



MAGNOLIA

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

The Laurel Tree of Carolina
from Mark Catesby 1731
(Magnolia Grandiflora)

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THE SPLENDOR OF OLD FELICIANA BECKONS SGHS MEMBERS

by Ann Benham Koerner

Feliciana - there is a lyrical, magical quality about the name. What does it mean? In its most literal historical sense, it refers to a tract of land wrested from the British in 1779 by the governor of Spanish Louisiana, Bernardo de Galvez, who named these lands after his bride, Felice de la Maxent d'Estrehan. At that time the region was a strip extending from the Perdido River, at the western boundary of present-day Florida, to the Mississippi River. This area, having attracted many Tories from the eastern seaboard during the American Revolution, was by then predominantly Anglo-Saxon in flavor, though it retained the influence of early Spanish and French settlers who left their mark in place names, architectural styles, and family names. Since earliest times, the area seems to have been especially favored, from the early Houmas and Tunica Indian tribes to the French and Spanish explorers who traded with them, and continuing on with English aristocrats and entrepreneurs who made vast fortunes in agriculture and other business ventures there. But it was the English who gave Feliciana its enduring character, bringing a proud heritage and independence to the region which remains today.

Residents of Feliciana resisted Spanish rule following Galvez' conquest - once in an abortive attempt in 1804 and again in the West Florida Rebellion of 1810, when

--continued on page 3



Parlange Plantation

CALENDAR

March 13th-15th, 1991: The Southern Landscape Symposium presents "Landscapes of the South" which will include a talk by SGHS board member Suzanne Turner, "Old South Gardens: Myth and Reality." Contact Louise Keith Claussen at the Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA. (404) 724-0851, ext. 233.

April 6th, 1991: Historic Wilmington Foundation will sponsor a plant sale in the deRosset Garden at 209 Dock St. from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$2 and for more information, contact the Foundation at (919) 762-2511.

April 7th-10th, 1991: The Forty-Fifth Williamsburg Garden Symposium, which includes a talk by SGHS Board member Jane Campbell Symmes, will be held in Colonial Williamsburg. Write: Registrar, Garden Symposium, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Post Office Box C, Williamsburg, VA, 23187-9983 or call (804) 220-7255 for further information.

April 12th-14th, 1991: **SGHS 1991 Annual Meeting** in St. Francisville, LA will be held at the St. Francis Hotel (1-800-826-9931). The meeting is for members only and on a first come first served basis as registration must be limited to 125 participants. Reservations should

be sent as soon as possible to Mrs. Robert L. Pettit, Jr., #7 Garden Lane, New Orleans, LA 70124 (504) 486-1188.

May 17th-19th, 1991: The Heritage Rose Foundation will hold its annual meeting in Santa Rosa, California. Contact Charles Walker, 1512 Gorman St., Raleigh, NC 27606.

August 15th-17th, 1991: The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta will hold its Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting in the William Paca Gardens in Annapolis, MD. The theme will be "Conserving Our Garden Heritage: Natural and Historic" and topics for presentation on this theme are currently being sought. For more information, contact Scott Frederickson, Garden Superintendent, William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St, Annapolis, MD 21401.

October 3-5, 1991: The Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes fall conference on "The Southern Vernacular Landscape" will be held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, NC. More information will be forthcoming in future issues.

March 20-22, 1992: SGHS 1992 Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC. Members may wish to start gathering up slides and prints of past meetings for the 10th anniversary retrospective display.

Schedule Change for Dues Billing

The SGHS board has decided to change the membership billing to correspond with the society's year, May 1st to April 30th, based on the term of office for board members. To make the transition notice for 1990-1991, dues were mailed out in November rather than January and notices for 1991-1992 will be mailed in May. Dues notices will be sent each May hereafter. Anyone joining the society after the first of the year is credited for the coming year, beginning in May. Therefore, new members who joined after January 1st will not be billed in May. The board also decided to send annual meeting brochures only to current society members. Therefore, non-members need to join first by paying dues to the society headquarters before they will be sent annual meeting materials. In the past, non-members were allowed to join the society when they registered for the meeting, a method which was not only confusing but also a burden on annual meeting committees.

The society now has five hundred members throughout the fourteen Southern states, plus a number of members in England, Germany, France and Australia.

OLD FELICIANA, continued from page 1.

Spanish rule was overthrown at Baton Rouge. The resulting independent province, with St. Francisville as its capital, was short lived, however, lasting just 74 days. In 1810 the region was made part of the United States. Since then old Feliciana has been parcelled out, and in 1824, what remained as Feliciana proper was divided into West and East Feliciana, whose boundaries have survived to the present day.

Feliciana's contributions to architecture, culture, and business have been truly outstanding. The area along the great River Road from New Orleans to Natchez, of which Feliciana was a part, reputedly produced more than two-thirds of America's known millionaires of the antebellum period. Politically and materially, the region has been as interesting and as remuneratively rewarding as any in the Louisiana Territories, but it possesses other, more intangible, qualities as well. Translated from the Spanish, Feliciana means "Happyland," and it has lived up to the expectations evoked by this translation for both residents and visitors over the years. Its beauty has been legendary. John James Audubon, whose exquisite paintings made famous the region's wildlife, said of it:

"Nature seems to have paused, as she passed over the Earth, and opening her stores, to have strewed with unsparing hand the diversified seeds from which have sprung all the beautiful and splendid forms which I should in vain attempt to describe..."

As participants of the 1991 Spring Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, we know you will find this little part of Old Feliciana just as wonderful as he did. Just come and see for yourself.

THE GARDEN AT LEIGH FARM Kenneth M. McFarland, Stagville Center

Antebellum Orange County, North Carolina encompassed thousands of plantation acres owned by the Cameron family. Indeed, theirs was one of the largest agricultural complexes of the American South. Orange County, however, also included a number of smaller - and thus more typical - plantation operations. Richard Stanford Leigh (1809-1898) owned one such holding, which in 1860 included nearly 1,000 acres and sixteen slaves. Here Leigh cultivated mainly corn, though he also grew wheat and cotton, and raised livestock as well. Joined by such structures as a smokehouse, a dairy, and a slave cabin, Leigh's circa 1835 home still stands near New Hope Creek in southwestern Durham County. (Durham County was formed in 1881, having been carved largely from eastern Orange.) The campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is only five miles to the west.

A garden, too, was once a prominent feature at Leigh Farm, though only a few traces of it (chiefly narcissus) remain at its location just south of the main house. Fortunately, Ida Leigh (1873-1943), the youngest of Richard Stanford's twenty children, has left us an entrancing picture of this Leigh Farm garden, which Leigh descendants recall as having been approximately one-half acre in size. In an 1893 essay, written while she was a student at the Durham Female Institute, Ida walks us through this garden known to her since her early childhood and which had been maintained under the watchful eye of her grandmother, Nancy Hudgins. (Family history records Nancy's birth in 1795. She is believed to have died during the 1880's.)

