Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927) papers, 1868- : Guide

Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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Descriptive Summary
Repository: Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA
Call No.: I B CSS
Location: Archives
Title: Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927) papers, 1868-
Creators: Charles Sprague Sargent; Archives of the Arnold Arboretum
Quantity: 13 boxes and 16 volumes (8 linear feet)
Language of material: English
Abstract: Compiled primarily during his tenure as first director of the Arnold Arboretum, Sargent’s papers include biographical material, correspondence, collection notes, published works, and photographs of Sargent and family. Dating back to 1868, the collection reflects the activities and development of the Arnold Arboretum from the collaboration of Olmsted and Sargent in the landscape design of the Arboretum, to the exploration, identification, cultivation, and introduction of plant material by the Arnold to other Arboreta, nurseries and the public.
Note: Access to Finding Aid record in Hollis.
Preferred Citation: Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927) papers, 1868-.
Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.
Additional Material: More Charles Sprague Sargent correspondence may be available in the Arnold Arboretum Correspondence Database.

Processing Information

Acquisition Information
Provenance: When Charles Sprague Sargent assumed the directorship of the Arnold Arboretum in 1872 only the land on which the institution would take form existed. Without a building on site Sargent used “Dwight house” a large house located nearby in Brookline on his estate, Holm Lea. Although Sargent also had offices at the Bussey Institution adjacent to the Arboretum, and at the Gray Herbarium, in Cambridge, “Dwight House” headquartered Sargent’s library and herbarium and first administrative offices of the Arnold Arboretum until 1892 when the Hunnewell building was constructed on the Arboretum’s grounds. Sargent’s library and herbarium, along with some of his correspondence files moved from his estate to “the museum,” as the building was called, late in 1892. The majority of the Charles Sprague Sargent papers were acquired after his tenure as the first Arnold Arboretum Director.
In 1990 Ignatius Sargent generously donated 22 letters written by Andrew Robeson Sargent to his mother in 1903 during his trip around the world exploring plants with his father Charles Sprague Sargent and John Muir. Also included with this donation was one letter from John Muir to Mary Robeson Sargent written during the trip. The Archives continues to collect articles to supplement Series I: Biographical Material.

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Biographical Note

Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927) was the first director of the Arnold Arboretum, and served the institution for over 54 years. Born to a prominent Boston merchant family, his unique vision, horticultural knowledge, publications, commitment to education, and tenacity led to the creation of the first public arboretum in North America, along with its library, herbarium, and prominence in the history of Boston. As the penultimate link in The Emerald Necklace, a network of parkland designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the Arnold Arboretum continues through the seasons as a living testament to the Sargent legacy.

Sargent was born April 24, 1841, the third child of Henrietta Gray and Ignatius Sargent, a successful Boston merchant, banker, and railroad financier. The family moved to the “Holm Lea” (inner pasture) estate in Brookline, Massachusetts when Charles was six years old. He became interested in horticulture through his relatives Henry Winthrop Sargent (1810-1882) and Horatio Hollis Hunnewell (1810-1902), whose organic approach to cultivating landscapes had been influenced by Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852). The neighboring landscape gardens and estates of Brookline reflected this influence, and shaped how Sargent would approach his life’s work at Arnold Arboretum.
After graduation from Harvard College in 1862, Sargent joined the United States Army and served during the remainder of the Civil War. His duty was mostly in Louisiana, where he was brevetted the rank of major. With the conclusion of the war, he did not seem overly eager to follow his father’s career path in finance. His life, took a profound turn when he was encouraged by family to tour Europe’s botanical gardens. Documentation about his journey is scarce; however it is known that Sargent returned after three years in Europe with a renewed determination and keen interest in plant life which he applied to the care of the grounds at Holm Lea. He nurtured good relations with his neighbors, which later would prove beneficial, as most were families of means and influence, while continuing to broaden his knowledge of landscape architecture and taxonomy, and amassing an impressive store of botanical knowledge.

In 1869, Harvard professor of botany Asa Gray (1810-1888) learned of a provision in the will of New Bedford merchant James Arnold (1781-1868) for the “promotion of Agricultural, or Horticultural improvements” (SBS 30-31). With the help of George Barrell Emerson (1797-1881) he set in motion the formation of the Arnold Arboretum and Bussey Institution by the combination of Arnold’s monetary bequest and the earlier bequest of land in Jamaica Plain by Benjamin Bussey (1757-1842). Sargent was appointed by Gray as a professor of horticulture at the Bussey Institution in 1872, and Director of the Arnold Arboretum in 1873.

The Arboretum began to take shape in the decade following Sargent’s appointment. He nurtured his fundraising connections, and effectively restored what he at first had assessed to be worn out farmland. Starting in 1878, Sargent worked with renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted on a path and roadway system with designated areas for specific plant families and genera based on the Bentham and Hooker botanical classification system.

In 1880, Sargent engineered an extraordinary arrangement between Harvard University and the City of Boston: the City would purchase the Arboretum land to make it part of the Boston Park Department, Harvard would then lease back the land at the rate of one dollar a year for a thousand years. Arboretum staff would retain autonomy over the living collections, facilities, and administration. Under the terms of the 1882 agreement, the City agreed to maintain the perimeter walls, gates, and roadway system and provide police surveillance, while the Arboretum would keep the grounds open to the general public, free of charge, from sunrise to sunset every day of the year. With the public and journalistic opinion largely in his favor, Sargent then set to work on enhancing not only the facilities of the institution but also the living collections.

By this time, the Arboretum staff already included talented propagator Jackson Thornton Dawson (1841-1916) and herbarium manager, librarian, and botanical artist Charles Edward Faxon (1846-1918). Of Sargent’s ability to encourage results from staff, Asa Gray remarked, "[he] has developed not only the power of doing work, but of getting work done for him by other people, and so can accomplish something." (SBS 66) Indeed, he encouraged his staff to conduct and share research with the public at large (SBS 299).

As the nation’s population continued to push westward, deforestation was problem that could no longer be ignored. Sargent’s growing expertise was called upon in 1880 by the Department of Forestry, United States Department of Agriculture to conduct a census of the nation’s trees by region, later published as Report on the Forests of North America (exclusive of Mexico) (1884). In 1883, Sargent participated in the Northern Transcontinental Survey, which examined forests of the Northwestern United States. In an article for The
Nation, he emphasized the importance of forests in regulating snow and river flow. His influence contributed to the establishment of Glacier National Park (SBS 94, 95).

