

# DR. GRANVILLE E. MEDLEY AND THE MEEK FREE SPOOL REELS

By Ron Gast

Granville Eustace Medley was born in Hopkinsville, Kentucky on May 5, 1854. He was the son of Isaac Medley Jr. and Caroline Edwards Medley, both born in Virginia. Isaac was a farmer by occupation according to the 1860 Hopkinsville

Census. As you will see in this article, Medley had a broad range of technical knowledge and interests. Even though he was a dentist by trade, his other interests were in mechanical design and the outdoor life. Granville was granted eight patents in his lifetime, three of which were related to fishing reels that would eventually be produced. Medley attended the Baltimore College of

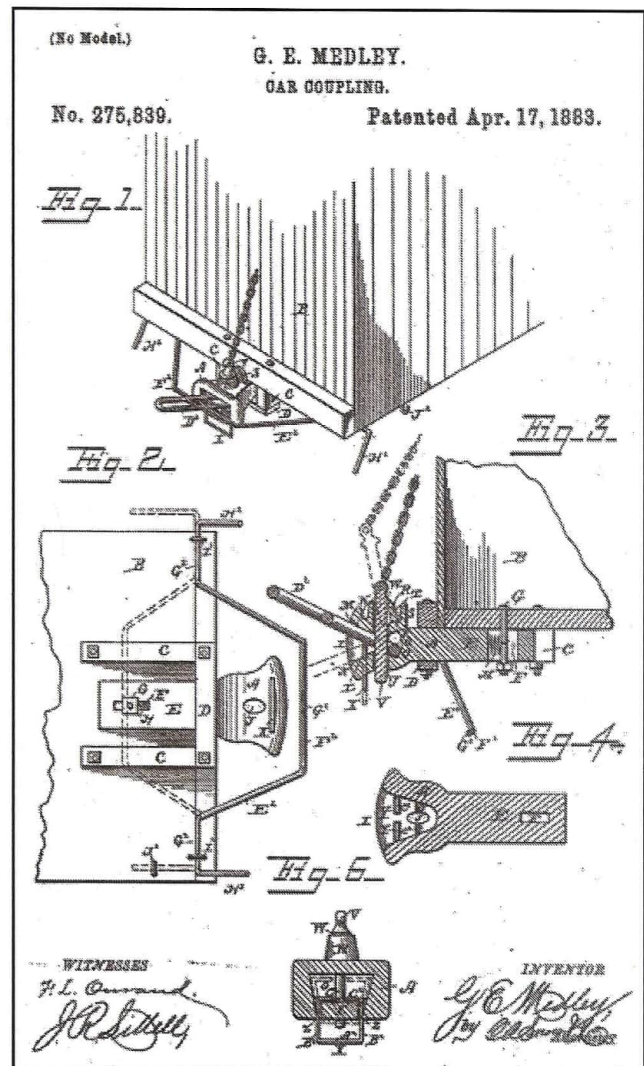
Dr. Granville Medley, of Baltimore, Md., has formed a partnership with Dr. A. P. Campbell, for the practice of dentistry in this city. Dr. Medley is well known in this city and county and is a young gentleman of popularity. He has been practicing his profession for several years in Baltimore. Dr. Campbell has for many years been the leading dentist of this city, and we bespeak for the firm a liberal share of the public patronage. The gentlemen will occupy the front rooms in the second story of the Beard Building, on West Main street. See their card elsewhere in to-day's paper.

"The Southern Kentuckian"  
Newspaper - January 3, 1882

**DRS. CAMPBELL & MEDLEY,**  
**DENTISTS.**  
**NEW BEARD BUILDING.**  
Main St. Hopkinsville, Ky.  
Jan 3-1882

Dental Surgery and graduated with his doctoral degree in 1878. The title of his thesis was "Circulation of the Blood." You can already see that he was interested in how things worked. His first practice was in Baltimore, but he moved to Hopkinsville in 1882 and practiced there. He partnered with Dr. A.P. Campbell and practiced with him until Campbell's death in 1886.

The first digital record of Medley being interested in something other than dentistry was only about one year after returning to

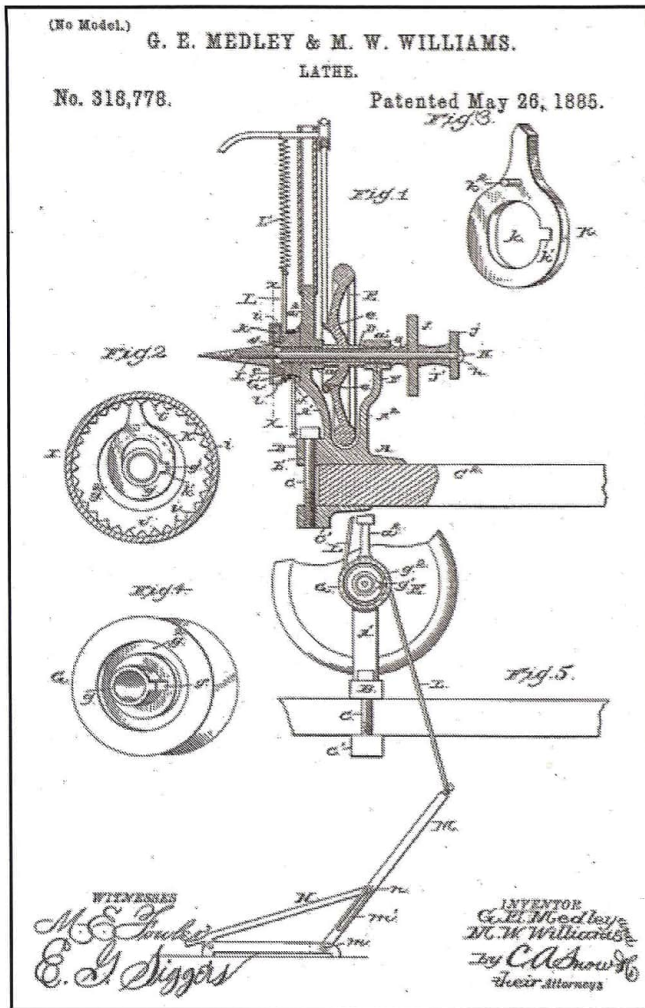


Medley's First Patent in 1883

Hopkinsville. He was granted a patent on April 17, 1883 for an automatic car coupling for rail cars. The "Report of the Railroad Commission of Kentucky" published November 30, 1883 describes Medley participating in the Chicago Railway Exposition held in June of that year, where he exhibited his car coupler.

