In 1922, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts appropriated $15,000 for the Massachusetts Agricultural College to purchase sixty acres of land lying immediately north of the existing Experiment Station. Known as the William P. Brooks Experimental Farm, the property was intended as a site for experimental work devoted to the dominant crops of the Connecticut Valley, tobacco and onions.

This small homemade photograph album documents a picnic and group outing at the Brooke (i.e. Brooks) Farm at Massachusetts Agricultural College in September 1922. Although the participants -- over thirty of them -- are unidentified, they took part in standard picnic activities, including a tug of war, three legged race, and rope jumping. The album contains labeled snapshots pasted onto thick brown paper, tied with a brown ribbon, and includes images of haying on the farm (with Stockbridge Hall in the background) and the homes of William P. Brooks and Prof. Arthur N. Julian.

See similar SCUA collections:

Farming and rural life  Mass Agricultural College (1863-1931)  Massachusetts (West)
Photographs

Background on Brooke Farm

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$15,000 for the Massachusetts Agricultural College to purchase sixty acres of land lying immediately north of the existing Experiment Station. Known as the William P. Brooks Experimental Farm, the property was intended as a site for experimental work devoted to the dominant crops of the Connecticut Valley, tobacco and onions.

**Scope of collection**

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A dedication inside the front wrap of the album reads: "New Year Greetings to The Bullard Family from Mr. and Mrs. Nathan J. Hunting, 1923. Snap shots by Harry W. Fay." The Nathan J. Hunting and his wife Beatrice (Fay), the Bullards, and Harry W. Fay were all residents of New Salem, Mass., and Nathan J. Hunting was a 1901 graduate of Massachusetts Agricultural College. Although the album is labeled "Brooke" Farm, and though it contains an image of the home of William P. Brooks, it seems probable that the farm depicted is the newly acquired Brooks Farm. The photographs appear to have been taken from a location on or near the Brooks Experimental Farm.

**Collection inventory**

<p>| Photo album wrapper | 1922 | 5.25x3.75&quot; |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dedication</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cottage</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>3.25x2.25&quot;</td>
<td>silver gelatin print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The tug of war</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>3.25x2.25&quot;</td>
<td>silver gelatin print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another picnic scene</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>3.25x2.25&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The homes of William Penn Brooks and Arthur N. Julian can be seen in the background.

The three-legged race -- The start

The three-legged race -- The finish

Jumping rope
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="98x650.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>More rope jumping</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>3.25x2.25&quot;</td>
<td>silver gelatin print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="98x454.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>The picnic group</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>3.25x2.25&quot;</td>
<td>silver gelatin print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="98x258.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>September 2, 1922</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>3.25x2.25&quot;</td>
<td>silver gelatin print</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Just us" 1922 3.25x2.25" silver gelatin print

Haymaking at Brooke Farm, near Stockbridge Hall at M.A.C. 1922 3.25x2.25" silver gelatin print

The rear of Stockbridge Hall is visible in the background.

Residences of Dr. Wm. P. Brooks and Prof. Julian 1922 3.25x2.25" silver gelatin print

Administrative information
Access
The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Processing Information
Processed by Dex Haven, May 2011.

Digitized content
Digitized versions of the images in this collection have been added to SCUA’s online repository, Credo.

Search terms

Subjects
- Amherst (Mass.)--Photographs.
- Hay.
- Picnics--Photographs.

Names
- Brooks Experimental Farm (Amherst, Mass.).

Genre terms
- Photograph albums.
- Photographs.

Link to similar SCUA collections
Farming and rural life  Mass Agricultural College (1863-1931)  Massachusetts (West)  Photographs