Sargent actively published throughout this period. The 1888 inaugural publication of the journal Garden and Forest, which he "conducted" during its decade-long run, presented a sweeping botanical vision for scientist and layperson alike. It proved an effective platform for increasing public awareness of horticulture and conservation. When Asa Gray died of a stroke in 1888, Sargent determined to memorialize his mentor with the compilation and publication the next year of Scientific Papers of Asa Gray (SBS 130). By 1885, the United States had acquired so much territory west of the Mississippi River that Sargent realized there was ripe time for an update of continental taxa. He conceived The Silva of North America, a collaboration between Sargent as writer and Charles Edward Faxon as illustrator, to fill in the gaps in the knowledge of seventy years since publication of Michaux’s seminal North American Sylva (SBS 144). Subsequent botanizing trips brought Sargent all over the country, and the Silva was published in 14 volumes from 1891 to 1902. It was praised by naturalist John Muir (1838-1914) in the Atlantic Monthly: "I have read through [the Silva] twice, as if it were a novel, and wished it were longer." (SBS 151)

Muir had become fast friends with Sargent, although their personalities stood as polar opposites: Muir fanciful and extroverted, Sargent taciturn or even gruff at times. Muir tells this anecdote, about a trip with Sargent to Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, when Muir became enraptured by the view from the top of the mountain:

I couldn't hold in, and began to jump about and sing and glory in it all. Then I happened to look around and catch sight of Sargent, standing there as cool as a rock, with a half-amused look on his face at me, but never saying a word. "Why don't you let yourself out at a sight like that" I asked. "I don't wear my heart upon my sleeve," he retorted. "Who cares where you wear your little heart, mon?" I cried. "There you stand in the face of all Heaven come down to earth, like a critic of the universe, as if to say, 'Come, Nature, bring on the best you have. I'm from BOSTON!'" (SBS 157)

Sargent’s devotion to the Arboretum usually took precedence over other matters. Ever determined to improve the grounds and research facilities, he raised necessary funds from H.H. Hunnewell and others, and by 1892 the Administration Building bearing Hunnewell’s name was complete. Sargent was now able to effectively house his library, herbarium, and offices on the Arboretum grounds. The library was a special passion for him; he donated over six thousand volumes, many of them rare and valuable, and thus formed the nucleus of a collection that today exceeds 100,000 books and journals.

In the meantime, the Arnold Arboretum’s reputation grew exponentially by bridging the gaps between recreation, practical horticulture, and plant science (SBS 187). Sargent spent most of his waking hours working in the Hunnewell Building or walking the grounds. Indeed, his own staff considered their employer a “‘one man’ institution” (SBS 189). The next phase would prove a crucial step in the enrichment of the Arboretum: botanical exploration of Eastern Asia.

At the beginning of the 20th century, American naturalists considered the Orient a relatively untapped botanical resource (SBS 200). Certain areas of Asia and Eastern China, in particular, had a climate similar to New England. Sargent visited Japan in 1892 and soon after published a compilation of articles which had appeared in Garden and Forest during his voyage entitled, Forest Flora of Japan. His association with James Veitch of Britain’s Veitch Nurseries led to his hiring of Ernest Henry Wilson (1876-1930), who made numerous
important botanical expeditions to China, Japan and Korea. Other plant explorations in
Eastern Asia were made for the Arboretum by Joseph Hers (1884-1965), John George Jack
(1861-1949), Frank Nicholas Meyer (1875-1918), William Purdom (1880-1921), and Joseph
Francis Charles Rock (1884-1962). Photographs taken by each explorer are available to
view on the Arnold Arboretum website: Botanical and Cultural Images of Eastern Asia,
1907-1927. By 1922, Sargent estimated the hardy trees and shrubs on the grounds to
number between five and six thousand, over a thousand of which had been newly brought
into American cultivation from Asia (SEM 361-2).

When Sargent died in 1927, he left twenty thousand dollars in support of the library, along
with ten thousand to accumulate at compound interest for a hundred years. The same year,
Oakes Ames became Supervisor of the Arnold Arboretum, and realized that Sargent’s
bequests would not be sufficient to provide a lasting endowment. He instituted a campaign
to raise $1,000,000 for the institution in the form of the Charles Sprague Sargent Memorial
Fund (SEM 365).

Many of Sargent’s publications are available online, courtesy of Biodiversity Heritage Library
(BHL), a consortium of 12 natural history and botanical libraries. These and publications by
other Arboretum staff members are available on the web page, Arboretum Publications.
Sargent’s voluminous correspondence regarding the Arnold Arboretum is available at the
Archives of the Arnold Arboretum. Many more detailed accounts of Sargent’s life and work
are available in the Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library: Charles Sprague Sargent and
the Arnold Arboretum by S. B. Sutton, ”The One-hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of
Charles Sprague Sargent“ published in Arnoldia (the quarterly journal of the Arnold
Arboretum), Biographical memoir of Charles Sprague Sargent by William Trelease, and
Science in the Pleasure Ground : a history of the Arnold Arboretum by Ida Hay.

CITED SOURCES:
SEM: Morison, Samuel Eliot (editor). The Development of Harvard University since the
inauguration of President Eliot, 1869-1929. Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press,
1930.

Scope and Content
The Sargent papers include biographical material, correspondence, collection notes,
published works, and photographs of Sargent and family. The correspondence consists of
nine volumes of handwritten and typed copies of letters from 1882-1923. Arranged by
subject, the volumes do not follow chronological order. The collected works reflect the
activities and development of the Arnold Arboretum from the collaboration of Olmsted and
Sargent in the landscape design of the Arboretum, to the exploration, identification,
cultivation, and introduction of plant material by the Arnold to other Arboreta, nurseries and
the public. Paralleling these activities, Sargent expanded the scope of the Arboretum’s
influence to include the preservation of the natural landscape, the American forests.
Included in the collection are numerous articles on forestry reports, forest fires, and
protection of forests, and Sargent’s Tenth Census of the United States Forestry, 1880-1883.
Arrangement
The collection is arranged into 8 series:

Series I: Biographical Material
Series II: ‘Holm Lea’ Sargent Estate
Series III: Correspondence
Series IV: Living Collection Notes
Series V: Collected Works
Series VI: Books
Series VII: Ephemera
Series VIII: Microfilm

