

Charlotte Goodding Reeder and Her Husband, John

Kathryn Mauz
Silt, CO
kmauz1@gmail.com

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John Reeder (1914–2009) and Charlotte Goodding Reeder (1916–2009) were agrostologists, or grass specialists, who devoted their careers to documenting the grass floras of North America and investigating topics in grass systematics and evolutionary biology. In retirement, “The Reeders,” as they were known, were fixtures at the University of Arizona Herbarium for three decades, though their work was typically confined to weekends and holidays when the herbarium was occupied by just a few other researchers. At the lunch hour, over their customary sandwiches, usually followed by tea (from a teapot) and cookies, John and Charlotte always had amusing, entertaining, and educational stories to share about trips they had made, students or fellow faculty they had known, sometimes newsy bits or gossip (termed by Charlotte “the hot scoop”), their own history as herbarium curators, and insights about the grasses that they both loved to study. Their memories were incredible and, between the two of them, synergistic. While we all enjoyed their botanical lore, I for one can only wish that every word had been recorded for posterity.

Although they were both in their nineties, Charlotte and John seemed to have passed ahead of their times. Friend and collection manager at the University of Arizona Herbarium, (the now late) Phil Jenkins, prepared memoria that appeared in the newsletter of the Flora of North America Project in 2009. While these treatments were necessarily expeditious and brief, some of the historical details reported then are corrected herein as original sources have been consulted. In elaborating their life histories, this modest narrative collects contemporary newsy items, records, correspondence, and recollections by colleagues for the benefit of others whose memories may fade, or who did not have the privilege of knowing the Reeders in person. They were friends to all, even honorary grandparents to some, selfless in their work, and welcoming to any serious student of plants and lover of Nature; “talented, generous, and gracious” applied equally to both of them.²

Supplemental to this article, the botanical publications of and plant taxa described by Charlotte Goodding, or Charlotte Reeder, and John Reeder, are compiled online at

<http://cals.arizona.edu/herbarium/reeders>, hosted by the University of Arizona Herbarium.

Charlotte and the Goodding Family

Charlotte Olive Goodding was born 26 July 1916 in Flagstaff, Arizona. In announcing the birth, her father noted: “a beautiful baby girl, whose weight is 8 1/2 pounds arrived at his home Wednesday, with a tag which read: ‘Miss Charlotte Olive Goodding,’ consequently there was nothing to do but to keep her.”³ She was the oldest of the three children of Leslie Newton Goodding (1880–1967) and Bernice Olive Wacek (1898–1974), including siblings Gladys Lucille (1918–1979), also born in Flagstaff, and Leston Ewneil (1924–2013), born in Corvallis, Oregon, and known as “the kid” in the family.⁴

The trajectory of Charlotte’s childhood naturally was influenced by that of her father’s career. Leslie Goodding (to whom Charlotte referred as “Father” or even “Father Dear” when reminiscing) was a botanist and plant pathologist. Throughout his career, he was employed in various capacities as a science educator and as a plant scientist with agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As a consequence, the family lived in Arizona, Oregon, Arizona again, New Mexico, and finally Arizona, where Mr. and Mrs. Goodding remained in retirement. Leslie graduated in 1903 with a bachelor of arts and honors in botany, as well as a bachelor of pedagogy, from the University of Wyoming, Laramie, where he had worked with professor and curator Aven Nelson at the Rocky Mountain Herbarium. He then completed a bachelor of science in forestry from the Industrial College at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 1904, when Charles E. Bessey was professor and dean of the school.⁵ Just out of school, he assisted in a U.S. Bureau of Forestry survey of the forest resources of Nebraska.⁶ During these years, as well, Leslie collected broadly in the Great Basin, contributing both to the knowledge of the flora and to the discovery of many new plant species (among them, *Salix gooddingii* in Nevada, 1902).⁷ In 1907, he collected seeds in Mexico on behalf of the government of South Africa.⁸ Beginning in 1908, he taught high school science in Bisbee, Arizona, then in 1913



Above, Charlotte's parents, Bernice and Leslie Goodding, ca. 1930s. **Right,** Charlotte Goodding, 4 years old (about 1920).



moved to Flagstaff, where he was professor of physical and biological science and oversaw the herbarium at the Northern Arizona Normal School.⁹

On 30 August 1915, Leslie married Bernice Wacek, of Bisbee, at a ceremony in Tucson, after which they returned to Flagstaff where the new Mrs. Goodding was a student at the Normal School.¹⁰ By 1917, the Gooddings were living in Clarkdale, Arizona, while Leslie was teaching at Jerome High School and conducting summer field studies in northern Arizona for the U.S.D.A.¹¹ The family moved again when Leslie accepted a position as principal of the Willcox, Arizona, grade schools in the fall of 1918.¹² In 1920, while headquartered in Tucson, he continued with work across the Southwest for the Bureau of Plant Industry.¹³ Less than three years later, the Gooddings moved to Corvallis, Oregon, where the family then lived for most of Charlotte's school age years. From 1922 to 1934, Leslie was associated with the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, the Experiment Station, and the Extension Service of the Oregon Agricultural College. He worked on problems in plant pathology, notably the epidemiology of white pine blister rust, as a specialist with the U.S.D.A.¹⁴ In addition to Mr. Goodding's frequent travels for field investigations, the family often traveled or temporarily relocated in the summers in conjunction with his work.¹⁵ For as much as they chose or were compelled to move, the Gooddings were fortunate that Leslie was well positioned to maintain continuous employment throughout the years of the Great Depression. This pattern of frequent relocation continued during and after the second World War as agency budgets and national priorities changed, but Leslie managed to keep himself in the field much of the time. As Charlotte later

observed, "He is never really happy when he is 'divorced' from his plant collecting."¹⁶

Both of Charlotte's parents sustained lifelong affiliations with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and this influence extended to their children's upbringing.¹⁷ Leslie was at times an officer of the Epworth League, the Christian Endeavor League, and with the council on Sunday school education.¹⁸ Bernice was active in the Loyal Temperance Legion, the Epworth League, and with religious education and missionary activities.¹⁹ Charlotte herself was a member of the Epworth League while in high school, and regularly attended the Salem District annual conference in the early 1930s.²⁰ To a meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, she presented an essay entitled "Safety Program and Total Abstinence," and merited honorable mention for a poster presented at the annual institute of the W.C.T.U. in 1933.²¹ Even in college in Arizona, Charlotte continued to participate in church activities, once hosting the station for Mexico as part of a "World Tour" evening program, and by joining in and helping to organize weekly social events (games, music, singing, sports, and excursions) sponsored by the Wesley Foundation of the First Methodist Church in Tucson.²²

The Goodding family kept up a social profile through the church, schools, and activities of their children, among which academics figured prominently. Charlotte and her sister, Gladys, studied piano as children, and they often played at recitals both individually and together in duet.²³ Both sisters were active in the Corvallis 4-H club in high school. Charlotte participated in the cooking club in 1929, and in the summer sessions hosted by Oregon State College from 1929 to 1931.²⁴ In 1931, Charlotte received an honorable

mention in an essay contest sponsored by the Corvallis Lumber Company on the topic of home modernization.²⁵ At Corvallis High School, she was a member of the Girls League, the Torch Honorary Society, and the Travel Club, and was recognized on the school's honor roll as a senior in 1933. She graduated with an estimated 179 students in the class of 1933, in which she was among eight students awarded "highest scholastic honors" and among 18 selected by the faculty for "special honors" in recognition of academic achievement and leadership.²⁶ After Charlotte's graduation, the Goodding family made a driving trip that included Mount Rainier and Tacoma in Washington state, and stops along the Oregon coast.²⁷

