

Missouri State Archives Finding Aid 998.322

Manuscript Collections

Curtis Fletcher Marbut Geology Collection

Abstract: Biographical information on geology professor Curtis Fletcher Marbut and copy slides of images he took while on excavations across the world.

Extent: 43 images; 1 map; 3 other paper items

Physical Description: Slides; Map; Paper

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

Administrative Information

Alternative Formats: None

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: Must cite The State Historical Society of Missouri for the slide images and follow their protocol. Standard copyright rules apply to the printed materials.

Preferred Citation: [description of item], [date]; *Curtis Fletcher Marbut Geology Collection*, Record Group 998.322; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift; Accession #2004-0125

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 07/05/2017. Updated by EW on 03/24/2021 and Christina Miller on 2/3/2025.

Historical and Biographical Notes

Curtis Fletcher Marbut (1863-1935) was born in rural Spring River Valley, Lawrence County, Missouri on July 19, 1863. His mother Jane (Browning) Marbut was instrumental in encouraging his education. He studied at Cassville Collegiate Institute, the University of Missouri and entered graduate studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. He received his master's from Harvard and completed all requirements for his Ph.D. save his dissertation defense. The dissertation itself was published, but Marbut had moved back to Missouri before his oral defense was made and never made it back to Massachusetts to formally complete the degree.

Marbut became a Professor of Geology and Physiography in 1895 at the University of Missouri. He took various sabbaticals and leave time to conduct fieldwork all around the country and in Europe. At times, he was living in Washington, D.C. Marbut became well known in the field of geology and soil science and was instrumental in creating soil maps of Missouri, including one notable map in 1904 for the St. Louis World's Fair.

In C.F. Marbut's personal life, he married Florence L. Martin (1865-1909). Together the couple had five children. Marbut died of pneumonia while abroad in China on August 25, 1935.

For additional information, see the printed biographical materials series below as well as items under "Additional External Resources."

Additional Descriptive Information

Related Collections

RG102 Department of Agriculture
RG106 Department of Higher Education
RG110 Department of Natural Resources

Additional External Resources

C3720 Curtis Fletcher Marbut Papers at The State Historical Society of Missouri:
<http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/c3720.pdf>

C3721 Curtis Fletcher Marbut Papers at The State Historical Society of Missouri:
<http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/c3721.pdf>

Curtis F. Farbut Collection (M014) at Missouri State Univeristy, Special Collections and Archives: <https://cdm17307.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/Guides/id/714>

Gilmore, Robert K. "New England in the Ozarks: The Curtis Fletcher Marbut House." *OzarksWatch* Vol. II No. 1 (Summer 1988): p. 12. Online here: <https://thelibrary.org/lohist/periodicals/ozarkswatch/ow201g.htm>.

Online biography of Curtis Fletcher Marbut through The State Historical Society of Missouri's Historic Missourians series:
<http://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/m/marbut/>

Series

Biographical Materials (1936-1985)

Map (1904)

Slides (1863-1960)

Biographical Materials, 1936-1985

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This series contains printed materials about geologist C.F. Marbut and his work.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
106	9	<u>Life and Work of C.F. Marbut Soil Scientist</u> by H.H. Krusekopf et al. Published by Soil Science Society of America. A Memorial Volume. This is a photocopy with annotations made after 1985.	1936
106	9A	<u>Proceedings of the Geological Society of America: Memorial of Curtis Fletcher Marbut</u> by N.H. Darton.	June 1937
106	10	C.F. Marbut Collection Established: a finding aid to the Marbut Collection at The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia.	c1984
106	11	<u>Soil Survey Horizons</u> Vol. 26 No. 1. Whole issue is dedicated to Marbut.	Spring 1985

Map, 1904

Arrangement: N/a

Scope and Content

This is a color soil map of Missouri dated 1904. It appears to have been printed with the St. Louis World's Fair in mind. The map measures 10 1/8"x12 1/4". It originally appeared in the book The State of Missouri: An Autobiography edited by Walter Williams between pages 80 and 81. The book has been digitized and is on the Internet Archive here:

<https://archive.org/details/statemissouri00willgoog>. It is also on Missouri Digital Heritage here: <http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/mocohist/id/94473/rec/5>.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
106	12	"A Soil Map of Missouri Prepared for 'The State of Missouri' Walter Williams, Editor" by C.F. Marbut and H.J. Waters. "The Missouri Commission Louisiana Purchase Exposition St. Louis 1904" is at the top of the map.	1904

Slides, 1863-1960

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

These are copy slides made from original negatives located at The State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSM). Images dated before 1926 are public domain (as of 2021) and may be duplicated upon request. Images from 1926 and later may not be duplicated through the Archives; patrons must contact the SHSM for permission.

