



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.

From Mary Harry
March 31st 1933



My dear Dr. Ball-

Your most kind and
courteous letter came this
evening.

I am very grateful to
you for your interest.

Few persons are interested
in willows, I happen
to be one.

I have a few shrubby
ornamental dwarf willows
which I collected, and I
have been able to
acquire a few more.

I enclose a list.

April 28, 1933.

Mrs. J. Norman Henry,
Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mrs. Henry:

Your very interesting letter of March 31 is received and I am glad to have the list of the species which you are growing. If and when Dr. Pennell sends the herbarium material which you have collected I will be glad to determine them to the best of my ability. One or two of those you are cultivating I do not recognize under the name given but I am not an authority on species of the Old World, although I know many of them when I meet them. I will be especially interested in your collection of northern British Columbia because I am including a portion of that province in my monograph of the Alaska-Yukon species.

I have been interested in the willows since childhood, perhaps because they represent one of the few shrubby groups of plants in my boyhood home on the edge of the Great Plains.

I think you would be interested in a paper I gave at the annual dinner meeting of the California Botanical Society a year ago under the title "The Private Lives of the Willows". Therein I have discussed them from every point of view of popular interest, including diversity of size and habitat, antiquity, numbers of species, effects of the glacial period, and the multitudinous uses from the tanning of the celebrated Seania gloves to the browsing of wild and domestic animals, from the tinder for the Eskimo's fire to the gunpowder of the DuPont factories, and from the spreader for the Arctic canoe to the riprap of the undercut banks of the lower Mississippi. These are merely some of the thousand and one uses. I would like immensely to put this into book form but I doubt the possibility of finding a publisher.

Miss Eastwood, the veteran botanist of the California Academy of Sciences, is not going to sojourn in the habitat of taxifolia this year. I have asked the botanists of Arizona University to see what they could do for you in this connection.

Very truly yours,

May 8.



Dear Dr. Bell -

I received your letter
of Apr. 28.

You are awfully
kind to take so much
trouble about a stranger.

I received a letter
from Prof. Thorelli today
and he says he will
send me seedlings of plants
next autumn.

I appreciate your kind
interest immensely and

hope I may be able to do something
for you some day.

I am enclosing a brief sketch of
our 1931 trip. I went again in 1932
with a daughter. Not so far north
but further west into higher country, in
an unexplored area again.

Quite likely I shall return this
summer. I have a great love
for the Northland.

Would you like me to press
some willows for you if I do
go?

I would be glad to send you
list of plants collected if you wish.

I thank you again for your kindness
and with kind regards

believe me

Very sincerely yours

Mary E. New

May 17, 1933.

Mrs. J. Norman Henry,
Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mrs. Henry:

Your letter of May 8 was duly received together with the little pamphlet describing your exploration in 1931. This I have read with much interest, and Mrs. Ball likewise. It made me homesick for the North wilds. I had a most delightful 3000 miles by auto truck on a scientific expedition in western Canada in 1925. We got no farther north than the Athabaska River at Athabaska Landing. I have not checked your locations accurately on the map but I have a good general idea of where you were.

Professor Thornber wrote me that he would be able to send you *Salix taxifolia* in the Fall. I am wondering if there are any of the Sierra Nevada willows you would like to have. In 1931 I did some work in the high Sierras above Yosemite Park, and last year prowled above Mt. Lassen and the little known Coast Range area on the Oregon line. This summer I have in mind the high and almost unknown Trinity Range in northwest California. After that no definite plans are ahead.

The package of northwestern willows, from Dr. Pennell of the Academy of Natural Sciences has just arrived. I have opened it but not studied the material. Your specimens are there and I shall report to you upon them later. Some of them probably will give me trouble as they represent a very difficult group which I have not worked upon. I am immensely glad to have them, however, because they help to bridge a gap between the central British Columbia material which I know well and that of the Yukon-Alaska area. I would be most delighted if you can collect further material if you return this summer. It is only through adventurous souls like yourself that we finally get to know the distribution of species and northern British Columbia is about the least known area in North America.

With appreciation of your kindness, I am

Very sincerely yours,

CRB:CSB

Carleton R. Ball

MRS. J. NORMAN HENRY
GLADWYNE
PENNSYLVANIA

Jan 11, 1934

My dear Dr. Ball,

I had a thrilling trip this past summer.