Charlotte attended college in Corvallis in 1933–1934. For her coursework during the year, she received an honorable mention among the three Clara H. Waldo Prizes presented to the freshman class.²⁸ The Goodding family moved to Tucson, Arizona, in August 1934, where Leslie resumed work with the U.S.D.A. and Charlotte enrolled in college at the University of Arizona.²⁹ (Some 70 years later when at the University of Arizona Herbarium and its new home in Herring Hall, Charlotte recalled Professor J.J. Thornber, who was the curator when she was a student, and the days of Herring Hall as a gymnasium.) In August 1936, the Gooddings, including Charlotte, relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Leslie continued work with the Soil Conservation Service.³⁰ While an undergraduate at the University of New Mexico in 1937, Charlotte was secretary of the Alpha Nu chapter of the biological honor society Phi Sigma, and she gave a presentation on the grass genus *Muhlenbergia* at the society's annual convention in Philadelphia that year.³¹ She graduated with a bachelor of science from the University of New Mexico in 1938.³² That fall, Charlotte began graduate studies at the University of Wyoming, where she was an assistant in the Rocky Mountain Herbarium. Ernie Nelson, the present curator (no relation to Aven), notes: "Because of her father who always remained close to [Aven] Nelson, she was closely associated and influenced by Nelson, being his grad student. Nelson considered her as his granddaughter. She told about having to watch Nelson that he didn't leave a burning cigarette in a herbarium case."³³ Charlotte presented her thesis on the grass genus *Muhlenbergia* and was awarded a master of arts in Botany in the spring of 1939.³⁴ She was again a student at the University of New Mexico in the spring of 1940, where she remained an active member of Phi Sigma.³⁵ At a meeting held in Tucson in April 1940, she presented a paper to the systematic botany subsection of the southwestern section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.³⁶

The Goodding family moved to Phoenix, Arizona, about March 1941. Charlotte visited the National Herbarium in Washington, D.C., that spring, with plans to then move to Corvallis to resume her graduate studies.³⁷ Once again at Oregon State College, she enrolled in the Botany Ph.D. program with a minor in Geology from fall 1941 through spring 1942. At the same time, Charlotte worked in the college herbarium as an assistant to professor and curator Helen Gilkey.³⁸ It was there, as well, that she met her future husband, who had started at O.S.C. the year before. On 15 August 1941, not two months after her arrival, Charlotte Olive Goodding married John Raymond Reeder in Corvallis, and was afterward known as Charlotte G. Reeder.³⁹ John used to say that when he met Charlotte he knew she was "a good one." In a letter that fall to Agnes Chase, who was the custodian of grasses at the National Herbarium, Charlotte wrote, "Just how you figured out that my 'boy friend' was the grass student, I haven't figured yet. But that is the situation.



Charlotte at Sabino Canyon, foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson, ca. 1934–1936.

Everyone out here thinks that it is a good idea. We think so too. This way we can collect together, work together, etc.”⁴⁰

John Reeder, Oregon State College, and the War

For two people from such different backgrounds, John and Charlotte’s acquaintance turned out to be an enduring match. Two years older than Charlotte, John Reeder was born 29 July 1914 near Grand Ledge, central Michigan. Named for his grandfather, he was the youngest of the three children of a second-generation Michigan farmer, Raymond, and his wife, Hazel Blanche (Ingersoll) Reeder.⁴¹ In a predominantly agricultural county, Ray Reeder’s 40-acre farm was about five miles by road from Grand Ledge, and just half a mile from the nearest schoolhouse.⁴² Charlotte once observed that John was “quite a good ice skater...having learned on the puddles which froze over in Michigan.”⁴³ John often shared recollections of his early years on the farm and of attending a one-room rural school through the eighth grade.⁴⁴ As had his older siblings, he probably attended Grand Ledge High School. During the 1932 “Junior Farmers Week” at Michigan State College in nearby East Lansing, an 18-year-old John presented a high school project and won the gold medal for his speech in a contest sponsored by the agricultural fraternity Alpha Zeta.⁴⁵ It was not until 1935 that he followed his older brother, Norman, to M.S.C., where he completed a bachelor of science in Botany, with honors, in 1939.⁴⁶ John then attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he submitted a thesis, entitled “Flora of Carle Woods, an oak-maple woodland near Des Plaines, Illinois,” and received a master of science in Botany in 1940.⁴⁷ In pursuit of a Ph.D. in Botany, he enrolled at Oregon State College from fall 1940 through spring 1942, during which time he worked as a graduate assistant in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology (where Charlotte’s father had been headquartered in the 1920s).⁴⁸

As the school year began in the fall of 1941, John and Charlotte were still settling into married life while both working and taking courses. Charlotte related, “We have a small 3-roomed apartment, the best feature of which is a nice kitchen provided with electric stove and refrigerator. We practically live in our kitchen when we are home (which, needless to say, isn’t much!)”⁴⁹ They were each well regarded in the department, as well as among the herbarium staff and by Dr. Gilkey. During the fall semester, Charlotte and John were honored by a surprise reception at Dr. Gilkey’s home, as Charlotte described, “The younger members of the department were there. One of the wives had made a delicious angel food cake on the top of which was a little



John Reeder as a senior in the 1939 Wolverine, yearbook of Michigan State College (courtesy of Archives & Special Collections, Michigan State University).

bride and groom. I had to cut it. The table was most attractive and refreshments the best ever. They had a corsage for me—the tip of a gladiola flower stalk (salmon colored) with variegated perrywinkle [sic] for greenery.” Occasional social gatherings followed, along with field trips with Dr. Gilkey and others. For their first Christmas together, John and Charlotte purchased a “table model radio” for “keeping up with world events,” and John himself built a small table for it in their home.⁵⁰

As the herbarium assistant at O.S.C., Charlotte’s ongoing correspondence with “Mrs. Chase” (sometimes addressed affectionately as “Aunt Agnes”) allowed her to relay news and literature from the staff at the National Herbarium and to facilitate exchanges and gifts of specimens that enhanced Oregon’s collection. Both she and John continued to cultivate their interest in grasses and contemplated grass topics for their thesis work at O.S.C. As students, they were among a small minority interested in taxonomy.⁵¹ They presented topics for departmental seminars and, in April 1942, John and Charlotte each gave a paper at the annual Oregon Student Science Conference that was held in Corvallis that year.⁵² Beginning early that year, “world events” began to impose themselves on university life in Corvallis, as elsewhere, necessitating limits on nighttime herbarium work to conserve electricity, as well as curtailing field trips because of restrictions on tires and gasoline.⁵³ Although John had expected to complete his degree in June

1943, the spring term of 1942 was to be the last for both he and Charlotte at O.S.C. As the departmental history records, several graduate assistants, including John Reeder, were called away, “and they, with Charlotte Goodding who by this time had become Mrs. John Reeder, all disappeared from the Botany staff.”⁵⁴

It was not yet a year since they were married when their lives were disrupted by the intensifying war effort. Charlotte described the tumult that ensued:

Shortly before school was out John started to a federal school to learn to be a welder. By the first of July, he was assigned to a job in the shipyards in Vancouver, Washington. At that time we both resigned our contracts, but not our interest in botany and especially grasses, and went to live in Vancouver. After considerable trouble with the housing problem, we purchased a trailer house which we have enjoyed since. It wasn't long after the move that we started getting notices from the Local Draft Board. In spite of the efforts of the Kaiser Company, for whom John worked, to secure a deferment for John, he was inducted Sept. 8. We brought our trailer back to Corvallis at that time. He was granted a 2-weeks furlough during which we returned to Vancouver where he worked 10 days more. He was to report to the reception center (Ft. Lewis, Wn.) on Sept. 22. Just before that he came down with a miserable case of “flu” and was confined to bed and could not report for duty. Since then we have waited almost a month now, expecting to receive word any time that he would have to leave. It has been trying and hard, and we've not accomplished much of the things we had planned. ... So far we have few plans until we know what is to become of John.⁵⁵

