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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.

Rockford, Illinois

April 1884

Dear Sir

It is the intention to make the specimens of this Herbarium Willows useful as standards for comparison and the utmost care has therefore been taken to have the material distributed under each number as uniform in character as possible. It is a matter of less consequence that some of the determinations, put forth as tentative, may hereafter prove erroneous. —

As in many another field of human endeavor at the present day, if the work is only done, it matters little by whom it is done, so I feel that I do but gather together the scattered observations of friends and correspondents each contributing his share toward a better understanding of our native species of Willows. It is through such friendly

co-operation that the true character of *Salix myricoides* Vahl has been worked out and I would fain hope a more rational interpretation reached of the perplexing forms between *cordata* and *sericea*. — Since the latest revision of Gray's Manual *Salix balsamifera* and *S. odora* *phylicifolia* have been added to our Flora. A willow, perhaps on account of its showy anthers and broad, glossy foliage, for which I have tried in vain to find a name and place by extending the limits of other species is here recognized as distinct under the name of *S. glaucophylla*. — Dr. Clark's discovery of hybrids between *S. candida* and other species is an encouraging indication that our American fields, when fully explored will be found not less rich than those of Europe in hybrid forms of the most interesting character.

A word in reference to the *Salicetum* from which much of the material for this fasciculus

Apr. 1881

was taken. The plants are nursed till they can shift for themselves and are then left in "a state of nature", without interference on my part except a little pruning now and then to prevent rampant growers from crowding out their weaker neighbors. I have intentionally avoided the use of the word "cultivated" because if applied in its ordinary sense to my Willow Garden it would lead to a ridiculous misconception. Of many of my plants, I possess herbarium specimens of the original, and I can assure friends who have not this evidence before their eyes that specimens from the bushes are not appreciably different from those taken from the wild plant. Nevertheless when it has been possible to do so specimens have been collected from indigenous plants.

The drawings of capsules &c are all enlarged to a uniform scale of 12 diameters. The object

to be drawn and placed on a micrometer
ruled both ways and the measurements as the
relative length of pedicels and styles, outline
of capsules &c may be relied upon as strictly
accurate.

Finally, let me say that it is more
in the hope of eliciting than of imparting
information that these specimens are sent
out — that if I am ever able to carry forward
to completion a monograph of North American
Salices it will be through the continued
assistance and encouragement so generously
given by friends in days gone by.

Very truly yours

W. S. Dill

926 Grand Ave
Rockford Ills
Decr 12/93

My dear Mr Rose -

I apprehend
some mistake in assigning the
section of wood ^{you} send me to
No 338. S. rostrata - or ^{to} the any
other number representing the
same species. To begin with, the
pith is numbered 166 - while the
leaves said to be of the same
are numbered 338. While I was
astounded at first by the size
it did not seem altogether prob-
able that S. rostrata might
attain such dimensions by little
accretions - added up through a

(See over)

a ^{long} series of years. But when
I came to observing as I have
just done this morning, that in
some places there is shown an
annual growth of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch
for 4 consecutive years, making
an increase in diameter ^{of} two inches
in that time, I must conclude
that no S. rostrata ever grows that
way. The wood most likely belongs
to S. amygdaloides.

You probably knew nothing
at the time of the excitement
which Gov. ^{Furness} Furness, of Nebraska, got
up over the Diamond Willow - "grown
to a size large enough for rail road
ties" in an incredibly short space
of time and the "wood as durable

as red cedar, "splendid for fence
posts" and all that. Well, it
turned out in the end that the
Diamond Willow - "as durable as
red cedar" - grew about $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch
diameter per annum - and rarely
exceeded 2-3 in in diameter - while
the big and rapid growth all ^{had} had
relation to S. amygdaloides, the only
tree ^{now} willow of the region. But it
took several years to get the matter
straight (the more as ^{there} there came
to be money in it) and I received
dozens of letters from Europe even,
making inquiries regarding the
wonderful discovery -

It is the recollection of this
experience which emboldens

me the question the present ^{herbarium} association of wood and ~~herbarium~~ specimen -

Of course if you yourself saw the tree cut down, and took the leaves from the specimen actually ^{yellow} filled, that settles the matter. and we must learn a new lesson as to how fast Salix rostrata can grow under favorable conditions. * ^{But} ^{you} your No 338 does not betoken a strong growth.

