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**ARCHIVES**  
AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

## **John Taylor Bregger Papers UA.10.3.74**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Burbank, Luther, 1849-1926
<b>Source - dnr:</b>	Bregger, Myra Potter
<b>Title:</b>	John Taylor Bregger papers
<b>ID:</b>	UA.10.3.74
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1903-1981
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.4 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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## Biographical Note

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John Taylor Bregger was born in Illinois on January 14, 1896. In 1900 his family moved to Bangor, Michigan. He entered Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) in 1913 to major in Horticulture. He was a member of the Horticulture Club, the Students' Citizenship League, and the Sem-Bot Honorary Society, and a founding member of the Dorian Literary Society. He also worked on the Holcad reportorial staff, and played in the M.A.C. Military Band. He graduated with a B.S. in 1917.

Bregger attended graduate school at Oregon State College during the year 1917-1918. Then, after a short tour of duty in the Army, he worked at various jobs in Oregon, California and Alaska. He received his M.S. in Agriculture from Cornell in 1922, following which he was employed by Stark Brothers Nurseries, in Louisiana, first as head of their Special Service and Orchard Research Department (1923-27), and then as Superintendent of the Luther Burbank Experimental Farms in Sebastopol, California (1927-29).

After appointments by Washington State College (1929-32) and Cornell (1932-33) and an editorship with *American Fruit Grower* magazine (1933-35), he began his career with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During this career he made his home first in Pennsylvania, and later in Clemson, South Carolina. His work in the SCS was concerned with soil conservation in peach orchards, and he published many articles and delivered several speeches on this and related topics. He also wrote a horticultural column, "Problems in Fruit Production," for the *New York Packer* from 1941 until 1951, and served as president of the American Pomological Society for the years 1949 and 1950.

Bregger was married to Myra Potter in 1932, and was the father of three children. He died in 1981. His father was Louis A. Bregger, an 1888 graduate of M.A.C., whose papers (UA 10.3.93) contain more information about the family, as well as descriptions of M.A.C. during the period 1884-1888.

For more detailed information regarding John T. Bregger's life and career, please refer to the material in the first series.

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## Scope and Content

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John T. Bregger papers include biographical information; personal and professional correspondence; notes, papers, records and memorabilia from his elementary and high school education in Bangor, Michigan, (1903-1913) from his studies at Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) (1913-1923; 1954-1967), and from his graduate studies at Cornell University (1921-1922) includes his Masters Thesis on Pomology; news clippings written by Bregger or collected for his personal interests (1922-1977); manuscripts by Bregger on agricultural topics; and miscellaneous directories, membership cards, and programs.

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## Series Descriptions

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**(1) Biographical. 1947, 1981. 1 folder** This series contains three items. The first is a birth announcement for John Bregger in *The Union Lit*, posted by his parents. The second is a pair of Federal application forms which detail the life and career of John T. Bregger. The last is an obituary which describes many of his activities in the community of Clemson, South Carolina.

**(2) Correspondence. 1901-1971, Undated. 14 folders** This series contains, in two sub-series, some of the correspondence of John T. Bregger. Personal Correspondence sub-series contains correspondence between Bregger and his relatives and friends. Some of the later correspondence (1950-1971) is

concerned with Bregger's activities as an M.A.C. alumnus.) Professional Correspondence sub-series includes correspondence (1924-1954) from the U.S. Army; letters of appointment to Washington State College and Cornell; and correspondence with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**(3) Academic Career. 1903-1967, Undated. 34 folders** This series is divided into three sub-series containing notes, papers and memorabilia from Bregger's elementary and high school education in Bangor, Michigan; his undergraduate studies at M.A.C.; and his graduate studies at Cornell University. The Bangor, Michigan Schools sub-series contains report cards, a high school entrance examination, drafts of a high school oration, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia from Bregger's elementary and high school education (1903-1913). The M.A.C. sub-series contains lecture notes and lab notes from a variety of classes, and three papers written by Bregger while at M.A.C. There are also newspaper clippings, diaries, personal financial records, a dance card, commencement programs, and a Michigan State Horticultural Society membership certificate. While the above materials all fall within the dates 1913-1917, there are also some later materials included. They are: correspondence of the Dorian Literary Society (1919-1923); a Class of '17 directory (1922); and alumni correspondence (1954-1967). Bregger's M.A.C. scrapbook, containing photographs, postcards and memorabilia of his days at the college, is included with the collection (Scrapbook #302). Cornell University sub-series (1921-1922) includes Bregger's M.S. Thesis; a term paper; and lecture notes and references for several courses (mainly relating to Pomology).

