



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Frederick Vernon Coville Papers, 1888-1936 and undated

by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
Contact us at osiaref@si.edu
<http://siarchives.si.edu>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview.....	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subject Terms	2
Container Listing.....	3
Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1888-1921, AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.....	3
Series 2: MEDICINAL PLANTS SURVEY, 1897-1898.....	11
Series 3: DEATH VALLEY MATERIAL.....	12
Series 4: MANUSCRIPT ON CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES, UNDATED.....	14

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <i>osiaref@si.edu</i>
Creator:	Coville, Frederick V. (Frederick Vernon), 1867-1937
Title:	Frederick Vernon Coville Papers
Dates:	1888-1936 and undated
Quantity:	3 cu. ft. (6 document boxes)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7272, Frederick Vernon Coville Papers

Historical Note

Frederick Vernon Coville (1867-1937), botanist and blueberry breeder, was born in New York and educated at Cornell University (B. A., 1887). His important field work included the Geological Survey of Arkansas, 1888; the Death Valley Expedition, 1891; and the Harriman Alaska Expedition, 1899. Most of his career was spent at the United States Department of Agriculture, where he served as Assistant Botanist, 1888-1893, and Botanist, 1893-1937. He was also Honorary Curator of the United States National Herbarium, 1893-1937, and was instrumental in the establishment of the National Arboretum in 1927. More extensive biographical material can be found in *Science*, Volume 85, 280-281.

Introduction

These papers of Frederick Vernon Coville were part of a group of Smithsonian Department of Botany records which were originally deposited in 1971 at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. In December 1977, the records were returned to the Smithsonian for maintenance in the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of a small amount of correspondence, 1888-1921; material concerning the Medicinal Plants Survey, 1897-1898; notes concerning the revision of Coville's work on Death Valley plants, 1933-1936; and a small group of manuscript notes on currants and gooseberries, undated. Events and items of special interest which are documented in the correspondence include the explorations of Per Axel Rydberg in the Black Hills; the artistic work of Frederick A. Walpole; the acquisition of the Greene

Herbarium; the botany exhibits at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893; and the Mearns collection from the Mexican Boundary Survey, 1893.

The Smithsonian Archives contains other Coville correspondence scattered throughout a number of collections. Most of this material can be found in the records of the Division of Plants, particularly Record Units 220, 221, 222, and 224. Other collections include Record Unit 201, Assistant Secretary in Charge of the United States National Museum, 1875-1902, and the records of the Office of the Secretary, Record Units 31, 34, 45, and 46. The main body of Coville's official correspondence is located in Record Group 54, Records of the Bureau of Plant Industry, at the National Archives.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Botanists
Botany

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

Cornell University
Coville, Frederick V. (Frederick Vernon), 1867-1937
Death Valley Expedition (1891)
Edward L. Greene Herbarium
Geological Survey of Arkansas
Harriman Alaska Expedition (1899)
Mearns, Edgar Alexander, 1856-1916
Medicinal Plants Survey, 1897-1898
National Arboretum (U.S.)
Rydberg, Per Axel, 1860-1931
United States National Herbarium
United States-Mexican International Boundary Survey, 1891-1894
United States. Department of Agriculture
Walpole, Frederick A., 1861-1904
World's Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)

Container Listing

Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1888-1921, AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This collection division consists mostly of incoming correspondence, 1893, directed to Coville in his capacity as Botanist. Also included is correspondence addressed to his colleagues: Orator Fuller Cook, George Vasey, Joseph Nelson Rose, Lyster Hoxie Dewey, and Frederick J. Herman. Correspondents include botanists and collectors, both amateur and professional, while topics concern field work, publications, exchanges, and identification of specimens.

