



## University Library News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Endowment Honors J.W. “Jack” Newberry**

Mr. Ivan Scott and Mrs. Virginia Taylor of Fairacres, New Mexico, have established an endowment of \$10,000 for the New Mexico State University Library honoring Virginia’s father, horticulturalist Jack Newberry. The J.W. “Jack” Newberry Endowment for Agricultural Collections in the Rio Grande Historical Collections will be used to support the collection, preservation, processing and promotion of archival collections that document the rich history of agricultural innovation in the Mesilla Valley and its environs.



*J.W. “Jack” Newberry.  
Photo, Archives & Special  
Collections*

A pioneer farmer and esteemed member of the community, Newberry received numerous awards for varieties of apples, peaches, corn and pecans that he developed, including peaches that measured 11.5 inches in diameter. Born near Greenville, Tennessee, he came to New Mexico in the early 1900s and recognized the potential of the new Elephant Butte dam for irrigation. With his wife, Rachel Ellen Simpson, Newberry moved to a farm in Fairacres.

Newberry purchased a team of mules from the U.S. Army in Columbus, New Mexico, just following Pancho Villa’s raid, and drove them to his farm by moonlight with no roads to assist him.

Newberry worked with Dr. Juan Garcia of New Mexico State University, who was very interested in Newberry’s development of pecans in this area. He exhibited another of his varieties, Mexican June corn, at the Chicago World’s Fair of 1933/1934. Some of Mr. Newberry’s papers are in the Library’s Rio Grande Historical Collections. For more information, please contact Connie Loyd, the Library’s development officer, at (505) 646-3642.