Possibly the garden, in some form, may have been contemporary with the Leigh House, itself; dwarf box, apparently planted early in the garden's history, stood at the site until the early 1930's. Nancy Hudgins' connection with it, however, only began at the time of the Civil War. She and her daughter

Leathy (1831-1900) had come to Leigh Farm in 1862 to help the recently widowed Richard Stanford in caring for his children. Two years later Richard and Leathy were married. Nancy, then, continued to reside with her daughter and new son-in-law, and a still-growing family. Her youngest granddaughter's recollections attest to the energy Nancy devoted to the garden which lay but a few feet from the Leigh House front door:

My Grandmother's Garden

In the time of our grandparents, most people, those in the country especially, took as great pride in the cultivation of flowers in their gardens as they did of vegetables, or at least my grandmother did. And if there is any thing that will live longer in my memory than any thing else, it is the recollection of my grandmother's garden. It was about twice as long as broad with a gate in the northwest corner. The walks were in the form of a capital T with the base at the southern end of the garden and the cross of the T across the middle of the garden. Then, from the western end of the T to the gate was another walk running close to the palings. Near the gate was a rose arbor under which my sisters and I have spent many an hour making crosses, rings, squares, etc of the thorns from the rose vine, each trying to make the prettiest figure. Farther on were beds of white and blue lilies, white, pink, and red pinks and the early blooming hyacinths. Of course, these were not the choice flowers even in those days, but grandmother did not make her selections to please other people, but these had been the favorite flowers in her youth and she preferred them now. 'Twas seldom we were allowed to go into the garden without some one to watch us for we were very fond of pulling the long blades of the hyacinths to hear them "sing" as we called it. And this was not to be tolerated by grandmother. I do not remember anything about the vegetables, but the fruit trees that grew around the edge of the garden I shall never forget. Along the front, or western side, were several prune trees and in each of the southern corners grew a cherry tree and such delicious cherries they bore ! At the end of the long walk, or the base of the T, stood a large gooseberry bush from which I never ate a ripe berry until a few years ago. The pieces through which the palings were woven served as convenient steps to the lower limbs of the mulberry tree that stood at the back of the garden, and the sharp points of the palings were the means of tearing many a dress and apron in our hurry to get down from the tree before we were seen by those who would have "reported us at headquarters."

I have not written this because I thought it would be interesting to any one else, or prove very beneficial to me, but because I could think of nothing else.
Spring Term, 1893

Durham, NC

Durham female Institute

(Note: Ida Leigh's essay has been transcribed verbatim, with no changes in punctuation, etc. The only exception occurs in the several instances where she added a word above a line. These words have been dropped into the text.)

Nearly a century has passed since a nineteen year old Ida Leigh wistfully penned her childhood recollections from the 1870s and 80s. Of course, despite the charming candor of her conclusion, we find her essay interesting in ways she did not imagine. First, it offers a succinctly stated, yet remarkable, story of the love (a love manifested in quite different ways) of a woman and her granddaughter for a garden - and of their obvious mutual affection. In addition, Ida's essay reveals a good deal of information about the garden itself. Plans are now under discussion for the restoration of the Leigh Farm complex as a public

site. With the aid of Ida Leigh's writings, along with the related documentary and plant material still in family hands, an opportunity may soon present itself for a fine garden restoration indeed.

(Note: The author wishes to thank Richard Leigh descendants Mr. Curtis Booker and his mother Mrs. John (Elsie) Booker for permission to publish Ida Leigh's essay and for supplying much of the factual information included in this article. In addition, the interested reader is directed to Jean Bradley Anderson's study Durham County, just published by the Duke University Press in association with the Historic Preservation Society of Durham.)

THE PLANT REPORTER: SEARCHING FOR ROMAN HYACINTHS

Flora Ann Bynum, Winston-Salem, NC

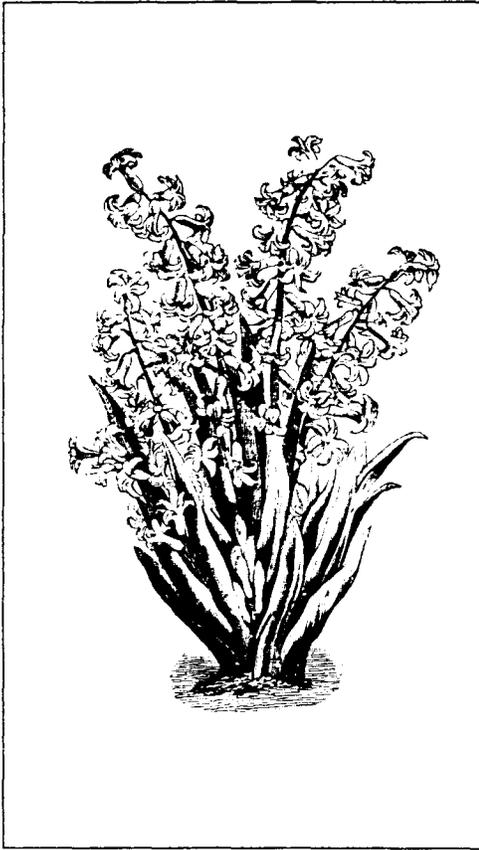
In the 1990 summer issue, vol. VII, no. I, we discussed Roman Hyacinths, the little fragrant hyacinths that bloom early and are so often found in the single blue form in older Southern gardens (*Hyacinthus orientalis* var. *albulus*). We mentioned that the white, once common, seems now to be rarely found in gardens, and the pink, especially the double pink, has almost disappeared. We also said there seemed today to be no commercial source for these little hyacinths.

However, we have since located several sources. Cruickshank's Inc. of Toronto, Canada, offered blue, white and pink Roman hyacinths in its fall 1990 catalogue. Bundles of Bulbs of Maryland also listed French Roman hyacinths (a name used occasionally in the last sixty years) and put "(multiflora)" under the listing. I feel sure the Roman hyacinths sold by Bundles of Bulbs are not Multiflora. The bulbs looked identical to my other Roman hyacinth bulbs, and I have been told by three bulb importers that Multiflora is a very large segmented, treated bulb, decidedly different in appearance from a Roman hyacinth bulb. I ordered some of all of these and planted them in rows in my garden.

Katherine Whiteside called to report that A.J. Skittone in San Francisco, California, listed these hyacinths in his fall 1990 catalogue and offered the bulbs.

Since the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center in New York City had in June told John Fitzpatrick of Monticello that Roman hyacinths were not being commercially produced, the question became-- where are these companies securing these bulbs? Cruickshank's replied that they have carried Roman hyacinths for years and get them from a Dutch grower who obtains them from a grower in France. Mr. Skittone said he buys his bulbs directly from Israel, but can only get white and blue. We also called the manager of the largest bulb importing firm in America-- the firm from which most of our retail bulb catalogue companies obtain their bulbs-- and the manager told us he has for three or four years bought Roman hyacinths from Israel, now one of the major bulb-growing areas. He too could only obtain white and blue. Dutch Gardens, Inc. of New Jersey wrote they will have Roman hyacinths available in the fall. So-- while the Dutch may not be growing Roman hyacinths, they are being produced commercially in France and Israel.

I went to France in August to attend a workshop on landscape restoration held in the Chateau La Napoule on the Riviera. As everything I had read said Roman hyacinths were native to southern France, I thought I would be in the real heartland of these hyacinths. I went loaded with pictures and a card with my questions carefully written out. However, in all the gardens we visited, there was never anyone to give any information at all. If I was lucky, I would find one gardener in the whole place-- who spoke only French, naturally, and I only English. I would show him my pictures, my card with my questions in English, and we would gesture, point and wave at each other-- he in fluent French and I in fluent English! Often as I went through these interchanges, there would be some "helpful" person nearby who spoke-- or thought he spoke-- both languages and would get in on the act, further confusing the issue. On our free weekend off from the workshop, a friend and I drove all the way over to a large botanical garden just inside



Roman Hyacinth
1910 Platt Co.

the Italian border, and again found only one gardener in the whole place, and again we went through our act of showing cards and pictures, but all we managed to learn was that Roman hyacinths (only the blue) were grown in the garden and bloomed in February.