Box 1

Folder 1 A

Folder 2 Allen, John Fisk, 1893

Folder 3 Anderson, C. L., 1893

Folder 4 Applegate, Elmer Ivan, 1896-1898

Folder 5 Armstrong, C. W., 1893

Folder 6 Atkinson, George Francis, 1893

Folder 7 Austin, Mrs. R. M., 1897-1898

Folder 8 B

Folder 9 Bailey, Liberty Hyde, 1893, 1901

Folder 10 Bailey, Vernon Orlando, 1897

Folder 11 Barloue, J. G., 1893

Folder 12 Barnhart, John Hendley, 1895, 1899, 1904

Folder 13 Bartholomew, Elam, 1893

Folder 14 Bates, J. M., 1893

Folder 15 Battle, Herbert Bemerton, 1893. Includes report on "Grasses and Forage Plants Grown at the Mississippi Grass Experiment Station, April, 1893"

Folder 16 Beal, William James, 1893

Folder 17 Bebb, Michael Schuck, 1893-1895

Folder 18 Bessey, Charles Edwin, 1893. Includes correspondence on the explorations and collections of Per Axel Rydberg in the Black Hills

Folder 19 Blankinship, Joseph William, 1894, 1897

- Folder 20 Boettcher, F. L. J., 1893
- Folder 21 Brandegee, Katharine, 1890-1900
- Folder 22 Brandegee, Townshend Stith, 1894-1898
- Folder 23 Britton, Elizabeth Gertrude, 1893-1895
- Folder 24 Britton, Nathaniel Lord, 1893-1900, 1908
- Folder 25 Brooks, H. C., 1893
- Folder 26 Bush, Benjamin Franklin, 1893-1898
- Folder 27 C
- Folder 28 Canby, William M., 1893-1896, 1898
- Folder 29 Cheney, L. S., 1893, 1899
- Folder 30 Clements, Frederic Edward, 1893
- Folder 31 Cockerell, Theodore D. A., 1896-1897, 1901-1902
- Folder 32 Collins, J. Franklin, 1893, 1896-1897
- Folder 33 Cook, Orator Fuller, 1893, 1921
- Folder 34 Copineau, Charles, 1893, 1895
- Folder 35 Coulter, John Merle, 1893-1894, 1896
- Folder 36 Coville, Frederick Vernon, 1893-1894, 1898, 1902, 1906. Includes copy of the preface to Flora of Alaska and his tribute to Frederick A. Walpole
- Folder 37 Crandall, Charles S., 1893
- Folder 38 Crawford, E. W., 1893
- Folder 39 Crepin, F., 1895-1897
- Folder 40 Cummings, Clara Eaton, 1893, 1905
- Folder 41 Curtiss, Allen Hiram, 1893-1896, 1898-1900
- Folder 42 Cusick, William C., 1897-1898, 1900, 1902
- Folder 43 D
- Folder 44 Davidson, Anstruther, 1893, 1896, 1898, 1900
- Folder 45 Davis, Charles A., 1896
- Folder 46 Davy, J. Burt, 1893, 1897
- Folder 47 Deane, Walter, 1895, 1897, 1900-1901
- Folder 48 DeCandolle, A. & C., 1894, 1900, 1907-1908