Accompanied by my daughter and guides, I covered over 500 miles on horse and foot.

There was much snow on the mountains which made them more magnificent than ever. Travelling was slow and difficult in places and several times our men had narrow escapes.

The fifth day out, crossing the Graham River which carried a fast and turbulent current this year, we lost 450 lbs. of food practically all our butter, jam and canned goods.

However we still had dried stuff and bacon, so we did not wait to replenish but continued on our way.

We encountered colder weather than ever before on these trips, and in places the snow was down in the timber, so I was able to get early spring flowers.

On July 4th the temperature was 20 degrees above zero. I believe I was caught in a snow or sleet storm every time I climbed a mountain, and we were "snowed in" on two passes.

The melting snows formed temporary rivers in many of the valleys and one day going through a "wet" meadow my plant press floated from the pommel of the saddle.

Among the interesting things I found was an outstandingly beautiful blue Clematis, a prostrate dwarf Cactus with lovely 3 in. wide waxy, yellow flowers. An awfully sweet little pale heliotrope colored Corydalis, a pretty yellow Lithospermum, etc. etc.

The Delphinium scopulorum glaucum were unbelievably beautiful (but I always think this) many over 8 ft. high. The tallest one we measured was 9 ft. 3. The variations in color are quite surprising.

Lavender with black stamens
Lavender with plum red stamens
White
Pale blue
Pinky plum

I brought plants home of these.

The fishing was simply marvelous and in one place I caught six beauties in twenty minutes (Arctic & Rainbow trout up to 19 1/2 inches).

On one exciting occasion one of our guides roped a mountain goat.

I wish I could show you some of the movies we have taken on these trips,

they are really splendid, and this year my daughter took a lot of "close up" photographs of flowers which have turned out very well.

We really had a perfectly wonderful time and hope to return again at a not too distant time.

With kindest regards and hoping you are well,

Very sincerely,

Mary P. Harvey

EGO

January 11, 1934

P.S. I hope that you too had an interesting trip and that you & Mrs. Bass are enjoying good health.

During 1934, in the National Horticultural Magazine of which I am a "Contributing Editor", will be published as a series in 4 parts, an account with some flower descriptions & many photographs of my 1931 Expedition. (over) (See over)

If you have no access to
this magazine I will be glad
to send you a year's
subscription, some of the
photos are "close-ups" of the
flowers.

Any time you happen to
hear of any rare hardy
Californian shrub that is
ornamental I would be glad to
know if it is available.

Or if you ever have
time to greet me up a
rare willow (dec. ornamental)
or native shrub I would be
so glad to send you
something in exchange
M. G. H.

May 22, 1934.

Mrs. J. Norman Henry,
Gladwyne, Penna.

My Dear Mrs Henry:

It was good of you to write me last January about your trip to the wilds of northern British Columbia. I am much interested in the trip, its thrills and its finds. I imagine climbing giant delphiniums and cutting off the upper limbs!

I have determined the willows, received through Dr. Pennell of the Phila. Acad. Nat. Sciences, and have sent them back to him. For your information I inclose a list of them. Three of these specimens did not have numbers on the labels, you will note.

This collection extends the known range of *S. barrattiana* Albertana (Rowl.) Schn., probably. Also that of the var. of *S. polaris*. All of *polaris* from Northwest America differs from the typical plant of northern Europe in having narrower, more obovate or elliptical, less veiny leaves and more glabrate or glabrous capsules. Your specimens are much like those of Alaska.

The specimen labelled *S. glauca* may be the long-lost desertorum of the Franklin Expedition. I will look up authentic original specimens and see if it matches.

Please tell me just where in B.C. these were collected. If you can give approximate latitude and longitude it will help much. Reference to major mountain systems or river systems will help if the lat. and long. are not known. The place names you mention do not appear on maps ~~xxx~~ accessible to me here.

Thanks for the reference to the Nat. Hort. Mag. I will look it up in the Univ. Library. Doubtless it will answer my queries geographic. In the February issue of Sunset Magazine is a little poem of mine which I called "Yucca Bloom" but the editors christened "Candles of the Lord".

