[a look back]

140 years of memories

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Elsie Irene Collins, a graduate of the Spring Arbor High School Class of 1906, completed a botany field book titled *Herbarium and Plant Analysis* as a student. Her great-nephew, Walter Rosser donated Elsie's botany field book to the Spring Arbor University Archives over a century after the young scholar completed it.

The field book contains 35 plant specimens, including Red Cherry, American Mountain Ash, Petunia, Yellow Violet, Bleeding Heart, Wild Sweet William, Locust Shrub and more. Pictured is a sample of Wild Columbine retrieved from the woods around Spring Arbor on May 31, 1905. The blossoms are usually bright red and are a supple food source for bumblebees and ruby-throated hummingbirds. This particular species can still be found in the woods in and around Spring Arbor today.

According to Rosser, Elsie was the youngest of eight children born to George and Ellen Collins in Livingston County, Mich. After graduation, Elsie spent most of her life teaching and was married in 1913 to George Collins (no relation). Upon retirement, she moved back to the place of her birth until her death in 1973.

The *Herbarium and Plant Analysis* field book has been encapsulated and is located in the Spring Arbor University Archives. For further information regarding the archives, please contact Susan Panak, university archivist, at susan.panak@arbor.edu.