After John enlisted in the U.S. Army at Portland, Oregon, he spent some time in training, then served in the Pacific Theater on the island of New Guinea.⁵⁶ While engaged in malaria control at points along the coast of eastern Papua New Guinea from 1943–1944, he made observations and collected plants in the region that would influence his graduate studies later on. John later recalled his efforts despite a shortage of supplies:

One evening I spread my driers (which were newspapers) out to dry in the sun and went inside my tent to change my clothes. When I came out to collect the driers, none were there. Our n[a]tives were still waiting for the truck which would take them to the compound. Examination proved that one of the boys had supplied himself with paper for cigarettes for many days to come. I retrieved them amid much scolding and impressed upon [them] that when I had papers spread upon the ground they were not to be molested.⁵⁷

Although no official letters were preserved between October 1942 and January 1945 (it seems quite plausible that Mrs. Chase deliberately did not save letters containing sensitive information about John), Charlotte recalled still corresponding with Agnes Chase. Phil Jenkins related the story that, while overseas, “John was not supposed to reveal his location but in letters to Charlotte he would casually mention he had seen the type location of some grass, and Agnes and Charlotte could quickly find his whereabouts.”⁵⁸ Meanwhile, Charlotte herself spent at least part of that time with her parents in southern Arizona and at the Yuma Field Station near Bard, California, where Leslie Goodding was associated with the Soil Conservation Service and, during the spring of 1944, Charlotte was employed as a “Junior Scientific Aid.”⁵⁹

As was common among Allied personnel stationed on New Guinea, John developed a case of “jungle rot” (a fungal infection) in his feet, which became severe enough to require his return to the United States and a lengthy hospitalization. While John received treatment at the Victor C. Vaughan General Hospital in Hines, Illinois, Charlotte lived with



John Reeder following his return from the South Pacific, January 1945. Charlotte wrote on the back of a duplicate, “Norm took this of John to ‘catch that SW Pacific look’. I like it the more I see it.”



Sgt. John Reeder in his Army uniform at the Brookfield Zoo, Chicago, March 1945.

another family in nearby Oak Park, west of Chicago, into the spring of 1945.⁶⁰ During this time, Charlotte and Mrs. Chase occasionally exchanged reading material and advice about books, as well as questions about grasses. Chase had arranged for an appointment to the herbarium staff for Charlotte, and the appropriation for it was approved in February 1945, but any plans to move there awaited John's full recovery. She relayed to Charlotte a comment by her father, Leslie, "that you 'are suffering from too much John.' I don't wish for you to recover ever, but since you can't be at the hospital with him I hope you will use some of the 'lost time' to write to me."⁶¹ Finally cured, John received an honorable medical discharge from the Army on 1 June, prompting Charlotte to exclaim, "Maybe you don't think that we are two happy people!"⁶²

Almost immediately, John and Charlotte left Chicago by train for Winslow, Arizona, where her father had been teaching school, just as the Gooddings were to relocate to Phoenix. After a short visit, they retrieved their car in Winslow and proceeded to drive to Michigan to stay with John's family:

As far as our trip across the country was concerned we had a leisurely and enjoyable time all the way. John insists that no one has taken so long to make the trip since the days of

the covered wagons! We visited the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert on the way from Winslow to Albuquerque. ... This, as you may know, is the first time for John in the Southwest.

In Albuquerque we stopped to see some of our friends there. I visited with Dr. [E.F.] Castetter and some of the other professors at the University. In fact it was Dr. Castetter who suggested that we go onto Santa Fe via the Sandia Mountains. That was a delightful drive, and gave us an opportunity to see some of the Southwestern Mountain areas. I had been up close to the top before, but I always enjoy that drive. We had sleeping bags along and stayed one night near the top—we were at about 8000 feet. ... Such a night as that proved to be. We put our bags down in a little three-sided shelter provided by the Forest Service. We had company at various intervals during the night, ranging from a bull, a horse, several rats, a mouse, and a couple of porcupines who were quite insistent that that was their domicile. We didn't actually tangle, but it kept us awake a good share of the night chasing them away. John's "weapon" was a flashlight, but it proved satisfactory for the time at least.

It was a Sunday when we reached Santa Fe. Usually Santa Fe is an interesting place to spend some time looking at the historical objects around there. However at present the town is being over-run by soldiers. ... To add to the confusion, there was a carnival in progress—so all in all we couldn't get out of that place fast enough. From Albuquerque on to Wichita we pretty well followed the old Santa Fe Trail. ... We collected a few plants from those old ruts, including our first specimens of Buffalo Grass. That was up near Las Vegas, New Mexico.

... From Las Vegas we came via the Raton Pass to La Junta and Las Animas in Colorado. The route then took us into Kansas. The flowers were abundant all along the way, and in fact we read in the Wichita paper that the prairies had more flowers than at any time in 50 years. ... At Fort Scott, Kansas, we headed south to the Ozark Mts. We had both heard quite a lot about the beauty of these mountains, so we decided to side-trip down there to see them. They proved rather disappointing to us—after having seen the Rockies, Cascades, etc. However, we did see some pretty scenery, and made a few collections. ...

Somewhere along the line I got a grand and glorious dose of chigger bites. It was the worst insect bite I've ever had. ...

From Springfield, Missouri, we went on to St. Louis, where we stopped long enough to pay our respects to the Missouri Botanical Gardens and the herbarium there. We visited Dr. [J.M.] Greenman, looked over a few specimens, and then were shown around by Dr. Greenman. ...

It is only a matter of a few hours onto Springfield, Illinois, where we spent 10 days with Norm and his family. We had a fine time there. Norm took off a week, and he and John made a plant press, cut driers, went collecting,



John Reeder with his plant press on the Santa Fe Trail, 19 July 1945 (courtesy of the University of Arizona Herbarium, John R. Reeder and Charlotte Goodding Reeder Archive). Even into his 90s, John carried a small pick, shown here, to collect grasses. He made it himself when he learned welding before entering the Army in World War II.

printed pictures, etc. Something was going on most of the time there.

When we left Springfield, we visited Lincoln's Tomb there before going onto Urbana. ... We did get into the herbarium of the Univ. of Illinois. Neither of us has been there before, so we were glad to see what it was like. ... We rather liked the arrangement there for working space for graduate study, the herbarium, and general attitude.

Chicago was the next stop. We stayed over for three days with John's former roommate and his family. We did a bit of shopping and sightseeing there before making the last lap of the trip. From Chicago we came to Michigan via the sand dunes along the shores of Lake Michigan. ... We basked in the sun, waded in the lake, and collected a few plants in the sand. We went as far north along the Lake as Ludington, then moved northeastward to Cadillac and Lake City, where we visited with some of John's relatives. We stayed three nights with John's Uncle Will, while John helped them with the hay making. We got here to John's folk's farm one month after we left Winslow. How was that??⁶³

At the Ray Reeder farm, John and Charlotte helped "Dad Reeder" with putting up hay, about which Charlotte remarked, "They even had me out there trying to drive the team of horses, tripping the harpoon fork, driving the car when they hoisted the hay into the barn, etc." She described the Belgian and Percheron draft horses that worked on the

farm, "They are all gentle, so even I get around them, feed them corn, take them out for water, etc. In fact I have become quite fond of these huge fellows."⁶⁴ In addition to the farm work, John and Charlotte visited the county fair and with faculty and friends at Michigan State College. Many of their household things had been sent to John's parents for storage and safe keeping, and sorting out "our great gob of stuff" was also one of their tasks during their stay.⁶⁵ John and Charlotte were able to visit the farm again several times while John's parents were still alive, about which Charlotte later observed, "John's dad is a favorite of mine, too, so unlike my father. We always have a good time there on the farm and invariably leave loaded down with canned things, home-grown produce, etc."⁶⁶

