

MSS. Collection #38

Anthony Family Papers, ca. 1811-1936. 5½ boxes (123 folders), ca. 500 items.

NOTE: The numbers cited in parentheses, e.g. 1:5, refer the researcher to the Series#:Folder# in which that name/topic will be found.

INTRODUCTION

This collection documents, primarily, the fruit nursery business operated by George L. Anthony in Vandalia, N.C. (3 miles south of Greensboro, on the Southern R.R.), from about 1868 until his death in 1907 and the small florist business run by his daughter, Eula. Eula ran the business (from Anthony home place?) from 1919 to 1931, which is documented in substantial detail in Series 2.

Researchers will also find significant documentation of the growth of a small southern business after the Civil War, and especially the importance of the railroad transportation system. The system permitted Anthony to ship and receive fruit stock from all over the country. Materials include business and personal correspondence, maps, bills and receipts, fruit plate books, nursery catalogs, and family photographs.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in series by subject and document type, and within each series, in part, by subject or document type. The series are: **Account Book, Eula Anthony (Florist), Correspondence, Financial, Guilford Nurseries, Legal, Literary, Maps, Miscellaneous, Photographic, and Printed.**

Provenance: The accession number is 1981.167.1-72.

Processing: The finding aid was completed by Christine Dumoulin, Archives Assistant in August 2001.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Obed C. Anthony family of Guilford County, N.C., lived in Vandalia, 3 miles south of Greensboro (today within the city limits). There is little information in the collection concerning Obed (1814-1895) or his wife Rebecca Lednum (1815-1872), whom he married on Sept. 24, 1835. [His will can be found in Will Book F, p. 472, GHM film #5]. Their children were: Rachel L. (1836-1909), James C. (1838-1879), Emily J. (1840-1907), and George L. (1843-1907). Although there are some earlier Anthony family land records (6:1), the bulk of this collection relates to George L. Anthony, his wife Rhoda Petty, and daughter Eula V. Anthony.

The children of G. L. Anthony were: Flora (Mrs. R. M. Gladstone), Cora (Mrs. John Lowe), Tince (Mrs. T. G. Wade), Hallie, Arthur, and Blanche (who died in childbirth in 1901). Hallie, who never married, worked for Pilot Life Insurance Co. and at Woman's College; Tince helped

run Keeley Institute in Greensboro; and Arthur, who died in the early 1930s, worked for Southern R.R..

The Anthony family house, located on SR 3505 (Pleasant Garden Road), is noted in the architectural history of Guilford County, published in 1979 (*Architectural Resources...* ed. by H. McKelden Smith, N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, p.115). There are original photos in this collection (10:2).

SCOPE & CONTENT NOTE

The scope of this collection is mostly related to George Anthony and his nursery business. The correspondence includes letters from George to and from other nurseries around the country. (3:1-3:11) The collection's other focus relates to the florist business operated by George's daughter, Eula, from 1919 until 1931, probably from the Anthony family home in the county (although the phone directories of the period list the address as Asheboro St. extension).

The record of Eula Anthony's florist business serves as a good example of a single woman as entrepreneur in 1920s North Carolina. Miscellaneous items of interest in the collection include: a 1877 receipt (4:19) for the purchase of a "**breast pump**" from R. W. Glenn & Son in Greensboro; drug prescriptions and **prescription envelopes** from C. C. Fordham in Greensboro; a vivid letter describing a person's death from **diphtheria** in 1902 Charlotte (2:24); a 1885 receipt for the binding of the plate books, by Greensboro **bookbinder** Peter L. Roy (4:34); and accounts of the **medical expenses** that wiped out Mrs. G. L. Anthony's bank account when she, apparently, got sick in 1928 (5:7, p.410).

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

1. Account Book. 1 item. 1866-69; 1881.

This account book (published, with blank pages, as: *Assistant Assessor's Pocket Record ... Office of Internal Revenue*. 1865) kept by Obed C. Anthony (who signs in places as an assistant assessor) appears to be a miscellaneous account of real property, distilled products, record of Anthony's time, and even journal type entries relating to weather and events. Most of the pages are illegible.

2. Eula Anthony (Florist). 12 items. 1919-1931.

This series is composed mainly of bound volumes, either account books relative to Eula V. Anthony's florist business, or books in which she kept information concerning the care of plants and flowers. The two commonplace books contain, primarily, poetry and verse. Her state business license would make an interesting item for exhibit, as would the interesting front cover of the scrapbook (which contains only a few clippings inside).

3. Corresp. 24 folders (ca. 50 items). 1875-1903.

The correspondence is divided into business and family letters. Most of the business correspondence is: communications to or from George Anthony (or Guilford Nurseries) and numerous nurseries throughout the country. Anthony was buying and selling fruit stock from New York to Alabama, and these letters (along with the bills & receipts in series 4) document some of these contacts.

