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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.

Feb. 20, 1924.

Dr. Frank T. McFarland,
Department of Botany,
University of Kentucky,
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Dr. McFarland;

Replying to the postscript in your letter of February 7,

I would say that should you find it possible to collect willow material in Kentucky during the coming season, I shall be very glad to examine it. I do not know what such a survey might develop, but I have the feeling that some of our species range further south than the manuals give them credit for and that a little collecting on your part might serve to show whether or not this is true. Whether unnamed forms are to be found in the State I cannot say, as I have never collected within its border myself, nor is there much Kentucky material in the herbarium^a with which I am familiar. Do not feel, however, that you should, in any way, put yourself out to obtain such material on my account.

Very sincerely yours,

C. R. Ball

CRB/ecs

Address:

Extension Service, U. S. Dept. Agric.

October 24, 1938

Professor Frank T. McFarland,
Department of Botany,
University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Dear Professor McFarland:

When I was at the University to confer with Dean Cooper a week ago, I tried to find time to see you but failed, to my regret.

I am much interested in getting information on the distribution of willow species in the southern States, preparatory to a monograph in two or three years.

To this end I will be glad to identify willows in the herbariums of institutions or private collectors at any time. If you care to send those from the herbarium of your Department, I would like to have the counties shown for all Kentucky specimens.

I am sending you separately, a reprint of my paper in Castanea, giving keys to southern willows based primarily on vegetative characters. As you will note from this paper, willows can be identified from foliage specimens, without flowers or fruit, desirable as these are, and therefore may be collected at any time during the leafy season.

Salix nigra occurs throughout your State, I suppose, and *S. cordata*, *S. sericea*, and *S. longipes* Wardii should occur in the mountains and perhaps at other points. *S. humilis* and *S. tristis* likewise may occur at higher elevations, on balds or plateaus. *S. interior* (*longifolia*) occurs in west Ky.

I have found *S. petiolaris*, a plant of the northern glaciated areas, in S.W. Virginia and in the mountains of extreme northern Georgia. It may be looked for in your eastern mountains. Probably other surprises await the collector.

I will be glad to send you duplicates of some of these species collected in the southern States, if you care to have them. I do not have many now but will send what I have and hope to collect more next season. Have had but little time for it in the last three years.

I would consider the purchase of specimens of species other than *S. nigra* collected in Kentucky, if you have students or assistants who would be interested in doing it while on trips or vacation.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Executive Secretary

P. S. I neglected to mention the introduced species, *S. alba* (White W), *S. fragilis* (Crack or Brittle W), and *S. babylonica* (Weeping W), found more or less commonly in cultivation or escaped.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

LEXINGTON

27 October 1938

Doctor Carlton R. Ball,
Bureau Plant Industry,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Doctor Ball:

Your letter of recent date has come to hand ^{and} ~~was~~ it was rather a peculiar coincidence in that I was going to write you last night to ask if it would be too much trouble to look over a few Salix that I had collected this fall. I am very sorry indeed that we did not get a chance to see each other when you were in Lexington. I know what it means when one is on official business.

Now to the point of order. Immediately after reading your letter the assistants in my department and I decided that we would make a trip to the western part of the state and we leave Friday (tomorrow morning) and will make the trip one of Salix above everything else. After our return Sunday and the plants are well cured out I shall send them on to you and there will be no charge for any of the material as we are more than glad to get them named by one who has spent the greater part of his life on them. I have always told my students that you were the authority on them.

After having received our plants and if there are any that you have that we do not have represented I shall be glad to receive herbarium specimens for our herbarium.

I have always considered the Salix very difficult and have done very little on their collection and identifications.

I trust the next time you are in Lexington that you will let me know and stay with us and we will try to make it as comfortable as possible while you are here. Dr. R. M. Harper was with me about two weeks ago.

Yours very sincerely,

Frank T. McFarland

Frank T. McFarland
Professor and Head of the
Department

Address:

Extension Service, U. S. Dept. Agric.

November 28, 1938

Prof. Frank T. McFarland,
Department of Botany, University of
Kentucky, Lexington.

