PARTIAL LIST OF FURNISHINGS IN BURBANK HOUSE & GREENHOUSE

Revised January 2023

Luther Burbank purchased the property and home in 1884. He later reported that it had been built in 1875. He lived in the home with his mother until 1906. Beginning in late 1906, the home was used as offices and storage. After Luther's death in 1926, Elizabeth remodeled the home and lived there from 1927 to 1977 until her death at age 89. Most of the items on display in the home today come to LBH&G through Elizabeth's estate. The large rugs are modern additions as are the stove and fridge.

PARLOR

Photo in oval frame (right of door) - Burbank and Elizabeth Waters Burbank, taken shortly before they were married Dec. 21, 1916. Burbank was 67. His wife was a few days shy of 29.

Inlaid mother-of-pearl cabinet - Victorian era sewing box. It is made of papier-mâché and is very fragile and is not to be opened. It is empty.

Small, high, marble-topped stand - late Victorian with unusual carving of stag.

Photo of Burbank standing in front of "new house" - (left of door) - Burbank had this pink stucco house built across Tupper Street (facing the Carriage House). He and his mother moved into it at the end of 1906. He lived there until his death in 1926. In early 1964 this house was razed during an urban renewal project that changed the alignment of Santa Rosa Creek and Sonoma Avenue alongside what is now City Hall.

Corner chair - also called a "roundabout"; style originated in the 17th century and was often adapted by furniture makers to accommodate the fashions of the day. In this case it was a style that made it easier for women wearing hoop skirts and men carrying sabers to be seated.

Painting of Geraniums – By Florine A. Hyer (1868-1936) who, according to Edan Hughes "Artists in California, 1786-1940" assisted Luther Burbank in recording flower developments in Santa Rosa in 1908. She studied art in Los Angeles at the American School Studio. There is a quote attributed to LB, "Florine can paint roses better than gardens can grow them."

Colored glass in window - Mrs. Burbank's collection. It includes many selections; some are very old, but the most recent piece commemorates President John F. Kennedy in green glass. The collection is protected by Plexiglas that cannot be opened.

Portrait of Burbank over fireplace - by William Oberhardt, 1925. Oberhardt painted or sketched many portraits of prominent people including Charles Dana Gibson, Thomas Edison (1922) and President Warren Harding (1923). His illustration of Joseph Gurney Cannon, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, appeared on the cover of the first edition of Time magazine in 1923.

Dogs on mantel - Staffordshire; wedding presents to Burbank's parents who were married June 19, 1845. Called "wedding dogs" because of the custom of giving these matched animals as wedding gifts.

Small wall lamps above fireplace – Added by Mrs. Burbank possibly originally from an old ship.

Wood trim on fireplace and bookcase – Walnut, possibly Burbank's Royal walnut.

Tiles around fireplace - North American songbirds, hand-painted.

Padded low stool on fireplace brick - to kneel upon when lighting the fire.

Globe of world - on bookcase, circa 1900-20.

Wood Carving - of Burbank by Elwin Millerick of Santa Rosa, 1980.

Walnut clock - on bookcase, American clock by Ansonia.

Rocking chair between bookcase and desk - Faux bamboo style thought to be from the Burbank Massachusetts home.

Books in bookcase – Burbank's books of classics and botanical volumes.

Desk - walnut, probably belonged to the Burbank family perhaps Olive Burbank.

> On Desk - Small photo of Burbank under bell jar; photo of Elizabeth Waters Burbank as a young woman. Inkwell with a figure called a "Billiken". This figure was copyrighted in 1908 by art teacher Florence Pretz. It seen as a tribute to Pres. William (Bill) Howard Taft and sold as a good luck charm thought to symbolize "no worries."

Sampler - inset into door between Kitchen and Parlor – punched paper over foil stitched by Olive Burbank. "Peace Be Unto This House" with rendering of cottage in corner.

Marble-topped commode - Victorian; at one time it had a splashboard.

Tiny chest on top of commode – Thought to be Elizabeth Burbank's French jewelry case. Also described as a salesman's furniture sample.

Currier & Ives prints - two original prints (hanging together on south wall).

Victorian print of two little girls - not Currier & Ives (hanging on east wall).

Tall, pale blue vase on lower shelf of corner stand - made of Bristol Ware.

Wallpaper - was updated throughout by Elizabeth Burbank sometime after 1960.

