

[Home](#)

Finding Aid to the John H. Shepperd Papers

Shepperd, John H., 1860-1939

John H. Shepperd papers, 1882-1939

12.3 linear ft.

[Biography](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Box and Folder List](#)

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding Aid to the [President John H. Shepperd Records 1929-1937](#)

Finding Aid to the [Dean John H. Shepperd Records 1905-1915](#)

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the University Archives.

Provenance: Donated 18 January 1952 by an unknown donor (Acc. 10)

Property rights: The University Archives owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: The University Archives hold the copyrights..

Citation: [Identification of item]. John H. Shepperd Papers, University Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

John H. Shepperd was born on a farm in Lucas County, Iowa on January 12, 1869. He was a graduate of Iowa Agricultural College and received a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science from Iowa State College in 1891. He did his graduate work in dairy at the University of Wisconsin and received a Master's of Science in Agriculture in 1893. He was assistant editor of the *Orange Judd Farmer*, a weekly journal published in Chicago, for one year. He married Adele Frances Taylor on July 3, 1895.

Shepperd was appointed Professor of Agriculture at North Dakota Agricultural College [NDAC] and Agriculturalist of the North Dakota Experiment Station in 1893. In addition to conducting research at the Experiment Station, he taught mathematics. In 1905 he was made Dean of the School of Agriculture and Vice Director of the Experiment Station. From 1906-1915 he was Dean of the School of Agriculture and Professor of Agriculture. In 1914 he was also Chairman of the Livestock Department. From 1915 to 1929 Shepperd was head of the Department of Animal Husbandry. In 1929 Shepperd was made Acting President of NDAC, and the position was made permanent in March of 1930. This was a tumultuous time on campus. The crash of 1929 resulted in reduced staff, salaries, and operating budgets. Because of differences between Shepperd and the Board of Administration, Shepperd resigned in 1937, and was made president emeritus in July of that year. He received an honorary doctorate from Iowa State College in 1928.

Shepperd was president of the Fargo Kiwanis Club for several years. He also had many interests regarding livestock. In 1910 he participated in the New Salem Breeding Circuit. In 1927 and 1929 he was Grand Champion of the International Livestock Exposition. From 1906 to 1938 he was the supervisor of the Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest at the International Livestock Exposition. His portrait was hung in the Chicago Saddle and Sirloin Club in 1921. He died on January 22, 1939.

(Note: for more in-depth historical background, see: *Five for the Land and Its People*, Bill G. Reid, 1989, Fargo: NDIRS, pp. 103-121)

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists primarily of correspondence. Unfortunately, Dr. Shepperd's papers were moved several times and in the process, many were removed from their original folders. The collection was partially processed sometime in the past, which also seems to have disturbed their original order. Thus, the bulk of the correspondence is arranged as "Experiment Station/ College," as it was impossible to delineate the exact origin of the papers. The correspondence, for the most part, consists of requests for information relating to agricultural problems from farmers throughout the Upper Midwest. Some of these requests were index by a previous processor. This includes requests for seed information, seed reports, and animal husbandry information requests.

The [Correspondence Series](#) also includes Dr. Shepperd's papers relating to applications he made for other positions, memberships he held in a variety of organizations, and records he maintained as the Statistical Agent for the USDA. Personal correspondence, such as financial papers relating to Dr. Shepperd's farms and family letters are also included in this series. The family correspondence includes a series of letters that Dr. Shepperd wrote to his brother (Bruce) over a span of twenty years. A previous processor also indexed these letters, including the years he was President of NDAC. Finally the Correspondence Series concludes with ten letterpress volumes of copies of letters sent by Dr. Shepperd from 1901 to 1906.

The [Notebook Series](#) includes a sampling of class record books and notebooks. The [Subject Files](#) complete the collection. These include extensive notes from Dr. and Mrs. Shepperd's 1925 World Tour.