I have had almost no time in the field for a year. The press of emergency activities chains many of us. If I get a chance at rare and ornamental plants I will remember you. But I will do better than that. I will speak to two or three friends who do ferns afield and do grow wild plants.

Mrs. and Mrs. Harold E. Parks, "Spruce Cove", Trinidad, Calif., are establishing a wild plant business in the redwood area of northwest Calif. Mrs. Kenneth Saunders of High Acres, Berkeley, is up there now. Her husband is in Bengal, I think. She grows wild flowers and shrubs as a hobby. Then there are some botanists who can help.

I would love to see those motion pictures and photographs. Mrs. Ball and I will be in Washington this winter I think and there may be a chance.

Most Cordially

Carleton R. Ball

August 7, 1934.

Mrs. J. Norman Henry
Gladwyne, Penna.

Dear Mrs. Henry:

I was just about to write you and try to express my belated thanks thanks for the National Horticultural Magazine and my delight in reading your first article when came your letter of August first.

After reading the text and dringing the pictures and and well realize your enthusiasm for the that unspoiled land. Mrs. Ball has greatly enjoyed it also and now I am lending the paper to a friend.

Your maps, so kindly sent, are here, a little crushed but not injured. I shall study them with care, and pleasure, and return them long before November snows fly again. From the fact that you tubed them for mailing, I infer that you prefer to have them rolled rather than folded for shipment.

I am delighted to know that you will be showing your movies in Washington this winter and hope to be there before that time. I also am not straying far this summer, as I am trying to complete my two volumes here and return East. When my son, aviation editor for the Washington News, drops in shortly we may hit the Sierr as briefly.

The friend of whom I spoke, who will be intensely interested in your trips, is Mr. Thomas T. McCabe, youngish unmarried, and of sufficient means to go pretty much where he pleases. In the past several years he has spent his summers in the dry interior of British Columbia, on the upper reaches of the Big Thompson and the Fraser, and tributaries. Primarily interested in mammals and birds which he studies intensively he also collects plants and has just brought in a special collection of the willows, in- one which looks new.

Your kind invitation to Philadelphia and Gladwyne is appreciated. Very probably we can accept. If we are there in Washington we will be most delighted to have you as our guests. Our houses is rented and we may have to take an apartment for a time after returning as our arrival date is so uncertain.

Most cordially

Carleton R. Ball

MRS. J. NORMAN HENRY
GLADWYNE
PENNSYLVANIA

March 7, 1935

Dear Dr. Ball,

I do hope that you and Mrs. Ball have been well and enjoyed a pleasant winter.

Thank you so much for sending me the booklet on Salix. As you know they are among my very favorite shrubs, and I am awfully pleased and grateful to you for sending me this valuable store of information.

I am mailing you reprints, bound, of my recent articles which appeared in the National Horticultural Magazine last year. I do hope you will find time to read it.

I have just finished an article on my 1932 expedition to northern B. C. which will begin in the April number of the National Horticultural Magazine. If all goes well, I am planning another trip to northern B. C. starting at Hudson Hope. I hope to ride through to Dease Lake. I am told that this trip has never been made, but I do not know if this is so, or not. Anyhow, the trip

(See over)

should be a thrilling one.

My daughter and guides will be the
other members of my little expedition.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely,

May¹⁵. Henry

EGO

Address: Extension Service,
U. S. Dept. Agri.
June 3, 1939.

Mrs. J. Norman Henry,
Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mrs. Henry:

I recently received a small collection of willows made by Mrs. John F. S. Fletcher in north central British Columbia. I enclose a copy of an extract from her letter locating and describing the area.

Mrs. Fletcher states that she and her husband have built a cabin on this little lake but for financial reasons have not been able to return to it in the last year or two.

It occurs to me that you may be planning a further exploration of northern British Columbia and that while this is farther south than the area you covered, it apparently is quite unexplored. Her material extended the northern and westward range of three willows, *S. lasiandra* Abramsi Ball, *S. pedicellaris* hypoglauca Fernald, and *S. subcoerulea* Piper. The first one previously was known to occur as far north as Jasper Park in Alberta and the other two range far to the north of that to northeastern British Columbia and adjacent Alberta.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary

Mrs. J. Norman Henry
Gladwyne, Pennsylvania

June 19, 1939

Dear Dr. Ball,

I do think it was most kind of you to think of me and I appreciate your letter and enclosure very much indeed.