Folder 49 Dewey, Lyster Hoxie, 1893, 1895, 1902, 1907

Folder 50 Dickinson Seed Company, 1893

Folder 51 Dodge, Charles K., 1893

Folder 52 Dudley, William Russell, 1893, 1896-1897, 1899, 1904

Folder 53 Dusen, P., 1893, 1902-1903

Box 2

Folder 1 E

Folder 2 Eastwood, Alice, 1893, 1895-1896, 1898, 1900, 1907

Folder 3 Eaton, Daniel Cady, 1893-1895

Folder 4 Eckfeldt, John W., 1893

Folder 5 Evans, Alexander William, 1896, 1900

Folder 6 F

Folder 7 Farwell, Oliver A., 1893, 1899, 1901, 1916-1917

Folder 8 Fenno, Frank E., 1897, 1904

Folder 9 Fernald, Merritt Lyndon, 1893, 1895-1896

Folder 10 Fink, Bruce, 1893-1895, 1908

Folder 11 Fletcher, James, 1893

Folder 12 Flett, J. B., 1900-1902

Folder 13 Fowler, James, 1896-1897, 1901-1902, and undated

Folder 14 Franceschi, Emanuele Francesco, 1893

Folder 15 Frear, William, 1893

Folder 16 Funston, Frederick, 1893

Folder 17 G

Folder 18 Ganong, William Francis, 1895-1896, 1901

Folder 19 Geare, Randolph Iltyd, 1893

Folder 20 Goode, George Brown, 1893

Folder 21 Greene, Edward Lee, 1888, 1895-1897, 1902, 1904. Includes correspondence of Coville to Richard Rathbun urging acquisition of the Greene Herbarium; copy of the transfer papers, 1904; letter of Greene to Edward Palmer, 1888; and published reprint photograph of Greene

Folder 22 Grover, Frederick O., 1896, 1899

Folder 23 H

Folder 24 Halsted, Bryon David, 1893

Folder 25 Harper, Roland M., 1901-1902, 1904

Folder 26 Harrison, Arthur Kenyon, 1893-1894, 1900

Folder 27 Hasse, Hermann Edward, 1893, 1901

Folder 28 Havard, Valerie, 1893-1897, 1900. Correspondence of 1897
concerns Medicinal Plants Survey

Folder 29 Hays, Willet Martin, 1893

Folder 30 Heller, Amos Arthur, 1893-1895, 1898, 1900-1913

Folder 31 Hicks, Gilbert H., 1893

Folder 32 Hilgard, Eugene W., 1893, 1898

Folder 33 Hill, George William, 1893

Folder 34 Hitchcock, Albert Spear, 1893, 1905, 1916

Folder 35 Holm, Theodor, 1894-1895, 1899-1904

Folder 36 Holzinger, John, 1893-1899. Concerns the botany exhibits at the
World's Columbian Exposition, 1893

Folder 37 Howe, Marshall Avery, 1893-1901

Folder 38 Howell, Thomas, 1895-1896. Includes "An Account of the Botanical
exploration of Thos. Howell in Oregon and Washington," 1877-1896

Folder 39 Hoy, David F., 1893

Folder 40 J

Folder 41 Jepson, Willis L., 1895, 1897-1902

Folder 42 Johnson, Duncan S., 1902-1903

Folder 43 Jones, Lewis Ralph, 1893

Folder 44 Jones, Marcus E., 1893-1898. Includes correspondence
concerning a conflict over the shipment and reporting of specimens,
1894-1895

Folder 45 Jordan, David Starr, 1896

Box 3

Folder 1 K

- Folder 2 Kearney, Thomas Henry, 1893-1895, 1908
- Folder 3 Keck, K. von, 1893
- Folder 4 Kelsey, Harlan P., 1893
- Folder 5 Kennedy, P. Beveridge, 1907-1908
- Folder 6 Key, Thomas J., 1893
- Folder 7 L
- Folder 8 Lamb, Frank H., 1895, 1897
- Folder 9 Lamson-Scribner, Frank, 1893
- Folder 10 Langlois, A. B., 1903. Concerns the purchase of the Langlois Herbarium, 1901
- Folder 11 Leiberg, John B., 1893, 1895, 1896, 1902. Correspondence dated 1893 concerns proposed collecting trip to Oregon
- Folder 12 Letterman, George W., 1893
- Folder 13 M
- Folder 14 MacDougal, Daniel Trembly, 1893
- Folder 15 Macmillan, Conway, 1893
- Folder 16 Macoun, John, 1893
- Folder 17 Maisch, John, 1893
- Folder 18 Mason, O., 1893
- Folder 19 Maxon, William Ralph, 1900-1912. Mostly letters to correspondents other than Coville
- Folder 20 McCarthy, Gerald, 1893
- Folder 21 Mearns, Edgar Alexander, 1893, 1903. Concerns plants collected on the Mexican Boundary Survey, 1893
- Folder 22 Meehan, Thomas, 1892-1899
- Folder 23 Merriam, C. Hart, 1905
- Folder 24 Mohr, Charles, 1894-1901
- Folder 25 Morong, Thomas, 1893
- Folder 26 Morton, J. Sterling, 1893
- Folder 27 Munson, T. V., 1894
- Folder 28 Mulford, A. Isabel, 1894, 1898