Both kept notebooks of their trips, including maps. The final folders contain copies of the many “writing” undertaken by Dr. Shepperd. These include articles, speeches, and scientific papers. Some of Mrs. Shepperd’s writings were also found here. For a complete bibliography of Dr. Shepperd’s writings please refer to the biographical section at the beginning of the collection.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

BOX 1

- 1 Inventory and partial index to correspondence
- 2 Biographical material
- 3 Biography, 1955

Correspondence Series – Experiment Station/College, 1896-1939

- 4 A-C – 1896-1901 (indexed)
- 5 D-G – 1896-1901 (indexed)
- 6 H-L – 1896-1901 (indexed)
- 7 L-O – 1896-1901 (indexed)
- 8 P-S – 1896-1901 (indexed)
- 9 S-Y – 1896-1901 (indexed)
- 10 A-F – 1896-1902 (indexed)
- 11 G-J – 1896-1902 (indexed)

BOX 2

- 1 K-M – 1896-1902 (indexed)
- 2 N-W – 1896-1902 (indexed)
- 3 A-B – 1897-1900 (indexed)
- 4 C-D – 1897-1900 (indexed)
- 5 E-G – 1897-1900 (indexed)
- 6 H-K – 1897-1900 (indexed)
- 7 L-M – 1897-1900 (indexed)
- 8 N-P – 1897-1900 (indexed)
- 9 R-S – 1897-1900 (indexed)
- 10 T-V – 1897-1900 (indexed)

BOX 3

- 1 A-C – 1901 (indexed)
- 2 C-G – 1901 (indexed)
- 3 H-L – 1901 (indexed)
- 4 M-R – 1901 (indexed)

- 5 S – 1901 (indexed)
- 6 T – 1901 (indexed)
- 7 U-V – 1901 (indexed)
- 8 A-B – 1902 (indexed)
- 9 C-D – 1902 (indexed)
- 10 E-G – 1902 (indexed)

BOX 4

- 1 I-L – 1902 (indexed)
- 2 M-O – 1902 (indexed)
- 3 P-R – 1902 (indexed)
- 4 A-B – 1902 (not indexed)
- 5 C-F – 1902 (not indexed)
- 6 G-L – 1902 (not indexed)
- 7 M-O – 1902 (not indexed)
- 8 P-R – 1902 (not indexed)
- 9 S-V – 1902 (not indexed)
- 10 W-Z – 1902 (not indexed)

BOX 5

- 1 A-B – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 2 C – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 3 D-G – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 4 H – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 5 I-L – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 6 M – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 7 N-P – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 8 R-S – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 9 T – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 10 V-W – 1902-1903 (not indexed)
- 11 Z – 1902-1903 (not indexed)

BOX 6

- 1 A – 1903 (not indexed)
- 2 B – 1903 (not indexed)
- 3 C – 1903 (not indexed)
- 4 D-F – 1903 (not indexed)
- 5 G-I – 1903 (not indexed)
- 6 K-M – 1903 (not indexed)
- 7 N-Q – 1903 (not indexed)
- 8 R-S – 1903 (not indexed)

- 9 T-V – 1903 (not indexed)
- 10 W-Z – 1903 (not indexed)
- 11 October 1901 – March 1902 (not indexed)
- 12 March 1902 – August 1902 (not indexed)
- 13 December 1903 – January 1904 (not indexed)
- 14 January 1904 – February 1904 (not indexed)

BOX 7

- 1 February 1904 – March 1904 (not indexed)
- 2 March 1904 (not indexed)
- 3 March 1904 (not indexed)
- 4 March – April 1904 (not indexed)
- 5 April – May 1904 (not indexed)
- 6 May – June 1904 (not indexed)
- 7 A-B – 1904 (not indexed)
- 8 C – 1904 (not indexed)
- 9 D-F – 1904 (not indexed)
- 10 G – 1904 (not indexed)
- 11 H – 1904 (not indexed)
- 12 K-L – 1904 (not indexed)
- 13 M – 1904 (not indexed)

BOX 8

- 1 N – 1904 (not indexed)
- 2 P-R – 1904 (not indexed)
- 3 S – 1904 (not indexed)
- 4 T – 1904 (not indexed)
- 5 W-Z – 1904 (not indexed)
- 6 A-B – World's Fair, 1904
- 7 C – World's Fair, 1904
- 8 D-F – World's Fair, 1904
- 9 G – World's Fair, 1904
- 10 H-I – World's Fair, 1904
- 11 J-L – World's Fair, 1904
- 12 M – World's Fair, 1904
- 13 N-R – World's Fair, 1904
- 14 S – World's Fair, 1904
- 15 T-Z – World's Fair, 1904