Photo arrangement over desk: refer to the last page of this list for sketch of photo arrangement

- David Starr Jordan: David Starr Jordan was the first president of Stanford University. Jordan's support enabled Burbank to get a Carnegie grant in 1905 which he held for five years. Jordan wrote in his autobiography The Days of Man:

> "Soon after my arrival in California I made the acquaintance of a scientific man of high rank, unique in character and method and developed wholly outside the academic influence. Luther Burbank, plant breeder and plant creator, stands with the first in his field with plums, cactus, walnuts and many kinds of flowers, Mr. Burbank has been most successful. His gardens at Sebastopol, near Santa Rosa, are one of the most interesting experimental stations in the world. From 1905 to 1912 he gave lectures at Stanford on plant breeding in connection with the course in Bionomics."

- Sir Harry Lauder: The gentleman photographed wearing kilts was a Scottish comedian and a sort of "Bob Hope of World War I". For many years he traveled the vaudeville circuit here and abroad. Although his humor did not appeal to everyone, evidently it did to Burbank. A quote from Harvest of the Years referred to Lauder: "I do enjoy laying off for a little while when some people come by." He described Lauder as the very opposite of a bore. Lauder visited Burbank on October 16, 1924.

- Luther and his sister Emma Burbank Beeson: Emma was probably married in this house in 1887 after which she moved to Healdsburg with her husband William Beeson, a blacksmith. Emma kept a series of detailed scrapbooks about Luther's life and work. She authored or co-authored several books and stories about her brother. She also acted as a hostess for him in between his marriages. Emma was a strong supporter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and opposed drinking alcohol. She died in 1927 and, like her brothers Luther and Alfred, did not have any children.

- Edison, Burbank, and Ford: Taken during their visit to Santa Rosa on Friday, Oct 22, 1915, which the newspaper described as a “Trinity of World Genius”. All three men were honored at the Pan-Pacific International Exposition in S.F. In a 1925 article for the San Francisco Examiner, Evolutionist and "Free Thinker" Frederick Clampett wrote:

> "Three men stand out in bold relief from all others in our American life today by reason of one supreme brain power. Ford is the marvel of organization. Edison is the marvel of light. Burbank is the marvel of plant life. Each has his own place and Burbank's is not last."

The 1928 cornerstone of the Ford Museum in Michigan features Burbank's spade thrust into concrete by Edison along with Edison's footprints and signature. In this way, Ford united the three men as symbols of the best of their era. At Greenfield Village Museum, Ford included Burbank's birthplace and the "Information Bureau" from this property as well as a replica of Edison's New Jersey laboratory.

Burbank and Edison were contemporaries who shared the same methods: trial and error. Edison's support helped insure the passage of the first Plant Patent law in 1930.

- Burbank, Dutch botanist Hugo DeVries and George Shull. Shull was paid by the Carnegie Foundation to report on Burbank's work over several summers. He later became known as the "father of hybrid corn" due to his own plant breeding work which resulted in increased corn yields.

  DeVries is best known as one of the rediscoverers of Gregor Mendel's work which led to the science of genetics. According to David Starr Jordan, Professor Hugo DeVries of the University of Amsterdam spoke of his American colleague, Luther Burbank, with much enthusiasm:

  > "'A unique, great genius! To see him is the prime reason for my coming to America. He works to definite ends. He ought to be not only cherished, but helped; unaided he cannot do his best. He should be as well known and as widely appreciated in California as among scientific men in Europe.'"

  Jordan continued, "This tribute by the master of plant genetics [DeVries] was virtually Burbank's first introduction to the general scientific world."

  It was DeVries who later referred to Burbank as a "gardener touched with genius".

- Burbank, Kanaye Nagasawa and Edwin Markham:

  Kanaye Nagasawa was originally one of a group of Japanese students who were smuggled out of Japan to go to Europe and America to learn Western ways. He made his way to Glasgow, where he learned English (which he spoke with a Scottish burr); through a friend he met a mystic named Thomas Lake Harris in Scotland. Nagasawa became a disciple of Harris, ultimately following him to California (as one of the first five Japanese people to arrive in California, so far as we know).

  Nagasawa and Burbank both arrived in Santa Rosa in 1875. Nagasawa joined Harris at the utopian community called the "Brotherhood of the New Life" which Harris established at Fountaingrove Ranch. Harris first worked the ranch as a cattle operation, but soon changed it to a vineyard. Nagasawa was placed in

charge of the vineyard. He ran the ranch until his death and is still well known in Japan as the "Japanese Wine Baron of California."

Nagasawa was honored by the Japanese government with the Order of the Rising Sun for coordinating the Japanese exhibit at the Pan Pacific International Exhibition and for helping Japanese people immigrate to California.