Simultaneous with their re-integration into normal life after the war, John and Charlotte were considering possibilities for their future. Charlotte had apparently given up the offer from the National Herbarium, while John had been in communication with Harvard University about pursuing his Ph.D. there. Agnes Chase had been wielding her influence in that direction, as well, sending duplicates of John's New Guinea grass collections to Elmer Drew Merrill, professor of botany and director of the Arnold Arboretum.⁶⁷ In September, she wrote, "He was in some 8 or 10 days ago and said that John Reeder had applied for a fellowship, with grasses of N.G. for his thesis. Merrill spoke as if it would

go through, and that part of his [John's] work would have to be down here. So another of my hopes seems on the way to fulfilment [sic]."⁶⁸ Almost within the week, they embarked on yet another journey, bound for Cambridge, Massachusetts, with a stop in Detroit, on through southern Ontario to Niagara Falls, across New York State, and a visit to Walden Pond.⁶⁹ Before the month was out, John and Charlotte had taken an apartment on the second floor of a house at 65 Hammond St in Cambridge. Charlotte reported the news to Mrs. Chase: "This is just to let you know that we made it and have found a place in which to hang up our hats (of which we neither have any!!)."⁷⁰

The Reederers at Harvard

In the fall of 1945, John and Charlotte were situated comfortably in Cambridge, pleased with their new surroundings and their convenient location to campus.⁷¹ The Reederers' first impressions of Harvard itself were entirely favorable. On 24 September, John registered as a student in the Department of Organismic & Evolutionary Biology and was to work with E.D. Merrill (an authority on the island floras of southeast Asia and the south Pacific) as his major professor. Charlotte noted, "We both 'took a



Charlotte Reeder, probably in the 1940s or 1950s.

fancy to' Dr. Merrill when we went out to the Arboretum to meet him. He gives the impression of being a human dynamo. We also met Prof. [M.L.] Fernald [at the Gray Herbarium] today. ... Everyone is cordial, helpful, and eager to do all he can."⁷² John began spending three days a week at the Arboretum, where right away Merrill put him to work compiling a bibliography on the flora of the Malay Archipelago (a Sisyphean task Merrill later acknowledged as "a stupendous undertaking").⁷³ Although he had sufficient prior coursework to complete his degree, minus the thesis and language requirements, John decided to use the benefits of the "G.I. Bill" to take classes in addition to his job as a teaching fellow in the biology laboratories.

Just as John began his studies, Charlotte found herself left at home but fully aware of her auspicious proximity to the herbarium and the Arboretum library. She wrote to Mrs. Chase that she was thinking about doing "a bit of research work on the side myself," where "I might better be using my time to some good advantage than just sitting around this little old room reading, sewing, or the like."⁷⁴ She thought particularly about the genus *Muhlenbergia* and of the catching up that might need to be done since her thesis days before the war. Chase advised that Charlotte needed to study grasses more broadly, both geographically and taxonomically, first, and proposed, as well, that a bibliographic project like John's might provide valuable experience as well as exposure. She suggested, "To spend your time 'sitting around' with such opportunities within reach would be sinful—why not take 6 days a week to work? Light housekeeping can be done after work—at least I've always done it, and not so light either."⁷⁵ Charlotte did soon enough find productive work at the Arboretum, reporting in January that she had been checking and typing a taxonomic index for Merrill, and typing John's bibliography project: "No telling what they will find for me to be doing next!"⁷⁶

During the winter holidays, John and Charlotte kept up their work schedule and enjoyed socializing with faculty and research associates of the Arboretum.⁷⁷ Early in the second semester, John observed, "Finally I am beginning to do some work on the grasses of New Guinea. For most of the first term I was kept so busy doing other things that I had no time to do what I came here to do."⁷⁸ At the same time, he began to question the adequacy of his project, stemming from comments made by Arboretum staff about the extent of the New Guinea grass flora and how any taxonomic problems had already been addressed by others. As Charlotte elaborated, there was concern that John's project might not be acceptable as original research if it involved merely compiling previous work.⁷⁹ Mrs. Chase sent a lengthy reply wholeheartedly disputing the idea that

there was nothing left to be done on the grasses of New Guinea, and echoed John's sentiments against being "side-tracked" to work on other groups of plants.⁸⁰ John sent his own reply explaining more about his concerns:

I had plenty of enthusiasm until recently when I began to wonder. Dr. Merrill did not indicate that he thought there was nothing to be done, but he seemed to think that there were few species to be considered and that the job wouldn't take too long. Last term I was given the Papuasian Saxifragaceae to work over. The idea was to acquaint me with the literature and the approach to taxonomy in that part of the world. I don't know why I agreed to it so readily. I should have held out for getting started on the grasses. After I had gotten started on this group (working under Dr. [A.C.] Smith), it was suggested that I work up the Cunoniaceae as well. This looked to me as though it were too much of a job and if I didn't call a halt I would never get on with the grasses. Finally I finished the Sax. family and it will appear in the Journal of the Arnold Arboretum soon. I described twelve new species in three genera, but I must confess that I didn't develop any love for the family. I decided, before I was finished, that I would get back to the grasses. When it came time to register this term I told Dr. Merrill that I wanted to spend my time on the grasses. At first he thought I should work up another group under Dr. Smith, and when I said I thought I should get started on my thesis if I were ever to finish it, he said he thought it shouldn't take long. I disagreed and the result is that now I am working on the thesis problem. I am listing on cards, all the species reported from New Guinea with their synonymy [sic] and place of publication. I am compiling my bibliography at the same time. At least this is a start.⁸¹

John's worries may have been partly the normal doubts that exist at the beginning of any project, and perhaps may reflect his eagerness to be done with a degree process that he had once anticipated completing three years earlier; at the same time, Merrill, and perhaps other faculty, may have been testing his commitment to the grass topic, and subtly encouraging him to focus the problem and formulate the approach he would pursue. John prevailed in his argument, and was free to study the grass family thereafter.

While John had Charlotte's support and encouragement, she continued to find interesting projects with the staff at the Arboretum and in the herbarium.⁸² Over the spring recess, they made a trip to the National Herbarium to evaluate the scope of the grass collections that John would need to study in his thesis work, and returned more aware than ever of the limitations of the grass material available at the Arnold and Gray herbaria.⁸³ John observed, "I am working on the Grasses of New Guinea (or trying to, at least) It is a

bit difficult here as the old world stuff in Gray is in very poor condition. No one seems to have worked on it for many years. ... One could have a lot of fun straightening out this herbarium."⁸⁴ Despite frustrations, their combined efforts to check identities, mount and file new specimens, photograph and curate photos of type specimens, and make sense of the literature were benefiting those collections generally, to Merrill's approval.

As both Charlotte and John became more involved with these kinds of taxonomic tasks and questions, their correspondence with Mrs. Chase increasingly emphasized grass taxa, collections, and literature, while news about their day-to-day lives and activities outside of their institutions became more incidental. On one occasion, Charlotte mentioned, "Saturday is an outing for the New England Botanical Club. Mr. [Charles] Schweinfurth of the Botanical



A few of the New Guinean grasses drawn by "C.R." as a contribution to John Reeder's doctoral research (J. Reeder 1948: pl. 7; biodiversitylibrary.org/page/8441761).