Folder 29 N

Folder 30 Nash, George V., 1893, 1899

Folder 31 Nealley, Greenleaf C., 1893

Folder 32 Nelson, Aven, 1892-1893

Folder 33 Nelson, Edward William, 1894, 1898

Folder 34 New York Photogravure Company, 1893

Folder 35 Newlon, W. S., 1893

Folder 36 O

Folder 37 Olcott, James B., 1893

Folder 38 Orcutt, Charles Russell, 1893-1894, 1898

Folder 39 P

Folder 40 Palmer, Edward, 1899

Folder 41 Pammel, Louis H., 1893

Folder 42 Parish, Samuel B., 1893-1909

Folder 43 Parke, Davis and Company, 1893

Folder 44 Parry, E. K., 1893

Folder 45 Perkins, Janet, 1901-1906

Folder 46 Pittier, Henri, 1893

Folder 47 Plank, E. N., 1893-1902. Includes a manuscript entitled "Botanical notes from New Mexico," "Notes from the Itinerary of a Botanist," "Botanical Notes from Texas, No. 27," and "Botanical Library of E. N. Plank," 1900

Folder 48 Pollard, Charles Louis, 1900-1903

Folder 49 Purpus, Carl A., 1897-1898, 1900

Box 4

Folder 1 R

Folder 2 Redding, R. J., 1893

Folder 3 Redfield, John H., 1893

Folder 4 Ridler, C. E., 1893

Folder 5 Riley, Charles Valentine, 1893

Folder 6 Robinson, Benjamin Lincoln, 1893

- Folder 7 Rolfs, Peter Henry, 1893
- Folder 8 Rose, Joseph Nelson, 1893, 1897
- Folder 9 Rosenfeld, B., 1893
- Folder 10 Rowlee, Willard W., 1893
- Folder 11 Rusby, Henry Hurd, 1893, 1895, 1900
- Folder 12 Ruth, Albert, 1893, 1899
- Folder 13 Rydberg, Per Axel, 1893-1899. Includes report on the flora of the Black Hills, 1893
- Folder 14 S
- Folder 15 Sandberg, J. H., 1893
- Folder 16 Sargent, Charles Sprague, 1893
- Folder 17 Saunders, De Alton, 1893
- Folder 18 Sewall, Joseph A., 1893
- Folder 19 Seymour, A. B., 1893, 1901
- Folder 20 Sheldon, Charles S., 1893, 1899
- Folder 21 Sheldon, Edmund P., 1893
- Folder 22 Shimer, Henry, 1893
- Folder 23 Shuttlenorth, Edward A., 1893
- Folder 24 Skeels, Homer C., 1896, 1902
- Folder 25 Small, John Kunkel, 1893-1897
- Folder 26 Smith, John Donnell, 1893-1894, 1905-1906
- Folder 27 Spring, John A., 1893
- Folder 28 Spruce, Richard, 1893
- Folder 29 Stearns, Elmer, 1895, 1898, 1901
- Folder 30 Steitz, Adam, 1893
- Folder 31 Stewart, F. C., 1893
- Folder 32 Suksdorf, Wilhelm N., 1893, 1895, 1896, 1901
- Folder 33 T
- Folder 34 Thiselton-Dyer, William Turner, 1893
- Folder 35 Thompson, Charles Henry, 1893

Folder 36 Thorne, Charles E., 1893

Folder 37 Toumey, James Wilson, 1893

Folder 38 Tracy, Samuel Mills, 1893-1903. Includes a report entitled "On the Establishment of a Grass Station," undated