Dear Professor McFarland:

On November 23, I sent back the collection of mounted willows to your herbarium, by express prepaid. I hope that they have arrived safely.

I felt ashamed of the chewed-up letter I wrote you on November 12. I determined some of the specimens at night when artificial light must be used. Occasionally it gets one into difficulties. I misdetermined one specimen and wrote the letter on the same night. Next day I went over them by daylight and ~~mis~~detected the error, but had to delete one paragraph, as I had no time to rewrite the letter.

I note also that I did not thank you for the generous gift of the specimens of your recent collecting. The fact that I have my private herbarium enables me to determine many more collections than I could do if I had to visit an institutional herbarium to compare difficult material. My collection now exceeds 13,000 mounted sheets, and is the largest and most complete in North America. It contains only Salix. I have it housed in my office and therefore can do determinations at odd moments with no loss of time.

I have to determine some 1000 to 2000 specimens per year for official agencies, such as the National Herbarium, the Forest Service, the Biological Survey, the Soil Conservation Service, and others. I do about an equal number for State agencies and private collectors. In the last few years much work has been done for Canadian and Alaskan collectors and I am monographing the Salix of Alaska and the Yukon.

I am preparing maps of distribution of southern species and plan to present them at the Richmond meetings next month. Your material is very helpful in that work.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Executive Secretary

P.S. Thanks again for the offer of hospitality when in Lexington. I hope to be there again next summer. If you come this way be sure to let me know, preferably in advance, as I often can arrange my trips with respect to plans of visitors.

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OF KENTUCKY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

LEXINGTON

October 29, 1939.

Doctor Carleton R. Ball,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Doctor Ball:

The collecting season is now over and I have been Salix conscious nearly all summer. Have collected in as many places in Kentucky and in a couple of trips into and near Columbus Ohio I collected a few.

The during early September I made a trip to near Mackinaw City and in the upper area I collected quite a few new ones not known to me. Some of these are very beautiful and I only wish that I had them growing in my garden.

Now the question is, do you want to be bother with looking over these which I suppose amounts to about 50 sheets? The collection if yours if you want to look them over.

Yours very sincerely,

Frank T. McFarland,

Frank T. McFarland
Professor and Head of the
Department

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



LEXINGTON

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

August 14, 1942.

Doctor Carelton R. Ball,
Extension Service,
U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.

My dear Doctor Ball:

Your letter with a list of determinations for Miss Mary E. Wharton came during a very busy time when I was teaching during the first term. I thought I would have a chance to write you then but since I started trying to find the easiest way to eradicate weeds of 6 acres, I now have time in the evening or during rainy weather to catch up with my correspondence.

I wish to thank you very kindly for this list and I note what you have to say regarding the *Salix humilis* var. *rigidiuscula*.

Miss Wharton's work is largely ecological and since she has had very little in chemistry or geology I am afraid that she will not be able to interpret her results. Prof. Bartlett's idea was that the region in which Miss Wharton was doing her collecting was the oldest outcrop in the state but he is mistaken here as it is one of the youngest. This region in which she has done her collecting is more or less oil bearing shales and it is likely that this may affect the plants. I will keep your notes before me and when I am in this region again I shall make it my business to study these plants more intensively. Again thanking you for your interest in my work and I shall send you further material for determination when I am able to come across more. However, I am reducing all collecting to almost zero for the time being.

Yours very sincerely,

Frank T. McFarland

Frank T. McFarland,
Professor of Botany.



August 17, 1945

Dr. C. R. Ball;

Dear Colleague:

On August 30. Dr. Charles C. Deam will be eighty years old. From the letters I have received from him recently, he plans on being in the field collecting as he has done for many years past. It has always been his idea that he and I be together on his birthday and that is what I am going to do, be with him on this date and perhaps be in the field together, weather permitting, somewhere in Harrison County, Indiana.

It is a very rare thing for a man of his age to be actively collecting and I thought it most fitting that as many of his botanical friends write him a letter of congratulation as possible.