Yours critically

Wm. L. Carr

Wm. L. Carr

re M. S. Bebb

July 1, 1942

Dr. Evelyn I. Fernald,
Rockford College,
Rockford, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Fernald:

I have received and read with much interest your brief paper of 1935 in which Mr. Bebb is mentioned, and your more extended discussion of him in 1940. I certainly thank you for making this additional information available.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bebb as he died in 1896, the year in which I graduated from college. I had begun my study of willows in 1895 before graduation, but I had not yet begun correspondence with other botanists. I was in Chicago as part of the military attraction of the Worlds Fair during February, 1893, and it was just possible that it was during that month that Bebb made his unsuccessful effort to get Mr. Deane there, but I would have known nothing about that.

I have just reread Deane's biography of Mr. Bebb published in 1896 and again am struck by the fact that neither in his paper nor yours is any mention made of the profession which Mr. Bebb followed. His father was a lawyer and I always have carried in the back of my head that Bebb himself was a country physician. I find nothing in these accounts, however, to substantiate that belief. During the periods when he lived on his farm at Fountaineale he could have made his living as a farmer, but there are other periods when he lived elsewhere, including his sojourn in Rockford, and no mention is made of how he was employed.

In checking my list of publications by Mr. Bebb against that included in Deane's biography, I find that I have five additional entries, as follows, which may be of some interest to you:

Bebb, M. S. Notes on willows of Chicago and vicinity, in Babcock, H. H., The flora of Chicago and Vicinity. Supplementary. The Lens 2:(willows)248-50. Dec. 1873. *S. cordata* var. *glaucophylla*, n. var. p. 249.

Bebb, M. S. (Description and notes on) *S. glaucophylla* n. sp. Bebb in Wheeler and Smith, Cat. Plants of Michigan. pp. 72-73. 1881 (also 3 new vars.)

Bebb, M. S. *S. nigra* var. *Wardii*. (Description of and notes on) in L. F. Ward, Flora of Washington and Vicinity, U. S. Nat. Museum Bul. 22:115. 1881. ~~1881~~

Bebb, M. S. *Salix*, in F. V. Coville, Botany of the Death Valley Expedition. Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 4:198-200, Nov. 29. 1893.

Bebb, M. S. in J. N. Rose, Plants from the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming. Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 3:572-573. Aug. 5, 1896. *S. barrattiana tweedyi* n. var. Bebb. p. 572. *S. myrtillofolia curtiflora* (And.) n. comb. p. 573.

The paper by Dr. Rose you will note, appeared after the death of Mr. Bebb, but the other four were considerably earlier.

Your preliminary check list of the herbaceous plants of Winnebago County, Illinois, shows an immense amount of work, but as I am interested only in papers dealing with *Salix*, I am sending this on to the botanists in the National Arboretum Herbarium.

If you or any of your associates are contemplating a companion list of the woody plants, I will be glad to determine any willows for you at any time. I have collected over much of that section of the United States, but never in the Rock River Valley in either Wisconsin or Illinois, although I have driven through Rockford two or three times. I am a firm believer in the work of local botanists and in the value of local floras. Specialists usually realize that only through careful and long-continued observation by local workers can the limits of distribution and the limits of variation ever become known. I am always glad to help in making such work as authentic as possible, so far as the willows are concerned.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Bebb became interested in the willows in the same year, 1873, in which I was born, and that he died in the year in which I graduated from college. While I have a fairly complete set of his publications, I have very few willow specimens which he collected.