The only real "pay dirt" I hit in France was when a French landscape architect from Grasse, in the hill country about an hour north of where we were on the Riviera, lectured to the group. Yes, he knew these little hyacinths; yes, they grew naturally around him; and, yes, they are in white, pink, and blue, but he had never seen any double, did not know there was a double. He had seen the blue and pink in the wild, but not the white. The blue is more common and he grows them in his garden where they have just come up naturally. The school children gather the blossoms to sell. No, you cannot buy the bulbs, you just dig them. He had never heard them referred to as "Roman;" he wrote them down for me as "Jacinthes." So I did locate one person who knew the hyacinths in what I had been told was their native habitat, the Var region of southern France, in the hill country, not far from where the Var River flowed into the Mediterranean.

Other than the few references given in the article in the summer Magnolia, I have found no more specific, dated references to Roman hyacinths in early Southern gardens. Larry Gulley, of Sparta, Georgia, called to say that he had once visited an old log cabin in southwest Virginia, with a neighbor of his, and the whole front yard of the old cabin was full of Roman hyacinths in bloom--pink, white, and blue-- very fragrant, and the most beautiful sight, like a baby's blanket. Larry said the white were the most delicate

of all, and more white than cream. Larry remembers that these hyacinths in white, pink, and blue were always on his grandmother's homeplace in Hawkins County, Tennessee, and on the neighboring farm of his great-grandfather, and on a farm across the road. The pink were smaller. He had only seen a very few of the white and pink in Georgia, but said the blue were in most Georgia gardens.

While we have located few dated references for Roman hyacinths in early Southern gardens, there are many, many references to them in American gardening books and catalogues. Thanks primarily to Dr. Arthur Tucker of Delaware State College, Dover, Delaware, we have copies of data on Roman hyacinths from sixteen books, eleven of which are American, four English, and one Dutch. We have copies of data from five old American bulb catalogues. And in addition we have other articles on hyacinths that do not mention Roman hyacinth. We are also grateful to John Fitzpatrick, Scott Kunst of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Florence Griffin of Atlanta, Georgia, all of whom sent material.

The references to Roman hyacinths date from 1881 to 1938. The prime subject of discussion in all these references is the white Roman hyacinth as a forcing bulb. The 1881 book says, "The white Roman hyacinth is largely used for forcing winter flowers by the florists of New York and all large cities. In New York alone upward of five hundred thousand bulbs are used during the winter, and the number is rapidly increasing each year." The 1943 book says "... the white Roman hyacinth is the most popular of winter-blooming plants. Several million of these bulbs are grown annually by the florists of the large cities for winter cut-flowers."

Of the most interest to us is a 1905 catalogue of Jos. W. Vestal & Son of Little Rock, Arkansas. This catalogue is part of the archival collection the SGHS is starting in the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta Historical Society, Atlanta, Georgia. This catalogue and Elizabeth Lawrence's books are the only Southern references to Roman hyacinths I have in older garden books and catalogues.

Also, Vestal and the Frank S. Platt Co. catalogue (1910) of New Haven, Connecticut, are the only companies that listed double Roman hyacinths. Platt listed semi-double blush rose and semi-double blue. Vestal listed double light pink and double dark pink. Although, many of the references in the books noted the three colors, white, blue, and rose or pink, only Elizabeth Lawrence in Gardens in Winter (1961) mentions the double pink, found on an old homeplace in Louisiana. And so far, the double pink I have found in the Winston-Salem area is the only double pink-- or double-- I know of today.

When Roman hyacinths were first brought into Southern gardens still remains a mystery. It does not seem likely they were planted in gardens from bulbs that had been used for forcing. First, all the books and catalogues say that the bulbs once forced do not do well in gardens. Second, if forced bulbs were planted in gardens, why did the blue become so common, and not the white, which was most popular for forcing? And third, these hyacinths are found today so often on old farms, old homeplaces-- places where it seems unlikely people would have ordered bulbs from major bulb companies and forced them-- which was more of a big-city activity.

Another mystery, never discussed in the many books is the origin of the name "Roman." Why are they called that? "French Roman" perhaps because, as we noted in the earlier article, they are Roman hyacinths that come from France-- and the French Roman designation seems to be used mostly from the 1920s on. But why Roman, if they are native to France? After seeing all the Roman ruins in the South of France, I wondered if the Romans brought these hyacinths into this area. But if so, where did the Romans bring them from? No writer mentions any location to which they are native but southern France. Were they once elsewhere, in the days of the Roman Empire, and are they now gone from the original site? Another mystery!

Ed Shull, SGHS board member from Maryland, brought me five bulbs of pink Roman hyacinths, from a clump that must have been part of the original garden of his 1910 house. I have all the hyacinths I acquired in the fall rowed out in my garden and now eagerly watch them. The ten small bulbs of the double pink, which I obtained from an older woman at our local farmer's market, were up the end of January, as were Ed's bulbs and the blue ones that have always been in my garden. The bulbs from Cruickshank's and Bundles of Bulbs had not yet put in an appearance.

A friend on a very old homeplace near Winston-Salem tells me that the blue, white, and double pink are there, so I am anxiously waiting for them to bloom. Ken McFarland, site manager of the Stagville Center, Durham, N.C. and associate editor of Magnolia, recently told me of the Leigh Farm near Chapel Hill, where the old homeplace, now gone, was built in 1835. A Stagville employee has collected bulbs of little single hyacinths-- small and purple, with about five blooms per stem. Ken promises to check these out and get bulbs. I have also put an advertisement in the "plants wanted" section of the North Carolina agricultural market bulletin, à la Elizabeth Lawrence.

Now is the time for all good Southern Garden History Society members to come to the aid of the Roman hyacinth search, as all over the South they are now blooming. Please report on white and pink ones; watch especially for the elusive double pink, or unusual colors of blue-- such as very deep blue or purplish. Please take pictures and notes. Watch for early references to the hyacinths in diaries, letters and other garden accounts. As the hyacinths are too tender to grow in the North, they are a distinct "preservation" of Southern Gardens-- but a mystery as to their history still remains!

SOURCES FOR ROMAN HYACINTH BULBS

Bundles of Bulbs, 112 Greenspring Valley Rd., Owings Mill, MD. 21117. White, rose, blue in 1990 fall catalogue.
Cruikshank's Inc., 1015 Mount Pleasant Rd., Toronto, Ont., M4P 2M1, Canada. White, pink, blue in 1990 fall catalogue.

Dutch Gardens, P.O. Box 200, Adelphia, N.J., 07710. Will have Roman hyacinths available fall 1991.

A.J. Skittone Collection, Green Lady Gardens, 1415 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco, Calif., 94132. White and blue.
White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Ct. 06759-0050. Listed white in Christmas 1990 catalogue.

ELISABETH WOODBURN ROBERTSON

Elisabeth Woodburn Robertson died suddenly at home on November 18th, 1990, in Hopewell, New Jersey. Elisabeth, a renowned specialist in horticulture for over forty years, had a passion for gardening, books, and all living things, which was reflected in her personal and professional life. Her devotion to the history and preservation of United States horticulture led her to develop many of the great American private and public horticultural book collections. Books of the past and present were her daily companions, as reflected in her stock of over 14,000 volumes in the areas of general horticulture, landscape gardening, herbs, wildflowers, fruits, and vegetables. Professionally Elisabeth was active in many organizations and her publications include a number of essays and articles as well as the scholarly 175-page Addendum to the 1988 reprint edition of U.P.Hedrick's A History of Horticulture in America to 1860. The following piece by SGHS Board member Ann Carr cites Ms. Woodburn's special contribution to the preservation of Southern garden history.