Harris left Fountaingrove after scandal developed about the utopian community. He sold his share of the ranch to those who remained behind. It was stipulated that whenever a Harrisite died, his property was to be inherited by those still alive. The last inhabitant of the commune was Nagasawa. However, due to anti-Japanese legislation of the time, his heirs were unable to obtain title to the property. Today, Nagasawa is still honored in his home province Kagoshima (formerly known as Satsuma), and there is a continuing cultural connection between that province and Santa Rosa because of Nagasawa's life and work here.

Edwin Markham was a very interesting character. It is somewhat difficult to sift through the fiction he created about his own background and life story because some of his biographers accepted the fiction as truth. He attended school in Santa Rosa at the Christian College in 1872. He was for a time the superintendent of schools in Eldorado County and was principal of a school in Oakland in 1899. Markham read his poem, "Man with the Hoe," at a New Year's Eve party on December 31, 1898, and two weeks later it was published in the San Francisco Examiner bringing him lasting fame.

According to biographer Louis Filler, "The poem was more than a nine-day wonder. It was the tocsin [signal of alarm] of a generation 'The Man with the Hoe' went around the world, binding the sorrowful people and the pitiful and the revolutionary into one single perception of humanity's problems."

His writing, plus his ability to embroider the truth and his poetic appearance on the lecture circuit, earned him a comfortable living. Shortly after he had attended school in Santa Rosa, he came across a book titled The Lord: The Two-In-One; Declared, Manifested and Glorified that had been published in Santa Rosa. It greatly impressed Markham and influenced him all his life. It was the work of Thomas Lake Harris, that same mystic who had transplanted his utopian colony to Fountaingrove Ranch in 1875. Markham lived at Fountaingrove with his good friend Nagasawa for several years.

- Madam Dorothy Raegen Talbot, a nationally known coloratura soprano, was said to be Burbank's favorite singer. She and her husband, a former Santa Rosan, were Berkeley residents. She sang "Silver Threads Among the Gold" -- Burbank's favorite song -- at his funeral. After her death of cancer in 1929, her ashes were buried near Burbank's grave in the front yard of the Burbank home.

- Burbank with Helen Keller: Burbank wrote of Helen Keller (in *Harvest of the Years*), "...the one [visitor] I am least likely to forget…. For years I have been interested in the amazing struggle against an apparently unsurmountable

physical disability made by Helen Keller and you may be sure that I welcomed her to my garden when she came … with greatest joy. We were instant friends. We understood one another and I saw through her fingers as much as she saw through my eyes." The two are standing in front of the landmark Cedar of Lebanon tree that shaded Burbank's grave until 1989, when it was removed due to root disease. Keller visited and signed the Guest Book on June 1, 1925. The evening this picture was taken she gave a speech at the Federated Church attended by a packed house of 1200 persons. Replying to a question as to whom she considered the greatest man of the age, Miss Keller said: "Mr. Burbank. I want to tell you he has created many masterpieces, because his head and heart work together." PD June 2, 1925. She later wrote in July 1925 Outlook for the Blind: "He is not only a great scientist, he is also a great teacher and a poet at heart. He has the rarest of gifts, the receptive spirit of a child. When plants talk to him, he listens. That is why they tell him so many things about themselves. Only a wise child can understand the language of flowers and trees."

- John Burroughs (1837-1921): was a widely published naturalist – a kind of John Muir of the East Coast. Burroughs and Muir knew each other well and were rivals of a sort. Burroughs was a great friend of Edison, Ford, and Firestone and accompanied them on several camping trips across the East Coast though he did not accompany them to California in 1915. Burbank owned several of his books. Burroughs visited Burbank in 1909. Burbank wrote to Burroughs in 1920 and signed it "with profound admiration, love and esteem."

- Jack London (1876-1916): In *Harvest of the Years*, Burbank said, "Jack London was a big healthy boy with a taste for serious things, but never cynical, never bitter, always good humored and humorous as I saw him, with fingers and heart equally sensitive when he was in my garden."

  In 1905, Luther Burbank received a typed letter from Jack London whom Burbank later described as his "almost neighbor … living just across the hills".

  "Now what I want to know," wrote London, "is, could you give me a tip as to any kinds of exceptionally good fruits and grapes for me to plant?" Burbank replied quickly with a detailed and modest note. He cited several fine varieties of grapes and fruits but listed only a few of his own including the Climax and Wickson plums.

  The two men visited several times. London planted a crop of spineless cactus (as Jack said, "over the objections of the University of California experts that it was ninety percent water") for his stock. An inscribed copy of Jack London's White Fang is in the Music Room bookcase.

