



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

know it if only a hundred or two dollars. Aunt Deborah & Lucy spent January with us, they were not
satisfied & good while Mrs. B-
+ Sister's dear sister at the Fair.
Sister stayed with them at
night, Mrs. B- was expected
to stay. I started by morning, stopped
in a hotel to see Mrs.
Ditto who was expected home
from Quincy where she has
been with her youngest son
who had two knockings in
backbone & was told by
two physicians that he would
not live there, I don't think
he will live long any where.
We find a few very comfortable
these nights a morning, was
out again all day. Had a
short letter from Mary written
while waiting for the train
to take him 20 miles west
to see a patient, 9 miles to
ride from the R.R., would be
up all night, said he had
not been so busy in a long
time as during the past
few weeks. I hope he is making
some money. Saw a great
deal of talk to hear for us,
with a full show for young
people very good night.
I am devoted
Yours devoted
Brother!

Remember was with us & I could send it to him. I am always glad to hear
news from the boys from him; he seemed low spirited today, said his
eyes were no better, he has a cold & they are always worse at such times, still
he seems not to gain against taking cold, perhaps he does not know
how, he came last night after we finished supper.
Now we have heard some of the particulars of Mrs. Briggs' death, not a
line from any member of the family, I do think Fred might have
written. A letter from Maria Holie's mother said Fred was not at home
& that Harry took the whole family & went to Columbus with the body.
Fred was one of the judges at the Fair in Birmingham.
Uncle Ben has given up his work and St. Louis, he was unwilling to
ride through the country selling apples any longer & they could not give him
any thing else to do. Now has rented a small house in Harwoodale & will
I think handle apples on a small scale this winter and has now book.
As Maria has a hand and could work too, well, I am glad to hear it,
what is "fudge"? I never heard of it - Our Father will enjoy answering
that letter I think, any thing to be writing about the family. Maria
Jennies Field is coming to the Browns tonight, of course we will ask

here to spend part of her time with us & I know every old book, letter, or paper that touches on the family will be brought out & perused around until I will be nearly distracted, the delight in keeping company around. God are early evening earnings come for next summer, that will be a good change for you it is true, but don't you think you will need some rest. That was a fine offer from the German Hall works but I am not surprised at your refusing. I suppose your present work is much more interesting & affords you a good living. Did you ever hear what College made Mrs Barber Prof of Agriculture?

This seems to have been our scripture day, Mrs Batlets made us a long visit this morning. Mrs Wain came just as we were about to sit down to dinner, this evening Mrs Stewart & Mrs Barry came, as usual Mrs May talked quantities but very pleasantly, I love to sit & listen to her, this house caught fire a day or so ago from the stove pipes in the little back hall, the roof is so low it was early reached & the fire extinguished. Now I suppose you know Mrs Joe Davidson, he shot himself last week, bad health said to be the cause.

Major Robertson of Dumfries died Wednesday night, his health had been bad for two years, but he was in bed only two weeks.

Tomorrow I think we will go to Farnham also to sign the paper we could not get hold of to sign on our last trip. It is to give Mrs Harris power of Attorney to sell that Richmond lot, it was part of Brother's estate & some how overlooked for many years, of course when the proceeds are divided in 5 parts it will not be much but we just as well have

when I was here, I have nearly finished them - some have to be all made up as I don't devote
 with any thing but this
 matter, & have little time for
 that. I think it is strange
 that Fred has not found time
 to write us one line since his
 George's death. I don't know
 as any one was at home for
 his Mother, yet such a house
 elopes without visiting of only
 a card. That is about all.
 I have been stirring around considerably this morning,
 it is getting near dinner time but as your Father has gone to see
 Capt. Taylor (professionally) & may return later I will perhaps have
 time to write my letter before warming up some dinner, otherwise
 as much left yet as there is no one looking now. I find a good
 many things warmer over very nicely & it runs over a good deal of
 time. We had Mr. Colby yesterday & cousin Jerry Field. (she is staying
 with her Brother) expected Reuben & Uncle Wm but neither came.
 Mr. Colby gave us an excellent sermon, I was very tired was not
 more to him him. I have seen a good deal of cousin Jerry, think
 she is much more pleasant than in former days, I feel very sorry for
 her, she is so poor, & striving so hard to give her son an education,
 this is his 3rd year at Andover, he works during the summer to help
 pay his expenses, & she does all the raising she can.
 Your letter was very early comes yesterday, I am always so glad to hear from
 you & Annie, tell her I will be much obliged for the receipts when she
 has time to write them, I know you both keep busy all the time. I
 can understand how hard it is to keep up with our correspondents
 I am often behind myself, that is not the only thing I am behind in