**(4) Publications. 1922-1977, Undated. 36 folders plus oversized material.** This series includes clippings, reprints, and pamphlets which Bregger collected. It is divided into two sub-series: the first contains articles collected by Bregger for their historical and personal interest; the second contains articles written by Bregger himself. Collected Publications sub-series are arranged according to subject and title. The major topics are agriculture, soil erosion and conservation, and the history of Bangor, Michigan. Of particular interest is the collection of articles by and about M.A.C. faculty and alumni. There are other articles on the Bregger family, the home of Luther Burbank, the USDA centennial, and the first inaugural at Clemson University. Bregger Publications sub-series contains articles (1928- 1951) written by Bregger, or which summarize speeches he delivered. The topics treated are soil and moisture conservation (especially in orchards), pomology, fruit production and fruit variety research.

**(5) Manuscripts. 1933-1953, Undated. 48 folders plus oversized material.** These are manuscripts written by John Bregger on the topics of fruit variety research, fruit production, and soil and moisture conservation practices - contour planting, terracing, and cover crops - in orchards. Many of the folders also include pertinent correspondence and/or routing cards used by the Soil Conservation Service in approving the manuscripts for publication or presentation. The Papers sub-series includes manuscripts (1937-1953) that were intended primarily for publication. The Speeches sub-series includes manuscripts (1933-1950) that were intended primarily for delivery as speeches. The Research Materials sub-series materials (1942-1948) were not intended for publication. They include reports on Bregger's SCS research project miscellaneous materials for conservation and fruit variety research, and a series of photographs of leaves indicating fruit variety differences.

**(6) Miscellaneous. 1917-1980, Undated. 5 folders.** This series includes an announcement of an essay contest which Bregger sponsored; a M.A.C. commencement program from 1926 (when his younger brother graduated); memorabilia such as membership cards and meeting programs; and directories of the Soil Conservation Service.

## **(7) Scrapbooks and Photographs**

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

### **Conditions Governing Access**

Collection is open for research.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

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### **Conditions Governing Access**

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials**

See also Louis A. Bregger papers (UA 10.3.93), who was John Taylor Bregger's father. The collection contains more information about the family, as well as descriptions of M.A.C. during the period 1884-1888 when Louis A. Bregger was a student.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Publications
- Letters (correspondence)
- Agriculture -- Research -- United States
- Postcards
- Scrapbooks
- Photographs
- Agriculture -- Study and teaching
- Soil conservation -- Research
- Fruit-culture -- Research
- Fruit-culture -- Study and teaching
- Horticulture -- Study and teaching
- Programs (Publications)
- Speeches
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Diaries
- Phi Kappa Tau. Alpha Alpha Chapter (Michigan State University)
- Cornell University. School of Agriculture -- General subdivision--Graduate work; Chronological subdivision--1921-1922;
- United States. Soil Conservation Service
- Michigan State University. Horticulture Club
- Michigan Agricultural College
- Michigan State University. Seminarium Botanicum
- Washington State University
- Bregger, Myra Potter
- Bregger, Myra Potter
- American Pomological Society
- Michigan State University. Class of 1917
- Michigan State University. Spartan Marching Band
- Michigan State University. Student's Citizenship League
- Stark Brothers Nurseries