A couple of years later, Medley was granted his second patent. He and fellow dentist Dr. M.W. Williams patented a driving and clutch mechanism





Medley's second patent, in 1885

for a lathe on May 26, 1885. This was an early indication of Medley's interest in a clutch mechanism.

Dr. R. R. Bourne, who has been one of Hopkinsville's most successful dentists for several years past, has sold out to Dr. G. E. Medley and will in a few weeks leave Hopkinsville for the purpose of locating in some one of the large cities. Dr. Medley was in partnership with the late Dr. A. P. Campbell, Sr., and has had several years' experience in his profession. Dr. Medley is now located over the Bank of Hopkinsville, where Dr. Bourne can also be found for the present.

"Semi Weekly Southern Kentuckian" - March 30, 1886

thought the existing concepts of how a fishing reel should work needed to be challenged.

He received his first patent related to a fishing reel on August 3, 1886. It was a simple spool attached to a rod that wound the fishing line by pulling a spring loaded cord. The line was wound on the spool in a ratcheting fashion by successive pulls of the cord. It was interesting, but would not be very appealing to a fisherman. Medley

Medley was exhibiting his innovative ideas by receiving patents, but he was still making a living as a dentist in Hopkinsville. His previous partner, Dr. Campbell, had died in 1886. That same year, he bought the successful practice of Dr. R.R. Bourne, who was retiring. Medley would continue practicing dentistry while still delving into ways of improving a fishing reel.

Some of the interesting events in Medley's life were captured in the local newspapers. One such event occurred while he was riding with L. L. Buckner. Mr. Buckner was the owner of a livery and feed stable and sold horses and buggies.

Medley was an outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. The Hopkinsville newspaper captured the results of his recent dove hunt. This was apparently before the daily bag limits for migratory birds.

Medley's vision of an automatic reel came to fruition during the 1890s.

It included the thoughts that were manifest in his

**G. E. Medley.**  
**DENTIST.**  
**Hopkinsville, Ky.**  
Having bought out Dr. R. R. Bourne my office will be in the future over Bank of Hopkinsville, corner 8th and Main Sts.  
G. E. MEDLEY.

"Semi Weekly Southern Kentuckian" Newspaper - April 16, 1886

As Mr. L. L. Buckner and Dr. G. E. Medley were driving down Main street Tuesday evening their horse became unmanageable, from a broken shaft. The animal started at a furious gait down the street and ran into a carriage which was in the act of turning in front of the Opera House. The carriage was struck broadside and knocked off the front wheels. The body was turned over on its side, with its occupants, a young lady and gentleman, who were about to alight to enter the Opera House. They escaped by coming out through the upper door and fortunately were not injured, though the young lady was badly frightened. They attended the show as if nothing had happened. Mr. Buckner and Dr. Medley were thrown from the buggy, but were not hurt beyond some painful bruises. The vehicles were badly demolished. They were both the property of Mr. Buckner, whose loss will be about \$250 or \$300.

"Hopkinsville Kentuckian" - March 14, 1890

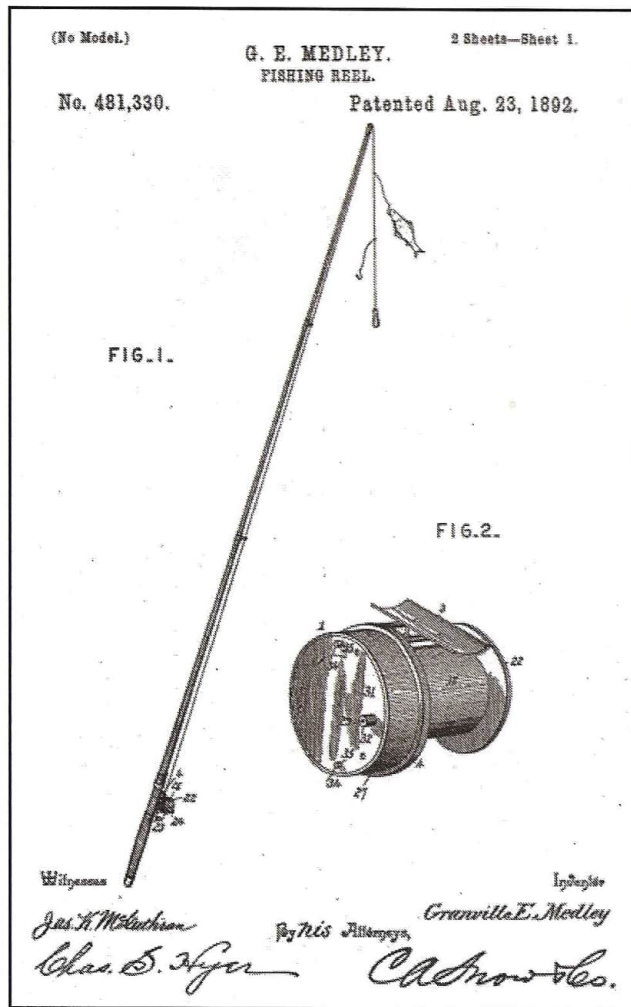
Dr. G. E. Medley and S. C. Mercer, Jr., have exceeded all former scores in dove shooting, having bagged 333 in three afternoons of last week, spending only one hour each afternoon in the field. Mr. Mercer's numbers were 39, 39 and 45, Dr. Medley's were 36, 36 and 38. This is fine shooting if we are judges of the sport.

"Hopkinsville Kentuckian" April 5, 1890



previous patents for a lathe clutch and for a spring loaded retrieve mechanism. The automatic reel was truly an innovative design. The patents for his first production fishing reel were granted in August 23, 1892 and March 12, 1895 while Medley lived in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

Building the reel shown in Medley's 1892 and 1895 patents would require multiple manufacturing capabilities. It appears from the August 10, 1897 newspaper article (below) that



Medley's 1892 Automatic Fishing Reel Patent

Medley and a C.R. Adams had formed the Combined Automatic Reel Company to manufacture and sell the reel. Adams was a horse breeder and tobacco farmer in Hopkinsville. There was a dissolution of their partnership, but a reason is not given. This was two years after Medley had received his 1895 patent, ample time for him to have embarked on a plan to have the reel produced.