Yours devoted
 Walter

either, so many things I want to do before bad weather sets in but with this everlasting cooking, cleaning (I do that now) & house work there is little time for anything else. The girl who milked & cleaned for our left house Friday & has not returned, the family say they don't know where she is, a girl who promised to begin cooking for us today went off with her. Sadie Smith, & cooked yesterday, says she will cook dinner tomorrow, Berrie under one she will be up to spend the day. Some is surprised but wish to receive a \$5.00 check from her, she said she had been trying to find a pretty wrist to send me but could not see one she liked, & she hoped I would use that to get me in Dearpolis, she said "I hope you will receive this as a token of my love & admiration for you," all that is very gratifying still I hate to take the money but could not wound her by refusing. I am glad she admires me but honestly I don't know what for.

Your Father has returned & had dinner, says the Crafts' uncle is considerably today still he has not gone, I noticed yesterday he had a very bad cold & seemed so feeble, he certainly can't live much longer, weak as he is he does not want to be helped up or down steps or in any way.

With acceptance, calls, &c I suppose you & Benue began to feel pretty well acquainted with the nice people in Columbus. It must be a good deal colder with you than with us, we have had no fire in the house today tho' it would have been pleasant early this morning but that is the time I have the benefit of the kitchen fire. Maria like myself is beginning early to make her 4 years presents, I think it is quite nice to make the presents

I have heard that Patty Bogan you was home, do a great deal of it & gets 40 pieces for her work, she offered to teach Lucy Bickelle if she would stay with her a few days.

Reuben & Bickelle came Tuesday & spent the day, I enjoyed having them, & a nice dinner cooked by Sadie. It was said she was trying to get around with her sister before bad weather, I had a note from her today Lucy Bickelle has been spending some days with her.

Reuben came down yesterday to spend the day, brought some of the finest turkeys I ever saw, from his garden, he intends to bank them for winter use. Uncle Waver came Sunday night after dark, stayed until Friday morning then was in a desperate hurry to go to Danville, hatched up from home before she had time to eat, bid her at the front gate until nearly dinner time & then left, said he would stop at home & feed her, the next day we heard he went to Gallatin & stayed until dark, then went to Mrs. Stewarts where he was this morning. I have been looking for him all day but I reckon he had to go home for a change of clothes. He said he was "too poorly" to go to see cousin Jerry but could spend all that time at Mrs. Stewarts, why one is talking of the way he does.

I had a letter from Henry today, he mentioned having had a very pleasant little diversion in the way of a hunt, went to visit a friend, carried gun & dog & returning hunted, killed 4 doves & 1 partridge & ^{and} ^{some} rattlesnake, the dog "pointed" & you can imagine his surprise to find this large snake coiled up, he shot off his head, he measured 5 1/2 feet & had 14 rattles, you know it is said there is a rattle for each year of

Wedding name card of Mr. George L. Burr
Binding loc to BUD + wife - November 17

For the Doctor and his Dear
(May they be like Henry Lee's Book and Heart),
with the Love of
Mr. George L. Burr.

Cornell University,
17 Nov. 1882.

Nov. 28th 1902

My dear Sam

I have a short time before going to the kitchen to fix our dinner as will begin any letter. This is a lovely day & I feel very much like being out in the sun & chairs, as even if we could have a shaded service some where I hope the weather is as beautiful with you. A very little fire is sufficient to keep us comfortable, everything is still green, we have had only a very light frost this season, not enough to make the grass look brown or kill the tenderer vines.