BOX 9

- 1 July 1904

- 2 August-September 1904
- 3 October 1904
- 4 November 1904
- 5 December 1904
- 6 January 1905
- 7 February 1905
- 8 March 1905
- 9 April 1905
- 10 May-June 1905
- 11 July 1905
- 12 August 1905

BOX 10

- 1 September 1905
- 2 October 1905
- 3 November 1905
- 4 December 1905
- 5 A-B – 1906
- 6 C-D – 1906
- 7 E-F – 1906
- 8 H-J – 1906
- 9 K-M – 1906
- 10 N-P – 1906
- 11 R-S – 1906
- 12 T-V – 1906
- 13 W-Z – 1906

BOX 11

- 1 A-B – 1906, January-June
- 2 C – 1906, January-June
- 3 D-F – 1906, January-June
- 4 G-I – 1906, January-June
- 5 K-L – 1906, January-June
- 6 M – 1906, January-June
- 7 N-P – 1906, January-June
- 8 S – 1906, January-June
- 9 T – 1906, January-June
- 10 W-Z – 1906, January-June
- 11 A-B – 1906, July-December
- 12 C-D – 1906, July-December
- 13 F-G – 1906, July-December
- 14 H-J – 1906, July-December

- 15 K-M – 1906, July-December
- 16 N-S – 1906, July-December
- 17 T-Z – 1906, July-December

BOX 12

- 1 1907-1911
- 2 1912-1914
- 3 1915-1917
- 4 1918
- 5 1919-1921
- 6 1922-1929
- 7 1930-1932
- 8 1933-1936
- 9 1937-1938
- 10 1938
- 11 1938-1939

Correspondence Series – Miscellaneous Personal

BOX 13

- 1 1880-1912
- 2 1913-1916
- 3 1917-1920
- 4 1921-1924
- 5 1925-1927
- 6 1928-1930
- 7 1931-1938
- 8 1905-1936
- 9 1923-1934

Correspondence Series – Publishing Firms

- 10 1904-1921
- 11 1922-1931
- 12 1932-1934

Correspondence Series – Applications for Positions

- 13 1904-1905
- 14 1906
- 15 1907-1912

BOX 14

- 1 1913-1917
- 2 1918
- 3 1919-1920

Correspondence Series – Memberships

- 4 Alumni Association, 1906-1934
- 5 Chamber of Commerce, 1911-1932
- 6 First Congregational Church, Fargo – 1906-1923
- 7 First Congregational Church, Fargo – 1924-1934
- 8 International Livestock Show, 1904-1933
- 9 Kiwanis, 1923-1934
- 10 Knife and Fork Club of Fargo, 1923-1926
- 11 Masonic Society, 1909-1915
- 12 Masonic Society, 1916-1925
- 13 Masonic Society, 1926-1938
- 14 Miscellaneous, 1905-1934
- 15 North Dakota State Fair Association, 1907-1929

BOX 15

Correspondence Series – Statistical Agent/USDA

- 1 1907
- 2 1908
- 3 1909
- 4 1910
- 5 1911
- 6 1911
- 7 1912
- 8 1913
- 9 1913
- 10 1913

Correspondence Series – Personal Finances

- 11 Financial/Legal, 1904-1923
- 12 Financial/Legal, 1924-1938
- 13 Insurance, 1905-1911
- 14 Taxes, 1930-1934
- 15 Real Estate, 1905-1929
- 16 Real Estate, 1930-1936

BOX 16

1 Personal Finances Notebook, 1892-1931

Correspondence Series – Dellwood/Harwood Farm

2 1909-1911
3 1911
4 1912-1914
5 1915-1916
6 1917-1919
7 1920-1934
8 miscellaneous