A TRIBUTE TO ELISABETH WOODBURN

In 1976, to commemorate the bicentennial of our country, the Cherokee Garden Club of Atlanta founded the Cherokee Garden Library, to be housed in the Atlanta Historical Society. In 1977, we had an extraordinary opportunity to acquire a rare collection of important early horticultural books. These books, known as "The Elisabeth Woodburn Collection of Historical American Horticultural Books," numbered 200 volumes. Mrs. Woodburn, America's most noted antiquarian garden book authority and dealer, spent ten years patiently putting together this collection, selecting only the most important and widely read authors. They were published in this country from 1634 to 1900 and offer a rare insight into the unique lifestyle of our forebears. The authors were scholars as well as practical gardeners, writing for the instruction of early colonists and later settlers. Included are such rare first American books as: Arbustum Americanum, 1785, on trees, by Humphrey Marshall; The Rose Manual, 1844, by Robert Buist; on herbs, The American Herbal, by Samuel Stearns; The Gardener's Kalendar, the first "how to" garden book by Martha Logan of Charleston in 1779.

The board of the library voted unanimously to purchase the collection. A prominent institution also wanted to buy it, but Mrs. Woodburn graciously held the books for us until we could raise the money, as she felt that these books belonged in the South where gardening had long been a way of life. Also, she pointed out, there was no such collection in our area, and, therefore, the unique books would be widely read, which was very important to her. Charles Van Ravenswaay, former director of Winterthur, praised her at the American Agricultural's Bicentennial, held in Philadelphia in 1976, "... she has personally handled and read every garden book of importance" The Cherokee Garden Library not only brought Elisabeth Woodburn's collection of rare garden books to the South, it brought forward her expertise and knowledge. In 1978, when the collection arrived, Mrs. Woodburn spoke to a large audience at the Atlanta

Historical Society on our horticultural heritage. She has tirelessly advised and guided us for the past thirteen years, and searched out rare books or seed catalogues important to round out our collection. She has educated us; insisted that we join The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries; and, most important of all, to become affiliated with The Southern Garden History Society. We shall sorely miss her and continue to be grateful to her farsighted confidence in the goals of The Cherokee Garden Library.

--Ann Carr, SGHS Board member

BOOK REVIEW

Earth Patterns: Essays in Landscape Archaeology, Edited by William M. Kelso and Rachel Most (Charlottesville and London: University Press of Virginia, 1990. Preface, Prologue, Illustrations, epilogue, index, list of contributors, Pp. xiv, 319, \$ 30.00)

The contributors to this volume provide substantial new insight on the gardens of the past in particular, and the historic cultural landscape as a whole. (In his prologue the well-known archaeologist James Deetz defines cultural landscape as "that part of the terrain which is modified according to a set of cultural plans" as opposed to landscape in general which means the "total terrestrial context in which archaeological study is pursued...") The work consists chiefly of eighteen essays, many of which examine Southern sites, these being mainly located in Virginia and Maryland. The editors have grouped these essays into sections focused on rural sites, urban locations, and the landscape and gardens of the ancient Italian peninsula. In addition three chapters examine various aspects of "Landscape Science." The book concludes with a concise, but insightful, epilogue by historian Thad Tate and a well-prepared index.

Just as Earth Patterns covers several site types and historical periods, so also do its chapters reflect different methods of examining the cultural landscape. Not surprisingly, a number of essays offer synopses of specific archaeological projects, together with the conclusions researchers have reached to date. Thus we are treated to assessments of work at such familiar locations, to name but several, as Monticello and Bacon's Castle, as well as Williamsburg and Annapolis. William Kelso shows us, for instance, how Jefferson sought to square the realities of a Virginia plantation setting - and the weight of regional culture -

with the latest European landscape theories; we learn from Anne Yentsch how Maryland's Calvert family used an orangery as a vehicle for expressing power and status. These pieces include relevant photographs, maps, and drawings, and each ends with a helpful bibliography.

Other Earth Pattern contributions aim at a more holistic understanding of the complex, and everchanging, relationship of the cultural landscape to all people who shaped, and in turn were shaped by, their environs. Contributors such as Dell Upton and Carter Hudgins, for example, discuss the Virginia gentry's manipulation of important components of the landscape - such as courthouses, churches, houses, and gardens - to achieve and maintain social dominance. We get insight, as well, on the areas of landscape, such as quarters and forests, which were under the de facto control of the slave community.

Essays relating to the South alone recommend this book to Society members. There is no segment of Earth Patterns, however, which does not provide valuable background for those who would expand their understanding of the historic landscape. Moreover, ranging through such topics as the use of plane geometry in Maryland garden design; to the techniques used to examine the gardens of Pompeii; and on to its technical discussions of pollen and plant opal phytolith analysis, this work obviously guides the way to further investigations. We hope that such endeavors will lead to another conference like that of 1986 and to a second collection of essays such as Earth Patterns. With regard to projects in the South, it is also to be hoped that sufficient resources will be available to allow scholars to probe more fully the vernacular landscapes of slaves, ordinary planters, and small farmers. Only then can we begin to assemble a complete picture of an historic landscape which in innumerable ways affects our lives yet today.

-- Kenneth M. McFarland, Associate Editor.

Pinney, Thomas. A History of Wine in America From the Beginnings to Prohibition. (Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 1989. 553 pp., 124 illustrations, appendices, notes.)

I have no illusions about the enduring appeal of grape culture among SGHS members. But even if your interests lie in old roses, boxwood, or herb garden design, you should know about this book. Thomas Pinney's A History of Wine in America, perhaps more appropriately titled "A History of the Grape in America," provides the most complete historical examination of any garden plant yet published in the United States. Pinney's exhaustive study, so gracefully written that every chapter offers some gripping though usually tragic drama, elevates the study of the history of plants in American gardens to an entirely new level. That the evolution of one horticultural genus holds such a treasure of documentary wealth should inspire every garden historian. Pinney's History is still another testament to the buried riches of primary source material.

Before 1820 certain themes defined the American experience with the grape. For the first natural historians of the New World landscape, particularly in eastern North America, no plant - fruit, vegetable, or grain - promised as much as the native vine. Whether the muscadine of the South or the fox grape in the North, the wild grape was a universal image for the natural bounty of the native American forest. This wide-eyed astonishment at the prolific grape flora resulted in the native faith that such an abundant wild product would logically translate into a prosperous wine economy based on the traditional Old World grape, Vitis vinifera. The grape, in all its forms, was the species of utopia. Unfortunately, the unrelenting failure to successfully grow the European species, or to prove that wild vines could produce a drinkable wine, involved 200 years of tragedy, 200 years of alibis justifying the repeated doomed experiments.

While the eighteenth-century natural historians and pioneer viticulturists felt the abundance of indigenous grapes meant that the European vine would grow just as well, ironically, it was the native species' dazzling omnipresence that ultimately subverted American efforts to cultivate Vitis vinifera. Although



Vitis rotundifolia,
"Scuppernong"

a majority of our fruit pests were imported from other continents, the most serious grape diseases and insects were already here, breeding and thriving, but not crippling the wild grapes in the forest. Black rot, downy mildew, phylloxera - all American pests - made it impossible to grow the European grape in the humid east until the development of modern fungicides laid the foundation for the current vinifera revival. The central issue throughout the 200-year struggle to grow grapes was a simple horticultural matter. *However*, it took a long time to realize this.

No study of southern gardens or agriculture is complete without an understanding of the experimental failures to establish a grape growing and wine-making economy. Pinney covers them all: from the well-intentioned plantings of the rather infamous John James Dufour in Kentucky to Washington, D.C.'s John Adlum, "the father of American viticulture"; from General James Oglethorpe's ill-fated trials in Savannah's Trustees Garden to the wide-eyed visions of South Carolina's Louis St. Pierre in 1772; from the beginnings of a scuppernong wine industry in North Carolina to the debacle of the 1817 utopian "Vine and Olive Association" formed by 350 Bonapartists in what is now Alabama.

