

NYBG

TRANSCRIBING THE JOHN TORREY PAPERS

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS



Join us on our expedition to discover more about John Torrey!

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With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Archives of The New York Botanical Garden have scanned the correspondence of 19th-century American botanist John Torrey (1796–1873) and are in the process of transcribing them using a crowdsourced volunteer project.

John Torrey's correspondence with botanists and natural historians throughout America and Europe enabled him to collect, describe, and classify plant specimens from around the world. Many of these correspondence directly influenced Torrey's contributions to the field of botany, such as his *Compendium of the Flora of the Northern and Middle States*, by allowing him a greater range of specimens available to study as well as commentary and feedback on his observations. Torrey's correspondence are our most intimate connection to this botanical pioneer, offering us his (and many other botanists') personal thoughts on the state of the field, notes, and writings that never made it to publication, as well as a general conception of what it meant to be a botanist in the 19th century.

Today the Torrey correspondence are a valuable resource to scholars and students of botany and horticulture as well as individuals studying American history, including North American expeditions, westward expansion, and the evolution of American science in the 19th century.

The Archives of The New York Botanical Garden are actively making the John Torrey Papers available online through the Biodiversity Heritage Library, the Digital Public Library of America, and the Internet Archive. The **Transcribing Torrey Project** has accomplished a great deal since 2016 with just over 100 volunteers transcribing over 3,000 pages of correspondence, but there is still much work to be done and new volunteers are always needed, so please join us in our expedition!

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

All members of the Transcribing Torrey Project can register as NYBG volunteers and receive the full range of volunteer benefits, including free admission, free enrollment in adult education courses, and invitations to exclusive seminars at NYBG. If you are interested in other digital projects, please check out the Virtual Herbarium and the New York City EcoFlora Project.

The Virtual Herbarium helps document patterns in global plant biodiversity by transcribing historic specimen collections preserved in the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium! For instructions and a complete list of all active expeditions, visit nybg.org/virtual-volunteer

The New York City EcoFlora Project engages the public as citizen scientists to collect information about the City's plants and their relationships with other organisms, such as birds, insects, and mushrooms. To participate, simply start an account on iNaturalist and start observing in your neighborhood today.