Correspondence Series – Sheridan County Farm

9 1904
10 1913-1914
11 1915-1916
12 1917-1918
13 1919-1920
14 1921-1922

BOX 17

1 1923-1924
2 1926-1927
3 1928-1934

Correspondence Series – Miscellaneous Personal Farming

4 1904-1915
5 1916-1928

Correspondence Series – Family Correspondence

6 1882-1906
7 1907
8 1908-1909
9 1910-1911
10 1912 – August 1913
11 September-October 1913
12 November-December 1913

- 13 January-September 1914
- 14 October-December 1914

BOX 18

- 1 January-March 1915
- 2 April-July 1915
- 3 August-October 1915
- 4 November-December 1915
- 5 January-April 1916
- 6 May-July 1916
- 7 August 1916 – January 1917
- 8 January-June 1917
- 9 July-December 1917
- 10 January-June 1918
- 11 July-December 1918
- 12 1919
- 13 February-May 1920
- 14 June-December 1920

BOX 19

- 1 1921
- 2 January-March 1922
- 3 April-June 1922
- 4 July-December 1922
- 5 1923
- 6 January-June 1924
- 7 July-December 1924
- 8 1925
- 9 1926
- 10 1927
- 11 January-April 1928
- 12 May-December 1928
- 13 January-August 1929
- 14 September-December 1929
- 15 January-June 1930
- 16 July-December 1930

BOX 20

- 1 1931
- 2 1932
- 3 1933

- 4 1934
- 5 miscellaneous

Correspondence Series – Bruce S. Shepperd

- 6 1918-1922
- 7 1923-1930
- 8 1932-1936
- 9 1937-1939

Correspondence Series – Mrs. Adele Shepperd

- 10 1878-1936
- 11 North Dakota Women's Club, 1910-1933

BOX 21

Correspondence Series – Letterpress

- 1 October 1902 – February 1902
- 2 February 1902 – August 1902
- 3 August 1902 – February 1903

BOX 22

- 1 February 1903 – September 1903
- 2 September 1903 – March 1904

BOX 23

- 1 March 1904 – October 1904
- 2 October 1904 – April 1905

BOX 24

- 1 April 1905 – December 1905
- 2 December 1905 – May 1906

BOX 25

- 1 May 1906 – December 1906

Class Record Book Series

- 2 1895-1897

- 3 1900
- 4 1908

Notebook Series

- 5 Dairying, 1891
- 6 Livestock Management & Breeding, 1898-1899

BOX 26

- 1 Grain Judging, 1904
- 2 Livestock Judging, 1904
- 3 Breeding, 1908
- 4 Advanced Breeding, 1910

BOX 27

Subject File Series

- 1 Animal Husbandry-Exams/Grades, 1914-1915
- 2 Animal Husbandry-Faculty/Course List, 1914-1915
- 3 Certificates, 1901-1922
- 4 Grain Reports, 1901-1903
- 5 NDAC-Department of Agriculture Catalog, 1915-1916
- 6 NSAC-Essay Contest Description, 1908-1909
- 7 Private Library listing, 1908-1921
- 8 Resolution of Wheat Supply, 1919
- 9 Social Events/Programs
- 10 Travel Notes – Correspondence, 1910-1933
- 11 Travel Notes – World Tour, 1924
- 12 Travel Notes – Columbo to Penang, 1925
- 13 Travel Notes – Java to Honolulu, 1925
- 14 Travel Notes – Maderia to Cairo, 1925
- 15 Travel Notes – Notebooks “My Trip Abroad”
- 16 Travel Notes – Passenger Lists (2), 1925

BOX 28

- 1 Travel Notes – Mrs. Shepperd’s “Off the Reservation,” 1925
- 2 Travel Notes – Maps of 1925 Trip
- 3 Writings – Cattle Ranching/Dairying
- 4 Writings – Cattle Ranching/Dairying
- 5 Writings – Crops
- 6 Writings – Crops

- 7 Writings – Experiment Station
- 8 Writings – North Dakota Agricultural College
- 9 Writings – Sheep
- 10 Writings – Sheep
- 11 Writings – Swine
- 12 Writings – “Tales of Old Three Toes”
- 13 Writings – Mrs. Shepperd
- 14 Writings – Mrs. Shepperd
- 15 Writings – Miscellaneous
- 16 Writings – Miscellaneous