- Helen Hull Jacobs (1908-1997): In 1924 or 1925 when this photo was taken, Jacobs was Junior National Tennis Champion and still in high school in Berkeley. Jacobs' meeting with Burbank was orchestrated by Californians Inc. to publicize

the virtues of California living and encourage immigration from other parts of the US.

Jacobs went on to win four successive US national women's singles titles from 1932 to 1935 and ranked number 1 in the world in 1936. Overall, she won 9 major titles. In 1933, she was one of the first women to begin wearing knee-length shorts (rather than long skirts) on the tennis court.

Jacobs became one of the first women to achieve the rank of commander in the US Navy Intelligence Service during World War II. During her later years, Jacobs wrote numerous works of fiction and non-fiction. She also farmed and designed sportswear.

- Burbank with Paramahansa Yogananda (1893-1952): Yogananda was a religious liberal who, in 1925, founded the Self-Realization Fellowship in Los Angeles (still in existence today). In 1924 he visited Santa Rosa during a transcontinental lecture tour. Yogananda became an admirer of Burbank and dedicated his book, Autobiography of a Yogi, to Burbank whom he called "an American Saint." A chapter is devoted to Burbank. The men shared similar beliefs on the value of learning from nature during childhood. The Yogi describes teaching Burbank breathing exercises. The Yogi was called "the 20th century's first superstar guru" by the LA Times. You could say that anyone who has learned yoga in the US owes him a debt of gratitude.

- Dr. Joseph Shaw (1883-1927) and Burbank: Dr. Shaw was Luther's physician and very good friend. He often served as Burbank's driver. Burbank was so fond of Shaw that he bequeathed his gold watch and chain to him. Only a year after Luther's death, Shaw was killed in an automobile accident; his ashes were placed near Burbank's grave.

- James Alfonso Kenney: Professor Kenney was a popular Petaluma dance teacher and vaudeville theater owner. He died suddenly of a heart attack in 1931. Wilbur Hall, who delivered a tribute at Burbank's funeral, did the same at Kenney's service. Kenney's daughter was a close friend of Elizabeth's and they arranged for Kenney's remains to be buried near Burbank's grave.

- Carrie Jacobs Bond (1862-1946): Carrie Jacobs Bond was born and reared in Wisconsin. After marrying and being widowed, she began composing and singing songs to supplement her very meager income. The songs were extremely sentimental, but were obviously in tune with the times, for Teddy Roosevelt invited her to sing them in the White House. "I Love You Truly" and "Just a Wearying for You" were two of her best known. In 1910 she wrote "The End of a Perfect Day" after watching the sun set over Mt. Rubidoux near Riverside, California. It later became a popular song during WWI. Now known as the first female music publisher, she started her own publishing house in 1894 and owned all the rights to her music. She wrote 175 songs and is now in the Songwriters Hall of Fame. In *Burbank's Harvest of the Years* he wrote:

> "Carrie Jacobs Bond, the songwriter, and scores more have come to my doorbell and made me happier and better from having a few minutes' chat with them."

Guest Book Dedication: "To Dear Luther Burbank in memory of a happy wonderful hour in your home. Sincerely, Carrie Jacobs Bond."

- Ignace Paderewski: Paderewski, besides being a great pianist, was a renowned and respected political figure in Poland, where he was elected its first premier in absentia; and in the world, where he was deeply involved in the peace negotiations conducted in Paris following World War I. For many years he toured the United States, and his concerts were heavily booked. He was a sex symbol who was beset by young women hoping to get a lock of his flaming red hair. In Seattle, while on one of these strenuous tours, he experienced such excruciating pain in his right arm that he was forced to cancel his remaining engagements. He came to San Francisco, where he was advised to try the mud baths at Paso Robles. The advice was good, and the hot mud remedied the trouble.

  Subsequently, Paderewski bought a 600-acre ranch at Paso Robles where he raised almonds and plums. It may have been that his first contact with Burbank was in relation to this undertaking. Burbank corresponded with Paderewski's wife, Madame Helena Gorska, about the property. Evidently, Burbank visited Madame in Paso Robles in 1917. Paderewski visited Santa Rosa in 1921. Burbank wrote in *Harvest of the Years*:

  > "Ignace Paderewski stayed with me several times and his fine sensitive nature and his breadth of experience gave him a background for a pleasant and delightful friendship with me. He was never on his guard nor being shown off when he was here and he felt it, and appreciated it. He played, too, though not in his concert-style -- plainly and simply, little old fashioned songs and pieces he knew I would understand and enjoy, and never too much, but usually too little."