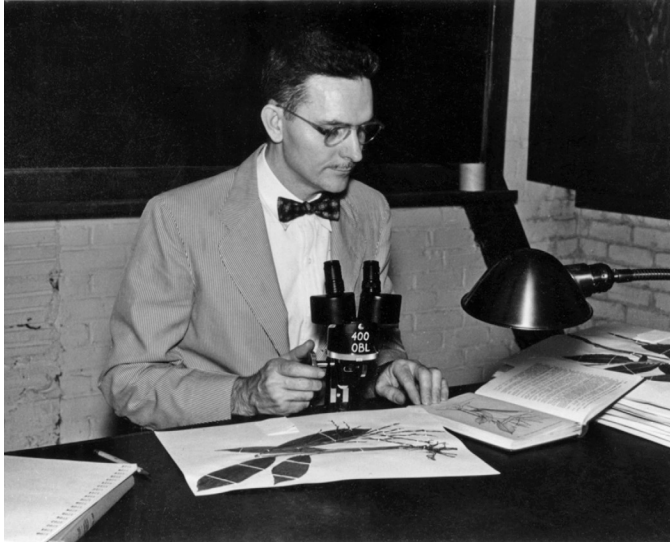
Museum—as in Orchids—has asked John to go with him. They are to go up into New Hampshire somewhere. John is counting on taking pick and press or vasculum or some such as, and looking for grasses—of course. Women aren't invited, so I shall have to wait until John gets home for a full account."⁸⁵ They had made some other grass collections, as well, and that fall she reported, "Just a week ago John and I went to Cape Cod and made first use of the little tent which we invested in recently. Among other things, naturally, we collected a few grasses... We saw the famous cranberry bogs, got a look at the Atlantic Ocean, but didn't even go wading, since the weather was on the chilly side. We brought home some huckleberries, beach plums, elderberries, and chokecherries, which we used for making up a bit of jam and jelly."⁸⁶ And, although housework undoubtedly went on, there was little mention of it; in one reply to a recipe sent by Mrs. Chase, Charlotte indicated that she had gotten John a muffin tin for his Easter present, adding, "He is goofy about rolls, muffins, etc."⁸⁷

Following their visit to Washington, D.C., and realizing the evident need for John to spend extended time with the grasses at the National Herbarium, Mrs. Chase had proposed to make Charlotte her assistant, on salary, and both John and Charlotte were favorable to the idea.⁸⁸ John officially completed a master of arts degree in 1946, then attended the summer session to fulfill his residency and language requirements.⁸⁹ Under a Sheldon Fellowship in his second year at Harvard, his doctoral research included a six-month stay in Washington, D.C., in order to study historical grass collections and type specimens at the National Herbarium. John completed his Ph.D. in 1947 with a dissertation on the grass subfamily Panicoideae of New Guinea.⁹⁰ In his acknowledgments, he included: "I wish especially to thank my wife, Charlotte Gooding Reeder, who prepared the illustrations and also gave valuable assistance in bibliographic work, typing, proofreading, and in countless other ways."⁹¹ At some point, John remarked to Agnes Chase, "now she has got me a degree I want her to go on and get one for herself," and Chase had also encouraged Charlotte to "take up some puzzle and work for a Ph.D."⁹² Aside from auditing a course or two, though, Charlotte kept to her master's degree and continued to pursue questions wherever she worked with John. Although Charlotte had abandoned her doctoral program, there is no question that she was intellectually, and skillfully, equal to the task. In a paper of her own a few years later, Charlotte thanked her husband "for his endless help,"⁹³ and whether they published separately or together (as they often did), their collaboration would always be evident in their travels, collecting, and herbarium studies in the years to come.

A Career Studying Grass: Yale, Wyoming, and Arizona

From Harvard, John joined the faculty of the Department of Botany at Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut. The Reeders first took a month's vacation in the summer of 1947 to visit John's family at the farm in Michigan, then returned to New Haven to search for housing. Charlotte indicated to Mrs. Chase that it was a difficult hunt, but that they were able to stay in the home of past curator Alexander Evans while they got settled. Later that fall, Charlotte indicated that they were nicely established in their own "home" on the third floor of the E.L. Tatum family's house at 477 Prospect St, next door to the home of Edmund Sinnott, Chair of the Botany Department, with whom the Reeders had Thanksgiving dinner.⁹⁴ She described their charming first Christmas in New Haven, pretending for the benefit of the Sinnott daughters that (lacking a chimney) the Reeders had not been forgotten by Santa, having dinner with the Tatums, and putting up a little juniper tree: "a thing of beauty with the addition of tinfoil ice cycles [sic], silvered Liquidambar fruits...and walnut shells (glued and wired) which we made red with gaudy fingernail polish!" Charlotte gave John a set of Chinese tea cups, to complement the Chinese tea that had been sent by Mrs. Chase.⁹⁵ Before their second winter, they had moved to a three-room apartment with a real stove and a refrigerator, prompting Charlotte to remark, "We feel now as though we are living more like human beings and not just nomads."⁹⁶ In 1952, Sinnott loaned the Reeders a section of his yard for a garden, about which Charlotte commented, "John enjoys working in the little garden, and we've already enjoyed quite a little harvest: lettuce, radishes, peas, wax beans, endive, and beets. Soon the tomatoes will be coming on."⁹⁷ For the two botanists, however, they missed having more plants and nature around them. The Reeders purchased land "in the country" in October 1952, and about 1955 built a house on Sperry Road, Bethany, north of New Haven.⁹⁸ Along with the change of scenery and lifestyle that included bird-watching and wildlife sightings, they used the grounds for planting ornamental trees and flower beds, and greater room inside for house plants that they could not have kept in their apartment "in town."⁹⁹

When the Reeders first arrived at Yale, renovations had been underway at the herbarium, where new flooring, lighting, and desks were nearly ready for the new curators to begin work on the fourth floor; heating in the form of added insulation and two new radiators came along that winter.¹⁰⁰ Their first assistant at the herbarium was Mason Hale, for whom John had hopes of becoming a student of



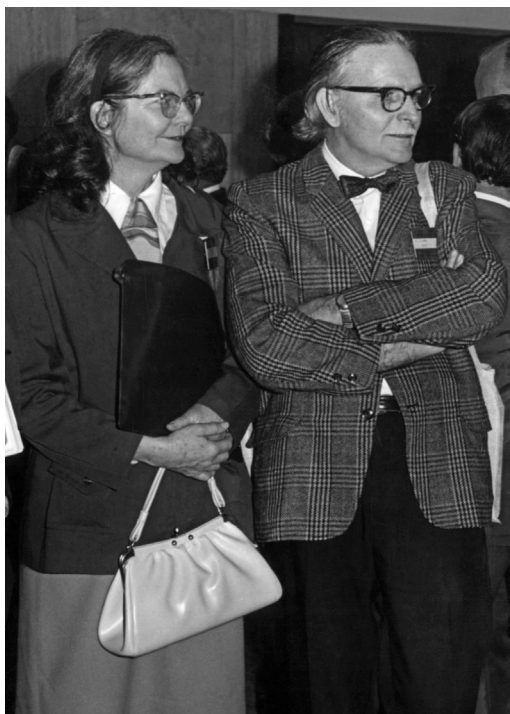
John Reeder studying a Bambusoid grass (courtesy of the University of Arizona Herbarium, John R. Reeder and Charlotte Goodding Reeder Archive).

the grass family; Charlotte observed that he was “skilled at carpentry, quick to learn to mount, and careful, accurate & thorough in other jobs.”¹⁰¹ Charlotte worked on organizing the collections, segregating the type specimens, and, at John’s request, updating nomenclature for the *Muhlenbergia* specimens.¹⁰² Recalling lunch hours at the National Herbarium, she wrote to Mrs. Chase: “We must confess we’ve degenerated so we don’t even bother with the tea at noon. One thing is that to date we have no hot plate in the herbarium, and mostly we have only our own company. Now if we had some taxonomists to partake with us and provide stimulating conversation, well we’d have reason to reform immediately!!!!”¹⁰³ In their first year there, Charlotte reported to Jason Swallen, curator of the Division of Grasses at the National Herbarium, “We are enjoying it here at Yale. We (really John) has a free hand in the herbarium, and although there is a lot of work to be done, still it is really fun to rejuvenate (revitalize, is perhaps better) an old dormant herbarium.”¹⁰⁴ They very occasionally still visited Washington, D.C., but as John and Charlotte developed relationships among other New England herbaria, they soon became members of the Connecticut Botanical Society and collected widely in Connecticut (and not just grasses) to add to the Yale Herbarium.¹⁰⁵ During their twenty-year tenure, John replaced all the cases and improved the filing system in the herbarium, notably increased its grass collections, and expanded working laboratory space for graduate students. Sometimes assisting other faculty, Charlotte held appointments as lab technician and research associate of Yale’s Osborn Botanical Laboratory (which both she and

