

*"To put your hands in a  
river is to feel the chords  
that bind the earth together."*

*—Barry Lopez*

# Whither it may

# Flow

"So-this-is-a-River," said the Mole.  
"THE River," corrected the Rat.  
"And you really live by the river? What a jolly life!"  
"By it and with it and on it and in it," said the Rat.  
"It's brother and sister to me, and aunts, and company, and food and drink, and (naturally) washing. It's my world, and I don't want any other. What it hasn't got is not worth having, and what it doesn't know is not worth knowing. Lord! the times we've had together..."  
-Kenneth Grahame, from *The Wind in the Willows*

Nestled in north-central Chautauqua County are 3,000 acres of predominantly forested land. The terrain in the uplands is very hilly, dissected by numerous deep ravines and covered mostly in maple, beech and hemlock forest. Through this sylvan glade flows a tiny stream, gradually increasing in width, depth and importance.

Erie tribes, and later the Iroquois, originally settled the stream and called it "Ga-na-da-wa-o," meaning "running through hemlocks." The name probably referred to the dense canopy covering the deep gorge at its headwaters. The early European settlers from eastern and central Pennsylvania pronounced the name as "Canadaway" and because the stream flows north, the name came into common use.

Canadaway Creek was a blessing to the surrounding towns' settlers due to its importance for transportation and the economy. It looked different many years ago, with a different flow and even small waterfalls. Various saw and grist mills could be found on its shores. However, over time, construction projects and erosion have changed the flow of the creek.

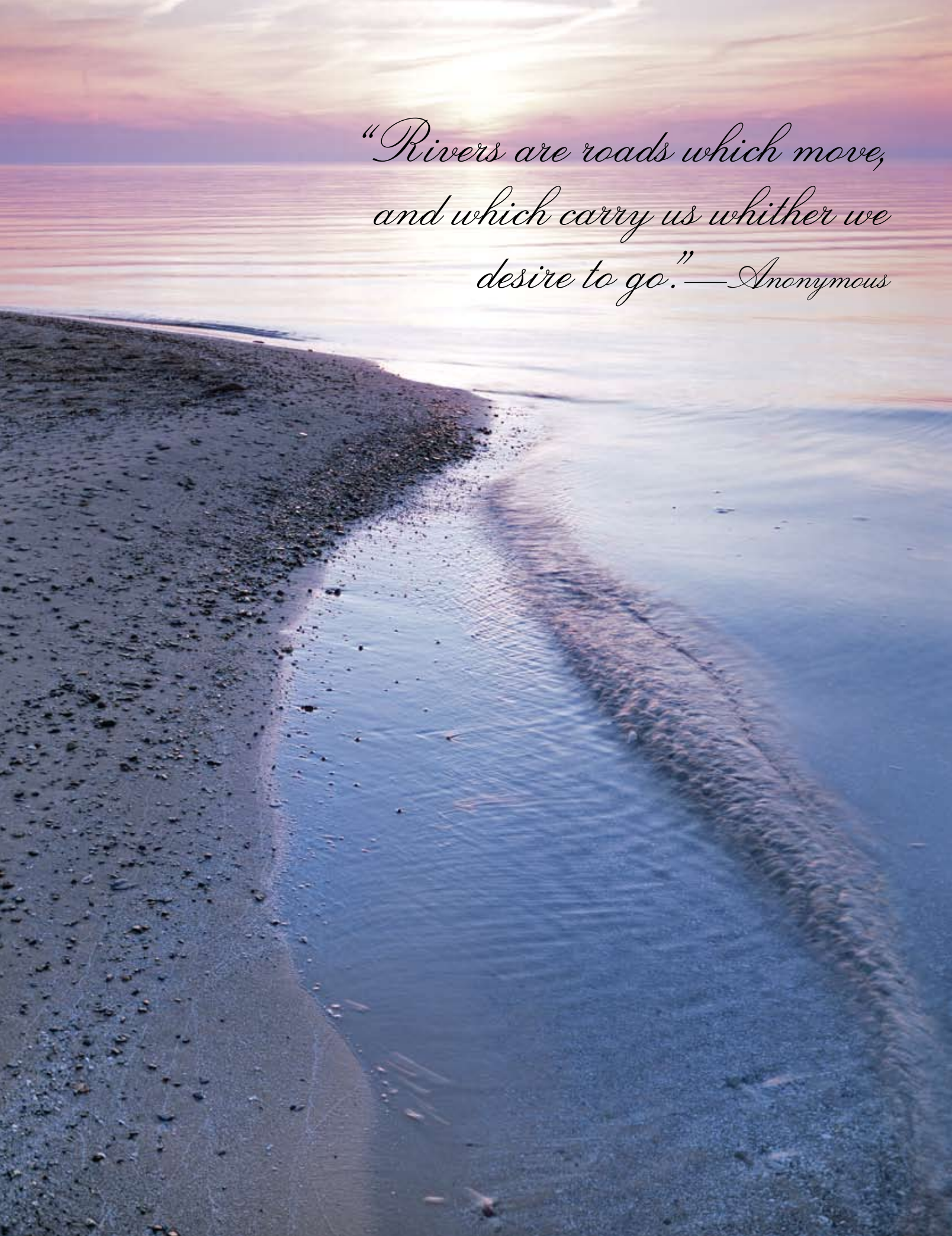
Photos by James Hoggard  
Text compiled by Jenna DuChene



Canadaway is one of the county's major feeder streams to Lake Erie. The creek winds down from the hills to the site of the first naval skirmishes of the War of 1812. It was here that American soldiers fought off a British gunboat as it tried to seize a salt boat from Buffalo seeking sanctuary in the creek.

The creek's headwaters are nestled within Canadaway Creek Wildlife Management Area, a 2,195-acre lush, forested sanctuary that encompasses several stunningly picturesque ravines. Arkwright Falls, the highest waterfall in Chautauqua County, is a locally popular destination for hikers. The wildlife management area's large size and flora allow it to support a rich diversity of wildlife, including several species of raptors. Broad-winged and red-shouldered hawks nest here, and the adjacent area supports a colony of great blue herons. In addition, there are also common game species like American woodcock, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and ruffed grouse.

Canadaway is truly an ecological jewel hidden in southwestern New York.

A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the sky and the water. The beach is dark and pebbly, with gentle waves lapping at the shore. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*“Rivers are roads which move,  
and which carry us whither we  
desire to go.”—Anonymous*

*“Like dreams, small creeks grow into mighty rivers.” — Anonymous*



*“Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep.”*

*— William Shakespeare*



About the Photographer:

**James Hoggard** has been photographing natural scenes for more than two decades. Originally from Salt Lake City, he currently resides in New York and enjoys exploring, photographing, hiking, and skiing in “wild places.” His work can be viewed at <http://jameshoggardphotography.com>.

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(Author’s note: some text adapted from Alberto Rey ([www.albertorey.com](http://www.albertorey.com)), and *Images of America: Pomfret* by Todd Landworthy.)