I hope you enjoyed the dinner with your fraternity boys, some weather seem to be pressing upon you, but it is all very pleasant we doubt's you have to engage in such things even if not very pleasant.

I understand Miss's feeling about the dinner, have often been with some fix myself. I wonder if that Dr. Squire is related to my old teacher, but I think he spelled his name Squire, he had only one son, I do not know what became of him.

I am glad you find St. Louis prices as much more reasonable than in Columbia. I suspect the merchants make people pay for being in a University town. We find things in St. Louis as much cheaper than elsewhere where we buy at a whole sale house, that is things by the box, or dozen. We get tomatoes by the case, 2 doz, soap by the box, paper

in charge of the store and there was not work enough for two, the night
 before Uncle Waver came up he ^(Mr Brething) brought out two Weyers wagons & carried
 away all the goods in the night without brother knowing a word of it,
 he at first has sent & there is no way of getting it, there was no written
 contract "Frank is a good fellow & will do what is right" he said, when
 I advised him to have a written contract. There are all the buildings he
 went to as much expense to put up left incomplete, he said he would
 lose 400 dollars, I don't know what about the P. O. Mrs Keats laughed &
 said Mrs Waver was keeping P. O. If one of his sleepy fits should come on
 while opening the mail I wonder what would become of it! Some Father
 exposed him against Mr Brething but he would not listen to him.
 I must forget to say Reuben has been again to the P., his right eye had
 was worse, the other better, Reuben takes cold so often, & then his eyes are
 always worse, he seems to have no idea of guarding against colds or taking
 care of himself I am in despair about his eyes. I have written so much I
 hope I have not tired you out but will stop for fear Miss my little girl
 for me & tell her I am expecting a letter from her, with much love to
 your little good night.

Yours devoted

Walter.

Nov 23, 1902

& other things by the dog, we never need to search around yards or in other back yards & I find they come in easily.

I decided each one could drive together on Thanksgiving day. Mr. Colth will have service & go straight home. I don't know of any one we will have with us. There have not kindly come, now that Mrs. Harris so firmly belongs to St. Michael's congregation they do not come down here to church, that prevents our being together on such days.

Since writing the above, I have had a talk with a girl who says she wants to come & learn to cook but will not be ready to begin until "week after next", about two far off to count on. She belongs to a good family & I would like to have her tomorrow if she would come, as many things I have to leave undone because without help I can't do all.

I have had a long letter from both Fred & Henry since I wrote to you. On returning from a visit to a patient Henry took a hunt, killed 14 ducks & partridges & a very large, rather snake, it measured 5 ft & had 14 rattles. Henry enjoys hunting so much, he had not been quite so busy lately & had time to look after his farming interests; had his patch of 1/4 acre put in good order & covered in oats, to help out his horse feed. Fred had passed through some trying experiences, first while at Elba where he was to hold and substitute he received a telegram that Mrs. Briggs was very ill, he left immediately for home, reached there Friday night & find a deserted house, a neighbor across the street related the tragedy of Mrs. G's death & told him the whole family left that morning for Columbus with the body & they did not return until the next Wednesday, bringing

came home a little sick but he had to go to Warrington to put in
 his exhibit, had not been there but a day or so when he was telegraphed
 to come home, that Maryant was very sick with dysentery, he left at
 once & for two weeks they had to sit up with her at night, she was up
 when he wrote. He says Mrs G. was left only a short time alone, there were
 a few coals of fire in the grate, but a wire screen over it, he thinks she
 must have put the coals in a new paper, that contrary to custom was
 left in the corner & carried them across the room, as she did so the paper
 blazed, & all was over in a moment, they heard no noise, she had fallen
 over a trunk & nearly all her clothes had burned off of her. Harry was
 in the room across the hall & heard no out cry. I suppose the old lady
 was pleased with the blaze & had not the sense to know the danger,
 Mrs Harp was almost crazy, reproached herself as much for leaving her,
 at one time Fred had serious fears for her mind, but he said she
 was more rational when he wrote. He has a good many articles to
 prepare, one for D. Linn's division, some for the Gay expedition of
 Agassiz (Wiley's) & for different papers. I think he undertakes too
 much, will break down before he knows it. He finds it hard to get
 such tenants as he wants & a good deal of his land may have to lie
 out another year. Right here there was a knock at the door, Mrs Rootes
 & Minnie, they stayed until almost dark, the Capt. is better, but his
 mind wanders, that is bad, he may be like Mrs Gays by, death would be
 preferable I think. Uncle Wm came up a few nights ago to tell us how his
 tenant was doing, some time ago he went to Danopolis leaving his clerk in

