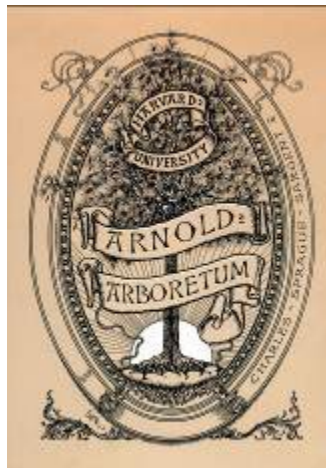


Archives II D-AIE

Arthur Irving Emerson (1860-1937) collection: Guide



The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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II D-AIE

**Arthur Irving Emerson (1860-1937) collection: Guide
Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts**

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

Call No.: II D-AIE

Location: Archives.

Title: Arthur Irving Emerson (1860-1937) collection

Date(s): ca1905

Creator: Emerson, Arthur Irving (1860-1937)

Quantity: 2 boxes

Language of material: English.

Abstract: In 1905, Arthur Irving Emerson (1860-1937) contributed images to Clarence M. Weed's (1864-1947) publication *Our Trees: How to Know Them*. This collection contains the original photographic plates by Emerson and annotated gallery proofs for *Our Trees*.

Note: Access to Finding Aid record in [HOLLIS](#).

Preferred Citation: Arthur Irving Emerson collection. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Additional Material: The second edition of *Our trees: How to Know Them* is held by the Arnold Arboretum. Many of Arthur I. Emerson's glass negatives are held at the Chelmsford Historical Society (Accession Number 42.10.74).

Processing Information

Processed: October 2011, Emily Toner. Revised: July 2024, Larissa Glasser.

Acquisition Information

Provenance: This collection was acquired by Thomas J. Campbell and his family in 1942, and donated to the Arnold Arboretum Archives by his daughter, Mary Campbell King, in 1997.

Terms of Access

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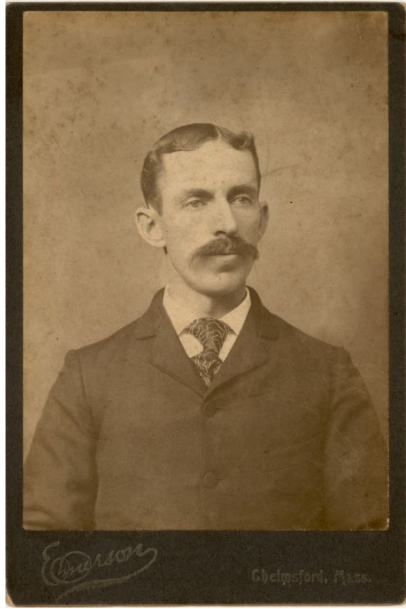
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Biographical Note:



Arthur I. Emerson
(Chelmsford Historical Society)

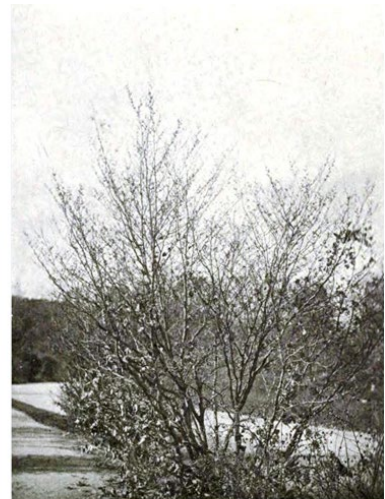
Son of Rufus Francis and Adelaide (Burbank) Emerson, Arthur Irving Emerson (1860-1937) was born in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. A photographer, Emerson produced many images of his family and his hometown between 1885 and 1910 which are currently held by the [Chelmsford Historical Society](#). In 1905, Emerson contributed images to Clarence Moores Weed's (1864-1947) publication, *Our Trees: How to Know Them, Photographs from Nature by Arthur I. Emerson; with a Guide to their Recognition at Any Season of the Year and Notes on Their Characteristics, Distribution, and Culture*.

Clarence Moores Weed was a naturalist who published widely on topics related to zoology and botany. Weed worked at the State Normal School in Lowell, Massachusetts, now the University of Massachusetts—Lowell, first as an instructor (1904-1922) and then as the principal (1922-1935). J. B. Lippincott Company published several editions and reprints of *Our Trees: How to Know Them*; The Biodiversity Heritage Library has digitized the [5th, edition published in 1918](#).

According to Clarence Hinckley Knowlton (1876-1956) author of "The Botany of Chelmsford" which appears in [The History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts](#) many of the trees Emerson photographed for the book were located in Chelmsford.¹ According to its preface some were also taken at the Harvard Botanic Garden, the Boston Public Garden, and the Arnold Arboretum, "... in the case of a



NORWAY SPRUCE



WITCH HAZEL

¹ Waters, Wilson and Henry Spaulding Perham. *History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts*. Lowell, Mass.: Courier-Citizen, 1917.

number of rare or local species advantage has been taken of the unrivalled collection of trees in the Arnold Arboretum, a privilege for which we are indebted to the kind permission of the Director, Professor Charles Sprague Sargent, and the helpful assistance of his associates, especially Messrs. C. E. Faxon, W. J. Dawson, and J. G. Jack." The Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) and the Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) were among those photographed at the Arboretum.



Speckled Alder

The images are mounted on boards and correspond to the text proof. They depict the identifiable characteristics of each tree including habit in situ, leaves, flowers, and fruits. Many are annotated in pencil with directions for the printer.

Emerson was also a plant collector. Charles S. Sargent (1841-1927), the Arboretum's first director, correspondence reveals that Emerson was collecting herbarium specimens as well propagation material, principally collections of native *Crataegus*, for the Arboretum in 1906.