- 3 -

I am sorry that most of my reprints which would be of use to you in that area now are no longer available. The papers which would cover most accurately the willows of your area and those found in the two volumes on the trees and shrubs of Indiana by Charles C. Deam. My reprints of both, however, are exhausted.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary

P.S. 1. I note that on page 2 of your recent paper on Bebb, you referred to his father William as a Governor of Illinois. In Deane's paper it was stated that his father had been Governor of Ohio. I am wondering if later he became Governor of Illinois also.

P.S. 2. While I was with the University of California, I met a daughter of Mr. Bebb, a Mrs. Porter, living in the State and having an amateur interest in botany. She gave me some reprints of Bebb's earlier botanical papers which I had not obtained from the Field Museum. I do not know her present address, but I am sending a notice of your recent paper about her father to her through a mutual friend in Berkeley.

CRB

cc: M. S. Ball

July 2, 1942

Dr. Evelyn I. Fernald,
Rockford College,
Rockford, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Fernald:

After writing you this morning, I went down to the library to get the complete citation for your paper but discover that it was not published in Volume 32 with the other papers presented at the Galesburg meeting, nor does it appear in any later issue now in the library. If you can give me the volume number, inclusive pages, and year date of the volume of transactions in which it was published, I can complete my card for permanent filing.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary

re: M. S. Bebb

July 22, 1942

Miss Evelyn I. Fernald,
Department of Botany,
Rockford College,
Rockford, Illinois

Dear Professor Fernald:

In further reference to our correspondence regarding M. S. Bebb, I have just examined Deane's citations of Bebb papers in Bot. Gaz. 7 and 8. I find that one of them is signed "Emesby", which was a pseudonym based on his initials and used elsewhere by him. A second was signed "A Countryman", a pseudonym I had not noted before.

Another note entitled "More About Rafinesque" was signed merely by the initials "M.S.B.". This one (Bot. Gaz. 8: 191-192, 1883) was not cited by Deane but refers to the sketch of Rafinesque earlier (pp. 149-152) in the same volume. None of these appears in the index.

In one of these items Bebb uses a reference to a medical laboratory in a way not natural to one not himself versed in medical knowledge.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Executive Secretary

re M. S. Bebb

May 8, 1942

Professor Evelyn I. Fernald,
Rockford College,
Rockford, Illinois.

Dear Professor Fernald:

Recently I was informed that your presidential address before the Illinois Academy of Science in 1940 discussed or referred to Dr. Michael S. Bebb, the famous salicologist of Fountaindale. As I followed Dr. Bebb as a willow specialist for this country, I naturally am very much interested in what you had to say about him.

I will be very grateful if you could give me a citation to your paper if it has been published, and should reprints be available I would greatly appreciate one.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary

Fernald, Evelyn I. **

1941. Michael S. Webb, Illinois botanist and letter-writer*; Ill. Acad. Sci. Transactions: 12-16: illus.

The letters of Michael Schuck Bebb (1833-1895) are of interest not only to the botanists but to the historians of Illinois. In them are recorded the observations of a man with a keen critical mind and with accurate power of observation combined with a deep love for his fellow men and the world about him. Scraps of wit and humor scattered throughout make them easy to read.

...
In another letter to Blake written December 9, 1864 from Washington, he writes in a more serious vein, as follows:

"I will never be much of a botanist but I can enjoy the dear flowers - and the fellowship of true plant lovers as keenly as the biggest Dr. Hooker of them all - and I question if even he found more satisfaction in working up *Welwitschia* than have I over my microscope and seeds of *Juncus* - After all perhaps we lose in sentiment and enthusiasm to gain in knowledge and fame without enhancing our enjoyment. It is not best to be such a topping Scientist as to lose one's interest in the common things of the nearest meadow - I mean of course for humble botanists who seek recreation - and the cultivation of mind and heart - rather than to study and scramble to augment their reputations as Naturalists."