I have not been to British Columbia since my long trip in 1935, but have hopes of returning again next year.

The last several years I have found it easier to visit our south-eastern states, where I have been working with shrubs, particularly Azaleas, and certain herbaceous plants such as Trilliums and Lilies.

Some of the Willows that I have brought back are doing nicely, *Salix brachycarpa* and *Salix alaxensis*.

If I go north again I suppose it will be between the Peace and the Liard, as I have a great liking for that particular section of the country.

EGO

Very sincerely yours,

Mary J. Henry

Send 50 Willows

June 30, 1939.

Mrs. J. Norman Henry,
Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mrs. Henry:

Your letter of June 19 was promptly received and I am interested to know that two of the willow species you brought back from northern British Columbia are growing well in Pennsylvania, and that you hope to return to that area again next year. If I receive Dr. Rupp's material from the Laird River before that time, I will give you a list of what I find.

I am interested to know that you are working with the shrubs of the Southeastern States. There are many beautiful things in the southern Appalachians and I know that you will have great joy in transplanting them to your estate. The beautiful *Franklinia* described from north Georgia apparently has disappeared entirely in nature and is known only from cultivated specimens.

I am sending you separately a copy of my paper on the Willows of the Southern States.

With personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary,
Coordinating Committee.

Mrs. Mary Gibson Henry,
Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.
7 December, 1949

Dear Mrs. Henry:

I am writing the Alaska-Yukon willows for Dr. J.P. Anderson. Remembering your collecting trips in unexplored norther B.C., I have just retrieved your two publications of 1933 and 1934 from my library file. They make me wonder if I owe you a thousand and one apologies.

The larger volume is inscribed to me on "March 8, 1935" and presumably the little pamphlet was sent at the same time. The latter contains, on p. 7, a handwritten note by you regarding your collection which Dr. Raup identified as *S. arbusculoides*.

I immediately looked for correspondence, but can find none. March, 1935, was just before I left California University to return to Washington with the Terr. Valley Authority. If I received these papers in Calif., I may not have time to write you because of plans and packing. Or it may be that some of the five years of correspondence in Calif. may be in a carton in my attic yet.

In any case, I am extremely sorry if I failed to thank you for the papers and to offer any help I might be able to give regarding the willows. I have just read 65 pages of your little volume and find it the most entrancing tale of an exploring trip I have ever had opportunity to read.

Born off a cattle ranch, and having done field work in every State of the U.S. and much of western Canada, I thought I knew something of roughing it, but some of your tales of the muskeg, the deep rivers, the biting cold, and the freezing rain by day and night, told me that you and yours have far excelled me at that.

If there still are any questions on which I can help you, either with your herbarium material or that which you have under cultivation, I will do the very best I can, at any time.

With appreciation of your courtesy, I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

P.S. Separately, I send a copy of my "Willows: ⁺⁺Helpers of Man", in which
you may find something of interest. ^h



MRS. J. NORMAN HENRY • GLADWYNE, PENNSYLVANIA

February 7, 1950.

Dear Dr. Ball:-

It was awfully nice hearing from you again. I should have acknowledged your letter of December 7th before this, but the Christmas season with a big family, although a happy one is a difficult one to dig out from under.

It was awfully good of you to make such kind remarks in your letter. I love that country better than any part of the world.

I have always said that we enjoy good times a hundredfold when hard work brings them to us. People have been so kind and appreciative of my work and it makes me try to do more than ever to deserve it all. Perhaps I enjoy it all the more because I was a wife and mother for many, many years and my family always came first. When my four children grew up, then I really hit the high-spots and I had a wonderful husband who made it all possible.

Thank you for sending me your copy of "The Willows". Willows have always had a fascination for me from their earliest little pussies and even their bare stems in winter. I still have a few of my far northern ones, but cannot make them thrive as I would wish them to.

The big reward for my four seasons "off the map" in Northern British Columbia came on December 18th, 1948 when I told the story of my northern adventures before the Royal Scottish Geographical Society with an audience of over 1500. The Society presented me with its Mungo Park Medal for my explorations in northern British Columbia.