  Guest Book Dedication: "To Luther Burbank with profound respect and affectionate admiration. I.J. Paderewski, Nov. 20, 1921."

KITCHEN

Stove and refrigerator - two of the few items on display that are not original to the family. These period appliances are types that would have been in common use during the late '20s and early '30s, when Elizabeth Burbank moved to this house and was having it renovated to her liking. The refrigerator is a 1927 GE model #1 Refrigerating Machine. This model was referred to as the "Monitor-Top" because the hermetically-sealed condenser icing unit on top resembled the turret on the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor. Note the legs are styled to look like furniture legs. It was the first affordable domestic refrigerator – the Model T of refrigerators. Stove is a Wedgewood gas range. (The famous English pottery is *Wedgwood* not *Wedgewood*.)

Bucket on floor next to stove - called a "firkin". Originally used for keeping butter. Used most recently for holding kindling. The strapping is similar to the work of the Shakers.

Metalware collection (and all other items for kitchen use) were used by Mrs. Burbank until her death.

> Long stuffing spoon hanging by stove - used by Luther, as he honored the custom of preparing the stuffing for Thanksgiving Day turkey. Thanksgiving and Christmas were the only days in the year he helped in the kitchen. He had his own stuffing recipe which was "bread, buttered and toasted, giblets and onions, lemon juice, seasoned with meat juices, but do not add any other abominations!"
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> Tin utensil hanging by stove - not a colander, but a cream separator to separate clotted cream.

Victorian prints - two on wall by broom closet, one above telephone.

Cooler - Cabinet in northeast corner used to store foods needing to be kept in a place cooler than the kitchen. Behind the lower door are early blue canning jars used by Burbank's mother.

Coffee grinder - on counter next to sink.

Small framed photo of apples - these are 36 variations of the Early Williams variety. Luther Burbank wrote in the March 1919 issue of Orchard and Farm magazine:

"If You Planted An Apple Seed

> Would you expect to grow a tree producing the same variety of fruit as that from which the original seed was taken? If so, you might receive a surprise. The thirty-six apples illustrated above were all grown from

> seeds of the 'Early, late, red, white, yellow, striped, sweet, sour, large and small.'"

Burbank's article goes on to explain the difficulties involved in selecting and testing when, as in the case of orchard-grown applies, fruits become cross-pollinated and therefore rarely manifest the tendency to produce anything like the original fruit. He does explain that he often tested his seedlings by grafting them onto a bearing tree. He includes a mention, and a photo, of a tree with "526 distinct varieties of apples." The tree was in Sebastopol.

Back steps door - As you exit the kitchen to the outside, there is a door on your right. Behind that door is a small bathroom installed for Elizabeth's convenience late in her life when she was living only on the first floor of the home.

Hand-tinted photograph of Burbank (next to Dining Room door) – Luther Burbank - background location, Lake County.

Painted wood chest against Dining Room wall – called by Mrs. Burbank a "dilly." It is of Pennsylvania Dutch origin, used for storage of cakes and pies. The lid lifts up and has screened openings to protect from dust and flies. Unlined storage bins underneath.

Seven original paintings on same wall - depict various fruits developed by Burbank. The paintings are by Charles Bradford Hudson, circa 1909, and were done for a proposed series of books that was never published. Hudson was a well-known painter of nature and did other illustrations which were used in Burbank catalogs. See next-to-last page for identification. (Prints of the seven fruit paintings are offered for sale in the Gift Shop.)

Tile on same wall above dilly - hides a buzzer that was connected to Mrs. Burbank's bedroom.

DINING ROOM

Plank floors - installed during Mrs. Burbank's 1926-27 renovations.

Dining table and chairs - Victorian period, walnut wood, seats covered in Spanish leather.

Sideboard - also Victorian walnut; decorated with carvings of fish and fowl.

Picture of birds above sideboard - a fine 19th century French print thought to be given to Elizabeth by a friend. Cards with print are sold in Gift Shop.

Pink and blue Shirley poppies under stained glass window - pastel sketches done by Luther Burbank. Luther was taught drawing and painting in his youth, as was the practice in nineteenth century schools. "I had a taste for drawing and for a time I studied that art seriously …," he later remarked.