...
By reading these letters you can understand how he was able to accomplish so much work of real value at considerable distance from any other botanists. In the following letter to Walter Deane (February 8, 1888 from Rockford, Illinois), he gives us an explanation of his "technique".

"My tailor has always made two pockets on the hips of my pantaloons. I am too old perhaps to acquire new habits making them useful. I carry no revolver and have always honored place for my handkerchief. But I have just learned what to do with them and I find they are mighty convenient. I pity people that don't know how to use hip pockets. In one I keep a whole bunch of blank tickets. No matter what I am doing, if it pops into my mind to ask some friend a thousand miles off a question, I out with a ticket, make a memorandum of the question and slip it in the other pocket.---"

(P. 14). His studies of the difficult genus *Salix* are more valuable because he made observations of living specimens as well as pressed specimens.---

"I have been fussing over Willows, my usual winter occupation, and have really become quite enthusiastic. It began with work done in a perfunctory way to discharge obligations to others, but in the prosecution of this, certain fresh lines of investigation had to be followed up and those in the end led to a better understanding of some old questions laid aside as unanswerable.---

Bebb became the world authority on *Salix*. In his early days he devoted some time to *Carex* and corresponded with "that young man Bailey" (Liberty Hyde Bailey).

(P. 16). His whole family was actively interested in his botanical work. An intensive study of the plants of Cook County, Illinois was made by his son Robert, and his son Williams was a well known naturalist in Illinois and Indiana.

* Address presented by the then-retiring president of the Academy before the membership at its annual meeting held in Galesburg, Ill., May 2,3,4, 1940.

** Rockford College, Rockford, Ill.

About Dr. Michael Schwab Bebb.

C O P Y

Wooster, O.
April 20 - '42

Dr. H. B. Humphrey,
Dept. Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

500.116
O

Dear Dr. Humphrey:

Sometime last year you asked whether the Bebb referred to in Stephen R. Williams presidential address to the Ohio Academy of Science in 1941, is related to the botanist who was an authority on Salix. I saw Professor Williams a few days ago - at the Ohio Academy meeting. He said the botanist, Richard S. Bebb, was a son of the earlier Bebb. Strange that the presidential address in Ohio in 1941, and in Illinois, in 1940, would deal with 2 generations of Bebb. It evidently had not been planned that way, since Professor Williams did not know anything about Evelyn Fernald's address on M. I. Bebb, until I handed him an abstract of it the other day; another copy of the abstract is enclosed with this letter.

While I was talking with Professor Williams, another man in the group became very much interested in the address on Bebb. A son, or a grandson of Bebb - son I think - has a very large herbarium of plants he has collected in Oklahoma. This man is now quite ill, and not expected to live long. The third man in this group wished to have a copy of the abstract, since they are now conducting negotiations to obtain Bebb's herbarium for Miami University (Miami, Ohio). I told him that I had another carbon copy of the abstract, but that I had planned to send it to you. He said that he knows you very well; he is Professor Evans of the botany (or biology) department at Miami University. Professor Williams - Emeritus Professor of the same University - told Evans that his copy of the abstract would furnish the needed information.

Sincerely yours,

s/s Morgan W. Evans

October 4, 1929.

Nature Publishing Company,
1558 Park Ave.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of a copy of your book list No. 111 and note on page 1 the entry of a separate by Bebb, which you list as "Notes on the N. Amer. Willows. New Species, etc. (B.C.). 1888."

Bebb published two papers in THE BOTANICAL GAZETTE in 1888. The first is No. I of his notes on North American willows, occupies pages 109-112 of the May issue, and discusses the species barclayi and commutata. The second paper is No. II of his notes, occupies pages 186-87, and plate 10, of the July issue, and discusses S. phyllicoides And.

Please let me know if your entry covers both of these papers, and if it covers only one, which one.