Container List

Series I: Biographical Material

Box 1
Folder
1. Biographical Essays and Reviews, 1881-1924


- “Medal to Professor Sargent.” The Flower Grower. Circa 1924. Copy

2. Biographical Essays and Reviews, 1927

3. Biographical Essays and Reviews, 1929-1986


- "C.S. Sargent: Seeing the Forest and the Trees." *Orion Nature Quarterly* 3 (4) 1984

- Spongberg, Stephen A. "Charles Sprague Sargent and the Establishment of the Arnold Arboretum." April 1986


4. Biographical Essays and Reviews, 1991-No Date


• Huber, J. Parker. "John Muir and Thoreaus’s Cape Cod." The Concord Saunterer, N.S. V.5, Fall 1997. Article includes references to Sargent, his family, and their summer house on Church Street, Woods Hole

• Letter from Susan F. Witzell, volunteer, Woods Hole Historical Museum and Collection, referencing the above article and including a postcard of Woods Hole sailboat race including a Sargent sail boat

• Davidson, Harold. Charles Sprague Sargent manuscript. 2000

• Correspondence from Harold Davidson regarding publication of article and Sargent’s induction into American Society of Horticultural Sciences’ Horticultural Hall of Fame and corrections made to manuscript by S. Connor and e-mailed to Frank Dennis

• Program: American Society for Horticultural Science 97th annual conference & exposition awards ceremony noting Sargent’s induction into the Horticultural Hall of Fame. July 23, 2000

• Correspondence from Sheila Connor to Frank Dennis acknowledging receipt of plaque commemorating Sargent’s induction into the Horticultural Hall of Fame. February 28, 2001


• “Steadfast Work: Frances Duncan Reviews the Career of Charles Sparague Sargent at the Arboretum” No date. Copy

• McFarland, J. Horace. “The Man Who is Making a Tree Garden to Last a Thousand Years - and His Home.” No date. Copy

• Arnold, Frank A. “The Man With the Thousand Year Tree Garden.” No date. Incomplete copy

• Milton Conservation Commission. “Conservationally Speaking.” Article about Sargent’s contributions to the Moseley Estate Park, Newburyport, Massachusetts. No date. Copy

• “Gardening Reforms Boys: Harvard Professor would Apprentice Wayward Youngsters to Horticulturalists or Florists.” No date. Copy

5. Obituaries and Memorial Service, 1927-No Date

• “Professor Charles Sprague Sargent’s Funeral to be at Brookline, Friday.” Boston Evening Transcript. March 23, 1927


• “Charles Sprague Sargent.” Boston Herald. March 24, 1927
• “The Listener.” *Boston Evening Transcript*. March 26, 1927
• “Charles Sprague Sargent.” *Journal of Forestry*. May 1927
• “Professor Sargent’s Funeral is Held.” No date
• “Charles S. Sargent Buried.” No date
• “Funeral Services for Professor Sargent.” No date
• “Professor Sargent of Harvard Dies.” No date
• “Charles S. Sargent”. No date
• “Charles Sprague Sargent.” No date
• “An Unfinished Monument.” *Country Life in America*. No date
• “A Great Figure Passes.” *American Forests*. No date
• Invitation to Arnold Arboretum Memorial (original and copy)
• “Arboretum Service for Professor Sargent.” June 8, 1927
• “Outdoor Service Will Honor His Memory.” June 8, 1927
• “Sargent Memorial.” *Boston Evening Transcript*. June 9, 1927
• “Honor Sargent at Arboretum.” *The Boston Herald*. June 9, 1927
• “Memorial Tribute to Professor Sargent in Arnold Arboretum, His Creation.” *The Boston Globe*. June 9, 1927
• “Charles S. Sargent Memorial Service.” *Horticulture Illustrated*. No date

6. **Fundraising in Honor of Charles Sprague Sargent, 1927**

• “Dinner Here Aids Noted Arboretum.” *The World*. Circa 1927
• “Arboretum Gets $109,250”. December 2, 1927
• “Endowment Sought for Famed Tree Collection.” Circa 1927
• “National Plea Made for Fund for Arboretum.” 1927
• “Arboretum Aid Urged to Honor Charles S. Sargent.” *Tribune*. December 1, 1927


7. Handwriting Analysis: Samuel Sprague Sargent

• “Samuel Sprague Sargent: An Analysis of His Handwriting.” No date

Books

• Sutton, S.
  - *B. Charles Sprague Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum*. Harvard University Press, 1970. 4 copies

Box 2 Sargent Family

Folder

1. Sargent Family Genealogy

• Sargent family tree beginning with Epes Sargent (1690-1762) and ending with Charles Sprague Sargent’s grandchildren. 3 copies

• Portrait of Epes Sargent. Copy

• “The Giants of the Sargent Family – Charles Sprague and John Singer, 1921” photograph. Copy

• “A Remarkable Photograph, Heretofore Unpublished, of the Two Sargents [Charles Sprague and John Singer]. 1920 or 1921. Copy


• Letters from Charles Sprague Sargent, Jr. to Lazella Schwarten, Librarian, regarding Sargent genealogy. February 10 and February 21, 1964

2. Andrew Robeson Sargent (1876-1918) [Son of Charles Sprague Sargent]

• “Andrew Robson Sargent, Class of 1900.” Reprint. *The Harvard Graduates’ Magazine*. 1918

• “Andrew Robson Sargent Dies.” *The New York Times*. March 21, 1918


• 23 letters from Andrew Robeson Sargent to his mother, Mary Robeson Sargent during Andrew’s trip around the world with his father and John Muir from May-November 1903. The purpose of the trip was to study botanical species, especially trees, and to collect specimens. The letters include descriptions of their destinations, discoveries, traveling conditions, weather, and interactions with colleagues. June 16, 1903-October 5, 1903 and no date
  ▪ New York City, May 28, 4 pages; May 29, 2 pages
  ▪ London, June 11, 8 pages; 16 pages
  ▪ Paris, June 16, 4 pages
  ▪ The Hague, June 20, 4 pages
  ▪ Amsterdam, June 24, 4 pages
  ▪ Berlin, June 29, 4 pages
  ▪ Train to Moscow, July 5, 12 pages
  ▪ Yalta, July 12, 6 pages
  ▪ Tblisi, July 19, 8 pages
  ▪ Train from Crimea, July 26, 9 pages
  ▪ Moscow, July 29, 8 pages
  ▪ Trans-Siberia, August 3, 8 pages
  ▪ Amur Rev. Manchuria, August 10, 10 pages
  ▪ Karimmuskaia, Manchuria, August 12, 4 pages
  ▪ Vladavostok, August 18, 4 pages
  ▪ En Route to Peking, August 27, 4 pages
  ▪ Shanghai, September 22, 18 pages
  ▪ Hong Kong, September 29, 4 pages
  ▪ Singapore, October 7, 6 pages
  ▪ Java, October 15, 8 pages
  ▪ Singapore, October 25, 2 pages