women until he is ready, some times he feeds first,
then again breakfasts as soon as dressed.

I understand very well how it is a house keeper can't
find much time for letter writing, there is always
something to jump up for, so I do not attribute your
not writing often, to indifference. I am not surprised
at the little secret, the whom I heard of your being at
a dance & taking great joy in it, I could not have
guessed the word as guess. I am glad you are so happy
about it & hope you may realize your highest anticipations,
but let me tell you, don't be too sure of a boy, you
might be disappointed, tho' the Duggs's are famous for
boys. Now say I must give you heaps of advice about
yourself, well! I don't know that there is so much to
give, only do not over tax your strength, but take
regular exercises up to the very time, eat as usual, only
a month or six weeks before winter heavy meats, use
lighter food, vegetables, fruits &c, food not objectionable,
be sure to keep your bowels regular, 2 actions a day

& say not too much towards the last. These things I
observed & always passed through my trying times
without fear or any unusual troubles. I kept going to
the very last. I hope your new work will be more satisfac-
tory than the girl you had, & that you may be able to keep
her, it is a trial to be changing, but I believe I would
be willing to change every month if I could only get
help. I thought of you & Miss Thanksgiving & wished we
would have been together, it was a cold day & we did not
get our church stoves up in time to use, still we enjoyed
the service & the splendid sermon. Our folks gave us, &
wished a thousand people could have heard it, he
went home to dinner, as we had only bread & wine, the
day was too disagreeable for Rainbow to come, a much
cold wind. The climate of Nov must be very trying, such
sudden changes, but ours is very much on that order.
Night before last we had a frost so white that at first
I thought it was snow, all the grass is killed now.
Our neighbors killed hogs, Mrs Powell sent a thick
chance the whole length of a large hog, & a very large
spare rib. I have been enjoying my it so much, Dr. P. doesn't
care much for hog but he is good on hammy. I think
I will fasten on spare ribs & sweet potatoes; did I write
you I weighed not long ago only 82 lbs? Well, I must
go to the kitchen finish after dinner. I thought I would

finish my letter for this morning's mail but I cannot
come in from the kitchen. D. proposed we should
go to Mrs. Beecher's as I changed my dress, put on
ribbons & we went one, or eight and twelve but the
evening was good for us & Mrs. B. & cousin Jenny were
very glad to see us, both of them are fond of company.
One of our neighbors was closed up this other day, Mrs.
Robt Wood Collins, his indebtedness is considerable &
goods valued at only 500 dollars. I wonder if there has been in
any paper an account of the fire in Cincinnati, the Opera
house & a good many stores were burned, 100,000 dollars
worth of property lost. The Opera house had been used
that night & it is thought some thoughtless person must
have thrown down a cigarette or cigar & the fire started
from that. One gentleman, Mr. Wells, you are law lost
10,000 dollars.

I had such a nicely written letter from little Frances,
Margaret wrote to the D., it is astonishing how well
they write, Frances said Frederick had been very sick,
two cases of sickness among them since their return
from Colombia.

Jenny knows, let me give you a new receipt I
learned from Cousin Jenny, it is to make up biceint
with a spoon, instead of putting one's hands into the
cold dough, it is the greatest help to one because my fingers
ache so. I mix the biceint in a pan putting on just enough
flour enough to mix up the flow well, flow the biceint