Very sincerely yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Principal Agronomist in Charge.

CRB;RL

The Nature Publishing Co.

1558 PARK AVENUE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

(File: Bebb)
INDIANAPOLIS, IND. October 7, 1929.

Mr. C. R. Ball,
Bureau of Plant Industry,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir;

Replying to yours of the 4th inst., you will find both papers by Bebb listed in List #111. The first one, Pt. I on page 1 and the second one perhaps on page 4, under the title beginning HOWARD. You probably received one of the first numbers of our #111 sent out. In the later ones this second paper of Bebb has been transferred to page 1.

We could not well separate it from the paper by J.D. Smith and so listed the two together at 75¢. The paper by Howard we found was incomplete and so withdrew it from the item.

If you wish the two items you may have ~~them~~ for \$1.00 plus 5¢ postage.

Yours very truly,

THE NATURE PUBLISHING CO.

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ALTAMIRANO, P.--El Palo Amarillo--*Euphorbia elastica*. 1905. 2 pp., 4 pls. 50¢

BABCOCK, M.B. & HALL, H.E.--*Hemizonia congesta*--A Genetic, Ecologic and Taxonomic Study of the Hay-field Tarweeds. 1924. Sm. 4to. 84 pp., 7 pls. (C)
1 lb. \$1.25

BEADLE--Duplicate Plants of the Baltimore Herbarium. 1898. 29 pp. 50¢

BEAL & WHEELER--The Flora of Michigan. 1892. 180 pp. Lists with notes 1746 species. Scarce. 1 lb. \$3.00

2 HERB--Notes on the N. Amer. Willows. New species, etc. (B.C.). 1888. 50¢

BENEDICT & BLANCH--Notes on Plants of Wabash & Cass Cos., Ind. 1891. 25¢

BLAKE--New Amer. Asteraceae 1924. 86 pp., 10 pls. (H) 1 lb. 75¢

BLANKINSHIP, J.W.--Supplement to the Flora of Montana--Additions and Corrections. New species. 1905. 72 pp., 2 pls. Scarce. 1 lb. \$1.20

BLANCHLEY--Flora of Vigo Co., Ind. 137 pp., map. 1896. Lists with notes 853 species of flowering plants and ferns. 1 lb. 60¢

BLANCHLEY--Some Phanerogams new or rare to Indiana. 1896. 14 pp. 40¢

--- The Indiana Weed Book. 1912. 191 pp., 159 figs. Full descriptions of 80 percent of the weeds growing east of the Rocky Mts. 1 lb. \$1.25

BRADNER--Flora of Steuben Co., Ind. 1890. Full notes. 25 pp. 50¢

BRANDENBURG, T. S.--Plantae Mexicanae Purpusianae, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 1912--1924. Sm. 4to. 14--25 pp. each. (C). 40¢ each. The 7, 2 lbs. \$2.25

--- Species Novae vel Raras Cogatas, 1916. Sm. 4to. 6 pp. (C) 40¢

BRITTON, H.L.--Catalogue of Plants found in New Jersey. 1889. 618 pp. Full notes on distribution. Cloth. 3 lbs. \$3.00

--- & ROME--Thompsonella, a New Genus of Grassulaceae from Mexico. 1909. 2 p. 2 pls. (H). 40¢

BROWN, S.--Notes on the Flora of the Bermudas, 1909. 9 pp. 60¢

CHASE, AGNEW--The N. Amer. Species of *Paupulum*, 1929. 327 pp., 142 figs. (H) 2 lbs. \$1.75

CLARK, JOE--Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns observed in the Vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio. 1852. 30 pp. Very rare! \$5.00

COCKE, R. S.--The Flora of the Gulf Biological Station. 1907. 42 pp. Scarce 90¢

COGNIAUX, A.--Racanthus, a New Genus of Cucurbitaceae from Mexico. 2 pp. 1 pl. (H). 40¢