In the coming 1950 "Herbertia", published in Washington, editor, Dr. Hamilton P. Traub, there will appear my autobiography with photographs. Maybe some day if you have a few minutes to spare you will glance at it.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Mary G. Henry

FAC



Mrs. J. Norman Henry,
Gladys, Pennsylvania.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.
26 June, 1950

Dear Mrs. Norman:

Your very interesting letter of 7 May has been scandalously neglected and I feel quite ashamed ("discomobulated" in Californian). Mrs. Ball and I both had quite severe cases of the epidemic virus flu (long since past), and more recently she has had a double operation, from which she made remarkable recovery and was sent home at the end of 11 days. Still weak but getting around and enjoying her many friends. I write steadily when other things permit.

I am delighted to know that you were privileged to tell your frontier story before the large and distinguished audience at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in Dec., 1948. It must have been a very pleasant experience and the Munro Park medal will be a cherished memento for you and yours. Congratulations. I certainly will look up the 1950 *Herbertia* in the Library very soon. I'm glad that you informed me about it.

Early this year I mentioned your work to the president of the Juneau Botanical Society. This is a group of Juneau housewives and other workers^u (women), who conduct botanical expeditions in an effort to collect and study the Alaskan flora and make it better known to others. They immediately wanted to know where they could get your published story.

You very kindly sent me copies of your briefer story (Exploring and plant collecting in northern A.C. 1933) and of the longer booklet (Collecting plants beyond the frontier in northern A.C. 1934). (If you still have available copies of either or both of these, I will be very joyful if you can send them to Mrs. V.F. (Maxine) Williams, Box 2327, Juneau, Alaska. I will gladly repay cost and mailing expense as soon as you can let me know the amount. If these are no longer available, I will loan her my copies but I am just too selfish to give them away.

I refer to them from time to time and only yesterday was showing them to a Florida friend here en route to visit a daughter near Philadelphia (Mylen). She was much interested in the pictures, which is all she had time to read. By the way, in the shorter paper, I made a disconcerting discovery.

In paragraph 3 on p. 7, you speak of *Salix brachycarpa* and "another handsome willow" About this latter willow, you had pencilled a footnote reading: "Dr. Reup calls this *S. arbusculoides*. I doubt it. As I have living plants, I am anxious to have the correct name for it. It is a beautiful shrub to 12 feet."

Did I ever identify this particular willow for you? Some of my old correspondence is packed away and this probably was in early 1935. If you have not had it named, I will be delighted to make up for lost time, if possible. It probably can be determined very easily from foliage specimens without either flowers or fruits. If you still have it growing and could send even a small fragment of 3 or 4 inches long, or even a few detached leaves, I think that it can be named accurately. I shall feel badly if I neglected an opportunity to be useful, after your kindness to me.

With appreciation and all good wishes, I am
COMMUNAL CREDIT CORPORATION

Cordially yours,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Carleton R. Ball

March 10.

MRS. J. NORMAN HENRY
GLADWYNE
PENNSYLVANIA

My dear Dr. Ball.

I hesitate to trouble you but there are so few persons interested in willows and I note in the "Naturalists' Directory" that you are.

Growing rare ornamental shrubs is my hobby, I have over 700 different kinds and I am particularly interested in natives.

I am very fond of willows and for some years have been trying to obtain Salix taxifolia from the South West.

Do you happen to know from whom I can obtain it? I am willing to pay a liberal price.

(See over)

Dr Cider could not help me.
I am so sorry to trouble you
and hope you will pardon me for
doing so.

I thank you if you are kind
enough to reply.

Very sincerely
Mary E. Hany

Mrs. J. Norman Hany
Member of Council. Pa. Hort. Soc.
Contributing Ed. National Hort. Magazine

Willows growing at Gladwyne.

10-III...

MRS. J. NORMAN HENRY
GLADWYNE
PENNSYLVANIA

- Salix repens*
" " *argentea*
C " *fulchra* (monocious var. Amiskew River)
C " *tristis*
" *magnifica*
" *tetrapla*
" *irrorata*
" *petrophila*
C " *saxi-montana* (northern B.C.)
" *glaucops*
C " *barroetiana* (northern B.C.)
" *multinervis*
C " *arbusculoides*? (northern B.C.)
" *brachycarpa* (Colorado)
C " " (near Jasper)
C " " (northern B.C.)

and a few others not yet
determined.

C = collected