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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.

From

1887



Mr. Saml Buckley

133 1/2

Itinerant Botanist from the East

~~Texas~~
Blacks Bluff
Alabama



Lillie 6-21-1911

Prof. D. C. Burch
Dec 1888

St Louis University December the 27th 1838.

Botanist

Dear Sir.

I hope you will do me the justice to believe that I have not forgotten you; my delay is owing to the multiplicity of my occupations. I have some leisure during the Christmas holidays & it is with feelings of pleasure that I fulfil my promise of writing you a letter. I cannot help acknowledging ^{the receipt} of your kind note, written on your departure from our city. I return you my sincere thanks for all the attention you have paid to me. I did not receive as yet any Specimens of *Myrica Cerifera*, still I am not at a loss to account for it. for it is very probable that either you had no time to collect them, or if collected & sent, they may have been lost, since this fall has been marked out for dreadful & frequent Steamboat disasters on our Western Waters. Since you have left here, I made but few excursions, but they afforded me a great number of specimens. I have sent a box of 800 Specimens & of nearly 200 Species of seeds to one of my correspondents in Europe, the Professor of Botany in the university at Louvain in Belgium. I expect an equivalent set of dried Specimens & of seeds in return from that gentleman. the rest of my Specimens I will send either to France or to Germany, according to the opportunities that may present themselves. But I will invariably keep a full set of Specimens for our own Museum, this will be exposed to gratify the curiosity of our visitors & chiefly of American & foreign Botanists, all of whom you may invite to come & examine them; if I can be of service to them, they may confidently rely on my assurance to see their wishes accomplished. as to you Mr. Buckley, my kind & amiable friend, I think myself under great obligations to you: I desire to receive your orders & satisfy your wishes as far as they will be compatible with my situation & circumstances, & of course I am very willing to

to prepare for you any number of specimens that you can desire in order to supply your Botanical friends: but it will be an act of prudence for you to let me know the species & the number of specimens so that you may derive all possible utility from my Correspondence. This mutual intercourse will promote the interest of Botany & will afford me a favourable opportunity of receiving from you as many specimens of Eastern plants as do not grow in the neighbourhood of St. Louis. As for myself, I abstain from specifying any particular genus or species because the advantages which you possess of being acquainted with most of our western plants & the kindness which you have always shown me, make me suppose that whatever you send to me, will be useful & interesting; I deem it therefore unnecessary to give you a list of Botanical names; but you will easily imagine that I will attach the greatest importance to many plants & trees that are seldom or never found in our Counties. I would be very glad if you could furnish me with specimens & seeds of *Quercus chinquapin*, *Castanea Canadensis*, *Sarracenia Purpurea*, *Gleditsia Mesquifita*, *Calycanthus Floridus*, *Cypripedium*, *Magnolia* (species varie), *Heliconia tetrasperma*, *Fagus*, *Thiodendron*, *Ostrya Virginica*, *Pinckneya*, *Cerastium*, *Saxatilis*, *Ilex* (evergreen holly), *Ceratonia Siliqua* &c. &c. of these & some of the same description I could like to obtain, if you can easily procure them.

Properties

Heliconia tetrasperma a decoction of its roots has often proved very successful in several diseases of the mouth, inflamed uvula, sore throat.
Asarum Canadense is used in France to communicate a fine rose colour, they put the roots in a linen bag & make them boil in a cask by means of a weight.
Leptandra Virginica its root is used as an emetic by some country people.
Datura Stramonium the leaves boiled with linen that has become yellow by perspiration, are a prompt & efficacious solvent of this obnoxious colour.
the root of *Gentiana Japonica*, *Quinquiflora* are exhilarating &
Monarda fistulosa is used by the chiefs of St. Louis as a febrifuge.
Nelumbium luteum the Western Indians prepare a delicious dish from this root, it resembles sweet potatoes in taste & shape.
Baccharis canescens the Indians find in this root the chief ingredient of their red paint with which they so gaudily ornament themselves.
Diospyros Virginica this fruit, when ripe, is eaten as a remedy for Hemorrhage & dysentery.

Verbena umbellata which you took for *Apaga Chamepitys* possesses the astonishing property of coagulating water. Experiment: take a tumbler of water & put in it a few leaves, in an hour's time it be found curdled.

Liriodendron,

Eupatorium perfoliatum a very powerful remedy for the fever: this plant is very popular about St Louis.

Sambucus Canadensis its bark is a very strong purgative.

Narrubium vulgare tea made with its leaves is good for coughs.

Thalictrum Dioicum, the leaves & stem, when green, bruised & applied to wounds & does effect a safe, easy & speedy cure.

Helinium autumnale the flower, taken like snuff, provokes sneezing

Turcium Canadense is a febrifuge.

Silphium Gummiferum yields a kind of incense.

I feel happy in informing you that during the fall, I have occasionally discovered the names of some plants, which we had not been able to determine whilst we were together; I trust I will oblige you by giving you their names with some explanation to call them to your recollection.

Babera Chrysanthemoides not Oreocoma nor Eclipta & as was supposed.

Elephantopus Carolinianus is the plant of which you have given me a specimen that bears no name but only a number.

Eclipta procumbens is a succulent creeping plant, flowering in August, with lanceolate leaves. Numbered.

Ilex Pinoides not Crataegus & it retains its scarlet berries throughout winter.

Ellisia Ambigua is an early spring plant with pinnatifid leaves. Num.

Asclepias Viridifolia & another species ought to be called acerates, (vide

Eaton.)

Nyctotis? ought to be called Veronica Peregrina.

Silphium Cannatum? ought to be named Helianthus

Sagittaria Sagittifolia not Alisma

Pontederia Cordata not Alisma

Verbena Toxicosa not Apocynum Chamæpitys

Some of the species found in fall are the following

Actinomeris Squarrosa

Linum catharticum

Gentiana Quinquiflora, "Phacelia" & "Saponaria"

Gratiola Missouriensis?

Senecio Palustris

Cyperus Canadensis

Arabis stricta

Aster & Solidago (many species)

Ammannia Ramifera

Euphorbia maculata

Eupatorium Serotinum

I hope to receive next spring from one of my friends a collection of specimens & seeds from Council Bluffs, Missouri territory, if there be any thing interesting, I will let you know it.

I hope, Sir, to receive a letter from you as soon as you will have an opportunity. If you agree to make any exchanges next year, I could wish to receive your expedition before the 10th or 15th of December, because this is the time at which I send my collections to Europe.

I am with sincere affection

your most humble servant
J. B. Duerinck