NOTE: Some slides may be misidentified because not all were labeled with the original SHSM negative number.

Container List

Box	Slide #	SHSM Negative # and (Folder #)	Contents	Date
60	1	33 (127)	Nathan Marbut (Curtis' father)	1863
60	2	36 (127)	Curtis as a high school student posing with a man who is possibly his teacher Noah Lee Maiden	c1880
60	3	15 (127)	Philip Marbut (Curtis' grandfather)	1880s
60	4	34 (127)	Portrait of C.F. Marbut in uniform with gun	1887
60	5	10 (127)	Portrait of C.F. Marbut, likely taken upon his graduation from the University of Missouri	1889
60	6	16 (127)	Portrait of Florence Martin Marbut (Curtis' wife)	1890
60	7	17 (128)	Portrait of Professor C.F. Marbut	1909
60	8	19 (128)	Helen and Frederick Marbut on the front steps of a house (Curtis' children)	1913
60	9	18 (128)	Working with M.F. Miller east of Columbia	1913
60	10	9 (128)	C.F. Marbut with W.C. Mendenhall (U.S. Geological Survey Director) and Howell in Valentine, MT	1918
60	11A & 11B	25 (129)	Hugh Hammond Bennett in Guatemala (2 copies)	1919
60	12A & 12B	19 (129)	Portrait of C.F. Marbut (2 copies)	c1920
60	13	4 (129)	C.F. Marbut with his car in Death Valley	1921
60	14	5 (130)	C.F. Marbut studying desert pavement in Alamo, NV	1921
60	15	6 (130)	C.F. Marbut studying soil near a Joshua tree in Alamo, NV	1921
60	16	7 (130)	C.F. Marbut breaking camp near Salome, AZ	1921

Box	Slide #	SHSM Negative # and (Folder #)	Contents	Date
60	17	27 (131)	Brazilian field transportation; two men in canoes on a river	1923
60	18	28 (131)	Men aboard a Brazilian touring boat with a thatched roof, a canoe at its side on the Racanovas River	1923
60	19	29 (133)	Saskatchewan field party, men and cars	1925
60	20	29 (133)	Saskatchewan field party, men and cars	1925
60	21	11 (133)	Describing samples with Hawkins in Saskatchewan	1925
60	22	13 (134)	C.F. Marbut in a soil pit in Saskatchewan	1925
60	23	14 (133)	Experimenting with a Russian soil core sampler in Saskatchewan	1925
60	24	31 (134)	L to R: Oswald Schreiner, C.F. Marbut, Konstantin D. Glinka, D.J. Hissink, and A.G. McCall stand outside near some cars during the First International Congress of Soil Science in Washington	1927
60	25	12 (134)	Professor Konstantin Glinka (left) walks arm-in-arm with C.F. Marbut at the First International Congress of Soil Science in Washington	1927
60	26	32 (136)	At a stop during the Transcontinental Excursion	1927
60	27	3 (135)	Portrait of C.F. Marbut by James Thorp	1928
60	28	24 (135)	Group portrait of attendees of the fifth commission meeting of the International Society of Soil Science (ISSS) in Danzig, Germany	1929
60	29	2 (136)	A field stop during the fifth commission meeting of the ISSS in Danzig, Germany	1929
60	30	22 (140)	The Cullum Medal awarded to C.F. Marbut by the American Geographical Society	1930
60	31	20 (136)	Portrait of Louise Marbut Moomaw (Curtis' daughter)	1930
60	32	23 (136)	Portrait of Helen Marbut (Curtis' daughter)	1930
60	33	1 (136)	C.F. Marbut with his daughter Louise and grandchild	1930
60	34	22 (137)	In Alfalfa County, Oklahoma with Horace J. Harper (2 nd from right) and field party. C.F. Marbut is 2 nd from left.	1932
60	35	23 (137)	Louise Marbut Moomaw and children in North Dakota	1934
60	36	35 (137)	C.F. Marbut poses next to his soil map from the 1935 Agricultural Atlas of the United States	1935

Box	Slide #	SHSM Negative # and (Folder #)	Contents	Date
60	37	21 (138)	A field trip in a forest outside Oxford, England	1935
60	38	20 (138)	Marbut's Cape Cod style home near McDowell, Barry County, MO	1935
60	39	0 (138)	A farewell party in Washington, DC for C.F. Marbut before he departs for China	07/19/193 5
60	40	21 (138)	Preparing for a trip to China	1935
60	41	8 (140)	Leroy and Louise Marbut Moomaw and family	1960s