The family letters, although not in great quantities, offer some personal insights into the Anthony family and their friends. Several concern the death of the Anthony's daughter Blanche, in 1901. One letter from Cousin Bella (3:15) dated 188_ contains an interesting, detailed description of the death of a relative in Delphi, Indiana. Another detailed letter about death and dying from diphtheria, is written by Anna Baxter Yandell of Charlotte, N.C., in 1902.

4. Financial. 45 folders (ca. 300 items). ca. 1871-1923.

This series is divided into a few bank account documents, but mostly bills and receipts relating to G. L. Anthony's Guilford Nurseries business. These will be most useful in exhibits for the interesting billheads, or business illustrations, contained on the front of the documents.

The bills and receipts show the wide geographic market covered by the nursery, in terms of the fruit stock it bought and sold. The inventory lists if a business is located outside of Greensboro; if no location is given, it is a Greensboro business.

Although most of the documents are business related some include personal accounts or items. Of particular note is an 1877 receipt (4:19) from R. W. Glenn & Son in Greensboro for a "breast pump." The receipts relating to the binding of the fruit plate books (4:34, 4:43) are of interest, especially when compared to the plate books themselves (5:20-24), although it is not possible to determine if they are the same. The receipt for plastering completed in 1884 (4:25) may document work done at the Anthony family house on SR 3505 (Pleasant Garden Road). See the architectural history of Guilford County, published in 1979 (*Architectural Resources...* ed. by H. McKelden Smith, N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, p.115).

5. Guilford Nurseries. 24 folders/items. 1868-1946.

The documentation of **Guilford Nurseries** -- which produced fruit/plant stock, not fruit itself (although some was probably grown) is extensive, particularly in regards to its accounts -- sales, geographic area of its sales/deliveries, agent's territories, purchase of stock -- most of which are found in Series 5, but also correspondence in Series 3 and bills & receipts in Series 4. There is little information concerning the day-to-day operation of the nursery, although the worker's accounts (5:12-18) give some interesting perspectives on their labor and lives.

The fruit **plate books** (5:20-24) are particularly noteworthy: they present colored images of various fruit, demonstrate what fruit (and some plants) were being sold then (there are even some local named varieties pictured), and even include images of houses with proper plantings (5:20-21).

Although most of the account books concern the nursery business, several of the volumes were also used for personal accounts of the family. The book for 1901-1933 (5:7) contains the income and disbursements of Mrs. Anthony, from 1910 until 1933 (she died in 1936); the accounts of her estate, for the period 1936-46, take up a portion of a volume (5:19).

6. Legal. 2 folders (8 items). 1811-1912.

Includes several deeds relating to Thomas and John Gossette of Guilford Co., and Seymour Steele and John Perdew.

7. Literary. 3 folders (8 items). ca. 1884, n.d.

This series contains a miscellaneous assortment of verse and poetry, many unidentified as to author. The penmanship mss. of G. L. Anthony is identified as: "a specimen of my Penmanship after taking lessons of C. Gray, Centre N.C.... 1871"

8. Maps. 1 folder. (1 item). ca. 1904.

This is a printed map, with no publication information. A manuscript note on the front states "Inspection for 1904," and on the back, "Mr. Gordon M. Bentley, Raleigh, N.C." There are numerous sites marked in various counties. These sites may represent spots where Guilford Nurseries' fruit stock was sold, although it is impossible to state for certain.

9. Miscellaneous. 1 folder (1 item). n.d.

This contains three drug prescription envelopes (for the same prescription) from C. C. Fordham drugstore at 514 S. Elm St. There is also a note, on Guilford Nurseries stationery, for the same prescription. There are all probably early 20th century.

10. Photographic. 2 folders (ca. 11 items).

There is one original image, of Eugene Morehead Armfield, and about 10 photocopied images, from original Anthony Family photographs that are filed with the Photo Collection (under: 1981.167.58-71). Images include the Anthony Family house, family group images, and individual or group portraits of: Hallie, Flora, Eula, and Tince.

11. Printed. 8 folders (8 items). 1888-1927.

This series includes advertisements for Lavioris mouthwash (11:1), and a large 1927 newspaper advertisement (11:2) for **Pilot Life Insurance Co.** (Hallie Anthony worked as an actuary at Pilot Life, before going to Woman's College).

There is also a circular to N.C. Manufacturers announcing exhibits at the 1897 N.C. State Fair in Raleigh. There are also four printed pamphlets, two of which relate to flower and landscape gardening. Of particular note are the two copies (11:6) of the **Guilford Nurseries descriptive catalogue**, which lists the various fruit stock available.

