on his skills to his godson Rowland Hope Cobbold (1905-1986) (#407) whose fly rod sold for an astonishing £1200 a few years back.

We didn’t know that he had been President of the Gipping Angling Preservation Society or that he had caught an unusually handsome trout which was stuffed and presented to the Society. Recently the Trust was able to buy this fish cased by J Cooper and Sons in London and it now forms part of our archive. The caption reads:

Presented to the G.A.P.S. by the president of the Society A. Townshend Cobbold Esq. O.B.E. Trout weight 12 Lbs length 2’ 7” caught by A. Townshend Cobbold Esq 7th June 1909 in Loch Corrib.

The fish in question is an Irish Trout. It appears somewhat less than 2’ 7” now but fishermen are well known for their generous measurements! Renowned world-wide, Loch Corrib is the jewel in the crown of Irish trout angling.

Alfred who was educated at Felsted, and who became a lawyer with numerous civic responsibilities, had a twin brother Arthur Westhorp Cobbold AMIMechE (1852-1929) (#252), also educated at Felsted, who worked at the Royal Mint from 1880 until 1900. Arthur was recalled as a large cuddly teddy bear of a man dedicated to his pipe and known to his nephews and nieces as ‘Uncle Baccy’.