• Letter from John Muir to Mrs. Sargent sent from the train to Moscow, July 5, 1903
• Photocopies of the 23 letters above

• “Honor Sargent at Arboretum.” The Boston Herald. June 9, 1927. Article includes photograph of Ignatius Sargent and Alice Sargent (Charles Sprague Sargent’s daughter) attending memorial service for Charles Sprague Sargent. Photocopy

3. Charles Sprague Sargent, Jr. (1880-1959) [Son of Charles Sprague Sargent]


4. Daniel Sargent (1925?-1997) [Cousin of John Singer Sargent]


5. Henry Winthrop Sargent [Nephew of Charles Sprague Sargent?]


6. Ignatius Sargent (1914-1999) [Son of Andrew Robeson Sargent; Grandson of Charles Sprague Sargent]

• Correspondence between Bob Cook, Director and Ignatius Sargent regarding the Ignatius’s donation to the Arboretum archives of 23 letters from Andrew Robeson Sargent to his mother, Mary Robeson Sargent during Andrew’s trip around the world with his father and John Muir from May-November 1903; and Ignatius’s subsequent visit to the Arboretum. October 20, 1990; December 5, 1990; June 24, 1991

• Correspondence between Sheila Connor, Archivist and Ignatius Sargent regarding the Ignatius’s donation to the Arboretum archives of the same 23 letters. April 12, 1991; June 11, 1991

7. John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) [Cousin of Charles Sprague Sargent]

• Photograph of John Singer Sargent with C.S. Sargent, undated
• Receipt for the transfer of six John Singer Sargent drawings from the Arboretum to the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, for exhibit. July 11, 1973
• Article from an unidentified Harvard publication regarding the conservation of 200 John Singer Sargent drawings by the Fogg Art Museum and the exhibition of Sargent drawings belonging to the Arboretum. No date
• Letter from Karen Kane, Library Assistant to Margaret S. Moore, Coe Kerr Gallery Inc. listing the six John Singer Sargent drawings held by the Arboretum. February 21, 1990
• Letter from Melinda Linderer, Harvard University Art Museums to Sheila Connor, Archivist regarding the “Sargent at Harvard” database. July 5, 1996

8. Margarett Sargent (1892-1978) [Fourth Cousin of John Singer Sargent]

• Letter from Sheila Connor, Archivist to Honor Moore regarding Moore’s article about her grandmother, the painter Margarett Sargent. September 2, 1980
• Temin, Christine. “Rediscovering a Sargent.” The Boston Globe. April 17, 1996

9. Mary Robeson Sargent (1853-1919) [Wife of Charles Sprague Sargent]

• Photograph of Mary Robeson Sargent, no date.
• Letters (2) from Alice [Sargent?] to Sarah [Draper] regarding Mrs. Sargent’s health and more, July 20, 1862 and September 5, no year. Photocopy and transcription
• “Several New Picture Shows: The Art Club’s Water Color Exhibition Below the Mark.” The Boston Herald. April 7, 1895. Review of exhibit including Mary Robeson Sargent’s watercolors. Copy printed from microfilm


• Copies of documents from the American Museum of Natural History related to Mary Robeson Sargent’s watercolors of North American trees which were painted to be exhibited with the Jesup Collection of North American Woods at the museum. 1898-1916

• “Mrs. Sargent Dies at Holm Lea.” The Boston Herald. August 14, 1919. Photocopy


• Letter from Loren D. McKinley, Museum Director, The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, to Stephanne B. Sutton inquiring about Mary Robeson Sargent’s watercolors painted to accompany the Jesup Collection. February 8, 1966

• Letters from Sheila Geary, Librarian, to the Boston Public Library requesting a copy of an April 7, 1895 Herald article from microfilm. March 3 and March 17, 1976

• Letter from Sheila Geary, Librarian, to Loren D. McKinley, Museum Director, The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry inquiring about Mary Robeson Sargent’s watercolors painted to accompany the Jesup Collection. August 19, 1976

  ▪ Response from Loren D. McKinley regarding the transfer of the Jesup Collection to the Western Forestry Center. September 3, 1976

  ▪ Letter from Sheila Geary to John Blackwell, Executive Director, Western Forestry Center, inquiring about Mary Robeson Sargent’s watercolors. September 15, 1976

  ▪ Response from John Blackwell indicating no knowledge of Mary Robeson Sargent’s watercolors. September 21, 1976

  ▪ Edward G. Bemis, Intern, to the American Museum of Natural History inquiring about Mary Robeson Sargent’s watercolors. May 8, 1980

10. Mary Sargent Potter (1878-1962) [Daughter of Charles Sprague Sargent]

- Potter, Mary Sargent. “Silhouettes: My Mother – My Father.” 8-page pamphlet with portraits of Charles Sprague Sargent and Mary Robeson Sargent and a biographical essay about the couple. Reprinted from Spur Magazine. No date

11. Winthrop Sargent (1853-1932) [Cousin of Charles Sprague Sargent]


12. Mary-Sargent Ladd (Didi) (1934- ) [Great-Granddaughter of Charles Sprague Sargent]

- Copy of business card from Miguel Abreu, Mary’s son and Charles Sprague Sargent’s great-great grandson.