Also of interest is the 1888 pamphlet (11:8), published in New Salem, of *Temperance Poems*.

FOLDER LISTING**Series Folder Contents**

1	1	Account Book -- O. C. Anthony -- Assistant Accessor, 1866-69;
2	1	Anthony, Eula (Florist) -- Account Book-- 1919-1923
	2	" " -- " " -- 1922-1929
	3	" " -- " " -- 1923-1927
	4	" " -- " " -- 1927-1931
	5	" " -- Commonplace Book -- 1927
	6	" " -- " " -- 1931
	7	" " -- Legal -- Florist License (1926)
	8	" " -- Miscellaneous Notes on Flowers, n.d.
	9	" " -- Notes on Care of Plants/Flowers, n.d.
	10	" " " " " " , n.d.
	11	" " " " " " , n.d.
	12	" " -- Scrapbook
3	1	Corresp.-- Business -- Achelis, George (PA, 1884-85)
	2	" -- " -- Franklin Davis & Co. (Richmond, 1884-85)
	3	" -- " -- Great Northern & Southern Garden & Nursery (Wilmington, Del, 1885)
	4	" -- " -- Guilford Nurseries (1903)
	5	" -- " -- Hammond Nurseries (N.Y., 1888)
	6	" -- " -- Hubbard, T. S. (N.Y., 1881-83)
	7	" -- " -- Huntsville Wholesale Nurseries (AL, 1884-88)
	8	" -- " -- Lewis & Huff (Kernersville, 1897)
	9	" -- " -- Manalapan Fruit Farm & Nursery (N.J., 1885)
	10	" -- " -- Rakestraw & Pyle (PA, 1881)
	11	" -- " -- Thomas, Reece & Co. (1886)
	12	Corresp.-- Family -- Anthony, George L. (1875, 1880)
	13	" -- " -- Bell, N. A. (1901)
	14	" -- " -- Burnett, J. S. (1901)
	15	" -- " -- Cousin Bella (1880, 1903)
	16	" -- " -- Crutchfield, A. L. (Spartanburg, S.C., 1907)
	17	" -- " -- Daniel, M. A. (1902)
	18	" -- " -- Duling, Mrs. W. (1901)
	19	" -- " -- Hodgkin, T. C. (1891)
	20	" -- " -- Kirkman, Julia A. (1881)
	21	" -- " -- Lisha (1901)
	22	" -- " -- Masy, W. L. (1901)
	23	" -- " -- Unidentified (1880-1908)
	24	" -- " -- Yandell, Anna Baxter (Charlotte, 1902) * re. Diphtheria death

Series Folder Contents

4	1	Financial -- Bank Accounts (1901)
	2	" -- " " -- Anthony, Mrs. G. L. (1922-23)
	3	" -- " " -- Checks (1898-1906) * Greensboro National Bank National Bank of Greensboro Southern Life and Trust Co. Coe Brothers (Grocers and Produce Dealers)
	4	Financial -- Bills/Receipts -- Agents/Workers (1874-1882)
	5	" -- " -- Alamance Mills (1884)
	6	" -- " -- B. A. Bass (Thomasville, GA, 1883)
	7	" -- " -- Benbow House (1885)
	8	" -- " -- Boney, G & Sons (Wallace, NC, 1883)
	9	" -- " -- Brooks, R. W. (Manchester, NC, 1885)
	10	" -- " -- Brown, Sample S. (1882-86)
	11	" -- " -- Carpenter & Logan (1871)
	12	" -- " -- Cartland, F. G. & Bro. (1878)
	13	" -- " -- Duffy & Albright (1875-76)
	14	" -- " -- Eliason, Wm. & Jacob Best (1876) * re. farm fences
	15	" -- " -- Fincastle Herald (VA, 1884-86)
	16	" -- " -- Fishplate, F. (1884)
	17	" -- " -- Gardner, J. D. (Jamestown, NC, 1887)
	18	" -- " -- Glascock, G. T. (1880)
	19	" -- " -- Glenn, R. W. & Son (1875-77) * Note: "Breast Pump" (Jan., 1877)
	20	" -- " -- Greensboro Patriot (1882-84)
	21	" -- " -- Guilford College (1891)
	22	" -- " -- Gullett, Robert (1883)
	23	" -- " -- Harris & Flippen (1887)
	24	" -- " -- Hodgins, J. F. (1887)
	25	" -- " -- Household (1884)
	26	" -- " -- Houston & Causey (1876, 1878)
	27	" -- " -- McAdoo House (1887)
	28	" -- " -- Mendenhall, W. D. & Co. (1883)
	29	" -- " -- Odell & Co. (1882)
	30	" -- " -- Porter, A. S. (1878)
	31	" -- " -- Pretzfelder, C & M (1877)
	32	" -- " -- Reece, Joseph M. (1878)
	33	" -- " -- Ross & Causey (1883)
	34	" -- " -- Roy, Peter L. (1885) * (Bookbinder: re. Binding plate books. e.g. SEE: 5:20-5:24)
	35	" -- " -- Sergeant & McCauley (1877)
	36	" -- " -- Shelton, T. S. (1888)