Arthur Emerson lived in the family home at 41 Westford St. in Chelmsford, eventually occupying the house with his siblings Susan and Frank. Built in 1790 and known as the [Mansfield/Emerson house](#) the home has been listed in the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places by the [Chelmsford Historical Commission](#). In 1942, Frank Emerson, the last surviving sibling, sold the house to Thomas Campbell. That same year, he donated between 800 and 850 of his brother's original glass negatives for *Our Trees* to the [Chelmsford Historical Society](#) (Accession Number 42.10.74).



41 Westford St, Chelmsford, Photo by Arthur I. Emerson (Chelmsford Historical Society)

At some point between 1942 and 1970, the plates and text of *Our Trees* were found by the Campbell family at 41 Westford St. In 1970, Thomas Campbell gave the collection to his daughter, Mary Campbell King, who donated it to the Arnold Arboretum Archives in 1997.

Scope and Content

This collection contains photographic plates, drafts of and gallery proofs and other manuscript notes. There are some drafts missing for plates that eventually appear in the published work as well as some duplicate images. Photocopied correspondence from 1906 from Charles S. Sargent to Emerson has been added to the collection by the archivist.

Arrangement

The Arthur Irving Emerson Collection is arranged into 3 series:

- Series I:** Correspondence
- Series II:** Gallery Proofs
- Series III:** Photographs

Container List

Box 1

Series I: Correspondence

Folder

1. Includes handwritten notes of common and botanical plant names and photocopies of the letters from Charles Sargent to Emerson (1906).

Series II: Gallery Proofs

Folder

1. Annotated gallery proofs of text by Charles M. Weed, including prelude, table of contents (incomplete), and descriptions of trees. Reformatting notes and comments have been added in pen and pencil, and some pages are fragmented or missing. Page numbering differs from published edition.

Box 2

Series III: Photographs

The images are mounted on boards which appear to have come from an album and are composite images of tree habit in situ, leaves, branches, flowers and fruits. Some are annotated in pencil and marked off with tape for resizing. On verso, some have printed label with tree identification and photographer's credit. Bracketed numbers have been added in pencil by the archivist, corresponding with the page order of the gallery proofs in Series II. There are some photographic plates missing and duplicates of others.



GINKGO



WEeping WILLOW

The Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) appears to have been photographed at the Harvard Botanic Garden while the Weeping Willow was photographed at the Boston Public Garden.

<u>Photograph Number and Title</u>	<u>Page Number in Gallery Proofs</u>
1. White Pine	p. 11
2. American Larch or Tamarack	p. 19
3. European Larch	p. 20
4. Black Spruce	p. 21
5. Red Spruce	p. 22
6. White Spruce	p. 23
7. Norway Spruce	p. 24
8. Hemlock	p. 25
9. Balsam Fir	p. 26
10. <i>Arborvitæ</i>	p. 29
11. White Cedar	p. 30
12. Red Cedar	p. 31
13. Ginkgo Tree	p. 33
14. Butternut	p. 35
15. Black Walnut	p. 36
16. Bitternut Hickory or Swamp Hickory	p. 38
17. Shellback or Shagbark Hickory	p. 39
(Note: 2 photographs, one with published composition and one with different image of nuts)	
18. Mockernut or Big Bud Hickory	p. 40
(Note: 2 photographs, one with published composition and one with different orientation of nuts)	
19. Pignut Hickory	p. 41
(Note: 2 photographs with same composition)	
20. Aspen	MISSING (p. 42?)
21. Large-Toothed Aspen or Poplar	p. 43
22. Balsam Poplar or Tacamahac	p. 44
23. Cottonwood	p. 46
24. White Poplar	p. 48
25. Black Willow	p. 49
26. Glaucous Willow	p. 50
27. White Willow	p. 51
28. Hornbeam or Blue Beech	p. 53
29. Hop Hornbeam or Ironwood	p. 54
30. Black Birch or Cherry Birch	p. 55
31. Yellow Birch	p. 56
32. Red Birch	p. 57
33. Gray Birch	p. 58
(Note: 3 photographs with same composition)	
34. White Canoe Birch or Paper Birch	p. 59
35. Cut-Leaved White Birch	p. 61
(Note: 2 photographs, one with published	

composition and one with alterative image)	
36. Speckled Alder	p. 62
(Note: 2 photographs with same composition)	
37. Smooth Alder	p. 63
38. Chinquapin	p. 66
39. Red Oak	p. 67
(Note: 3 photographs with same composition)	
40. Pin Oak	p. 68
41. Scarlet Oak	p. 69
42. White Oak	p. 73
(Note: There is also a gallery proof of this image in Series III.C)	
43. White Mulberry	p. 87
44. Hawthorn	p. 102
45. Staghorn Sumach or Velvet Sumach	p. 113
46. Dogwood or Poison Sumach	p. 116
47. Sugar Maple	p. 121
48. Silver Maple	p. 122
(Note: 2 photographs with same composition)	
49. Sycamore Maple	p. 125
50. Norway Maple	p. 126
51. Tupelo or Sour-Gum Tree	p. 134
52. White Ash	p. 143
53. Sheepberry or Sweet Viburnum	p. 148
(Note: 2 photographs with same composition)	

3 photographs mounted on board, composed in the same format and unrelated to text or gallery proofs of *Our Trees*. Includes images of Black (/Red?) Mulberry, Juniper, Yellow Chestnut Oak, and Poison Oak.

Folder

1. One photograph of branches from a Chestnut (not the image used in *Our Trees*); One gallery proof of White Oak photograph, with handwritten identification in pen.