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Biographical	
Biographical, 1896, 1947, 1981	box 1016 folder 1

Bregger Family History	box 1017	folder 96
Awards/Mementos, 1924, 1969, 1971, 1975, 1977	box 1016	folder 60
Obituaries/Eulogies, 1981	box 1016	folder 61
Military Files, Undated	box 1016	folder 62
Journal Pages, 1929	box 1016	folder 69
Employment Application, undated	box 1016	folder 70
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1908-1909, 1911, 1913, 1916	box 1016	folder 3
1917-1919	box 1016	folder 4
1920-1922	box 1016	folder 5
1924, 1926-1927	box 1016	folder 6
1928-1930	box 1016	folder 7
1936-1939	box 1016	folder 8
1941-1945, 1947	box 1016	folder 9
1950-1952, 1955	box 1016	folder 10
1958-1963, 1965, 1966, 1970-1971, 1978-1979, 1981	box 1016	folder 11
Undated	box 1016	folder 12
Professional Correspondence		
1916, 1924-1925, 1929, 1932	box 1016	folder 13
1937-1939	box 1016	folder 14
1951-1954	box 1016	folder 15
Myra Bregger Correspondence, 1981, 1988, 1989	box 1016	folder 53
Envelopes	box 1016	folder 65
Academic Career		
Bangor, Michigan Schools, 1903, 1906-1913	box 1016	folder 16
M.A.C.		
Alumni Correspondence, 1954, 1958-1959, 1962, 1965-1967	box 1016	folder 17
Alumni Directory, 1922	box 1016	folder 18
Clippings, 1913, 1916, Undated	box 1016	folder 19
Commencement Programs, 1917	box 1016	folder 20



Dance Card, 1915	box 1016	folder 21
Diaries, 1913-1915	box 1016	folder 22
Diaries, 1915-1917	box 1016	folder 23
Dorian Literary Society Correspondence, 1919-1923	box 1016	folder 24
Financial Records, 1913-1918	box 1016	folder 25
List of Subjects to be Discussed by the Sem. Bot. Members, 1917	box 1016	folder 68
Michigan State Horticultural Society, 1915	box 1016	folder 26
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"Sooty Blotch of Apple", Undated	box 1016	folder 45
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Economic Fruits, Undated	box 1016	folder 48
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Transcripts – M.A.C., Cornell, Oregon State Agricultural College	box 1016	folder 52

## Publications

### Collected Publications

Title/Description	Instances	
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Bangor Advance Centennial Edition, 1977	drawer Oversize	
Bangor Area Centennial, 1977	box 1017	folder 2
Bangor Apple Show, 1934	box 1017	folder 3
Bregger Family, 1926, 1945	box 1017	folder 4
Burbank Family Home, Undated	box 1017	folder 5
Burbank Experimental Farm	box 1017	folder 99
Clemson University News, 1980	drawer Oversize	
M.A.C. Alumni and Faculty, 1922-1969, Undated	box 1017	folder 6
Friends of "Frim" Program, 1960	drawer Oversize	
Mexican Agricultural Program, 1950	box 1017	folder 7
Soil Conservation		
Articles, 1933, 1935-1936, Undated	box 1017	folder 8
Articles, 1935, 1938, 1940-1941		

	drawer Oversize	
Pamphlets, 1935-1937, 1939, 1944, Undated	box 1017	folder 9
USDA Employee News Bulletin, 1962	box 1017	folder 10
General Pamphlets, 1898, 1904, 1961, 1962, 1980	box 1016	folder 54
Fruit Pamphlets, 1896, 1923, 1929, 1930-1932, 1943, 1963, 1966	box 1016	folder 55
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## Bregger Publications