Mr. Deam does not know that I am instigating this birthday greeting and if you can do so, I would appreciate it very greatly but by all means DO NOT mention my name in connection with this greeting since I do not want him to know how this greeting got started. Of course he will blame me, but I will play innocent.

I would suggest that you use a standard letterhead, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11, and leave at least an inch and a quarter margin on the left side and three quarters of an inch on the right side, so that eventually all letters may be bound in book form.

Please mail letter as soon as possible to Dr. Charles C. Deam, care of New Corydon Hotel, Corydon, Indiana. Permit me to say that in the event this letter does not reach you in time to write him before his birthday, do so anyway, as I would like to see as many of his friends as possible send their greetings. This applies to some who may be on vacation and will not get this letter in time for his birthday, but write anyway.

Yours very truly,

*Frank D. McFarland*Frank D. McFarland
Professor of Botany*(over)*

Dr. Frank T. McFarland,
Department of Botany,
Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.

August 23, 1945

Dear Dr. McFarland:

I very much appreciate your letter of August 17, reminding me that Dr. Deam's 80th birthday anniversary is approaching, and that a collection of letters from his friends is planned for.

To be sure that mine gets written, I have given it immediate attention and inclose a copy for your information. As there will be many of them, it is just as well that they do not all arrive on August 30 and wear him out with continued reading.

It will be just splendid if you can be with him on that day and if you can both keep the record perfect by getting into the field for the joy of study and collecting. I surely would like to be there, but I am only 72 and mere children should not spoil their elders' fun.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

P.S. With end of war duties, I hope to get back to my Salix monograph at once, and to my spot-mapping of southern collections.

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Dr. Frank T. McFarland,
Dept. Botany, Univ. of Kentucky,
Lexington, Kentucky.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.
Washington 15, D.C.

December 8, 1948

Dear Dr. McFarland:

I was extremely sorry to learn, through Science, that the Dept. Botany had been completely burned out, entailing a total loss of herbarium and equipment, as well as experimental material. Please accept my sincere sympathy.

I may have a few duplicates of *Salix* species in stock and, if so, I shall be glad to send you what I have. This I will not do until January, however, partly because of extreme writing pressure just now and partly because December is reserved for Christmas mail.

If I remember correctly, you or Professor McInteer sent me several Kentucky willow specimens for determination some years ago and kindly allowed me to keep the materials for my own *Salix* herbarium. It is at the Dept. of Agric. so that I cannot check on that today. If I find such specimens, I will be glad to take them out and return them to you as a nucleus for the new and better herbarium which you will accumulate.

It may be that I have a few botanical publications around which I am not using any more. I cleared out a lot of such material when I moved to California in 1930 and still more when the appeals came to rebuild the war-devastated libraries in Europe. But I think that there are a few things around.

Evidently I missed the first account of the fire, as printed in Science, and so I do not know how the fire got started.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

The losses suffered by the Department of Botany at the University of Kentucky on November 12 when fire almost totally destroyed Norwood Hall, in which it was housed, have been reported to Science. The entire herbarium of approximately 30,000 plants and most of the equipment were completely destroyed. An adjacent greenhouse was badly damaged, and most of the plants in it, including several thousand research seedlings, were killed by heat. Wayne C. Hall, Frank T. McFarland, and B. B. McInteer, members of the Botany staff, lost all personal material kept in the building, their collections, and libraries, one of which contained several thousand books. While the office of Herbert P. Riley, head of the Department, was not burned, a number of books in it were damaged by water. Much valuable material was also lost by the Kentucky Geological Survey and the State Department of Mines, which shared the building.

From F.T.
McFarland

LEXINGTON 29

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

December 29, 1948.

Dr. C. R. Ball,
3814 Jocelyn Street, N. W.
Washington 15, D.C.

Dear Dr. Ball:

Many thanks for your valued letter of the 8th of December. Since receiving it I have been poring over catalogues so much that I have just about dazed my brains.