Box 3 Sargent Family Books

Books


Box 4 Photographs

- Sargent as a young man, undated, circa 1860. 1 print
• Sargent as a young man, undated, circa 1862. 1 negative

• Sargent in Paris, 1868. 1 negative and 5 prints. #12550

• Sargent and Charles Edward Faxon at Dwight House office, 1880. 3 prints. #11385

• Sargent with Francis Skinner and George Englemann in Monterey, California for the Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. Sargent holds Pinus radiata branch. 2 prints and 1 negative

• Sargent, circa 1890. 1 print. #11620

• Sargent, circa 1898. 1 negative and 5 prints. Includes correspondence between Sheila Connor, Archivist, and donor Pauline T. Duke

• Sargent and Horatio Hollis Hunnewell at the opening of the first flower show, Horticultural Hall, Massachusetts Horticultural Society. 1901. 1 negative and 4 prints. Includes “The Hunnewell Building” pamphlet with essay about the Hunnewell family’s support of the Arboretum. #11113

• Sargent examining an herbarium specimen in the Arboretum library, 1904. 5 prints

• Sargent examining pine cones in the Arboretum museum, 1904. Photograph by T.E. Marr. 5 prints

• Sargent on the grounds of the Arboretum, 1904. Photograph by J. Horace McFarland. 2 prints and 2 negatives. #10812

• Sargent on the grounds of the Arboretum, 1904. Photograph by J. Horace McFarland. 4 prints. #10812

• Sargent on the grounds of the Arboretum, 1904. Photograph by J. Horace McFarland. 1 print and 1 negative. #10814

• Sargent in his office at the Administration building, 1904? Photograph by J. Horace McFarland. 1 print and 1 negative. #11080

• Sargent examining acorns in the Arboretum library, January 12, 1904. Photograph by Thomas E. Marr. 6 prints and 2 negatives. #11157

• Sargent on the grounds of the Arboretum, 1907. Photograph by Arthur G. Eldredge. 3 prints and 1 negative. #10810

• Sargent on the grounds of the Arboretum, 1907. Photograph by Arthur G. Eldredge. 3 prints. #10811

• Sargent with wife and children (Alice, Henrietta, Molly, Charles, Robeson), circa 1885. 1 print and 1 negative
• Sargent in profile, 1908. 3 prints. #10809

• Sargent with Ernest Henry Wilson on the grounds of the Arboretum with Prunus subhirtella. May 2, 1915. 3 prints and 1 negative. #14060.

• Alfred Rehder, Ernest Henry Wilson, Sargent, Charles E. Faxon, and Camillo Schneider in the Arboretum, August 1916. 2 prints

• Photograph of John Singer Sargent’s 1919 sketch portrait of Sargent. 6 prints and 2 negatives. #10352

• Sargent examining botanical illustration, 1920s? 1 print. #11119

• Sargent with Mrs. William Endicott and William C. Endicott, Jr., June 11, 1920. 1 print and 1 negative

• Sargent with C.L. Hutchinson and Joy Morton at Morton’s home on the site of what is now the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, October 3, 1922. Photograph by Susan Delano McKelvey. 1 print. #10000

• Sargent with Mr. Laney, Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Slavin, and propagator Fred Ahrens at Highland Park, Rochester, New York, October 5, 1922. Two photographs by Susan Delano McKelvey mounted on single board. #10002

• Sargent with Henry Sargent Hunnewell at the Hunnewell estate, Wellesley, Massachusetts. June 11, 1926. #12540

• Sargent with William C. Egan and C.L. Hutchinson at Egan’s estate, Highland Park, Illinois. September 27 and October 28, 1922. Three photographs by Susan Delano McKelvey mounted on a single board. #10001

• Sargent with C.L. Hutchinson at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. October 1922. Two photographs mounted on a single board. #12393

• Sargent on the grounds of the Arboretum with Rhododendron obtusum var. kaempferi. May 17, 1922. Photo by R.W. Curtis. #9481

• Sargent with Henry M. Rogers, Reverend Luther G. Barrett, Edward M. Tuck, and Arthur H. Nichols. Harvard class of 1862 60 year reunion at ‘Holm Lea’. Photograph received October 14, 1922. #9319

• Sargent, circa 1923. Photograph by T.E. Marr. 5 prints and 1 negative. #11056

• Sargent seated in the Arboretum library. November 5, 1924. 3 different photographs by A.E. Christiansen. 5 prints. #10281 and 10282

• “Back to Nature: A Retrospective Study of Professor Sargent.” December 1925. Photograph by Percival Lowell. #10739
• Sargent standing in a doorway with *Wisteria*, circa 1910. 2 prints and 1 negative. #12559

• Sketch of Sargent, undated, circa 1880s. 1 sketch. #11953

• Sargent with cane and hat, undated, circa 1910s. Photograph by J.E. Purdy & Co., Boston. 2 prints. #11614

• Sargent, undated, circa 1910s. 3 prints and 1 negative. #12017

• Sargent seated in the Arboretum library, holding spectacles, undated, circa 1920s. 2 prints and 1 negative. #11615

• Sargent on the grounds of the Arboretum with unidentified man and woman, undated, circa 1920s. 1 print

• Sargent with cousin John Singer Sargent, undated, circa 1921. 5 different photographs. 5 prints and 5 negatives

• Sargent with cousin John Singer Sargent, undated, circa 1920s. 2 different photographs taken at different times. 2 prints and 2 negatives

• Sargent with son Charles Sprague Sargent, Jr. [actually the VII] and grandson Charles Sprague Sargent, III [actually the VIII] (as an infant), circa 1913. 1 print

• Sargent’s son Charles Sprague Sargent, Jr. [actually the VII] with his son Charles Sprague Sargent, III [actually the VIII] and grandson, undated, circa 1930s. 1 print

• Memorial service for Sargent, June 8, 1927. View of speakers and audience in Bussey Brook meadow, Arnold Arboretum. Photograph by Geo. E. Lawrence Co., Boston. 2 prints and 1 negative. #11680

• Memorial service guests Mrs. John A. Stewart, Jr. of the Garden Club of America, Mrs. Henry S. Hunnewell, and Edwin S. Webster. June 8, 1927. Photograph by Geo. E. Lawrence Co., Boston. 3 prints. #11772

• Memorial service guest Mrs. John A. Stewart, Jr. of the Garden Club of America. June 8, 1927. Photograph by Geo. E. Lawrence Co., Boston. 1 print. #11772

• Memorial service guest William Crowninshield Endicott, Chairman of the Boston Committee of the Charles S. Sargent Memorial Fund (1 print). Memorial service guest Ernest Henry Wilson (3 prints). June 8, 1927. Two photographs by Geo. E. Lawrence Co., Boston mounted on a single board. #11771

• Memorial service guests Bishop William Lawrence and Abbott Lawrence Lowell, President of Harvard College. June 8, 1927. Photograph by Geo. E. Lawrence Co., Boston. 1 print and 1 negative. #11772
• Sargent family at memorial service. Natalie Potter, Mrs. Nathaniel B. Potter, Ignatius Sargent, and Alice Sargent. June 8, 1927. Photograph by Geo. E. Lawrence Co., Boston. 1 print. #11773