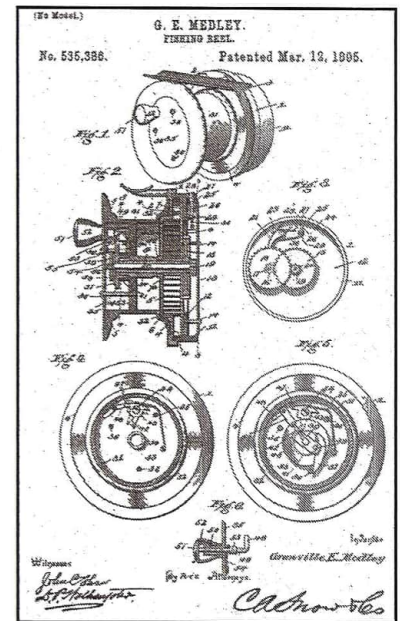
The dissolution of the partnership between Medley and Adams had apparently occurred after they had employed the services of "Home Novelty Manufacturing Company" to make the automatic reel. The last page of a brochure for the reel states it was made by "Home Novelty Manufacturing Company" in St. Louis, Missouri.

A notice in the February 13, 1897 "The Age of Steel" magazine states that Home Novelty Manufacturing Company was making "a new style fishing reel." This was apparently Medley's automatic fly reel.

The new reel company formed after the dissolution of the Medley and Adams partnership was the "Medley Reel Company." The nameplate on the Medley Combined Automatic Reel and other views of the reel are shown below.

Shown below are a few pages of the automatic reel's brochure, or what we would today refer to as the user's manual for the reel.

An article in the April 29, 1898 "The Daily Kentuckian" described Medley, the entrepreneur, and his automatic reel's history and highlights. It states that Medley had formed "The Medley Reel Company" with two partners in Hopkinsville, KY. His partners were Chas. M. Latham, a local merchandise store owner, and Lucian Davis, the Hopkinsville City Clerk.

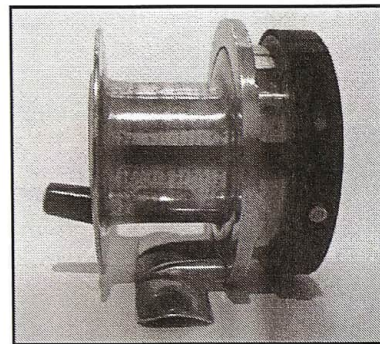
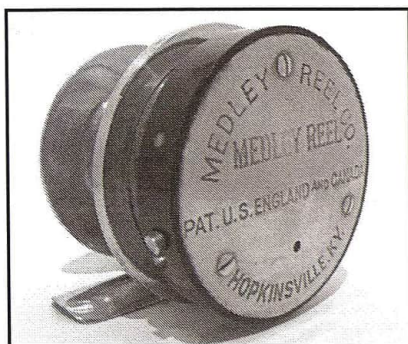


Medley's 1895 Automatic Fishing Reel Patent



(Medley Automatic Reel photo courtesy of Bill Graves)



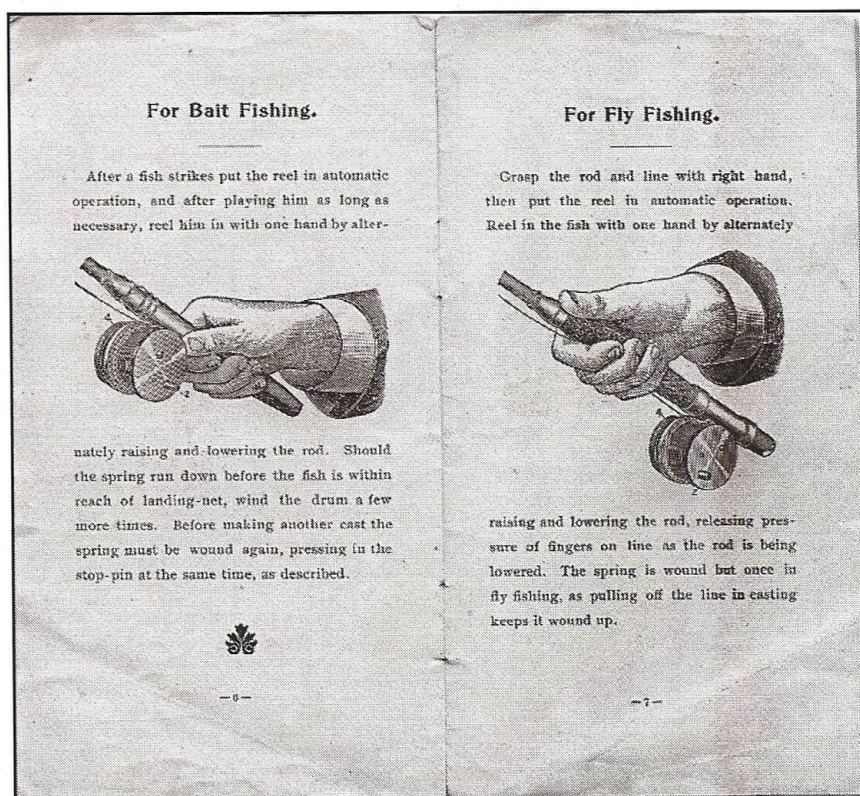


(Medley Automatic Reel photos courtesy of Bill Graves)

The article states that orders for the reel were pouring in and that the Medley Reel Company sold the rights to sell the reel. Simmons Hardware bought selling rights for most states out to California; Thos. J. Conroy, for New York, Pennsylvania and the New England states; and an unnamed Baltimore firm, for Virginia and Maryland.

About a year and a half after the Medley article appeared in the April 29, 1898 "The Daily Kentuckian" newspaper, there was a large fire in Hopkinsville as reported in the September 29, 1899 issue of "The Tennessean". One of the businesses destroyed was the Medley Reel Co. Medley did not manufacture the reels there, but would have maintained an office and possibly a reel inventory. It's interesting that Medley's loss was for a reel company and not a dentist office. He may have had a dentist office at another location or simply not practicing at this time. Medley was no longer advertising in the local newspaper as a dentist and was apparently receiving a handsome income from reel sales.

