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D. H. Coggeshall Papers

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1869-1912

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D. H. Coggeshall (1847-1912) made his living as an apiculturist in Tompkins County, N.Y., on the southeast edge of the Finger Lakes. Beginning by 1870, he sold honey or extracted honey, and occasionally bees, to customers and commission merchants as far away as the Midwest.

This small assemblage of business letters and accounts document an active apiculturist during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Of particular note are some scarce printed advertising broadsides and circulars from some of the best known

apiculturists of the time, including L.L. Langstroth and Charles Dadant, as well as an early flier advertising the sale of newly arrived Italian bees. The sparse correspondence includes letters from clients and colleagues of Coggeshall, along with communications with commission merchants charged with selling his honey.

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Background on D.H. Coggeshall

David Hoyt Coggeshall, Jr., was born on Dec. 1, 1847, the son of D.H. and Lydia Coggeshall who had emigrated from their native Stamford, Conn., to the small Finger Lakes town of Groton.

From the little that can be discerned about him, Coggeshall began raising bees seriously while still in his youth, and apparently became interested in Italian bees within a decade of their introduction to the United States in 1859. Mild-tempered and highly productive, the Italian bees rapidly supplanted the black bees that had been the main source of honey in the country, and Coggeshall established himself as an energetic producer of honey and extracted honey and he sold and sometimes rented bees as well.

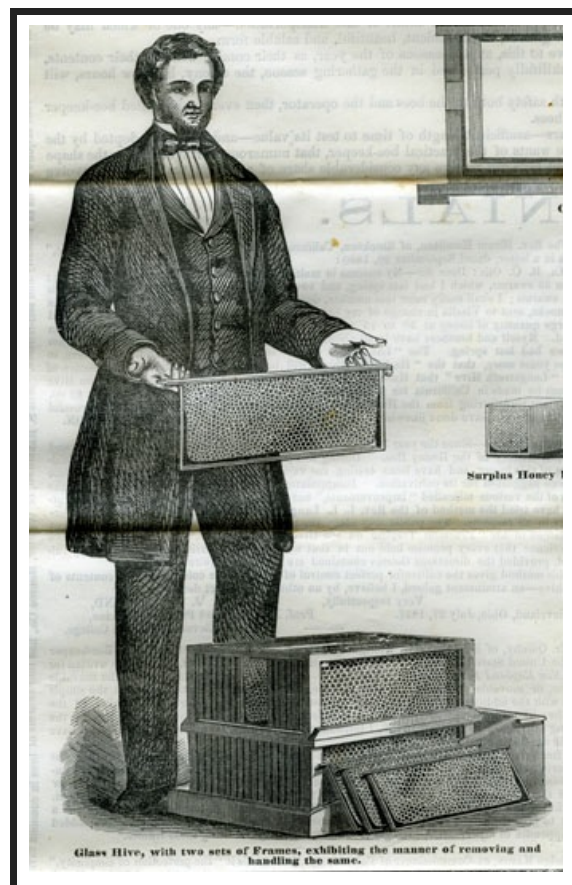
Shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, Coggeshall and another beekeeper (identified only as Alexander) apparently became involved in an effort to convert nectar artificially into honey, although their efforts proved disastrous. In 1915, they were singled out in the journal *Western Bee Keeper* as having

"ruined the New York market for extracted honey with their green, thin product, and it took us four years to recover it. You would not eat, neither could you sell, for any domestic purposes, the thin, flavorless product of their apiaries -- but for sweetening plugtobacco and show blacking it answers nicely."

Coggeshall died on Dec, 15, 1912, leaving behind his wife Clarinda.

Scope of collection

This small assemblage of business letters and accounts document an active apiculturist during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Of particular note are some scarce printed advertising broadsides and circulars from some of the best known apiculturists of the time, including L.L. Langstroth and Charles Dadant, as well as an early flier advertising the sale of newly arrived Italian bees. The sparse correspondence includes letters from clients and colleagues of Coggeshall, along with communications with commission merchants charged with selling his honey.



Advertisement for L.L. Langstroth moveable comb hive

Inventory

Barber, S. D.

1873

Folder 1

Baumeister, G.: G. Baumeister and Co. Pure honey [label]

ca.1880?

Folder 2

Benedict, A. The Italian or Ligurian honey bee

ca.1870

Folder 3

Buckner, W. E.

1912

Folder 4

Cortland Union Beekeepers Association: Beekeepers basket picnic

ca.1885

Folder 5

Dadant, Charles: Chas. Dadant & Son circular of Italian bees, imported queens, colonies

1880

Folder 6

Doremus, T. S.

1871

Folder 7

Includes Account of sales of honey

Kedzie, R. F.

1879

Folder 8

Kimball, B.

1895

Folder 9

Law, Adon S.

1911

Folder 10

Merriam & Falconer

1882

Folder 11

Nellis, J. H.

1879

Folder 12

Otis, R. C.

ca.1869

Folder 13

Otis, R. C.: Rev. L. L. Langstroth's moveable comb hive

ca.1865

Folder 14

Palmer, J. F.

1884

Folder 15

Peabody, J. L.: Peabody's honey extractor

ca.1870

Folder 16

Rea, George H.

1911

Folder 17

Snyder, Frank

1911

Folder 18

Thorn, L.

1872

Folder 19

Thurber, H. K. and F. B.

1879-1880

Folder 20

Van Deusen, C. C.: C. C. Van Deusen's bee-feeder

1872

Folder 21

Ward, E. and C.

1879-1880

Folder 22

Ward, E. and O.

1873-1878

Folder 23

Watts, C. S.

1911

Folder 24

Welch, D. H.
1911
Folder 25

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Steve Finer, Mar. 2009 (2009-050).

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, September 2015.

Digitized content

Portions of the collections have been digitized and are available online in [Credo](#).

Bibliography

The quotation on Coggeshall's artificial honey comes from an editorial insertion, *Western Honey Bee*, vol. 3, 1 (1915): 20.

Language:

English

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Cite as: D. H. Coggeshall Papers (MS 600). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Beehives
Beekeeping
Honey trade--New York (State)

Contributors

Coggeshall, D. H. (David Hoyt), 1847-1912 **[main entry]**
Dadant, Charles
Otis, R. C.

Genres and formats

Fliers (printed matter)

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