

August 9, 1593 – Izaak Walton, “the Fly Fisherman”

8/9/1593 was an important date to me,
Izaak Walton was born on that day you see.
A different kind of fishing would soon take place,
Casting a lure that had no weight,

Izaak Walton was the father of modern day fly fishing,
A different way was needed to get out your presentation
Before fly fishing you had heavy lures and baits,
Pulled out by skinny lines hoping fish would take.

Now your bait was a few tiny feathers,
Which didn't weigh practically anything.
So now you had a heavy line,
Pull out your weightless lure.

Of course, if a trout saw that fly with the heavy
line,
It would know in an instant that it was fake.
How could you get a heavy line to get out the fly,
And at the same time tied to a small line.

A leader had to be invented,
To remedy this situation.
The large end of the leader tied to the fat line,
Small thin part of the leader to the hook and fly.

A tapered leader which unrolled just right,
Or the fish would be full of fright.
Walton fished the chalk streams of England
Such as Dove River,
Almost like USA,
People would fish the limestone streams in Pa.

I was a itching and a wishing,
So, 'I left my business behind me,'
And took to fishing' Izaak Walton
That started my life's true mission.

By Mark B. Rockefeller
“B. for Barrecudda” ;-)

Biography of **Izaak Walton** from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izaak_Walton#Walton's_Lives

Walton was born at Stafford in c. 1593. The register of his baptism in September 1593 gives his father's name as Jervis, or Gervase. His father, who was an innkeeper as well as a landlord of a tavern, died before Izaak was three, being buried in February 1596 as Jarvicus Walton. His mother then married another innkeeper by the name of Bourne, who later ran the Swan in Stafford.[1] Izaak also had a brother named Ambrose, as indicated by an entry in the parish register recording the burial in March 1595 of an Ambrosius filius Jervis Walton.

His date of birth is traditionally given as 9 August 1593. However, this date is based on a misinterpretation of his will, which he began on 9 August 1683.[2]



Figure 1 This is a Brown Trout, native to Europe, but now stocked all over the place, including Connecticut and Pennsylvania, in the US as well as New Zealand and South America!