Copper Pots hanging on fireplace - from New England; belonged to Luther's mother. Some are hand wrought, joined with brass tongue and groove. Tinkers repaired early metal pots. The expression "I don't give a tinker's damn" or "it's not worth a tinker's damn" (meaning worthless) may have developed because they were notorious for the use of "damn" and other bits of profanity. Alternatively, the expression may refer to another "dam" used by tinkers, a temporary dam fashioned to hold solder in place when repairing pots and pans. The dam is thrown away after the pot is repaired. One of the pots on the fireplace has been repaired in this fashion.

Brass chestnut roaster - hanging on fireplace.

Little boot hanging on fireplace - belonged to Patrick, the son of Georgina Stewart who had a daughter/mother relationship with Elizabeth Burbank and was the executrix of Elizabeth's estate. Georgina was married in the greenhouse and helped take care of Elizabeth toward the end of her life. Patrick was killed in an automobile accident at the age of 16. In the boot is the brush used to clean the hearth.

Needlepoint doorstop with dog image - worked by Elizabeth Burbank.

Small black chair - a child's size Hitchcock chair.

Table near outer door - Pembroke design, walnut, short drop-leaf with drawer; legs of pineapple design. Most of the furniture in the house is walnut. This is mahogany.

Stereoscope - "an optical instrument through which two pictures of the same object taken from different points of view are viewed giving the appearance of depth." Stereoptic cards show Burbank, workers, and grounds.

Desktop correspondence cabinet - Hand-crafted in walnut and maple, once belonged to Burbank and was later used by Dr. Baki Kasapligil, a professor at Mills College. In 1999 his wife donated it to the Burbank home.

Photos in large Victorian frame - historic views of Burbank house and gardens featuring Tupper Street and the view from Santa Rosa Ave (old Main Street).

"California Oaks" painting - an original painting by Francis McComas who sailed from Tasmania to San Francisco to become one of early California's most renowned artists. His "tonalist" works are in the collections of the deYoung, Oakland, and Palace of Legion of Honor museums, among others. His works were exhibited at the 1915 PPIE. Both he and Burbank were members of the Bohemian Club.

The subject of the painting brings to mind a passage from one of Burbank's early letters home: "The valley is covered with majestic oaks placed as no human hand could arrange them for beauty ….I almost have to cry for joy…."

Corner cabinet - made of Paradox walnut; a copy of an early New England design with "H" hinges and probably constructed by a local cabinetmaker at Mrs. Burbank's request with Paradox walnut wood from trees that once lined Santa Rosa Ave. Small stylized daisy decoration.

> In cabinet: several of the pieces are old Staffordshire blue and pink ware, made when it was popular to have interesting scenes on the pottery. Cups are of the era, with no handles; saucers were- really used as they poured tea into the saucer and drank from it - but not in high society.
>
> Also in this cabinet are a lustreware pitcher and a chocolate pot, among other items.

Colored glass door to Music Room - the cottage chimneys were damaged in the 1906 earthquake. After Luther's death in 1926, Mrs. Burbank had the house renovated and moved in. She had several pieces of colored, beveled or decorative glass installed, most of which she got from Cleveland Wrecking Company in Oakland. Georgina Stewart stated that this glass was added in 1931. (Many of the tiles in the house and garden, excluding the Don Quixote tiles, also came from there.) It is said Mrs. Burbank liked to sit by the fireplace in the dining room at night and put out all the lights except the little one on the fireplace, and the little one in the music room by the door, which shone through the glass.

Dining Room west wall - resolutions, awards and recognitions granted to Burbank during his lifetime and after his death. Includes an honorary doctorate of science conferred in 1905 from Tufts University near Boston. The Latin text translates to: Luther Burbank, a man of science in horticulture, through his mastery of the processes of nature a benefactor of mankind. A lifetime membership in the California Academy of Sciences.

China cabinet - walnut; trimmed in burl.

> In china cabinet: the family china brought to Santa Rosa by Burbank's mother. It is English ironstone, with the Tealeaf pattern in copper lustre; this design was popular in the latter part of the nineteenth century. This type of china was NOT used in the Lincoln white house.

Pink glass vases on china cabinet - "End-of-Day" glass, so called because the glass manufacturers would put all their leftover glass together at the end of the day.

Glass celery holder - pressed glass; a smaller version is called a "spooner" for holding spoons.

Chandelier - hanging over dining room table has been thought by volunteers to be from the German exhibit at the 1915 PPIE. However, recent research showed there was no German exhibit at the PPIE. It is believed that Elizabeth obtained it through the Cleveland Wrecking Company in Oakland. Hand-blown glass accents include plums and a pear.

MUSIC ROOM

Tiles around walls - hand painted, possibly from Spain or Portugal; they portray the story of Don Quixote. The tile over the door into the dining room is of the author Cervantes. Elizabeth Burbank spoke Spanish and was fond of Spanish and Mexican culture and peoples. She installed the tiles when she renovated the house.

