



**ArchivesSpace**  
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

## **Bessey, Charles Edwin 36**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 15, 2022.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Collection Inventory .....	4

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Charles Edwin Bessey (1845–1915) papers
<b>ID:</b>	HIBDARC.36
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1867–1914, n.d.
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.25 Linear Feet 1 folder
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Charles Edwin Bessey was an American Botanist born on 21 May 1845 in Milton, Ohio. Homeschooled by his father until the age of seventeen, Bessey went on to attend Michigan Agricultural College where he was encouraged by his professors to pursue Botany as his specialty. He became an instructor of Botany and Horticulture at Iowa State College of Agriculture at Ames beginning in 1869. Upon earning his Master of Science degree, he was promoted to professor. In 1884 he accepted an offer from the University of Nebraska to become professor of Botany.

Among his many achievements, Bessey developed a modern system for plant classification, which he detailed in the publication *Phylogenetic Taxonomy of Flowering Plants* (1915). Prior to creating this system, Bessey was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Iowa University in recognition for publications in his field as well as his scientific endeavors in the state of Iowa.

Bessey passed away on 25 February 1915 after battling a critical illness for several weeks. Bessey's accomplishments and scientific contributions to the state of Nebraska were memorialized in 2007 when he was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

This collection consists mainly of Charles Edwin Bessey's handwritten notes and drafts, including a "list of flowers analyzed" (1867, 22 pp.), a freshman botany lecture (1878, 16 pp.); notes on the importance of enthusiasm in teaching botany (1914, 4 pages); and notes to his friend and renowned botanist Asa Gray (2 pp.). In addition the collection includes papers on the topics "the Phyla, Classes, and Orders of Plants" (12 pp.); "Robert W. Furman's Work on Forestry" (9 pp.); and Filices, Equisetaceae, Lycopodiaceae, Musci, Hepaticaceae, Characeae and Thallophyta (19 pp.). Also found here are two letters (1899, 1901) appointing Bessey a collaborator in the Division of Forestry, U.S.D.A., a printed invitation (1909) to a banquet at the University of Nebraska in honor of his fortieth year as a professor of botany, and other items.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Collection Inventory

---

Title/Description	Instances
Notes, drafts and papers, 1867–1914, n.d. Digital Object: <a href="http://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/36/36-1-1.pdf">http://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/36/36-1-1.pdf</a>	folder 1