The history of grape culture in Virginia began with the trials of government sponsored Provencal vigneron at Jamestown in 1622 and continued with promising experiments by the royal families of Virginia history - colonial governors William Berkeley and Alexander Spotswood, Robert Beverley, William Byrd, Charles and Landon Carter, Robert Bolling, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson - and the trials of experienced eighteenth-century European growers like Philip Mazzei in Albemarle County and Andrew Estave in Williamsburg. The salvation of eastern American viticulture was appropriately a Southern grape - the Catawba discovered by John Adlum around 1820. No story (as the title suggests, Pinney's History continues well into the twentieth century) is left out of this massive saga of hope, faith, and struggle.

The two great American horticulturists of the early twentieth century, U.P. Hedrick and L.H. Bailey, have both written extensively on the history of grape culture; yet in comparison to Pinney's History their efforts seem remarkably incomplete - not only historically but even from the point of view of a

horticultural scientist. Incongruously, Pinney is the chairman of the English Department at California's Pomona College and the author of articles on Rudyard Kipling and George Eliot. Not only is his deft prose clear, purposeful, and engagingly descriptive, but his handy horticultural and oenological knowledge is remarkably accurate and probing. But perhaps more impressive is his resurrection of obscure historical sources. This is a book of discovery. Pinney has dug through manuscript collections, unpublished diaries, newspapers - no early American agricultural or garden journal has gone unexamined. Although Pinney's History is exceptional for the tenacity of his scholarship, the clarity of his prose, the drama of the viticultural struggle, it would also be of immense value simply for its footnotes and bibliography alone. Boxwood lovers, take notice of this book ! Until boxwood or roses or herb gardens are documented as fully as Pinney documents grapes, the historical study of plants in Southern gardens will remain on a weaker scholarly footing.

-- Peter Hatch, Director of Gardens and Grounds, Monticello.

IN PRINT

Jeffrey and Leabeth Abt. "Documents: The Gardening Sentiments of an Early Texas Pioneer," East Texas Historical Journal, vol. 29, no. 1 (1991), pp 63-69. This is the completion of research which was partly published in Magnolia, vol 6, no. 1, Summer 1989.

Seidenberg, Charlotte. The New Orleans Garden. New Orleans: Silkmont & Count, 1990. Includes a 50 pp history of New Orleans gardens and a useful bibliography. Lists the SGHS as an important resource for information as well as thanking several SGHS board members for help in research. Signed copies are available from Charlotte Seidenberg, P.O. Box 15060, New Orleans, LA 70175-5060 for \$ 22.00, tax and shipping included, or 20.50 (out-of-state) with shipping included. Maple Street's Garden District Book Shop, 2727 Prytania St. (in the Rink),

New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 895-2266 also carries the book.

Lovejoy, Ann, editor. Perennials: Toward Continuous Bloom. New Voices in American Garden Writing Series. Published by Capability's Books, 2379 Highway 46, Deer Park, WI 54007. Paperbound, 304 pp. \$ 15.95. The author of The Year in Bloom and the Border in Bloom has included in this anthology several articles by SGHS members, including *Scott Kunst, Bill Welch, Susan Urshel, and Ryan Gainey*.

Brown, C. Allan. Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest: the mathematics of an ideal villa. A reprint from the Journal of Gardening History (1990), vol.10, no.2, 117-139 is now available from the Monticello Museum Shop, P.O. Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902, for \$ 8.95 and \$ 2.95 shipping and handling.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tovah Martin, who recently became an SGHS member, has a profile of fellow SGHS member

extraordinaire *Rudy Favretti* in the December 1990 issue of American Horticulturist entitled

"Landscaping's Time Traveler." *Rudy's* thirty-five years of practicing landscape architecture have included restoration or consultation on more than five hundred gardens, including Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Woodrow Wilson's birthplace in Staunton, James Madison's home in Montpelier, and Wheatland, James Buchanan's home near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He is restoring the country's oldest formal garden at Bacons Castle, Virginia, and has been a consultant for the Longfellow House in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as well as Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, Old Salem in North Carolina, Colonial Williamsburg, and Mystic Seaport.

SGHS President *Harriet Jansma* writes in the "Gleanings" column of the November/December issue of Fine Gardening of her recent discovery of a private market bulletin, Ozark Gardens, which began publication in October 1953. She and Ellen Shipley, Field Archivist for the University of Arkansas

Libraries, were able to locate the original publisher, Edith Bestard of Eureka Springs, and arrange for the donation of all the back issues as well as subscriber lists and other business records to the University of Arkansas Libraries.

The Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, N.H., will host a landscape plants symposium on "Heritage Plants." Featured will be talks by SGHS members *Peggy Newcomb*, of Monticello and editor of Magnolia, on "Popular Annuals of Eastern North America, 1865-1914," and SGHS member *Dr. Arthur O. Tucker*, Research Professor in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Delaware State College, entitled "In Search of Antique Plants."

Congratulations to SGHS board member *Bill Welch* whose recent book, Antique Roses for the South, has received enthusiastic reviews in the February 1991 issue of Heritage Roses, the March 1991 issue of Southern Living, and the February 1991 issue of Southern Accents.

Summer Issue

Please send your articles and announcements to Kenneth McFarland, Stagville Center, P.O. Box 71217, Durham, NC 27711-1217 no later than May 1st.

Southern Garden History Society
Old Salem, Inc.
Drawer F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27108





MAGNOLIA

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

*The Laurel Tree of Carolina
from Mark Catesby 1731*

(Magnolia Grandiflora)

Vol. VII, No. IV, Spring 1991

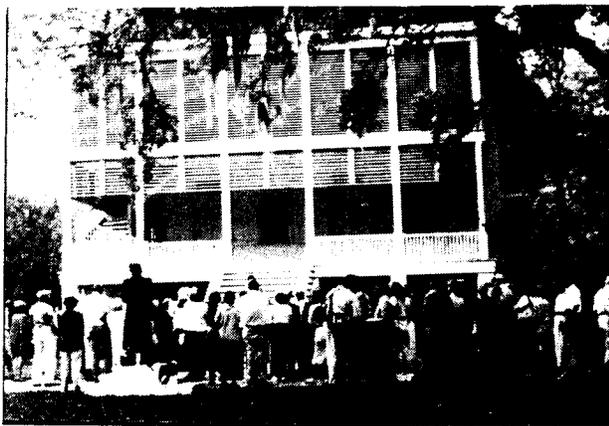
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THE GRACE AND GRANDEUR OF SOUTH LOUISIANA



Members congregate at Oakley Plantation

The ninth annual meeting of the SGHS gathered 125 members to St. Francisville, Louisiana, a remote and remarkable region of the South. Conference coordinators Betsy Crusel, Carole Pettit, and Sue Turner assembled a superb program of lectures and visits to noted sites offering a unique view of the southern Louisiana antebellum landscape. Along with the indispensable assistance of SGHS board member Shingo Woodward, the coordinators carefully selected the regions finest examples of gardens representing two distinct cultures: the English influence in the hilly regions of West Feliciana Parish and, crossing the Mississippi, the French "creole" style which dominated the flatlands of

Point Coupee Parish west of the river. South Louisiana is a place both wild and frightening, teeming with exotic subtropical flora and horrific fire-ant hills. Conference participants, captivated by the mysterious spell of this lush landscape, experienced the splendour of ancient live oaks draped with Spanish moss and thick with resurrection fern, of classical southern mansions built by nineteenth-century cotton barons and sugar planters, and of magnificent gardens, both intimate and grand.