After the fire in Hopkinsville and the loss of the Medley Reel Company office, Medley moved to Gracey, Kentucky, about 10 miles west of Hopkinsville. It was in Gracey where Medley would meet his future wife. The October 18, 1901 "Hopkinsville Kentuckian" newspaper reported that in Nashville, Medley married Ora Baker from Julien, Kentucky. Julien is about 3 miles south of Gracey. When they were married, Medley was 47



Pages of the automatic reel's brochure, or what we would today refer to as the user's manual for the reel.

years old and 25 years older than Ora. She was born on July 18, 1879.

1901 turned out to be a good year for Medley. Not only did he get married, but he also received his patent for a clutch for an automatic free spool bait casting reel, granted on November 26, 1901. He assigned one-half of the patent to Gipp Watkins of Gracey. Gipp was a business acquaintance and a salesman and supplier of heavy farm equipment for the Frick Company.

The patented reel would be marked "Medley's 20th Century Kentucky Reel." The name implies





## New Spring Goods

We have opened for inspection our complete assortments of new Spring Goods. Never before have we been able to offer so many inducements in either style, variety or price. . . .

### Bran New Patterns

That cannot be found at any other house in the city. Don't wait for the Spring rush. See our goods and get prices. . . .

## Carpets.

Reliable Maes. Only those makes which we can guarantee are allowed in our stock. Any pattern you select will be first-class. . . .

# We Open

The Spring Trade with a superb stock of first-class Dress Goods, Trimmings, etc., at prices that are lower than ever before. Goods cheerfully shown.

# C.M. LATHAM

Medley's Partner C.M. Latham's Ad in the "Hopkinsville Kentuckian" May 3, 1895

## FURIOUS FLAMES.

### Mysterious Forty Thousand Dollar Fire at Hopkinsville.

HOPKINSVILLE, Sept. 28.—(Special.)—Fire was discovered about 4 o'clock this morning in the small yard in the rear of the large dry goods establishment of Sam Frankel, in the Beard Block, on the northwest corner of Main and Eighth streets, and before the flames could be gotten under control by the fire brigade over \$40,000 worth of property was destroyed. The origin of the fire is a mystery. A lot of boxes were piled in the rear yard and these were in flames and the fire had penetrated to Frankel's store before it was discovered. The total losses are estimated at over \$40,000, with insurance about \$25,000. Frankel's loss on stock of goods is \$30,000, with \$18,000 insurance. Capt. Beard, owner of the building, loss \$4,000, insurance \$2,500; Hopkinsville Mercantile Company, adjoining Frankel, loss \$1,200, fully insured. Other losses, C. M. Latham, Dr. George Campbell, Dr. J. M. Dennis, offices and furniture, total loss, well insured. Bonte & Anderson, carriage builders, and the Madley Reel Company are the other losers. The building will be repaired at once. The origin of the fire is being investigated.

"The Tennessean" September 29, 1899

he was bringing the classic Kentucky reel into the next century. Naming new inventions in 1901 as a "20th Century" item seems to have been a fad that year. Looking at newspapers from this time period, you can see this term used on a lot of things. Some examples are shown below.

The Medley reel's 1901 invention included an automatic clutch. This means that during a cast, no effort or action is required by the caster to put the reel in free-spool mode. The reel automatically goes into free spool mode simply by the line rotating the spool as the line is cast out.

Unmarked versions of the Medley reel have also been found with the click button also on the rear plate.

It was about this time that Medley entered into an agreement

At right, Medley's wedding announcement in the "Hopkinsville Kentuckian" October 18, 1901

### MEDLEY-BAKER.

Popular Dentist and Inventor  
Weds a Julien Belle.

Dr. G. E. Medley, of Gracey, and Miss Ora Baker, of Julien, were married in Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday morning, at 10 o'clock. The marriage occurred at the Maxwell House. Rev. John O. Rust officiating.

It was not an elopement, as the bride's mother, Mrs. Julia Baker, and other relatives and friends accompanied the bridal party. Among these were Miss Berta Baker, the bride's sister, Miss Mary Nance and Mr. Lewis Western.

Dr. and Mrs. Medley, after lunch at the Maxwell, departed for Louisville, where Dr. Medley will locate for the present. In December they will go to Florida to spend a portion of the winter.

Dr. Medley formerly practiced dentistry in this city, but since his invention of the celebrated "Medley Reel," has derived handsome royalties from this invention and has not given all of his time to his profession. Recently he has spent several months at Gracey.

The bride is a charming little brunette, pretty, accomplished and vivacious. She has been a reigning belle since her education was completed two or three years ago.

with B.F. Meek & Sons to manufacture his "20th Century Kentucky Reel." The reel would contain the main free-spool features of his 1901 patent. The Medley reel is marked as a No. 3, but is actually the same size as a Meek No. 4. The 1901 patent was subsequently acquired by B.F. Meek & Sons and incorporated into their product line about 1915. Information about the history of the relationship of Medley and B.F. Meek & Sons can be seen in the 1916 Meek catalog.

Because of the presence of the Medley reel clutch mechanism, a typical sliding click could not be installed on the reel's front end plate. In order to incorporate a click with the reel, it had to be added to the back plate. Another design feature that Medley incorporated was an aluminum spool. An aluminum spool has less rotary inertia than a German silver one and therefore is easier and faster to start rotating during a cast.

A second reel was also made for Medley by B.F. Meek & Sons. This reel resembles the large German silver and hard rubber salt water reels they



manufacturer.

After the fire, Medley was still involved with the city and people of Gracey as reported in the "Hopkinsville Kentuckian". He and his friend Gipp Watkins were elected officers as Trustees in Gracey. They also went hunting and fishing together as part of the Gracey Hunting Club.

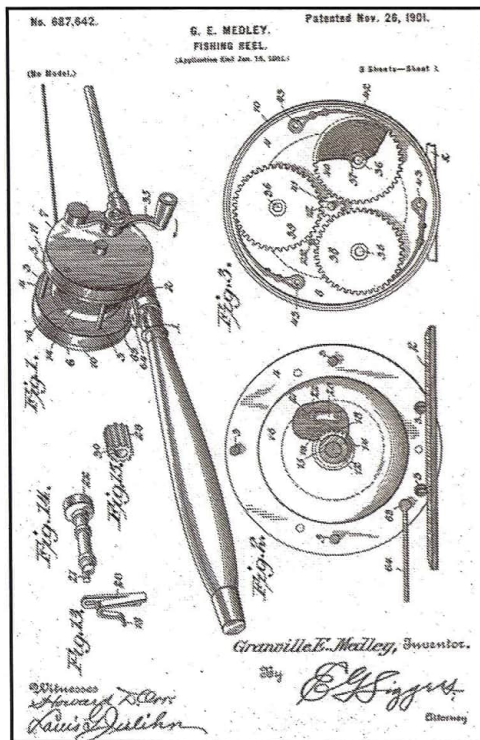
Around 1904, Medley's interest turned to land developing in Gracey. He and another group of stockholders formed the Gracey Mining Company. They had performed testing which showed the presence of fluor spar (fluorite), zinc and lead in the Gracey area. Later newspaper articles reported that the mines

were having success in extracting these items. Medley was now 50 years old.