Books in bookcase – Belonged to Luther Burbank and are mostly scholarly and botanical. Included is a 12-volume set of books about Burbank's work, published by the Luther Burbank Press; these used a special process to create full-color photographic prints. One book on top of the bookcase is a volume of Don Quixote by Cervantes, illustrated with engravings by Gustav Doré.

Inside bookcase: - small plaster bust of Burbank dated 1915, signed J. (Julia) Briggs Painter.

On bookcase: - mounted cross-section of Paradox walnut. [Under review-cherry – graft union?]

10-volume set titled "The Story of Modern Science" written by Henry Smith Williams, published in 1923 by Funk & Wagnalls. Williams was an editor (and ghostwriter) for the Burbank l2-volume set published in 1915.

Above bookcase: - small landscape by Carl Dahlgren, undated, titled "San Francisco Bay Seen from the Indian Burying Ground, Berkeley." Known as the "Sunshine Painter" due to the shaft of light often featured in his paintings. Lived in Oakland and San Francisco.

Full-size manual sewing machine - manufactured in Germany, sold in California. It is a working machine designed to be cheap for household use. Since this kind of machine was not manufactured until 1884 it is not the kind that Burbank sold in Fitchburg, MA after his father died. Inquiries to the manufacturer, still in business, garnered the information that the machine was full size for time.

Piano - upright piano which Burbank played. Elizabeth Burbank received a call one day from a lady who said she had Burbank's upright piano, so Elizabeth arranged to get it back. Elizabeth did not play the piano and may have been tone deaf.

Above piano: - Victorian mirror between a picture of Burbank on the left and Elizabeth Burbank on the right around the time of their marriage.

Rocking chair in SE corner - Olive Burbank gave this chair to the Lee family who were neighbors of hers on Tupper Street. In 1972 one of the Lee daughters gave the chair to a Mrs. Holmoe, a close and long-time family friend. In August 1997, Mrs. Holmoe returned it to the Burbank home.

Oil Portrait. "Luther Burbank In His Garden" (over settee) - by Mihran Kevork Serailian, done in 1943 and donated to LBH&G in 1987. This scene was originally painted in 1912 when Burbank was 63. By Serailian's design, the tree looks like a continuation of Burbank's body elongated by the spreading foliage. In 1943, he copied the painting to enlarge it. The frame is decorated with 24-karat gold leaf, agate burnished.

Serailian corresponded and worked with Burbank for many years. Burbank described Serailian as an artist with paint and food. Serailian painted some of the fruits and flowers in Burbank's catalogs. In addition, he manufactured Burbank's fruits (cherries, plumcots, loquats), vegetables, flowers, and herbs (lovage) into natural food preserves, candies, syrups, and juices at the Califruit Chocolates Co. in San Francisco.
The two men shared a sense of humor. Serailian once noted: "the ink with which I sign this letter is plain and fresh juice of the batch of cactus fruit you gave me last". Both men seemed given to exaggeration. M.K. explained that the Cathay quince looked like a "painted ostrich egg" and was the "queen of all the scented fruits" with an "entirely new fragrance". Serailian's tolerance probably sealed their friendship. He once complimented Burbank's shipment of walnuts even though almost half were "hollow hearted". (The Gift Shop carries postcards of this painting.)

Rug under sofa - The beautiful "Blue Rose" rug was created by the Apple Blossom Stitchers of Sebastopol in 2000 to grace this room and honor Burbank's quest for a blue rose.

Round table in corner - Victorian, with inlay of mother-of-pearl. Lamp on table probably was converted from oil to electric. Oval photograph is of Olive Ross Burbank.

Large framed oil Painting - a scene of Massachusetts in winter, painted by C.E. Burbank, a distant cousin of Burbank's.

Large desk - Burbank's own desk, made of walnut. Known as a "Wells Fargo style" desk. At the top there is a "secret" lockable compartment with pigeonholes. This desk was one of the first pieces of furniture he purchased in California.

On the desk: Inkwell - Burbank's own.

Dictionary - Second edition of Webster's International Dictionary (1946) in which the transitive verb "burbank" appears. "Burbank" was synonymous with "improvement".

Pictures under bell jar – Daguerreotype photos of Burbank's father, Samuel Walton Burbank; and Luther with his mother, Olive.

Framed report card from Lancaster Academy – Burbank was among the class average in all subjects except "declamation" – dramatic reading or speech making - where he did poorly due to his shyness. He was best in class with perfect "10" in "deportment" or behavior due to his shyness.

