

Special Collections and University Archives

UMass Amherst Libraries 

Allen B. Cook Papers

1893-1899

2 boxes, 2 framed photographs (2 linear feet)

Call no.: RG 050/6 1896 C66



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Born June 27, 1875 in Petersham, Massachusetts, Allen Bradford Cook graduated from Massachusetts Agricultural College as a member of the class of 1896. Cook was a member of the MAC Shakespearean Club, Young Men's Christian Association, Washington Irving Literary Society, and the Clark Cadets Band. Immediately upon graduation, Cook began a career with facets as a landscape gardener, farm manager, tree warden, and state park supervisor. He was a life-long member of the Grange, active on both the state and national level, and helped to revitalize several Connecticut chapters. Cook met his wife, Emma Louise Shepardson, through her brother and Cook's college friend, William Shepardson. Allen and Emma married on July 23, 1899, and had five children. Allen Cook died May 24, 1965 at his home in West Hartford, Connecticut.

The Cook papers include three oversized photographs of the MAC class of 1896, Shakespearean Club, and the Clark Cadets Band; Cook's wooden flute and piccolo from his time in the Clark Cadets; two MAC wool felt pillow covers; Cook's academic reports; and a large set of ephemera, including material from the Shakespearean Club and programs and cards from commencement, class day and military exercises, dances and banquets, and various oratory contests.

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Background on Allen B. Cook

Born June 27, 1875 in Petersham, Massachusetts, Allen Bradford Cook graduated from Massachusetts Agricultural College as a member of the class of 1896. Cook was a member of the MAC Shakespearean Club, Young Men's Christian Association, Washington Irving Literary Society, and the Clark Cadets Band. Immediately upon graduation, Cook began a career with facets as a landscape gardener, farm manager, tree warden, and state park supervisor. He was a life-long member of the Grange, active on both the state and national level, and helped to revitalize several Connecticut chapters. He had a high standards for the properties he managed, relied on current agricultural research, and had a deep, life-long love for the land and the natural world. Cook spent many years searching for and documenting Connecticut's 1902 Constitutional Conception pine oak trees.

Cook met his wife, Emma Louise Shepardson, through her brother and Cook's college friend, William Shepardson. Emma was living in Amherst at the time, attending Amherst High School and working in the household of MAC Professor William P. Brooks. Allen and Emma married on July 23, 1899, and had five children. Allen Cook died May 24, 1965 at his home in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Scope of collection

The Cook papers include three oversized photographs of the MAC class of 1896, Shakespearean Club, and the Clark Cadets Band; Cook's wooden flute and piccolo from his time in the Clark Cadets; two MAC wool felt pillow covers; Cook's academic reports; and a large set of ephemera, including material from the Shakespearean Club and programs and cards from commencement, class day and military exercises, dances and banquets, and various oratory contests.

Inventory

Academic reports

1892-1895

Box 1: 1

Banquets, dances

1893-1898

Box 1: 2

Commencement programs

1893-1898

Box 1: 3

Diplomas

1896 Jun

Box 2

Cook's diplomas for the B.S. degree and for Military Department

Exercise programs

1893-1897

Box 1: 4

Instruments

ca.1894

Box 2

One black wooden flute with eight nickel keys and box, and one black wooden piccolo with four nickel keys, used by Cook in the Clark Cadets Band.

Pillow covers

ca.1894

Box 2

Two 22-inch square deep red wool felt pillow covers with cut fringe, one with "Massachusetts" on front and MAC monogram on back, and one with "Mass Aggies" on front.

Receipts

1894-1895

Box 1: 5

Photograph - MAC Clark Cadets Band

ca.1896

Box 2

10" by 13" black and white photograph, accompanying notation made by Cook identifying members of the band does not match the image and probably corresponds to the 1895 band photograph.

Photograph - MAC Class of 1896

ca.1896

16" by 10" sepia toned photograph in 20.5" by 18" dark oak frame, most likely of the class of 1896. MAC banner behind students and also held by front center student. Photograph by A. J. Schillare.

Photograph - MAC Shakespearean Club

ca.1896

13" by 10" sepia toned photograph in 20.5" by 17.5" dark oak frame. Photograph by Hearn, Boston, Mass.

Shakespearean Club

1893-1899

Box 1: 6

Shakespearean Club

1899

Box 1: 7

Speaking contest programs

1893-1898

Box 1: 8

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Barbara Goodwin, June 2021.

Processing Information

Processed by Blake Spitz, June 2021.

Language:

English

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Search terms

Subjects

Massachusetts Agricultural College--Alumni
Massachusetts Agricultural College--Students

Contributors

Cook, Allen B. [main entry]

Genres and formats

Ephemera
Musical instruments
Photographs

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