John used as their correspondence address for herbarium business and publications), and she was active with the Yale University chapter of Sigma Xi.¹⁰⁶

John’s teaching duties included “woody plant taxonomy” and dendrology, systematic botany, evolution, plant ecology, and natural history, most involving field trips in the area surrounding New Haven.¹⁰⁷ Charlotte told Mrs. Chase, “I’ve not been going on the class field trips, but usually go with John when he is making the preliminary survey of the regions.”¹⁰⁸ In his second semester at Yale, Charlotte noted that John “is having a fine time, but devoting a great share of it to the preparation and collecting of material for the class. ... He has a group of what seems to us to be exceptionally interested boys.”¹⁰⁹ Although his teaching load, as well as class sizes, had grown, Charlotte’s comments more than a decade later revealed no loss of enthusiasm: “John seems to open their eyes. They never seem to fail to see more of their environment after he’s had them for a few sessions. The landscapes take on meaning.”¹¹⁰ Over John’s career at Yale, in addition to teaching courses as a professor of botany and biology, he was a research associate of the Peabody Museum of Natural History, became a fellow of Calhoun College in 1955, and was a Senior Faculty Fellow in 1964. For five years, 1959–1963, he taught ecology in Yale’s Summer Institute for High School Teachers of Math and Science.¹¹¹

The Reeders made several extended trips to Mexico during their years at Yale with the support of grants from the National Science Foundation. On their first trip in the summer of 1950, they spent six weeks driving more than 5000 miles and car camping along the way; the trip resulted in about 500 grass collections of their own and about 2200 soil samples made for a fellow professor at Yale.¹¹² With a Billings Memorial Award from Yale in 1953, John and Charlotte were able to spend three months traveling throughout Mexico to collect grasses and “seeds” (caryopses) for embryo studies.¹¹³ In the first installment of “Notes on Mexican Grasses,” a series intended to present new information on “matters which seem pertinent to a better understanding of the grass flora of the region,” they wrote: “This field work, which included the collection of some 2000 numbers, has taken us over much of the Republic. All but 5 of the 29 states have been visited on one or more occasions, although intensive studies have been limited to a relatively few areas.”¹¹⁴ John and Charlotte recorded traveling widely in search of new populations and to find plants that grew only in particular habitats, repeatedly visiting the same locations to collect flowering material for cytological studies and later to find plants in fruit, and carefully searching stands to collect male and female plants



Charlotte and John attending the I Congreso Latinoamericano, V Mexicano de Botánica, in Mexico City, Dec 1972 (courtesy of the University of Arizona Herbarium, John R. Reeder and Charlotte Gooding Reeder Archive).

of dioecious species; some of their collections of seed were used to grow material for further study in the experimental garden at Yale.¹¹⁵ They made discoveries, as well, and the series included the first of several new grass taxa described by “Reeder & C.Reeder.”

In 1968, the Reeders left Yale for the University of Wyoming, where John assumed the curatorship of the Rocky Mountain Herbarium and became Head of the Department of Botany.¹¹⁶ Charlotte made her home in the herbarium, as present curator Ernie Nelson, who was a student of John’s in the 1970s, recalls:

She had a large desk/table (now mine) back in the corner of the herbarium where she did work on grasses, especially *Muhlenbergia*, a continuation of her Masters work. She always did these meticulous drawings of the floret and often of the ligules for identification purposes. Nothing happened in the Herbarium without her knowing about it. Visitors would come in and she would come hurrying up to see what they wanted. She was the de fact[o] Herbarium Manager. Every noon she would oversee ‘Tea time’ for her, John, and any other people here during lunch, a social event of sorts. My early herbarium training was from her—I was always ‘Ernesto’ to her. They would go home ca. 5, eat and return to the Herbarium until ca. 10, always being home on

time to watch Johnny Carson. ... We would hear stories and things about the various botanists of the day and about her father and [Aven] Nelson. I never went on any field trips with them, but I did learn how to NOT collect and press grass specimens. She often referred to poorly collected/pressed specimens as ‘shrunken heads’ or pulled out of a bale of hay.¹¹⁷

Charlotte and John, alike, were influential in the academic lives of both students and colleagues. Fellow U.W. Botany faculty member Daniel Crawford was just beginning his career when he met the Reeders at Wyoming. He remembers Charlotte’s talents as both botanist and scholar:

She had an amazing eye and memory for plants. I taught field botany one summer at the Knight Science Camp in the Snowy Range, and was at that time quite unfamiliar with Rocky Mountain plants. Charlotte was of tremendous assistance in my efforts to identify plants. In addition, she could often recall from decades earlier, when she was an assistant in the course, exactly where [a] species could be found.

Her eye for grasses was truly amazing, no matter how obscure the species or how bad the specimen. I recall that at lunch one day she showed us a specimen that consisted of a few scraps embedded in a big clump of soil. She wondered how she could possibly identify such trash. At lunch the next day she revealed the identity of the scraps, and didn’t indicate that it had presented any particular challenge.

John was the Editor-in-Chief of *Brittonia*, which at that time was the journal of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists. However, Charlotte did most of the actual editing of manuscripts. ... She spent time in the library checking every literature citation in every manuscript before it was sent to the publisher. ... Charlotte was both kind and firm in making suggestions. No error of spelling or grammar ever got by her. She was also a stickler for clarity of expression.

Although she was ever-present and involved in the work of the botany department, Crawford adds, “Charlotte seemed to want little credit for her time and contributions. She was always content to stay in the background, especially with her contributions while John was editor of *Brittonia*. However, John always gave her credit, and made it clear that she was ‘smarter’ than he, whether editing manuscripts or identifying grasses from anywhere in the world.”¹¹⁸

After John retired from the University of Wyoming in 1976, the Reeders moved to southern Arizona. Hardly idle, from 1977 on, John and Charlotte became vital research associates of the University of Arizona Herbarium (ARIZ)

in Tucson. Their collecting efforts during these years, which included a few more trips to Mexico and emphasized the grasslands of the Colorado Plateau and southern Arizona, increased their lifetime total by nearly one-third (about 3000 numbers) and still yielded new records and new species from the region. Their enthusiasm for field work was undiminished by time and advancing age, as is apparent in publications about their discoveries, for example:

[about *Orcuttia fragilis*] Between 1974 and 1978 we found no evidence of this grass. In fact, the entire llano area was dry and parched with little herbaceous vegetation. ... During the winter and spring of 1979, it may be recalled, the entire Baja California peninsula was subjected to particularly heavy rainstorms. ... With this information, and the hope that 1979 might be the year for *Orcuttia*, in May we were again at the Llanos de Hiray. This time the aspect was unbelievable. *Orcuttia fragilis* was there, and in abundance. ... We were greatly excited to see this magnificent stand of a plant which for 40 years had been known to botanists only from the type collection. ... *Orcuttia fragilis* is not yet extinct!¹¹⁹