• Memorial service guest Oakes Ames. June 8, 1927. Photograph by Geo. E. Lawrence Co., Boston. 1 print

• Photograph of oil portrait of Sargent (which hangs in the Harvard University Herbaria, Cambridge). 2 prints and 4 negatives

• Letter from Elmer D. Merrill, Director to Mrs. Guy Lowell regarding the oil portrait of Sargent (above). February 8, 1946

• Photographs of two identical bas-relief images of Sargent, one hanging in the Hunnewell Building, and one hanging in the Harvard University Herbaria, Cambridge. 2 photographs and 4 negatives

• 2 undated portrait photographs of Sargent. 2 prints

Series II: 'Holm Lea' Sargent Estate
Box 5 'Holm Lea' Sargent Estate
Folder 1. 'Holm Lea' Articles

• Van Rensselaer, Mariana Griswold. "A Suburban Country Place." The Century Magazine 54(1). May 1897. 2 copies

• "Holm Lea." Gardening 13(292):49-51. November 1, 1904


• "Charity Bazaar; Holm Lea Brookline, Saturday, June 6, 1908. 10 A.M.-8 P.M."


• Reproduced photographs of garden, no text. Horticulture. August 31, 1912


• Newspaper clippings from Arnold Arboretum Scrapbook 11. 1903-1932
  • "Part of Holm Lea Placed on Market." Boston Herald. September 14, 1927
  • "Holm Lea Offered For Sale." Boston Post. September 13, 1927
  • "Lots on Sargent Estate Mostly Large." Real Estate News. October 1927.
  • "Employees Check Roof Blaze at 'Holm Lea'." Undated
  • "The Sargent Estate Valued at $763,529" Undated
▪ “Will Develop Sargent Estate so as to Preserve Its Beauty”. *Boston Evening Transcript*. December 3, 1927


▪ “First Arboretum Director was a Noted Conservationist.” *Jamaica Plain Gazette*. August 13, 1993


2. ‘Holm Lea’ Photographs: Plants by Species (Alphabetical)
   - *Acer palmatum*. Photograph by Ralph W. Curtis, 1916. Accession #14850
   - *Berberis thunbergii*. In front of piazza. Photograph by Alfred Rehder, May 1898 (M-613) Accession #17282
   - *Berberis vulgaris, Syringa chinensis, Wistaria chinensis*. Photograph by Ralph W. Curtis, 1916. Accession #14849
   - [Corpus lordi]. 189-?. 12,042] (Missing 12/2005 BB)
   - *Fothergilla*. Undated. #14234
   - Kurume azalea and *Rhododendron Sanderi*. Photograph by A. Seeger, March 14, 1926. #11173
   - *Kalmia latifolia*. (M-1285)
   - *Magnolia kobus borealis*. (A101)
   - *Magnolia denudata*. Photograph by Ernest Henry Wilson, May 7, 1927. (M-422) #14153
   - *Magnolia denudata* with tupelo in background. Photograph by Thomas E. Marr, 1900. (2270) #12515. Oversize
   - *Malus floribunda*. Undated. #14230
   - *Malus floribunda*. Undated. #14231
   - [Narcissus poeticus]. Meadow near pond with *Narcissus poeticus*. Photograph by Alfred Rehder, May, 1898. (M-612) #17281
   - *Narcissus poeticus*. Photograph by H. W. Gleason, 1925. #12557
   - *Narcissus poeticus*, with *Salix fragilis, Malus floribunda* and azaleas. #14229
   - *Quercus alba*. Photograph by H.W. Gleason, May 1925. #12558
• *Rhododendron catawbiense* on a cold winter day. Photograph by Alfred Rehder, February 1900. (M-700) #17324

• *Rhododendron catawbiense* on a cold winter day. Photograph by Alfred Rehder, February 1900. (M-701) #17325

• *Rhododendron catawbiense* hybrid. Normal condition (same shrub as shown in M-701, which shows it on a cold winter day). Photograph by Alfred Rehder. (M-707). #17327

• *Rhododendron davidsonianum*. Photograph by A.E. Christiansen, March 1923. (M-43) #10029

• *Rhododendron* Ignatius Sargent. Rhododendrons in rear of old Codman House on the estate. Photograph by Thomas E. Marr. Purchased of him July 7, 1933. #16904. Also, unmounted 5x7 print with negative.

• *Rhododendron indicum* var. *balsaminaeflorum*. Photograph by A. Seeger, March 27, 1926. #11179

• *Rhododendron obtusum* Kaempferi (front) and *Azalea* Kaempferi (back). Photograph by Ralph W. Curtis, 1916. #14848

• *Rhododendron Sanderi* “Alice Sargent.” Photograph by A. Seeger, March 14, 1926. #11175

• *Rhododendron Simsii*

• *Rhododendron Simsi*. Indian azaleas on the terrace of the house. Photograph by Thomas E. Marr, 1900. (2263) #12514. Oversize. Also, 8x10 unmounted print with 4x5 negative.

• *Rhododendron Wellsianum*. Photograph by Herbert W. Gleason, May 1925. #12553

• *Syringa* (Lilacs). Photograph by Herbert W. Gleason, May 1925? #14788

• *Syringa* (Lilacs). Photograph by Herbert W. Gleason, May 1925? #14789

• *Syringa vulgaris* var. Undated. #14232

• *Trillium grandiflorum*. Photograph by Alfred Rehder, May 1898. (M-614) #17283

• *Tsuga canadensis*. #284

• *Viburnum tomentosum* var. *sterile*. Photograph by Alfred Rehder, June 1898. (M-616) #17280

• *Viburnum tomentosum* var. *sterile*. Photograph by Alfred Rehder, June 1898. (M-617) #17285
3. ‘Holm Lea’ Photographs: General Views
   - “Field of Narcissi.” #12507
   - “Garden path and Irises.” #10820. Also 8x10 unmounted print
   - “Lilac garden of the late Prof. Sargent.” A rare Tree Peony is shown in front of scarlet poppies. Undated. #16929. Color reproduction.
   - “Norway spruce hedge.” Undated. #14235
   - “The Poet’s Narcissus.” Undated. #11170
   - “Rockery.” Undated. #14233
   - “The spring garden.” Undated. #12509
   - Untitled. Photograph by Thomas E. Marr, undated. Unmounted 8x10 print of path. #14637