3 Photos of Burbank at different periods of his life.

Luther Burbank working at this desk in this house. Only known photo of the inside of the house while Burbank lived here.

Above desk: Sketch of Burbank - done in red Conte crayon by E. A. Burbank, a distant cousin, in 1927 after Burbank's death. E. A. Burbank traveled and painted throughout the southwest making portraits of more than 125 types of North American Indians and was the only non-native artist to paint Geronimo from life. Many of his paintings are included in the Smithsonian's collections. Elbridge convalesced at a Napa mental hospital for many years. He maintained contact with Mrs. Burbank and shared many drawings with her. He died in 1949 after being hit by a cable car in San Francisco.

Mount Vernon Group Picture - tour group Burbank joined on his trip to the East Coast in 1888. Burbank is pictured with long whiskers.

Photo of Burbank's Lancaster, Mass birthplace in old-fashioned carved frame - Part of that house is now restored at Henry Ford's Greenfield Village Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Staircase and inset spindles in sliding doors - made of walnut. The spindles are similar but not identical to those found on the footboard of the antique bed upstairs.

Pictures of upstairs rooms – showing Burbank furnishings on display. Front bedroom, rear bedroom, hallway, with middle bedroom belong. Bathroom not pictured.

Picture in depression over staircase - placed there for an unknown reason, possibly to hide a hole where a chimney formerly vented. It may be recessed to allow more room on the staircase. Artist unknown.

Glass-encased table - French, called a "vitrine," used for display.

Contents of vitrine: displays Burbank's guest book turned to the signatures in the 1915 party visit which included Edison and Ford.

Gold-framed painting of sunset over the ocean, under stairs – by George Ferrier, 1906. Titled on reverse, "Aberlady Bay", on the west coast of Scotland.

GREENHOUSE

Begun in 1889, by 1890 Burbank listed a final cost of $1,132.07 including labor and materials. In 1884, Burbank purchased this property including 4 acres and his house for a total of $2,000 so the greenhouse was a great expense.

Renovations – Following Burbank's death in 1926, Elizabeth Burbank renovated the greenhouse, installing tiles, flooring, and fountain. See the Tile binder for origins of all tiles on the property.

This was a working greenhouse for Burbank with dirt floors and large tables for plants. It was used to grow plants and to dry them for seed. A series of metal tubes near the glass is designed to capture condensation and to funnel it outside.

Glass – It is difficult to estimate how much of the glass is original. Older glass is thicker toward the bottom. Much of the glass may have been replaced during Mrs. Burbank's renovations. Glass on the south is now coated to reduce heat penetration.

Small office – replica of Burbank's office with original tools, desk, filing cabinet. Under the floor are gas jets that Mrs. Burbank added to dry trays of walnuts. Burbank's office was housed in a wooden addition to the greenhouse which may have burned in a 1936 fire. Mrs. Burbank replaced it with this brick room.

Arbor with Grapes and Scythe – A new Burbank Christmas grape vine was planted in 2005. The replica scythe is designed for cutting wheat with extra wooden prongs that bundle the wheat as it is cut.

Safe – Iron "Luther Burbank" safe by Victor Safe and Lock Company. Our collection includes the safe combination written in Burbank's hand. It is said that Burbank stored cash (to pay day laborers) and his most prized possessions, seeds, in the safe (which was not then in the greenhouse).

"A single bud or seed in the wrong hands may place an unscrupulous person on an equal footing with the originator, who may have spent worlds of patient though and toil in producing the creation" he wrote in 1894 *New Creations in Fruits and Flowers*.

> On top of safe: Photos showing greenhouse in Burbank's day.
>
> Fruit Records: Burbank tested his new fruits by pressing half to paper and tracing it while tasting and evaluating the other half. The Xs rank the fruit – more Xs signify better quality.

April 18, 1906, earthquake - On no fewer than 6 separate occasions Burbank states: "not a pane of glass was broken or a tender plant injured." However, on November 14, 1911, he acknowledges a single "casualty" occurred in Sebastopol:

> "Although some fairly large trees and plants were moved [several feet], nothing was injured except one small bulb which happened to lie in the path of a fault. This was split in twain; but each half has succeeded in making a plant since that time."

To prove his good fortune to the Carnegie Foundation, which was bankrolling his operations with a $10,000 a year grant, he related on April 30, 1906:

> "Even my valuable [glass plate] photograph negatives which were in town were all saved without a scratch but all others in the same office were smashed into thousands of pieces."