Medley's friend and partner in the Medley Reel Company, Charles Latham, was selling the Medley reels out of his store in Hopkinsville. Latham died December 19, 1904 and his store inventory was purchased by C.R. Clark in Hopkinsville. Clark owned the local grocery store. Included in the

inventory was the remaining store stock of Medley reels. From the ad in the December 12, 1905 "Hopkinsville Kentuckian", it states that Clark had planned on manufacturing the reels, but was unsuccessful in making arrangements. He advertised the Medley reels were for sale in his store. Clark lowered the price of each reel from \$25 to \$2.50 in an effort to dispose of the lot.

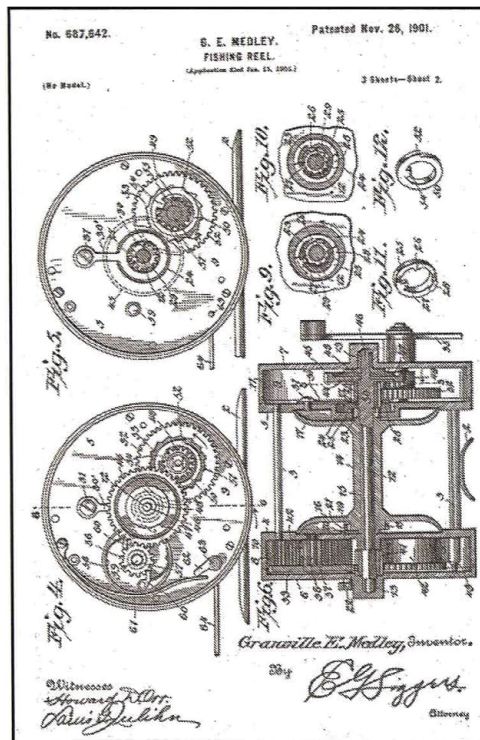
Having income from his mining investment and from his reel royalties and sales probably dictated Medley's future plans. His favorite pastime was hunting and



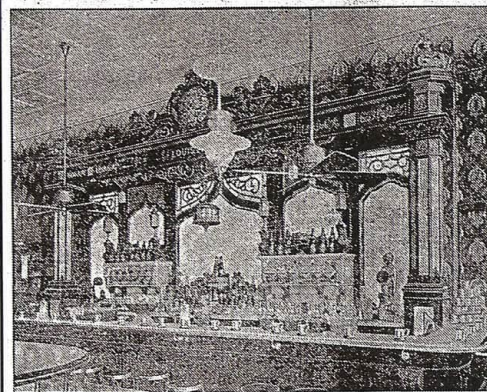
Medley' 1901 Fishing Reel Patent

manufactured and sold at the time. The reel has the same patent date and "20th Century Kentucky Reel" markings as the No. 3. This reel also has a unique handle. It has a short length side for fast retrieving and a long length side with a larger knob to allow the fisherman to apply more torque for landing a fish.

The year 1901 may have been a good year for Medley, but 1902 can be called a bad year for him. Once again, his business is wiped out by a fire. This was reported in the June 27, 1902 "Hopkinsville Kentuckian". Medley's dental office and his friend Gipp Watkins's building and store in Gracey were destroyed. The other bad news was that the company manufacturing his automatic fly reel had gone out of business. The Home Novelty Manufacturing Co. was reported dissolved in 1902 in the "Obsolete American Securities and Corporations, Second Volume" published in New York. Further production of the Automatic Reel would require finding a new



### 20th Century Sanitary Soda Fountain



The name "Medley's 20<sup>th</sup> Century Kentucky Reel" implies he was bringing the classic Kentucky reel into the next century. Naming new inventions in 1901 as a "20<sup>th</sup> Century" item seems to have been a fad that year, with this example from the July 7, 1901, Louisville Courier Journal.



fishing and was probably why he had moved to Cadiz in 1905. Cadiz was a small country town about 20 miles west of Hopkinsville near Lake Barkley and the now "Land Between the Lakes National Recreation" land. He lived there for a couple of years and then moved back to Hopkinsville in 1907. He must have preferred the country life because he and his wife moved back to Cadiz a year later. This was the last mention of Dr. G.E. Medley in the "Hopkinsville Kentuckian" newspaper. For all intents and purposes, he was no longer part of the social circles in Hopkinsville.

It is interesting to note that even though Medley wasn't mentioned in the Hopkinsville newspaper or city directories, he must have moved back there around 1920. Medley received his 8th patent on June 8, 1920 while in Hopkinsville. The patent was for "Speed Change Gear" which was essentially a manual transmission for a car. He was now 66 years old.

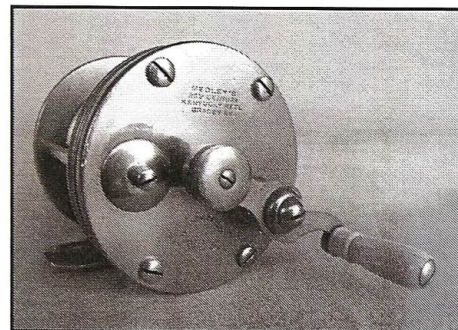
As previously mentioned, B.F. Meek & Sons had made the "Medley's 20th Century Kentucky Reel" for Granville Medley. This is described in the 1916 B.F. Meek & Sons catalog. The catalog also describes how the company had acquired the rights to use the patent. B.F. Meek & Sons incorporated the patent into two of their reel models — the No. 3 and the No. 34. Pages from 1916 B.F. Meek & Sons Catalog are shown below.

A comparison between the inside of the Medley reel's head plate and that of one from a B.F. Meek & Sons No. 4 shows the similarity. The Meek No. 4

had an engraved owner's name and date of 1904 which is only a couple of years after the Medley reel was made. The major difference between the two is the Meek No. 4 did not have a free-spool, but did have a sliding click. The Medley reel does not have a click or drag as part of the head plate.

