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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.

Joseph B. Brinkley

March 6, 1880

to the amount of  
his nursery  
Dr. Dr. Dr.



25<sup>00</sup> for the two  
ndr  
59  
To Mrs. Hunt

Wm H Dearborn

Brighton March 6<sup>th</sup> / 50

Dear Sir

In answer to your enquiries addressed to me a few days since I beg leave to state 1<sup>st</sup> in relation to the N.E. Farmer

It was started Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1822 by Thomas Shepard who sold to William Nichols Nov 1 1823 and was transferred by him to John B Russell Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1824. George C Barrett became proprietor Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1832; he died March 1836: his administrator sold to Joseph Breckin July 1<sup>st</sup> 1836 who were the proprietors until it was stopped July 1<sup>st</sup> 1846.

Thomas G Fessenden was editor from its commencement to his death (Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1837) 15 years and 4 months. It was edited by myself from Fessenden's death to Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1841, assisted by Henry Colman from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1838 to Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1841. Mr Colman was most of the time absent and wrote leading articles. I made up the paper read proofs &c. From Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1841 to Sep 27<sup>th</sup> 1843 Rev Allen Putnam had charge of the editorial department, assisted by myself. From Sep 1843 I was the only editor.

2<sup>d</sup> In relation to our Nursery—



Our nursery was commenced in the Spring of 1837 — It is situated on the main road from the Punch bowl tavern to Brighton near the Brookline line. — We have not far from 10 acres in trees, embracing all the varieties generally cultivated by other Nurserymen — We cultivate none of the inferior varieties after we find them to be such but graft them over with the sorts most esteemed.

— We have never made an estimate of the number of sorts in our ground — we have more, probably, than we should have. —

Our collection of Herbaceous and Bulbous rooted plants is probable as extensive as any other in New England — having more than 75 varieties of Phlox — 40 of Peonies, all the finest Dutch Tulips &c.

We have a large collection of Hardy Roses and Shrubs of various sorts, & some forest Trees but not an extensive assortment.

We ~~have~~ <sup>did</sup> not ~~do~~ much in Trees until the last 5 or 6 years — formerly our grounds were devoted more to raising Vegetable and Flower Seed, Herbaceous Plants &c.

Mr Warrens Nursery has been abandoned. Capt Hyde of Newton was one of our first Nurserymen and his son still continues it — It is near John Kenricks — William Kenricks Nursery is on the decline and behind the times.



Our Seed Store in Boston was the first in New England of any consequence.

It was commenced by John B Russell who sold to Geo L Barrett - and his administrators to us in 1836 - in 1837 we purchased the Agricultural Implement department of J. B. Newell which united with the Seed Store has since been known as the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store.

Since we have been in the business many improved varieties of vegetables have been introduced - viz Cabbages, Turnips, Beets, Celery, Rhubarb, Peas, Cauliflowers &c - It is almost impossible to name all the improvements that have been made - some are real, others fancied. I will endeavor to make out a list in a few days and forward you - but have not time to think this evening.

With much respect  
Yours obt<sup>l</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
Joseph Breck