Folder 39 Trelease, William, 1893

Folder 40 U-V

Folder 41 Underwood, Lucien Marcus, 1893, 1895, 1899-1901

Folder 42 Vasey, George, 1888-1889

Folder 43 Vasey, George R., 1893

Folder 44 W

Folder 45 Waghorne, Arthur C., 1893, 1895

Folder 46 Walker, Mrs. S. B., 1893

Folder 47 Walpole, Frederick, 1898-1918

Folder 48 Ward, Emma D., 1893

Folder 49 Webber, H. J., 1893

Folder 50 Webster, G. W., 1893

Folder 51 Werner, William C., 1893

Folder 52 Whited, Kirk, 1896, 1900

Folder 53 Wilcox, Timothy E., 1893, 1896

Folder 54 Wiley, Henry W., 1893-1894, 1897

Folder 55 Williams, Thomas A., 1893

Folder 56 Willits, Edwin, 1893

Folder 57 Wright, S. Hart, 1894, 1896

Folder 58 Wurzlów, Hugo, 1893-1894

Folder 59 Zell, Lydia Diller, 1893

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: MEDICINAL PLANTS SURVEY, 1897-1898.

The Medicinal Plants Survey was undertaken in 1897 by Coville, Henry Hurd Rusby, and Valerie Havard to determine the distribution and abundance of medicinal plants so that the most valuable might be cultivated. This series consists of completed Survey forms, some including correspondence; letters from Coville and Havard to Charles Louis Pollard explaining the work; and a letterpress book of outgoing correspondence of Coville and Pollard concerning the Survey.

Box 5

Folder 1 Correspondence, 1897

Folder 2 Medicinal Plants Survey questionnaires, B-J

Folder 3 Medicinal Plants Survey questionnaires, K-W

Folder 4 Letterpress book of outgoing correspondence, 1897

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: DEATH VALLEY MATERIAL.

In 1936 Coville began working on a revision of his Botany of the Death Valley Expedition, published in 1893. This series contains his notes for the revision, which he was working on at the time of his death.

Box 6

Folder 1 List of Death Valley plants, published and new

Folder 2 Changes in place names, Death Valley: Dr. Coville's suggestions, 1936

Folder 3 List of photographs of Death Valley plants, 1933-1934. Includes notes and annotated copies

Folder 4 List of dry ground shrubs of Death Valley, undated

Folder 5 Polypodiaceae

Equisetaceae

Salaginellaceae

Folder 6 Pinaceae

Folder 7 Gnetaceae

Folder 8 Typhaceae

Folder 9 Poaceae

Folder 10 Juncaceae

Folder 11 Liliaceae

Folder 12 Iridaceae

Folder 13 Urticaceae

Folder 14 Polygonaceae

Folder 15 Chenopodiaceae

Folder 16 Nyctaginaceae

Folder 17 Portulacaceae

Folder 18 Silenaceae

Folder 19 Papaveraceae

Folder 20 Brassicaceae

Folder 21 Capparidaceae

Folder 22 Grossulariaceae

- Folder 23 Crossosomataceae
- Folder 24 Rosaceae
- Folder 25 Mimosaceae
- Folder 26 Fabaceae
- Folder 27 Euphorbiaceae
- Folder 28 Vitaceae
- Folder 29 Malvaceae
- Folder 30 Loasaceae
- Folder 31 Cactaceae
- Folder 32 Onagraceae
- Folder 33 Apiaceae
- Folder 34 Loganiaceae
- Folder 35 Polemoniaceae
- Folder 36 Hydrophyllaceae
- Folder 37 Solanaceae
- Folder 38 Scrophulariaceae
- Folder 39 Plantaginaceae
- Folder 40 Rubiaceae
- Folder 41 Asteraceae

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: MANUSCRIPT ON CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES, UNDATED.

Box 6

Folder 42 Manuscript on Currants and Gooseberries, undated.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)