When B.F. Meek & Sons sold the company and equipment to Horton Manufacturing Co. in 1916, they also included the rights to the November 26, 1901 free spool patent. Horton Mfg. Co. incorporated the design into the Horton Meek numbers 2, 3 and 4 as an option for each reel. The free spool was included in the Meek No. 6 and the Simplex No. 34 as a standard feature. The "Free Spool" marking can be seen on Horton Mfg. Co. Meek numbers 3 and 4 and the Simplex No. 34. The Horton Meek numbers 2 and 6 also had the free spool feature, but were not stamped "Free Spool."

The clutch mechanism in the B.F. Meek & Sons reels, as well as the Horton Mfg. Co. reels, was very similar to, but not exactly identical to the Medley's reels. The Meek reel's clutch disc pressure plate is preloaded with two springs. Medley used a cantilever spring plate to apply the preload. The clutch discs of the two reels are also slightly different.



"Medley's 20th Century Kentucky Reel, Gracey, KY"



It Must Be Earned  
B. F. MEER & SONS, LOUISVILLE, KY. 13

### The Meek No. 3 Free Spool Reel

Is the same size and general appearance as the No. 3 Meek.  
The Free Spool Mechanism is the "clutch principle," and automatic in its action. The spool is always disconnected from the gearing, except when winding in the line, and always ready for the cast, therefore, the reel starts easier than any other Free Spool Reel.  
The line is wound in as with an ordinary reel by turning the handle.  
These reels have been thoroughly tested by expert tournament casters who found them perfectly satisfactory.  
About twelve years ago we made a lot of Free Spool Reels for the inventor. We have recently examined a number of them that have been in use for twelve years, and found them in first-class condition, showing no perceptible wear, consequently, we are satisfied that this reel will prove to be the most durable reel of any kind that has ever been placed on the market.  
We were unable to secure the use of this patent until recently, but can now supply the demand for a Free Spool Reel that is first-class in every particular.  
This patent was issued to Dr. G. E. Medley, November 26, 1901, and we believe covers thoroughly all reels made with an automatic clutch.  
Standard reel has drag. Cannot be made with click. Furnished without drag if desired.

PRICE	
For Plain Reel	\$26 00
For Jeweled Reel	32 00
Cork Wood Arbor	1 00 extra
Reel with Two Spools	4 00 extra

Therefore, We Cannot Afford to Cut Quality  
B. F. MEER & SONS, LOUISVILLE, KY. 24

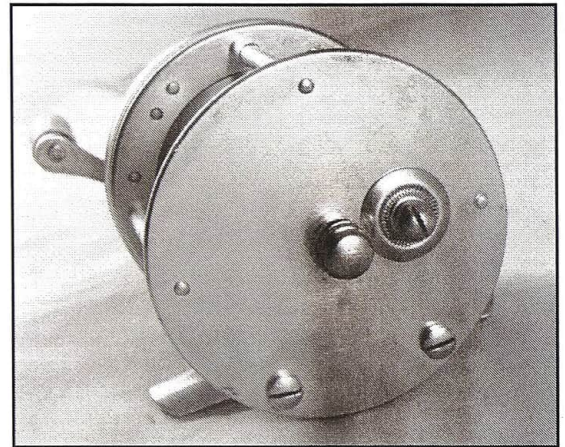
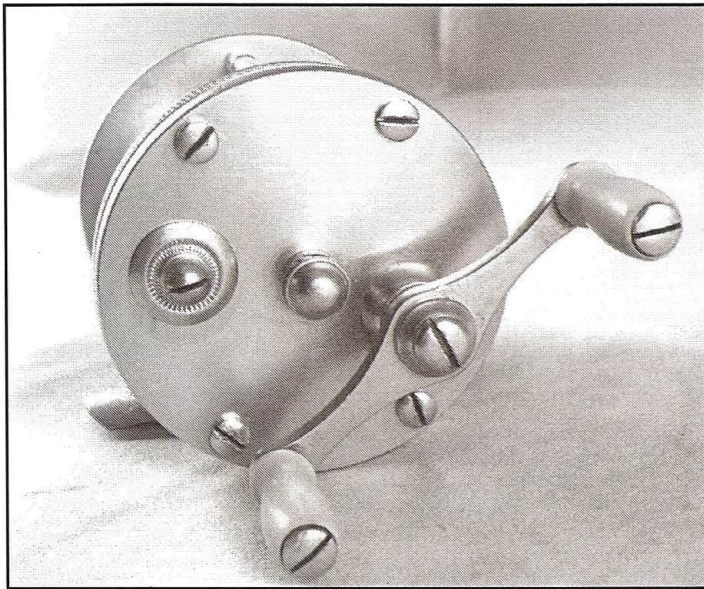
### Simplex No. 34 Free Spool Reel

Patented July 5, 1904, and November 26, 1901.

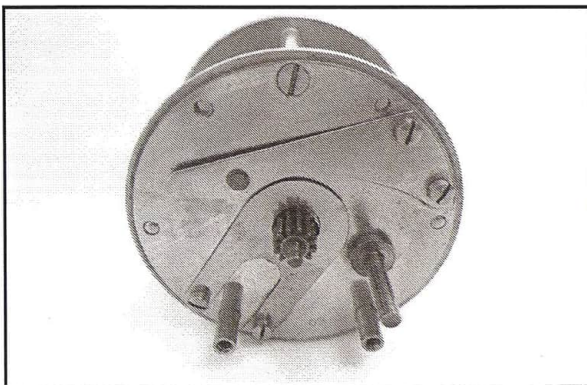
This Reel is the same size and appearance as the No. 33 Simplex.  
The Free Spool Mechanism is the Clutch principle and automatic in its action. The act of casting automatically disconnects the gearing from the spool. The gearing is automatically re-connected to the spool by the act of winding in the line.  
About twelve years ago we made a lot of Free Spool Reels, using this principle. We have recently examined a number of them, and find them in first-class condition, showing no perceptible wear, consequently we are satisfied that this reel will prove to be a very durable and serviceable reel.  
We have recently secured the use of this patent, and can now supply the demand for a Free Spool Reel that is first-class in every particular.  
This patent was issued to Dr. G. E. Medley, November 26, 1901, and we believe thoroughly covers all Reels made with an Automatic Clutch.