The conference revealed and explored not only the uniqueness of this landscape, but also the rich resources available for research and documentation of early Louisiana gardens. Those intent upon

continued on page 3

CALENDAR

June 15th-20th, 1991: AHLFAM will hold its 1991 Conference and Annual Meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The conference topic will be "Defining Multiculturalism: Setting Our Sites" and those interested should contact Franz Klingender, Conference Chair, Historic Sites Service, 11th Flr., 10035-108 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3E1.

August 15th-17th, 1991: The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta will hold its 1991 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting at the William Paca Gardens in Annapolis, MD. Valencia Libby, Syd Knight, Darrell Spencer, and Tom Buchter will be giving talks. Registration fees are \$85 for members and \$105 for non-members. Write by August 2nd, William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401.

September 28th-29th, 1991: The Atlanta Historical Society and the Georgia Perennial Plant Association will host a symposium at the Atlanta History Center entitled "Refining the Garden: The Trowels and Pleasures of Gardening." Speakers will include SGHS members Brent Heath and Jane Symmes. Please call Susan Bezdek, horticulturist, at (404) 238-0654 for more information.

October 3rd-5th, 1991: The Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes fall conference on "The Southern Vernacular Landscape" will be held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, NC. (See article on p. 7)

October 11th-12th, 1991: The Southern Garden Symposium will hold a symposium and garden workshop in St. Francisville, LA. John Brookes, Jon Emerson, Mark J. Wenger, and Neil G. Odenwald will be featured speakers. Contact The Southern Garden Symposium, P.O. Box 1607, St. Francisville, LA, 70775 for information on registration.

October 31st-November 2nd, 1991: Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta will be held at Pinecote: Native Plant Center of the Crosby Arboretum in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The theme will be "Adapting to a Changing World" and those interested in attending should contact the Convener, Edward L. Blake, Jr., Crosby Arboretum Foundation, 3702 Hardy St, Hattiesburg, MS, 39762; (601) 261-3137.

March 4th-8th, 1992: The 1992 Atlanta Flower Show's theme will be "Sweet Land of Liberty ...Presidential Pathways." Contact Caroline Gilham,

Atlanta Flower Show Chairman/1992, 240 Peachtree St., Suite 240, Atlanta, GA, 30303. (404) 355-0245.

March 20th-22nd, 1992: SGHS 1992 Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC. Members may wish to start gathering up slides and prints of past meetings for the 10th anniversary retrospective display.

OF INTEREST

Members may be interested in an article, "Principles for Preserving Historic Plant Materials" by Lauren Meier and Nora Mitchell, recently published in the National Park Service's Cultural Resource Management Bulletin, (vol. 13). The intent of the article is to begin to draw some general principles and give examples of good practice in the treatment of historic vegetation and has an extensive appendix of sources of additional information. A draft work plan to address the issues faced in managing the diverse cultural landscapes in the National Park Service is now available for study and comment from: Robert R. Page, Park Historic Architecture Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC, 20013-7127. The plan was developed during a fall Park Cultural Landscapes Workshop in Alexandria and covers topics such as funding for a National Historic Landmark Theme Study and for a manual to be used for assessing the impact of agricultural change on the historic scene of battlefields.

And travellers may wish to know about Gardens & Countrysides: A Journal of Picturesque Travels, a privately published newsletter reporting on travel to gardens and scenic countrysides which is published ten times each year by Travel Publications Inc., 401 Austin Highway, Suite 209, San Antonio, TX, 78209.

The Garden Library of the New Orleans Town Gardeners at the Southeastern Architectural Archive in Tulane University Library is available to patrons Monday through Friday, 8:30-5:00, and by appointment. A catalog of the collection is available through the Archive or the Town Gardeners. For further information, call or write: The Garden Library of the New Orleans Town Gardeners, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Tulane University Library, 7001 Freret St., New Orleans, LA 70118. (504) 865-5699.

continued from page 1

serious historic landscape restoration in both the public and private sector are truly blessed with a wealth of materials preserved in the archives and libraries of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, The Garden Library of the New Orleans Town Gardeners (at Tulane University), and the New Orleans Notarial Archives. The value of these early records and documents was evident in nearly every restored site visited or described in the lectures.

General Robert H. Barrow launched the conference with a historical overview of St. Francisville and West Feliciana Parish. Following his fascinating and often humorous sketch of the region's most colorful figures, Friday afternoon's program focused on the restoration of two private gardens. Maison Chenal, the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jack Holden, was the topic of the first presentation, given in tandem by the owners themselves. Working as a team, they have lovingly recreated around their reassembled dwelling a marvelous traditional French-creole garden based on eighteenth and nineteenth-century notarial documents. Their careful attention to detail and design is exemplary and likewise is their effort to locate and propagate plants from gardens in the region.

Genevieve Munson Trimble followed with a slide presentation on the development of the ruins of Afton Villa into an architectural garden. The gothic-tudor villa, built by David Bartholomew Barrow between 1849 and 1856, was destroyed by fire in 1963. Morrell and Genevieve Trimble purchased the estate in the early 1970s to rescue it from subdivision and, for more than a decade, have worked with Dr. Neil Odenwald of LSU to create an evocative and hauntingly beautiful garden on the foundations of the former dwelling. Our later visit to the site, where wisteria, phlox and wallflowers cover the rubble of former stairways and walls, offered us the opportunity to experience a "sense of peace and sense of place" that the Trimbles have tried to achieve.

The speakers on Saturday's schedule demonstrated the value of archival material from a scholastic point of view. Suzanne L. Turner and Dr. Neil G. Odenwald, both Louisiana State University professors, are well-known consultants for historic landscape preservation issues. An NEA grant currently funds Ms. Turner in her initial study of some 15,000 documents pertinent to Shadows-on-the-Teche, a 2½ acre site in New Iberia owned by the National Trust since 1958. Turner described her "work in progress" through which she ultimately hopes to develop a strategy for the restoration and eventual interpretation of this once 150 acre sugar plantation on the Bayou Teche. The site represents two important periods: the antebellum era revolving around the "sugar cycle" and the early twentieth century when the colorful and eccentric Weeks Hall occupied the house and designed a secret garden with walls of bamboo, creating the atmosphere for which the "Shadows" was known.



Suzanne Turner and General Barrow at Hemingbough.

The outcome of her research will serve as a model determining the direction of this, and perhaps other related sites, and her progress will surely be updated in future issues of Magnolia.

Dr. Odenwald next drew upon his previous work at Rosedown, Afton Villa, and Longue Vue, an early twentieth-century garden in New Orleans, to illustrate the key factors involved in the restoration and management of historic properties. The variables he addressed included the mission of the garden (whether private or public), its ownership or governing body, the public's impact on the program, and the time or period of interpretation. Like Ms. Turner, Dr. Odenwald emphasized the importance of early records, receipts, letters, and diary accounts which bear remarkable resemblances to the day-to-day gardening issues of the present.

During the tour of Rosedown which followed, Dr. Odenwald led some members through the seventeenth-century French-style gardens, pointing out features of Martha Barrow Turnbull's original design. The upcoming publication of her garden journal will certainly be a fascinating and valuable resource for documentation of regional plant introductions, including azaleas, which Mrs. Turnbull grew by 1836.