Title/Description	Instances	
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"Conserving Soil and Moisture...", 1945	box 1017	folder 12
"Do We Cultivate Peaches Too Much", 1941	drawer Oversize	
"History and Development of Fruit Tree Irrigation", 1950	box 1017	folder 13
"History of U.S. Apple Growing", 1934	box 1017	folder 14
"The Home of Club Garden", 1932	box 1017	folder 15
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"National Fruit Variety Survey", 1945	box 1017	folder 17
"Maintaining a Commercial Peach Orchard", 1945	box 1017	folder 18
"Orchard Planting, Maintenance", 1944	box 1017	folder 19
"Peach Variety Incompatibilities...", 1948	box 1017	folder 20
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"Sees Need for Removal of Surplus Trees", 1950	box 1017	folder 33
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"Conservation Practices for Fruit Plantings", 1938	box 1017	folder 38
"Contour Planting and Terracing - A Practical Answer...", 1941	box 1017	folder 39
"Contour Planting and Terracing...", 1940	box 1017	folder 40
"Contour Planting and Terracing in the Northeast", 1940	box 1017	folder 41
"Controlling Soil Erosion and Water Run-off", Circa 1937	box 1017	folder 42
"Crop Wastes Make Orchard Mulch", 1950	box 1017	folder 43
"Developments in Orchard Planting and Maintenance", 1943	box 1017	folder 44
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"Double Duty Cover Crops", 1953	box 1017	folder 46
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"Effects of Various Cover Crops...", Undated	box 1017	folder 48
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"New Methods for Using Cover Crops...", 1953	box 1017	folder 53
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"Who is Planting What Varieties of Apples and Where", Undated	box 1016	folder 63
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"New Trends in Peach Production", Undated	box 1017	folder 55
"Nuts and Other Hillculture Plants...", 1942	box 1017	folder 56
"The Peach Variety Situation...", Circa 1945	box 1017	folder 57
"Practical Soil Management and Conservation Practices for Nut Plantings", 1940	box 1017	folder 58
"Principles and Practices of Soil and Water Conservation", 1938	box 1017	folder 59
"Principles of Moisture Conservation and Irrigation...", 1944	box 1017	folder 60
"...Recent Fruit Tree Irrigation Studies", 1950	box 1017	folder 61
"Soil Moisture Variations", 1940	box 1017	folder 62
"Stubble Mulch Cultivation", 1941	box 1017	folder 63
"Trends in Orchard Soil Management", 1945	box 1017	folder 64
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"Plant Mulch and Other Soil Conservation Practices", 1942	box 1017	folder 69
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## Scrapbooks and Photographs

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volume SB  
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Michigan State University. Music. Bands. Military Band.	box UA Photo 33	
Michigan State University. Scenes. Engineering Building after fire.	box UA Photo 33	
Michigan State University. Student Activities. Dances.	box UA Photo 33	
Michigan State University. Student Activities. Horticulture Shows	box UA Photo 33	
Michigan State University. Students. Women.	box UA Photo 33	
MSU Student Organizations. Dorion Literary Society	box UA Photo 33	
People. Bregger, John T.	box UA Photo 33	
People. Groups.	box UA Photo 33	
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Oversized Photographs	box OS 11	
Dorian Society (4 photos)		
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M.A.C. Graduating Class, 1916		
M.A.C. Staff, Spring 1909		
Seminarius Botanicus , Circa 1915-1916		
Postcards	drawer Postcards	
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Bay City Armory.		
Battle Creek Sanitarium. (2)		
California. (13)		

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China.

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Colorado.

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Connecticut.

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France. (5)

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Germany. (2)

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Groups.

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Indiana. (3)

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Illinois. (6)

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Massachusetts. (4)

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Michigan. (10)

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Michigan State University. Buildings. Engineering Building.

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Michigan State University. Buildings. Wells Hall. (4)

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Minnesota. (2)

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Missouri.

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Navajo Squaw.

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New Jersey.

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New Mexico.

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New York. (8)

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Oregon. (2)

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Pennsylvania. (4)

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Washington. D.C.

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West Virginia. (3)

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Wyoming.

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