PRICE	
With German Silver Spool	\$ 7 50
With Aluminum Spool	8 50
With Two Spools	10 50
Furnished with Arbor when ordered, \$1.00 extra.	

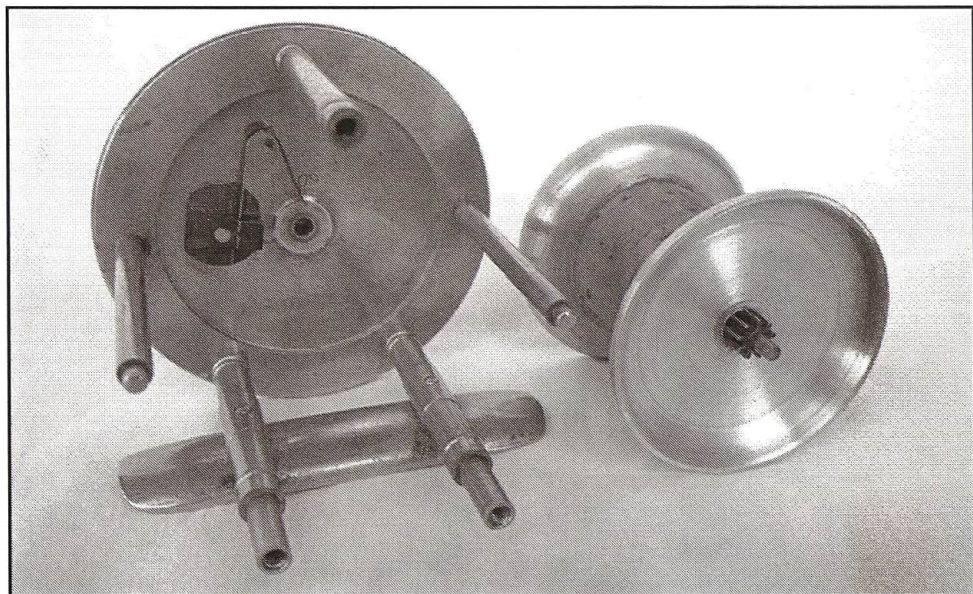
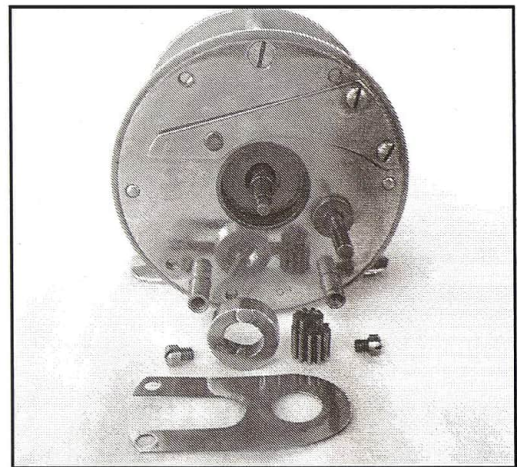




Unmarked Medley reel, left and above.  
Photos courtesy of Bill Muth



The Medley Reel clutch mechanism



The Medley rear mounted click and aluminum spool



**The Chance of a Lifetime  
TO BUY A  
MEDLEY REEL.**

I purchased the entire lot of Medley Reels from Mr. C. M. Latham's executor, and intended to manufacture them, but did not succeed in perfecting arrangements for that purpose. Now wishing to give all of my friends an opportunity to buy these famous reels for less than cost of manufacturing same, I will sell them for the sum of

**• \$2.50 Each. •**

These Reels have been sold as high as \$25.00. Can refer you to such noted fishermen as Hunter Wood, Jr., W. A. Glass, T. J. Tate and many other local sportsmen. Nothing better to make a Christmas present to a friend. Get in your order as they won't last long, and this will be the last opportunity you will ever have to buy one at this price.

On Sale at Planters' Hardware Co.,  
and Clark & Johnson's Grocery.  
**C. R. Clark.**

**BIG REDUCTION.**

**Made on Medley Reels to  
Close Them Out.**

Mr. C. R. Clark, who purchased of Mr. C. M. Latham's administrator the entire stock of Medley reels, is now offering them at \$2.50 each. This reel is the best automatic reel on the market, and, at the greatly reduced rate, they will go like hot cakes. Read the ad, which appears elsewhere in this issue of the Kentuckian, for full information.

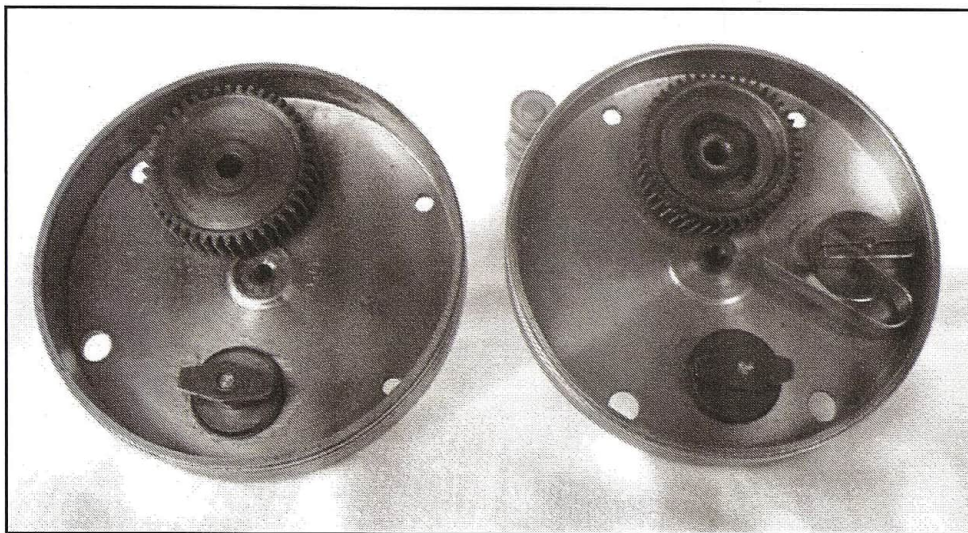
An ad and story from the Hopkinsville Kentuckian" newspaper, December 12, 1905

A letter written in 1945 by Mrs. Ora Medley to the owner of the Medley bait casting reel shown above gives insight into Granville's life. The letter implies that after the fire in Medley's Gracey office in 1902, the reel was no longer made. Like a lot of

in the US, Canada and England was on April 20, 1895 in Canada. The reel is marked "PAT. US, ENGLAND and CANADA" so it was probably produced after 1895. Home Novelty