[about *Bouteloua eludens*] Our first encounter was on September 7, 1981, in the Santa Rita Mountains. The recollection is vivid! There were other species of *Bouteloua* on this grassy slope, most quite familiar, but one appeared to be a stranger. It was a few moments before we realized

that we were seeing Griffiths' *B. eludens*, and essentially in its type locality! The excitement of seeing this attractive, and reportedly rare, species in the field stimulated us to initiate a search for it; at first in southern Arizona, and later in northern Mexico. The quest, which has continued up to the present [1990], has been quite successful.¹²⁰

Following the arrival of Lucinda McDade as curator of ARIZ in 1992, the Reederers were finally granted office space where they could keep their ongoing work handy. While pursuing investigations of their own, both Charlotte and John contributed to grass flora treatments for publication and continually produced identifications for bundles of grass specimens left by herbarium patrons. McDade recalls, "They were a tremendous asset to ARIZ as they curated the grasses: I maintain that ARIZ had—probably has to this day—the best curated grass collection in the west!"¹²¹ Charlotte persevered in her habit of carefully stitching grass specimens to herbarium sheets and making her own fragment packets for dissected parts. As in years past, both enjoyed the lunch hour with visitors, yet relished the times when they had the herbarium to themselves (that is, better to get more accomplished). Far beyond their work ethic, McDade observes, "They loved what they did, they treated each other and those around with profound respect and



Charlotte and John in their "quarters" at the ARIZ herbarium, about 1997 or 1998, when it was in the basement of the Shantz building University of Arizona (courtesy of Lucinda McDade).

dignity, they lived long and well. Toward the end, John began to remind all of us that ‘old age is not for the timid,’ and it was especially hard on Charlotte first as she became quite frail. John continued to get out for occasional fieldwork until very late in his life even as he, too, was becoming quite frail.”¹²²

In January 2008, John and Charlotte were victims of a catastrophic car accident in Tucson, perpetrated by a distracted young driver (Charlotte later suggested that the intersection of Speedway Blvd & Kolb Road might be “hexed”). While both were fortunate to survive, each suffered serious internal injuries that required initial hospitalization followed by long-term treatment and therapy. As they slowly recovered and navigated their new circumstances, their herbarium work was mainly replaced by a preoccupation with medical concerns—a frustration to them both. Visits to the Reeder’s Tucson home by friends and caregivers bearing “goodies,” flowers, or simply news were ever-appreciated. They thought often, however, of the work they were not doing and the places they missed going; on more than one occasion during this time, Charlotte expressed a wish that they could visit a favorite juniper tree in the San Rafael Valley for a picnic lunch, when the summer grasses were green and in bloom. Their very occasional visits to the herbarium resumed only that fall. Charlotte’s endearing cards and letters continued to reach me through 2008, but arrived less frequently than in the year before; just one more note came after John died, and then it was brief, with the writing minute and difficult. John succumbed first, on 8 February 2009, followed that same year by Charlotte on 26 September.¹²³ At ages 94-1/2 and 93, respectively, they would surely have been amused to be eligible for enrollment in that “highly honored group” of long-lived “students of Nature,” joining a list first compiled by Harvard colleague Merritt Fernald in 1950.¹²⁴ They had been married for nearly 68 years. The losses of both were deeply felt by the herbarium community then, and still today. Many years before, one of John’s former doctoral students at Yale, Tom Soderstrom, had gone on to be curator of grasses at the U.S. National Herbarium; in a publication based on his thesis, he acknowledged: “Dr. John R. Reeder, whose advice, encouragement, and perseverance will always be an inspiration to me. To his wife, Charlotte Goodding Reeder, my sincere appreciation for her assistance during the entire study.”¹²⁵ Friends and colleagues through the years and decades have echoed those sentiments, those who worked with them have hoped to follow their example, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude for their decades of dedication to the study and curation of plants in the grass family.

Acknowledgments

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Notes

- ¹ Jenkins 2009a; 2009b.
- ² Jenkins 2009b: 21; Personal communication, 1 Nov 2018, Lucinda McDade, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, Cal.
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- ⁵ L. Goodding 1902; University of Wyoming 1904: 175, 193; L. Goodding 1944; “Noted Botanist Goodding Dies,” *Tucson Daily Citizen*, 18 Nov 1967, p.3; Personal communication, 10 Jul 2018, Trisha K. Lamblin, Office of the University Registrar, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
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- ⁷ e.g., Nelson 1904; Ball 1905; Nelson & Kennedy 1908.
- ⁸ “Retired Botanist ‘Blazed Trails We Follow Now,’” *Tucson*

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- ⁹ “Teachers Placed for Coming Term,” *Bisbee Daily Review*, 22 Aug 1908, p.5; “Normal School News,” *Coconino Sun*, 11 Dec 1914, p.4; “Northern Arizona Normal School Pride of Flagstaff and Arizona,” *Coconino Sun*, 9 Jul 1915, p.1; “52 Species of Trees Found in Santa Ritas by Experts,” *Arizona Daily Star*, 7 Feb 1929, p.3.
- ¹⁰ “Miss Bernice Wacek Wedded in Tucson to Prof. Goodding,” *Bisbee Daily Review*, 1 Sep 1915, p.8.
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- ¹² “Local Brevities,” *Coconino Sun*, 30 Aug 1918, p.8.
- ¹³ “Society,” *Coconino Sun*, 13 Aug 1920, p.3.
- ¹⁴ Oregon Agricultural College 1923; “College Getting Rid [of] Currant Rust,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 16 May 1923, p.8; “Oregon Law Does Not Permit Black Currant Grown,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 1 Aug 1924, p.1; “Visit Douglas County,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 26 Nov 1929, p.3; Oregon Agricultural College 1931.
- ¹⁵ e.g., “Camp on Mt. Hood,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 16 Jul 1927, p.6; “Gooddings at Medford,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 8 Aug 1928, p.3.
- ¹⁶ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 12 Aug 1945, Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 229: United States National Museum Division of Grasses Records, 1884, 1888, 1899–1965 (siarchives.si.edu/collections/siris_arc_216795).
- ¹⁷ “Miss Bernice Wacek Wedded in Tucson to Prof. Goodding,” *Bisbee Daily Review*, 1 Sep 1915, p.8; “Events in Social, Musical and Club Circles,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 21 Apr 1934, p.4.
- ¹⁸ e.g., “Officers Elected,” *Bisbee Daily Review*, 14 Dec 1910, p.5; “With the Churches,” *Coconino Sun*, 14 Apr 1916, p.7; “Northern Convention Sunday School Workers,” *Coconino Sun*, 27 Aug 1915, p.1.
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- ²⁸ “Nine Corvallis Students Given Honors,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 23 May 1934, pp.1 & 2; Oregon State Board of Higher Education 1934.
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³⁹ Oregon Marriage Indexes, 1906–2009 (ancestry.com).

⁴⁰ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 8 Oct 1941, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

⁴¹ U.S. Census, 1920: Oneida Township, Eaton County, Michigan



Charlotte Goodding in the spring of 1941, photographed by Zoraida Luces de Febres, the Venezuelan botanist and agrostologist, whom Charlotte met at the U.S. National Herbarium (courtesy of the University of Arizona Herbarium, John R. Reeder and Charlotte Goodding Reeder Archive).

(ancestry.com); World War II Draft Registration Cards (fold3.com); “John W. Reeder” [in memoriam], *Lansing State Journal*, 2 Apr 1947, p.9; “Ray Reeder” [in memoriam], *Lansing State Journal*, 21 Dec 1964, p.10; “Hazel R. [sic] Reeder” [in memoriam], *Lansing State Journal*, 31 Jul 1969, p.A2.

⁴² Geo. A. Ogle & Co. 1913: 67; Wilmer Atkinson Company 1916: 134. The Ray Reeder farm occupied the SW1/4 SE1/4, Sec.17; and his father John W. Reeder’s farm the E1/2 NW1/4, Sec.27, T.4N, R.4W (Michigan Meridian). On a visit to the farm in 1945, Charlotte indicated that “Dad Reeder” was by then farming 80 acres (C. Reeder to A. Chase, 12 Aug 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*).