The department building was destroyed early on the morning of the 12th of Nov., and it started with a terrific explosion in the southeast corner in the basement. Termites had infested that section and a goodly portion of that room had been torn out in preparation of treatment for the termites. Altho the business agent and Pres. blamed faulty wiring as the cause but since I had been keeping rather close tab on the work, there were no exposed wires and nothing that I could see that would cause an explosion except a large number of jugs of petroleum stored nearby. No one here seemed to want an investigation and none followed. It is my opinion that kerosene had been used (altho everyone said no treatment had yet been given, and with two large steam pipes that went thru the room which made the room unbearably hot. If it was treated with the kerosene it is probably that it had been vaporized to the point of ignition and the other guess was that since the (not named) oil company who was using the basement for testing all their petroleum products, and it may have been that way hundreds of gallons of testing material that may have been the cause.

Of course I lost my entire library which was large and select because I was really compelled to buy such a one to do my work here. The university never granted us more than \$50 per year to buy books and for that reason I started buying my own and had them in my inner office where I did the greater part of my work. In truth my library was unusually complete and much larger than that of the university.

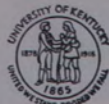
I collected extensively of ferns and fungi and I had around 2600 sheets of ferns and these were all destroyed. As a matter of fact I had not a thing left after the fire. The university herbarium was also lost and as I walked across the campus this morning there were hundreds of half burned sheets scattered on the ground and most if not all of these were Composites. Many of them were old plants collected over a hundred years ago.

For the past six or seven years and really ever since I started to enlarge the herbarium very little encouragement has been given me for doing the work. I am really afraid they thought it was more or less a nuisance that I was making such a collection. Now since the herbarium is gone they are beginning to realize that it was important in teaching and there is talk of putting me on full time and allowing me to send the summer collecting, a thing I have talked about for 25 years.

It was I that sent you the greater part of the *Salix* from this state and I believe it was in 1939. No use to send me any right now since we have no cases and if it is OK I shall be glad to send you collections this summer if I do get in the field as I hope. As for literature I shall be glad to get anything that you wish to send or you are going to throw away. At present I have less than a dozen books and some which I had were really rare. I got my set of BPI Bulletins complete when I bought all the missing numbers from the Griffiths library and thru the Brooklyn Bot Gar. Now all efforts are in ashes. All my journals were complete sets and practically none of them are complete at the main library. I am not intending to building up another library as it is too expensive and at my age I see no use for it. Do not have a single thing left on fungi and I had a very complete working library of it.

I have for the past five or six years started on building a private arboretum and I have a large amount of material and for the past three or four years since the GI's

UNIVERSITY



OF KENTUCKY

LEXINGTON 29

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

returned to school I did not have time to make permanent zinc labels for my propagated material and most of it was under an accession number in the field and the names were in accession books. It was my luck to be working all that week making labels and on Thursday I had worked so long and since I was tired I thought that I would leave labels books in the office and the next morning I was called at 6am and told of what happened and the first thing I thought of was my records. Hoever, I am repropagating as much as I as I can get again.

A few weeks ago I learned that the Sanford arboretum in Knoxville, Tenn was to be sold and cut up into building lots and I have permission to go and get all the cuttings and scions as I can carry away, so I am leaving Thursday morning for Knoxville and will spend two or three days cutting all the fine material I can. It will mean a lot of work for me when I get back but since we have so darn little in way of material to teach classes, I can spend all that spare time in getting the propagating material in storage.

So many of my friends have written me for details of the fire and it has really a lot of writing and this accounts for such a letter as I am writing you. I did not really know how many botanical fiends I had in the U.S. until the letter have been rolling in on me.

I am very glad to have heard again from you and hope to hear from you again sometime soon. And if you wish to be bothered again with specimens of *Salix* from Ky this summer I shall be glad to give them especial attention and hope to get into many more counties than I have been in before.

Trusting that you have had a pleasant Merry Christmas and hoping that you will have a very fine Happy New Year.

Yours very sincerely,

Frank T. McFarland,

Frank T. McFarland.

P. S. Just received a fine long letter from Dr. Deam who is spending the winter in Naples, Fla., What a grand botanist and man!

Enclosed is the burned building as seen on Monday after the fire. No need to return. My offices were to the right of the ^{arched} door way & my best books were in back office thru small door in dark wall.



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