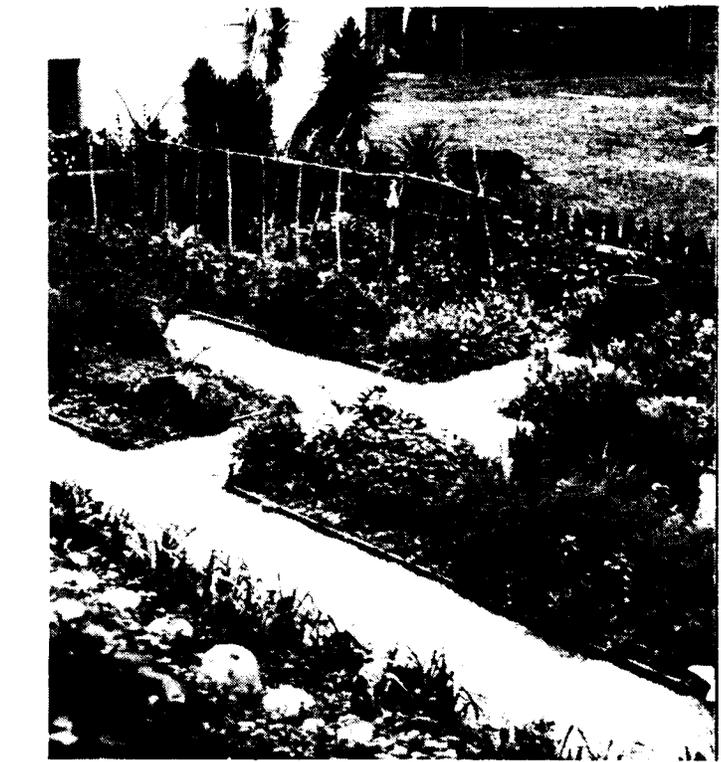
Archivist Sally Kittredge Reeves' presentation on Louisiana's unique collection of Notarial Archives during lunch in the 1896 Jackson Hall parish

house was well timed to follow the preceding lectures which highlighted this material. The deeds submitted into colonial Louisiana's public records often included detailed plans of creole houses and grounds, and Ms. Reeves described not only the content of this collection, but also conservation techniques currently employed to preserve the fragile documents.

Our schedule included time to wander through St. Francisville's Grace Episcopal Church and cemetery after Ms. Reeves' talk. The church, built by Charles Nevitt Gibbons in 1858, survived federal gunboat bombardment during the Civil War and stands today adjacent to its live oak-shrouded cemetery filled with intricate cast iron fencing and carpets of partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*) in bloom.

Our next journey, crossing the Mississippi by ferry, was perhaps the most significant adventure of the entire conference. For it was the process itself-- of waiting on the east bank, boarding on foot, and riding wind-whipped across the mile-wide waterway-- that enabled us to feel the full impact of this magnificent river as both thoroughfare and barrier. Indeed, the Mississippi remains a force of transport and inconvenience shaping the lives and cultural landscape of its people.

Once back on board the buses (which crossed by bridge in Baton Rouge), we first travelled to Parlange Plantation on the False River, created by an ox-bow of the Mississippi. The home, built in 1750, is still occupied by members of the Parlange family and considered one of the finest examples of French Colonial architecture in America. Galleries surround the cypress and brick structure with walls made of bousillage, a mixture of moss, mud, and deer hair. Two matching octagonal pigeonniers at the front of the plantation are now rare in the Louisiana landscape. Although Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Parlange, Jr., were in Texas receiving an award, SGHS members nevertheless felt the "lived-in" quality of the site.



Garden at Maison Chenal.

The day concluded with a visit to Maison Chenal where members could admire first-hand the magic accomplished by the Holdens in their impeccable recreation. They have achieved a perfectly integrated setting which includes an authentic pasture and "yard" and a superb collection of early Louisiana furniture within the home. SGHS members such as William Welch shared their knowledge of plants by helping to identify many species, including old rose cultivars.

The meeting's final day began with Dr. William C. Welch's presentation on nineteenth-century roses found in southern gardens. On the topic of roses, Welch's breadth of knowledge is matched only by his enthusiasm. His talk included discussion of Thomas Affleck's Southern Nursery, an important early source for roses, which will be the topic of an article for the upcoming summer issue of *Magnolia*. [See also



Indigofera, a wisteria-like groundcover seen at Rosedown and Oakley.

"Affleck on Hedging," p. 11]. Members are reminded that Bill Welch's latest book, Antique Roses for the South, is an excellent resource.

Our last destination was Oakley Plantation, an early Spanish-influenced dwelling known for its famous occupant, John James Audubon. The original owner, James Pirrie, hired Audubon to tutor his daughter Eliza and it was here that the painter created his finest illustrations of birds, including the wild turkey on display in the dining room. The park service's David Floyd led a very informative tour of the grounds and discussed future plans for the site's interpretation.

The meeting concluded with a noon brunch at the restored 1808 home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert S. Turner. The event was catered by Larry and Frances Smart whose fabulous creole cooking added that special touch of cajun spice and hospitality at Afton Villa and the Jackson Hall luncheon as well.

Although this excellent meeting highlighted the beauty of southern Louisiana, described by Audubon as a "happy land," members could not avoid the present realities of this land in peril. As one of the nation's most economically depressed regions, many of its finest historic sites are falling to the crush of developers and the plague of seething industries which already blight the corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans like strings of ominous cities. Dr. Odenwald alluded to a renaissance he perceives in recent trends toward documentation and archaeological programs developing at a number of River Road plantations. It is hoped these preservation efforts can save what remains of an extraordinary culture and vernacular landscape.

PLEASE NOTE

SGHS President Harriet Jansma presided over an early morning session with the annual meeting participants to share with them the board meeting highlights. President Jansma will provide a full summary of the board meeting in the summer issue of Magnolia, however, SGHS members should take special note of the following:

The development of an **SGHS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE** is underway, thanks to the leadership of board member Ben Page. Members interested in contributing slides from past meetings to Ben are asked to include their name, date of slide, and subject matter on the slide if possible. Please include additional information in writing and send your slides to Ben G. Page, Jr., 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville, TN 37205.

Mary Helen Ray of Savannah has consented to head a committee to develop a **PROCEDURES MANUAL** for annual meeting coordinators. This much-needed resource booklet will compile the crucial but often scattered material needed to organize these ever popular events. Mary Helen will especially need input from coordinators of past meetings. Please send any relevant information to Mrs. Mary Helen Ray, 130 East 44th St., Savannah, GA 31405.

THE PLANT REPORTER: FOLLOW-UP ON PINK ROMAN HYACINTHS

Flora Ann Bynum, Winston-Salem, NC

Many "sightings" of pink Roman hyacinths have been reported since our winter Magnolia. Florence Griffin, SGHS vice-president of Atlanta, GA, called me in mid-March to report that she and Bill Welch, board member of College Station, TX, had been doing some garden exploring in Georgia, following a talk Bill made in Atlanta. Bill spotted from the car double pink Roman hyacinths in a garden in Jefferson, GA. The garden's owners generously gave them three clumps of the hyacinths. The owner had obtained them from an older woman in a nursing home, who in turn had gotten them from her grandmother. Florence hopes that, in time, additional information can be learned from the woman in the nursing home. She and Bill are carefully nurturing the clumps they obtained. The garden owner told Bill that the pink likes lots of fertilizer and she divides and feeds them every three years.

A woman who runs a booth at our local farmer's market brought me one stalk of double pink Roman hyacinth, and a friend on an old homeplace near here brought both blooms and two clumps of double pink and promises more bulbs when the foliage dies down. Florence and Bill's hyacinths and the ones here seem identical, as best we can tell from comparing photographs. Also, Jane Symmes of Cedar lane Farm, Madison GA, reported that double pink Roman hyacinths, seemingly identical to Florence's, bloomed this spring in the garden next to her daughter's home in downtown Madison. So we now have the double pink in four locations, and in time we can grow them, pass the bulbs around to knowledgeable people, and study them carefully.

This double pink has a larger flower stalk and larger leaves than the single blue Roman Hyacinths so common to Southern gardens. At the April SGHS annual meeting in St. Francisville, Greg Grant said that in Louisiana he has found no double, but has seen a few single pink in two forms, one with a small stalk and one with a larger stalk. (Greg is working on his doctorate at Louisiana State University).