4. ‘Holm Lea’ photographs: Pond and House
   - “View across pond toward residence.” Photograph by Alfred Rehder, June 1899. (M-672) #17314
   - “The Pond.” Photograph by Thomas E. Marr, 1900. (2265) #12512 Oversize. Also a 5x7 print
   - “Looking across the pond to the house.” Photograph by Thomas E. Marr, 1900. (2268) #12510. Oversize. Also 2, 8x10 prints, 1, 5x7 print, and 2 negatives
   - “Looking across the pond to the house.” Photograph by Thomas E. Marr, 1900. (2269) #12511. Oversize.
   - “View across the pond.” Rhododendrons in the foreground. Photograph by Thomas E. Marr. Purchased of him July 7, 1933. #16905
   - “The Pond.” Photograph by Thomas E. Marr. Purchased of him July 7, 1933. #16906
   - “View across the pond to Professor Sargent’s house.” Malus floribunda in left foreground. Undated. (M-419) #11521
   - “The Pond (Sargent’s Pond).” Undated. #12508
   - [“The Pond.” Undated unmounted 8x10 print. #17600] (Missing 12/2005 BB)
   - “The Pond.” Photograph by Thomas E. Marr. Unmounted 8x10 print. #5711
   - “The Pond.” Photograph by Thomas E. Marr. Unmounted 8x10 print. #17466
• “The Pond.” Photograph by Thomas E. Marr. Unmounted 8x10 print. #17467

5. Rhododendrons


• “Rhododendrons and pond on Prof. C.S. Sargent’s estate, 192-? acc# 10,821.

• “Rhododendrons on Prof. C.S. Sargent’s estate, 192-? acc#10,822.

• “Rhododendrons on Prof. C.S. Sargent’s estate, 192-? acc#10,823.

• Rhododendron Ignatius Sargent. Holm Lea, Brookline Mass. Estate of the late Prof. Charles Sprague Sargent in Brookline Massachusetts. Rhododendrons in the rear of the old Codman House on the estate. Photo by Thomas E. Marr, 1900 (2272) acc#12,516. Oversize.

6. Photographs from miscellaneous publications


• “Iris time in the garden at ‘Holm Lea.’”, ‘Holm Lea’ across the dogwoods’, “A vista from the rock garden.” Undated. Three images from folded untitled publication with 6x8 print and 3x5 negative.

• “Rhododendrons at Holm Lea, Brookline, Mass.” Cover: Horticulture Vol. XVI, August 31, 1912. Xerox. Also on verso of xerox “A garden of glorious colors,” not found in magazine.

Box 4 Certificates, Diplomas, and Words of Appreciation to Professor Charles S. Sargent

Series III: Correspondence

Incoming Letters

Letters written to Charles S. Sargent are filed alphabetically by author in the metal file cabinets in the Archives in the Pre-1927 section

Outgoing Letters

Nine bound volumes of handwritten and typed copies of Charles S. Sargent’s letters 1882-1923. Note: The volume numbers do not follow a chronological order. The subject “General” refers to typical arboretum business, such as taxonomy, accessions (requests for and discussions of material), exploration (US and foreign), herbarium (requests for and discussions of material), and accounts.
A card index to this correspondence, as well as the collection of letters to Sargent, is interfiled and available in the Archives.

Note: Letters in Volume I are handwritten; letters in Volumes 2-9 are typewritten.

**Volume I**: March 1882 - April 1884. Subject: General

**Volume II**: August 1911 - March 1923. Subject: Library acquisitions

**Volume III**: April 1906 - March 1908. Subject: General - focus on foreign exploration, plans and results, and plant accessions

**Volume IV**: April 1906 - August 1911. Subject: Library acquisitions


**Volume VI**: April 1908 - January 1911. Subject: General - focus on taxonomy and plant accessions

**Volume VII**: January 1911 - February 1914. Subject: General - focus on US exploration and taxonomy

**Volume VIII**: February 1914 - March 1917. Subject: General

**Volume IX**: March 1917 - March 1920. Subject: General - focus on herbarium and US exploration

**Box 1 Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association Correspondence Folder**


   - Anderson, Phyllis. “Charles Sprague Sargent and the Preservation of the Landscape of Mount Vernon or, ‘If Washington were here himself, he would be on my side.’” *Arnoldia*, Fall 1999

   - Letter from Martha Oaks, The Sargent House Museum to Phyllis Anderson, Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies regarding John Singer Sargent’s portrait of Charles Sprague (reproduction published in *Arnoldia* article) and Charles Sprague’s involvement with The Sargent House Museum. May 1, 1999

2. **Photocopies: Correspondence with Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, 1886-1912; 1914-1918**

   - Photocopies made by Phyllis Anderson during her research for *Arnoldia* article of correspondence between Sargent, Harriet Comegys, Regent, Mount Vernon Ladies Association and Harrison Dodge, Superintendent, Mount Vernon held in the Archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association. 188-1912; 1914-1918
3. Photocopies: Correspondence with Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, 1919-1926

- Photocopies made by Phyllis Anderson during her research for *Arnoldia* article of correspondence between Sargent, Harriet Comegys, Regent, Mount Vernon Ladies Association and Harrison Dodge, Superintendent, Mount Vernon held in the Archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association. 1919-1926

Series IV: Living Collection Notes

Box 1

Folder

1. “Census: Catalogue of Woods Received”

- “Census: Catalogue of Woods Received. Name differences penciled upon typewritten list; and that only need be consulted for genus and species.” Woods numbered 1-1231. Undated

2. List of Wood Specimens, Tenth Census, 1881

- List of wood specimens, Tenth Census. May 1881. Sargent’s response to the Tenth Census of the United States, Department of Forestry, 1880-1883

3. Report on Forest Trees of North America


4. Living Accessions Derived from Material Collected by Sargent

- “Charles S. Sargent’s Collections.” Dr. Weaver’s list of Living Accessions derived from propagating material collected by Sargent. 1973 or 1979

Volumes

- Volume: “Seeds sent from Japan by CSS, 1892”. Alphabetical index of seeds, collection locations, and collectors (usually Sargent)


- Volume: “*Crataegus* seed sown in the Arnold Arboretum 1899-1927,” with Sargent’s notes. Lists 4518 (numbers 1-4514) seeds sown with collection locations
Series V: Collected Works

Box 1: Bound Volumes

Folder:

1. Annotated Bibliography
     *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*

2. Bound Volume of Articles, 1874-1927
   - Bound volume of collected works, spine title: *Sargent Various Articles HOLLIS # BBF2599*. Handwritten table of contents with articles numbered.
     - No. 2. 1875. A Few Suggestions on Tree Planting. Report of Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. HOLLIS # BND0244.
     - No. 3. 1876. “Prizes for Arboriculture”. Offered by the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture. HOLLIS # BND0261.
     - No. 5. 1878. “Forests: Their Influence on Climate and Soil” by Charles W. Parsons HOLLIS # AUH6965.
     - No. 6. 1879. The Forests of Central Nevada with Some Remarks on those of Adjacent Regions. American Journal of Science and Arts v.17. HOLLIS # BCR7301
     - No.11 1882-1883. Annual Report of the Director of the Arnold Arboretum. HOLLIS #BLZ8705
     - The Arnold Arboretum What It Is and Does. The Garden Magazine November 1917. (3 copies, one copy is signed "C. S. Sargent").
- Forest Fires. Extract from the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.

3. The Woods of the United States


4. Publications on *Crataegus*

- “Notes of *Crataegus* in the Champlain Valley.” *Rhodora* 3(26). February 1901.
- “Recently Recognized Species of *Crataegus* in Eastern Canada of New England, I.” *Rhodora* 5(50). February 1903
- “Recently Recognized Species of *Crataegus* in Eastern Canada of New England, V.” *Rhodora* 5(54-55). June and July 1903
• "Crataegus in Southern Ontario. Ontario Natural Science Bulletin No. 4. 1908


5. Manuscript: North American Species of Crataegus

• North American Species of Crataegus. Typewritten manuscript 72 pp. Nd. HOLLIS #BND1346.

Box 2: Pamphlets, Reports and Articles

1. Reports and Articles, 1880-1889

• Sargent, C. S. and F. L. Olmsted. “Proposition as to the Public Ground to include the Harvard Arboretum.” November 1880.


• “Some Additional Notes upon Trees and Tree Planting in Massachusetts.” Annual Report of the Massachusetts State Forester. 1886. HOLLIS #AQI6486. Two copies. Third copy in library Ri Sa7s.

• “Journal of Andre Michaux, 1785-1796” with letter from CSS. 1889.

• “Citations to Charles Sprague Sargent in Journal of Forestry and Estate Management (v.1-6), 1877-1882; continued by Forestry: A Magazine for the Country (v.7-8), 1883-1884.” BI 63.1

2. Reports and Articles, 1890-1899

• 1891. Publishers flyer Garden and Forest.

• “Report of the Committee Appointed by the National Academy of Sciences upon the Inauguration of Forest Policy for the Forest Lands of the United States..” Washington, GPO. 1897.

3. Reports and Articles, 1900-1909


• “The Trees of Commonwealth Avenue Boston.” 1909. HOLLIS # ALO7050. One copy in archives and on the shelf at Ri Sa7 c.2.

4. Reports and Articles, 1910-1919


• “Notes from the Arnold Arboretum”. Reprinted from various numbers of the Bulletin issued by the Arboretum. [1917]. International Garden Club.


• “Notes on North American Trees: I. Quercus.” Reprinted from The Botanical Gazette, Volume LXV, No. 5, May 1918

• “Notes on North American Trees: II. Carya.” Reprinted from The Botanical Gazette, Volume LXVI, No. 3, September 1918

• “Notes on North American Trees: III. Tilia.” Reprinted from The Botanical Gazette, Volume LXVI, Nos. 5 and 6, November and December 1918

• “New or Little Known North American Trees: II.” Reprinted from The Botanical Gazette, Volume XXXI, January 1901

• “New or Little Known North American Trees: III.” Reprinted from The Botanical Gazette, Volume XXXI, April 1901

• “Notes on North American Trees: IV.” Reprinted from The Botanical Gazette, Volume LXVII, No. 3, March 1919

6. Reports and Articles, 1920-1929

• “The First Fifty Years of the Arnold Arboretum.” Journal of the Arnold Arboretum 3(3):127-171. January 1923. (2 copies) HOLLIS # AQI7155. Two copies in archives, one on the shelf Cac Sa7f c.3. and one in general history.

• “David Sears, Tree Planter.” *Horticulture* pp.164-165. April 15, 1925.


• “The Greatest Garden in America, the Arnold Arboretum.” *Home Acres*

**Series VI: Books**

**Box 1**


• Sargent, Charles S. *Manual of the Trees of North America (Exclusive of Mexico)*, 1922.


• Sutton, S.B. *Charles Sprague Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum*, 1970. 2 copies.


**Box 2**

• Metal printing plate for the title page of *Silva of North America*

**Volume 1**  

**Volume 2**  

Volumes 4 and 5


Series VII: Ephemera

Box 1 Civilian frock coat, black wool, ca. 1860. Made by _________.

Box 2 Union Army officer’s frock coat, blue wool, ca. 1865. Made by _________.

Box 3 Two Civil War-era swords.

Series VIII: Microfilm

- Reel 1
  - Letterbook Volume I: March 1902-April 1904. 345 pages. Subject: General Arboretum business (taxonomy, accessions, exploration, herbarium, and accounts)
    - Index to Volumes II-IX (Volume I not indexed)
- Reel 2
  - Letterbook Volume II: August 1911-March 1923, includes index of correspondents. 463 pages
- Reel 3
  - Letterbook Volume III: April 1906-March 1908. 699 pages. General Arboretum business; focus on foreign exploration, plans and results, and plant accessions
- Reel 4
  - Letterbook Volume IV: April 1906-August 1911, 630 pages. Subject: primarily library acquisitions
- Reel 5
  - Letterbook Volume V: April 1906-March 1912, 693 pages. Subject: Crataegus - taxonomy, papers, and accessions
• Reel 6
  ▪ Letterbook Volume VI: April 1908-January 1911, 997 pages. Subject: General Arboretum business; focus on taxonomy and plant accessions

• Reel 7
  ▪ Letterbook Volume VII: January 1911-February 1914, 1000 pages. Subject: General Arboretum business; focus on US exploration and taxonomy

• Reel 8
  ▪ Letterbook Volume VIII: February 1914-March 1917, 1000 pages. Subject: General Arboretum business; focus on plant collecting

• Reel 9
  ▪ Letterbook Volume IX: March 1917-March 1920, 676 pages. Subject: General Arboretum business; focus on herbarium and US exploration