⁴³ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 19 Dec 1961, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

⁴⁴ The ca. 1870 one-room, red-brick Watson Rural School, at the corner of Benton Road and St. Joseph Highway, is still standing and undergoing restoration (Eaton County Historical Commission 2015: 226–228).

⁴⁵ “Campus Mecca for Farm Boys,” *Lansing State Journal*, 6 May 1932, p.1.

⁴⁶ “Degrees with High Honors Won by 15 Local M.S.C. Graduates,” *Lansing State Journal*, 9 Jun 1939, p.6.

⁴⁷ J. Reeder 1940.

⁴⁸ Oregon State Board of Higher Education 1941; Pers. comm., T. Sandgathe, *ibid.*

⁴⁹ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 7 Nov 1941, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

⁵⁰ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 2 Jan 1942, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

⁵¹ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 5 Feb 1942, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

⁵² “Junior Scientists in Corvallis Today for Annual Conference,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 25 Apr 1942, p.1.

⁵³ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 5 Feb & 27 Mar 1942; C. Reeder to J. Swallen, 19 Oct 1942, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

⁵⁴ “History of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University,” unpublished manuscript, p.19, Oregon State University College and Department Histories (oregondigital.org/sets/osu-department-histories/oregondigital:df71wk64q).

⁵⁵ C. Reeder to J. Swallen, 19 Oct 1942, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

⁵⁶ Army Enlistment Records, SN39316875 (fold3.com); “Benton Selective Service Board Calls Many More Soldiers,” *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, 29 Sep 1942, p.8.

⁵⁷ J. Reeder to A. Chase, 16 Mar 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

⁵⁸ Jenkins 2009b: 21. Plant specimens at the U.S. National Herbarium collected between Dec 1943 and April 1944 place John Reeder at points near the coast between Finschhafen and Oro Bay, in the Momase and Papua regions of eastern Papua New Guinea; numbering fewer than 100 collections, these encompassed a range of plant families and only a few grasses, but included one fern that was later named as new (see collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/botany).

⁵⁹ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 21 May 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*; see also collections by L.N. Goodding and C. Reeder at the U.S. National Herbarium (collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/botany).

⁶⁰ A. Chase to C. Reeder, 28 Jan & 16 Feb 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*

- ⁶¹ A. Chase to C. Reeder, 15 Feb 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁶² C. Reeder to A. Chase, 12 Aug 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁶³ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 12 Aug 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁶⁴ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 12 Aug 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁶⁵ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 12 Aug 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁶⁶ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 2 Nov 1960, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁶⁷ see Robbins 1958.
- ⁶⁸ A. Chase to C. Reeder, 10 Sep 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁶⁹ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 2 Oct 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷⁰ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 24 Sep 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷¹ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 2 Oct 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷² C. Reeder to A. Chase, 24 Sep 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷³ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 2 Oct 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*; Merrill 1947: 2.
- ⁷⁴ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 2 Oct 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷⁵ A. Chase to C. Reeder, 10 Oct 1945, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷⁶ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 8 Jan 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷⁷ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 8 Jan 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷⁸ J. Reeder & C. Reeder to A. Chase, 8 Feb 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁷⁹ J. Reeder & C. Reeder to A. Chase, 8 Feb 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸⁰ A. Chase to C. Reeder, 12 Feb 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸¹ J. Reeder to A. Chase, 16 Mar 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸² C. Reeder to A. Chase, 16 Mar 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸³ J. Reeder to A. Chase, 23 Apr 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸⁴ J. Reeder to A. Chase, 1 Jun 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸⁵ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 4 Jun 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸⁶ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 10 Sep 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸⁷ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 23 Apr 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸⁸ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 7 May 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁸⁹ J. Reeder to A. Chase, 12 Aug 1946; C. Reeder to A. Chase, 10 Sep 1946, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁹⁰ Personal communication, 20 Jul 2018, Ethel Falaise, Information & Records Management, Office of the Registrar, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; Personal communication, 24 Jul 2018, Yale Human Resources Employee Services, Yale University, New Haven, Ct.
- ⁹¹ J. Reeder 1948: 261.
- ⁹² A. Chase to C. Reeder, 13 May 1952, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁹³ C. Reeder 1956: 251.
- ⁹⁴ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 26 Nov & 30 Dec 1947, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*; Price & Lee Co. 1948.
- ⁹⁵ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 30 Dec 1947, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁹⁶ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 10 Mar 1949, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁹⁷ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 3 Jul 1952, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ⁹⁸ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 17 Dec 1958, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*; Personal communication, 30 Oct 2018, Will Brinton, Town Historian of Bethany, Ct. The Reeder's house today is numbered 444 Sperry Road.
- ⁹⁹ e.g., C. Reeder to A. Chase, 20 May 1959; 2 Nov 1960; 12 Feb, 5 Jul, 24 Aug & 31 Dec 1961, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁰ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 21 Aug & 30 Dec 1947, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹⁰¹ J. Reeder to A. Chase, 27 Oct 1947; C. Reeder to A. Chase, 26 Nov 1947, 19 Jan 1948, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*; see also Culbertson 1991.
- ¹⁰² C. Reeder to A. Chase, 19 Jan & 11 Feb 1948, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹⁰³ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 11 Feb 1948, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁴ C. Reeder to J. Swallen, 21 Apr 1948, SIA RU 227, *ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁵ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 11 Feb 1948, 21 Feb 1950, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*; and see collections.peabody.yale.edu/search. What may have been the Reeder's last visit with Agnes Chase in Washington, D.C., was in March 1963, six months before Chase's death (C. Reeder to A. Chase, 27 Mar 1963, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*).
- ¹⁰⁶ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 1 Nov 1957, 16 Jun & 17 Dec 1958, 22 Jul 1959, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*; Historical Register Online, Yale University Manuscripts & Archives, New Haven, Ct. (mssa.library.yale.edu/hro); Pers. comm., Yale H.R. Employee Services, *ibid.*; Membership rosters for 1958–1959, Society of the Sigma Xi, Yale University Records RU 744, Yale University Library Manuscripts and Archives, New Haven, Ct.
- ¹⁰⁷ J. Reeder to A. Chase, 11 & 27 Oct 1947, 18 Feb 1949; C. Reeder to A. Chase, 7 Feb 1951, 29 Apr 1952, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁸ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 12 May 1948, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁹ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 28 Feb 1948, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹¹⁰ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 2 Nov 1960, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹¹¹ C. Reeder to A. Chase, 28 Aug 1962, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*; Historical Register Online, Yale University, *ibid.*; Pers. comm., Yale H.R. Employee Services, *ibid.*
- ¹¹² J. Reeder to A. Chase, 22 Sep 1950, SIA RU 229, *ibid.*
- ¹¹³ J. Reeder 1957.
- ¹¹⁴ J. Reeder & C. Reeder 1963: 215.
- ¹¹⁵ e.g., J. Reeder 1967.
- ¹¹⁶ Botanical Society of America 1969; 1970.
- ¹¹⁷ Pers. comm., E. Nelson, *ibid.*
- ¹¹⁸ Personal communication, 30 Jul 2018, Daniel J. Crawford, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and the Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas, Lawrence. John Reeder was editor of *Brittonia* from 1967–1971, between the terms of P.H. Raven and P.A. Fryxell.
- ¹¹⁹ C. Reeder & J. Reeder 1980: 341, 343.
- ¹²⁰ J. Reeder & C. Reeder 1990: 19–20.
- ¹²¹ Pers. comm., L. McDade, *ibid.*
- ¹²² Pers. comm., L. McDade, *ibid.*
- ¹²³ "Deaths," *Arizona Daily Star*, 19 Feb 2009, p.A17; 8 Oct 2009, p.A13.
- ¹²⁴ Fernald 1950.
- ¹²⁵ Soderstrom 1967: 76.

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