Manufacturing Company was making the reel in

early 1897 according to the February 13, 1897 issue of "The Age of Steel" magazine. The reel was marked "Hopkinsville, KY." The last mention of the Medley Reel Company in Hopkinsville was in the September 29, 1899 "The Tennessean" newspaper. It reported a fire had destroyed the company. It seems the three years from 1897 thru 1899 would be a good estimate when they were made. Even though Home Novelty was actually making the reels, future orders to them by Medley after the



A comparison of the Medley No. 3 and a B.F. Meek & Sons No. 4 Reels front plates

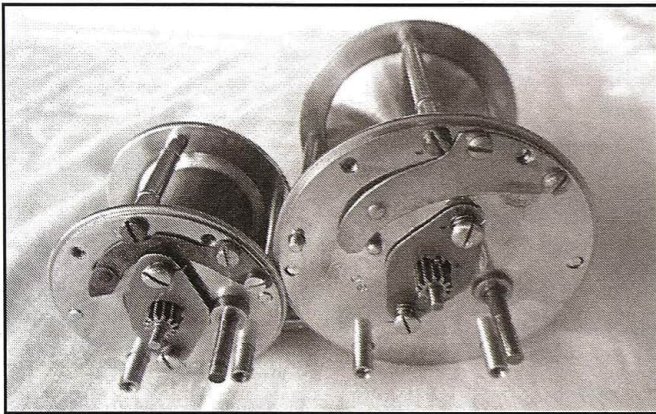
these dates, we weren't there so we'll never know for sure.

So a good question would be "When and how many of the Medley reels were made?" It can be said up front that the exact dates and quantities are not known. We can use heuristic reasoning to estimate the dates, however.

For the "Automatic Reel," we know several dates. The last patent date for the patents issued

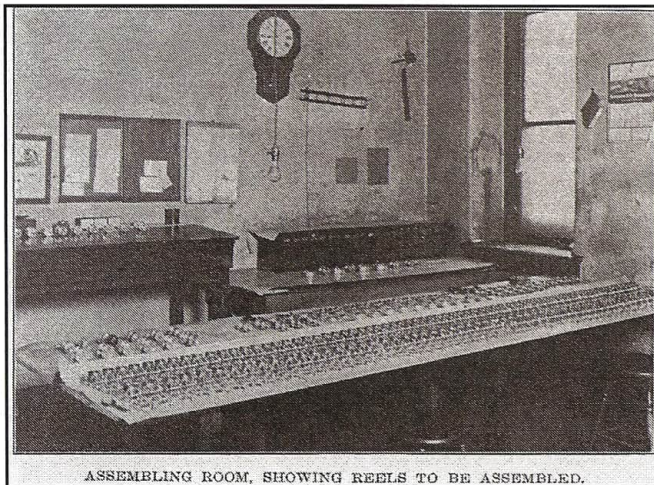
fire probably didn't happen. Also, Medley left Hopkinsville and moved to Gracey after the fire. The "20th Century Kentucky Reel" was patented on November 26, 1901 and the reel is so marked. This obviously means it was made after this date. Even though Ora's letter above states that Medley made the reel in Gracey, we know from the B.F. Meek & Sons catalog that they actually made the reel. Medley may have done the reel assembly or boxing the reel for sale.





Horton Mfg. Co. No. 2 and No. 6 reels showing free-spool mechanisms

This could be what Ora Medley is referring to. Here again, we weren't there so we'll never know for sure. The other consideration is the fire that occurred to Medley's office in Gracey in June, 1902. Since Ora Medley's letter states the reel was made for only a short time, it is safe to assume that it was only made for one year. Like the "Medley Automatic Reel," the Gracey 1902 fire probably caused Medley to cease orders from Meek. The number of reels made is another question. We do know that B.F. Meek & Sons were



ASSEMBLING ROOM, SHOWING REELS TO BE ASSEMBLED.

B.F. Meek & Sons Photo from March, 1911 "Sporting Goods Dealer" Magazine

very efficient at producing quality reels. An example of Meek's production capability can be seen in the photo below taken from the March 1911 "Sporting Goods Dealer" magazine.

B.F. Meek & Sons Photo from March 1911 "Sporting Goods Dealer" Magazine

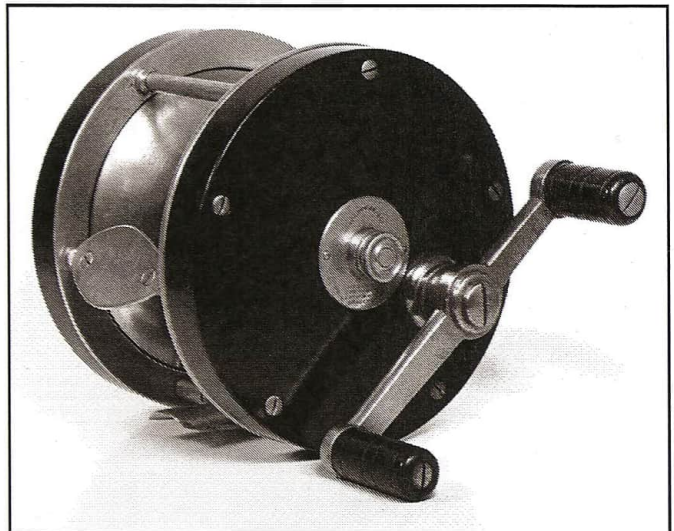


Photo of the Medley No. 10 reel, courtesy of Steve Vernon

Although the photo above was taken about 9 years after the Medley reels were made, it is still an indication of Meek's production capability. They were undoubtedly making more reels in 1911 than in 1902, but their expertise in producing quantities of quality reels had been proven.

The serial numbers of three reels I'm familiar with fall in a fairly tight grouping. There are two bait No. 3 casting reels with serial numbers 418 and 421. The No. 10 size salt water reel has a serial number of 434.

It will be interesting to see if any more of Medley's reels show up. Like a lot of the other quality reel makers and inventors, we will continue to learn more about them. Dr. Granville Medley has earned his place as an important contributor to fishing reel history.

#### Acknowledgements:

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To see more photos and information concerning Medley reels, please visit my website page concerning these reels.

<https://luresnreels.com/medley.html>