Finding Aid for the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Papers, ca. 1900-1940

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Note
Biological and Medical Sciences--Agriculture --Plant Culture
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Geographical (By Place) --California
Social Sciences --Area and Interdisciplinary Studies --Native American Studies
Finding Aid for the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Papers, ca. 1900-1940

Collection number: 123

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Los Angeles, CA

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Encoded by:
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Online finding aid edited by:
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Theodosia Burr Shepherd Papers,

Date (inclusive): ca. 1900-1940

Collection number: 123

Creator: Shepherd, Theodosia Burr

Extent: 3 boxes (1.5 linear ft.)

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.

Abstract: Theodosia Burr Shepherd was born in Keosauqua, Iowa. She was the daughter of Augustus Hall, a lawyer who later became Chief Justice of Nebraska. She married W.E. Shepherd on September 9, 1866, and they moved to California for her health in 1873. In 1881 she sent a package to Peter Henderson, a seedsman in New York, who encouraged her to grow seeds and flowers in the Ventura climate. She built up a business, the Theodosia B. Shepherd Company, which annually issued a retail catalogue and two wholesale lists. The business was incorporated in 1902. She wrote and lectured on plant life, her hybridization work, and her success in the seed industry. The Collection contains correspondence, 2 scrapbooks, photographs, and printed materials related to Theodosia Burr Shepherd and her work as a pioneer of seed culture in Ventura, CA. Includes a typescript biography of Theodosia B. Shepherd by her daughter, Myrtle Shepherd Francis.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access
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Additional Physical Form Available
A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Myrtle Shepherd Francis.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Theodosia Burr Shepherd Papers (Collection 123). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 2976878

Biography
Theodosia Burr Shepherd was born in Keosauqua, Iowa; she was the daughter of Augustus Hall, a lawyer who later became Chief Justice of Nebraska; she married W.E. Shepherd on September 9, 1866, and they moved to California for her health in 1873; in 1881 she sent a package to Peter Henderson, a seedsman in New York, who encouraged her to grow seeds and flowers in the Ventura climate; she built up a business, the Theodosia B. Shepherd Company, which annually issued a retail catalogue and two wholesale lists; in 1902 the business was incorporated, and the stockholders were members of her family; she wrote and lectured on plant life, her hybridization work, and her success as a pioneering woman in the seed industry; she died September 6, 1906 in Ventura, California.

Scope and Content
Collection contains correspondence, 2 scrapbooks, photographs, and printed materials related to Theodosia Burr Shepherd and her work as a pioneer of seed culture in Ventura, California. Includes a typescript biography of Theodosia B. Shepherd by her daughter, Myrtle Shepherd Francis. Most of the correspondence is to and from Myrtle S. Francis, who controlled the Theodosia B. Shepherd Company and its flower gardens after her mother's death. Correspondents include Florence Yoch and Luther Burbank. Many photographs in the collection are of various plants and flowers, and others are of Theodosia Burr Shepherd and Myrtle Shepherd Francis.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Shepherd, Theodosia Burr--Archives.
Francis, Myrtle Shepherd.
Theodosia B. Shepherd Company.
Floriculturists--California--Archival resources.
Seed industry and trade--California--Ventura.
Photographs.

Related Material
A string of Chumash Indian beads purchased by Theodosia Burr Shepherd in 1884 from Petra, a Chumash basket maker, is on indefinite loan to the Ventura County Historical Museum in Ventura, California.
Theodosia Burr Shepherd Papers. ca. 1900-1940

Physical Description: (3 boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, 2 scrapbooks, photographs, and printed materials related to Theodosia Burr Shepherd and her work as a pioneer of seed culture in Ventura, California. Includes a typescript biography of Theodosia B. Shepherd by her daughter, Myrtle Shepherd Francis. Most of the correspondence is to and from Myrtle S. Francis, who controlled the Theodosia B. Shepherd Company and its flower gardens after her mother's death. Correspondents include Florence Yoch and Luther Burbank. Many photographs in the collection are of various plants and flowers, and others are of Theodosia Burr Shepherd and Myrtle Shepherd Francis.