

NEBRASKA NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY MEETING, NOVEMBER 14, 2009  
**THE BESSEY HERBARIUM AT THE STATE MUSEUM,  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN**  
HERBARIUM FOUNDED 1874 AND NOW IN ITS 135<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

**Specimens at the west end of the herbarium:**

**1. WILLIAM CLEBURNE, 1869 and 1873**

William Cleburne lived in Omaha 1861-1904. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad and collected along its route, including this 1869 Utah collection of **New England aster** (*A. nova-angliae*), the 'Golden Spike' year of the first transcontinental connection. He likely attended the Golden Spike ceremony in Utah on May 10, 1869.

The Bessey Herbarium has thousands of his specimens, such as *Linum usitatissimum*, flax, which he grew in 1873 in his home garden at 1219 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, near the UP facilities.

**2. C. C. PARRY in COLORADO TERRITORY, 1872**

*Chionophila jamesii*, ice-lover, collected high in the Rocky Mountains in 1872, when Colorado was still Colorado Territory. This plant grows at elevations up to 13,000'.

**3. LOUISE POUND, 1887**

*Strophostyles helvola*, wild bean, collected by Louise Pound in 1887. The first female PhD and professor English at UNL, and a prominent athlete as well. She collected when she took classes from Charles Bessey.

**4. ROSCOE POUND, 1893**

*Orchis (Galearis) spectabilis*, showy orchis, collected in what is now Fontenelle Forest by Roscoe Pound in 1893. He was Louisa (Louise) Pound's brother.

*Claytonia virginica*, spring-beauty, collected in what is now Fontenelle Forest by Roscoe Pound in 1891. Pound, of Lincoln, wrote many botanical papers and books but later went into law and eventually became dean of Harvard Law School. He began collecting at age 4, when his mother took him to what is now Wilderness Park, Lincoln, but was then called Oteramie Woods. [over] →

**5. WILLA CATHER, 1916**

*Senecio douglasii*, a ragwort collected by Willa Cather at Taos, New Mexico, in 1916. The Bessey Herbarium has her collections from New Hampshire and New Mexico, but we know she collected in Nebraska too, when she was a student here.

**6. A NEBRASKA NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY FIELDTRIP COLLECTION IN 2009**

*Gnaphalium obtusifolium*, fragrant cudweed or everlasting, collected on a NNPS fieldtrip to Antelope County in September, 2009, and only the second collection of it from that county. This specimen should last at least 300 years, a legacy of NNPS.

**7. ORCHIDS**

*Spiranthes diluvialis*, Ute lady-tresses orchid, first discovered in Nebraska in 1996 (this specimen), in Sioux County. This site is easternmost for the species, whose range extends westward to the mountains and beyond.

*Cypripedium candidum*, small white lady's-slipper orchid, once common and now rare. Two specimens here include one from Antelope County in 1887, where it has not been seen since, and a more recent collection from Platte County, where there are several colonies today.

**8. THE ORIGINAL SPECIMEN OF THE NEBRASKA STATE FLOWER, GOLDENROD**

This specimen was brought before the legislature by Charles Bessey in 1895, where it was designated as the state flower.

The specimen was collected in Holt County in 1893 and is in poor condition, but in the framed photo you can see what *Photoshop* has done to it.

**9. BESSEY PLAQUE, OUTSIDE ROOM W531**

Made after his death in 1915



**at the east end of the herbarium:**

**10. THE FIRST HORTICULTURAL CATALOG,  
1730**

A facsimile of one of the 12 hand-colored pages from Robert Furber's catalog of 1730, from his garden at Kensington (London). This one shows plants that flower in May.

(COPIES OF ALL 12 MONTHS CAN BE PURCHASED AT ALLPOSTERS.COM FOR \$20 EACH.)

**11. OLD BOOKS OF PRESSED FLOWERS**

Now long out of fashion, such books were once required of botany students and were also made by hobbyists. If the specimens are accompanied by date and place of collection, they have botanical value.

**12. BESSEY PHOTOGRAPH**

Nebraska's most famous botanist, seen at his desk in 1914.

**13. MODELS OF PLANTS FOR TEACHING  
MORPHOLOGY AND TAXONOMY**

These models, more than a century old, were long-used to show the structure of flowers. Made in Germany of plaster, they are still in remarkably good condition.

[over] →

**in the northwest stairwell:**

**14. THE FAMOUS EXCAVATIONS OF PRAIRIE PLANTS  
BY JOHN E. WEAVER IN THE 1940s.**

Notice how far the roots extend into the soil, allowing the plants access to water even in droughts. These are often illustrated in books on plant ecology.

**in room W534:**

**15. DEMONSTRATION OF PRESSING AND MOUNTING  
PLANTS, when everyone is ready. Prep room, W534**



**Visit the herbarium's website:**

**<http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/botany/index.html>**