Series Folder Contents

4	37	Financial -- Bills/Receipts -- Sunnyside Nursery (Fayetteville, NC, 1885)
	38	" -- " -- Thomas, C. F. (1881-82)
	39	" -- " -- Thomas, Reece & Co. (1884)
	40	" -- " -- Wakefield Hardware Co. (1885-90)
	41	" -- " -- Westbrook, C. W. (1885) * re. Nursery stock
	42	" -- " -- Wharton & Wharton (1880)
	43	" -- " -- Williams, M. B. (1885) * re. Plate book.
	44	" -- " -- Yates, Charles D. (1882)
	45	" -- " -- Yates, Charles G. (1880)
5	1	Guilford Nurseries -- Account Book -- 1868-1879
	2	" " -- " -- 1879-1891*
	3	" " -- " -- 1891-1895* * O'size, filed at end of collect.
	4	" " -- " -- 1899-1901
	5	" " -- " -- 1901-1902 (re. Deliveries)
	6	" " -- " -- 1904 (Geographic sales)
	7	" " -- " -- 1901-1910;
		1910-1933 (p.377+, personal accounts of Mrs. G. L. Anthony.)
	8	" " -- " -- 1880-83 (Agents & Territory)
	9	" " -- " -- 1882-85 " "
	10	" " -- " -- 1886-87 " "
	11	" " -- " -- 1898-1901 " "
	12	" " -- " -- 1882-88 (Worker's Time Book)
	13	" " -- " -- 1885-1887 " "
	14	" " -- " -- 1888-1891 " "
	15	" " -- " -- 1878-1890 (re. workers, agents, nursery stock in 1888.)
	16	" " -- " -- 1896 (re. workers, agents)
	17	" " -- " -- 1899-1901 (Worker's personal accounts)
	18	" " -- " -- 1902-04 (Worker's personal accounts; agent's rec.)
	19	" " -- " -- 1901-06 (Orchard records) 1936-46 (Mrs. G.L. Anthony's Estate accts.)
	20	" " -- Plate Book -- L.K. Fuller, Farmer, N.C.
	21	" " -- " -- D.S. Leak, Vandalia, N.C.
	22	" " -- " -- A.A. Pegg, Kernersville, N.C.
	23	" " -- " -- J.J. Reeves, " "
	24	" " -- " -- J.T. Rieves

Series Folder Contents

- 6** 1 Legal -- Deeds (1811-1890)
2 " -- Insurance Policies (1894; 1903; 1912)
* Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of N.C.
Mutual Life Insurance Co. of N.Y.
- 7** 1 Literary -- G. L. Anthony's Penmanship
2 " -- O. C. Anthony (ca. 1884)
3 " -- Miscellaneous
- 8** 1 Maps -- N.C. -- "Inspection for 1904"
* Sites in N.C. are marked on map; may represent tour/inspections
relating to fruit business (it was found in Guilf. Nur. account bk.)
- 9** 1 Miscellaneous -- Fordham, C. C. (drug prescriptions, n.d.)
- 10** 1 Photographic -- Positive print -- Armfield, Eugene Morehead
2 " -- Photocopies of originals, which are filed under 1981.167.58-71,
in Photo. Collection area.
- 11** 1 Printed -- Advertisements -- Lavoris (n.d.)
2 " -- " -- Pilot Life Insurance Co. (1927)
3 " -- Circulars -- N.C. State Fair (1897)
4 " -- Miscellaneous -- Guilford Nurseries (labels & cards)
5 " -- Pamphlets -- Amateur's Guide to Landscape Gardening
[E.C. Hilborn. Valley City, N.D.: 1923]
6 " -- " -- Guilford Nurseries Catalog, n.d. (2 copies)
* *Description Catalogue/of/Guilford Nurseries/and Fruit
Farm,/Vandalia, N.C./ G. L. Anthony, Prop'r/Three Miles
South of/Greensboro, N.C.* [W.C. Phillips Co., Culler, N.C.]
7 " -- " -- *How to Grow Asters* [George Arnold. James Vick's
Sons, Rochester, N.Y., 1916]
8 " -- " -- *Temperance Poems*
* M.A. Reitzel, *Temperance/Poems/Bright Selections/
For/Bright/Readers.* [New Salem, N.C.: W.C. Phillips, 1888]

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