More "sightings" of pink Roman hyacinths were reported to me at the annual meeting. Prior to the meeting, James W. Corley, Jr., of Marietta, GA, sent me pages copied from an old book he thinks was his grandfather's Massey's Garden Book for the Southern States, copyright 1910, The Progressive Farmer Company. In a chapter on "Garden Work for October" the book says: "The white Roman hyacinths can be planted thickly in shallow boxes of soil and covered well outdoors till rooted. Brought into the house then, they will give lots of bloom for Christmas. Do not plant these outside till the middle of November." Jim brought to the annual meeting pictures of two plants of what seem to be single pink Roman hyacinths which bloomed among the blue in his garden in March.

Ed Shull, SGHS board member from Maryland, reported that he and Allan Brown of Charlottesville, VA, while visiting Long Hill in Salisbury, MD, in early March, found single pink Roman hyacinths coming up in the cemetery there, which dates 1800-1860. He said these single pink were small, smaller than the blue.

Mrs. Graydon Flowers, Sr., of Mattson, MS, at the annual meeting told me she had a few of the

white and pink in her garden, but mostly blue. Evelyn McGee (Patti) of Charleston, SC, said her mother remembered having lots of blue and some white and pink at her home in Marion, SC, and on a visit back this spring they found a few single pink and white.

The white, pink, and blue Roman hyacinth bulbs I ordered from commercial sources (Bundles of Bulbs in Maryland and Cruickshank's in Canada) and planted last fall all bloomed in late February up to mid-March, but none resembled the old Roman hyacinth. They looked to me like Dutch or garden hyacinth that had been grown in the garden for several years and "petered out." Even the foliage did not resemble Roman hyacinths; Bill Hunt stopped by my garden in late April and he commented on the foliage, rather cupped and pointed. Larry Gulley, of Sparta, GA, and John Fitzpatrick of Monticello grew the white Roman hyacinths advertised last fall by White Flower Farms, and they reported the same experience—these did not resemble the old. Larry has the old white in his garden so he could easily compare them.

However, Peggy Newcomb of Monticello this spring grew both white and blue Roman hyacinths from A.J. Skittone Collection in California and they were delicate and fragrant, like the old ones. Obviously we need to study further what these bulbs from commercial sources are.

So while we are making progress in locating the old pink Roman hyacinths of the South, we still have a long way to go, with many unanswered questions.

Old narcissus

Celia Jones of Sisters' Bulb Farm in Gibsland, LA, and I had a splendid time discussing old daffodils and jonquils at the SGHS annual meeting. Celia brought photographs and slides and gave us an informal program before one of our early morning meetings. One of the bulbs we shared information on was *Narcissus x intermedius*. I have two clumps of it in my garden, one from an old farm in eastern North Carolina, and the other from a local friend. Brent Heath of the Daffodil Mart in Gloucester, VA, had identified it for me but knew no common name. I thought it was rare, but in mid-March I saw it blooming all over Beaufort on the North Carolina coast and in Wilmington.

Celia said her grandmother called it "Texas

Star" and had grown it on her farm, now Celia's home, since at least the 1920s. Greg Grant joined our discussions. He said he had found *N. x intermedius* to be common in Louisiana and Texas but he knew no common name. Celia and Greg said it was a natural hybrid, a cross between *N. jonquilla* and *N. tazetta*. It is medium yellow with a deep yellow cup, petals more pointed than *N. jonquilla*, foliage somewhat larger. Celia said while *N. jonquilla* has to her a pure sweet smell, *N. x intermedius* has a somewhat musky, submerged, lingering aftersmell.

We also talked about *Narcissus x biflorus* and Celia had brought a large bouquet of these for the annual meeting registration table. She calls them "April Beauty" or "Twin Sisters," and Brent Heath

says they have been known as "Twin Sisters" in the South since colonial times. This bulb is noted in literature as Primrose Peerless Narcissus and is thought to be a natural hybrid between *N. poeticus* and *N. tazetta*. It is the last of the narcissus to bloom, with two white flowers per stem. Bill Hunt says these are the most vigorous of all narcissus, the most common all over the South, and will persist in places when all other bulbs disappear. Garry Stone, an archaeologist speaking at the 1980 landscape conference in Old Salem, showed slides of it growing at Clocker's Fancy Site, St. Andrews Creek, St. Mary's City, MD, a site abandoned in 1798 and in woods and field since. It is also growing around the old slave cabins at Horton Grove at The Stagville Center, Durham, NC.

**FROM COTTAGE GARDENS TO SLAVE QUARTERS:
OLD SALEM CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE VERNACULAR LANDSCAPE**
by Kenneth M. McFarland



The "Hauser House" stood at "Maine & Cemetery St." in Salem. The goat cart carrying Willie Cooper is pulled by Nellie and Tony. ca. 1885.

Historians will long be fascinated by such landscape features as the stylish parterre gardens of Annapolis and Thomas Jefferson's *ferme ornée* at Monticello. In addition, however, many scholars are studying the broader sweep of the cultural landscape which has bound the lives of millions of residents of the South. From Thursday, October 3 through Saturday, October 5 of 1991 the Old Salem "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" conference will probe that vast subject through a program entitled "The Southern Vernacular Landscape." There, conference registrants will examine how Southerners have manipulated their surroundings while acting under myriad influences of custom, hierarchical social relationships, changing demographic patterns,

and sheer necessity.

Dell Upton, one of America's most noted architectural historians, will open the conference with a talk entitled "Landscape and Imagination." Many Magnolia readers will be aware of his research which has provided intriguing perspectives on the eighteenth-century Virginia cultural landscape and the intricate web of social relationships it reflected. A discussion of this topic, which encompasses the interlocking worlds of planter, slave, and small farmer, will offer exactly the proper beginning demanded by the theme of the conference.

The presentations that follow the keynote talk will then represent that balance of analytical discussion and applied practice which we have come to expect from the Old Salem conference. For example, on Thursday the highly regarded student of old garden roses, Charles Walker, president of the Heritage Rose Foundation, will examine the wide-ranging appearance of roses in the Southern landscape. Roses have, of course, long adorned home sites ranging from the most humble cottage to the grandest of mansions. Then on Friday, Mr. Walker will conduct a workshop on the identification of old roses.

Trees, too form an inseparable element of our historic landscape, and that relationship will be emphasized in a panel discussion on Friday led by an always popular conference speaker, landscape architect Rudy Favretti. Mr. Favretti, whose restoration projects are legion, will be joined by Charles Duell of Charleston's Middleton Place and by Winston-Salem arborist David E. Lusk. Sadly, recent violent storms have made these gentlemen all-too-aware of the vicissitudes of tree management. Later, during the Friday afternoon workshops, Old Salem's horticulturist will offer a first-hand look at the trees of the Moravian village, while Mr. Favretti will address arboreal issues in a workshop on "Patterns for the Vernacular Home Landscape."



The Distiller's House at Bethabara (built in 1803), here ca. 1890, is still standing, although unrestored.

As we examine the vernacular landscape, few subjects offer more exciting possibilities than the Southern landscape shaped by African-Americans. The Friday morning schedule will thus offer presentations by three highly qualified students of the African-American landscape. To begin, elements of "Continuity and Change" in that landscape will be addressed by George McDaniel, director of Drayton Hall in Charleston. Dr. McDaniel's extensive research in several Southern states has led him to study both the antebellum and post-Civil war eras. Subsequently, Theresa Singleton of the Smithsonian Institution will offer further fascinating insights through her presentation "Hidden Landscapes: The Archaeology of African-American Life." Like the great majority of residents of the South, African-Americans have often left little written documentation regarding their physical surroundings, and thus archaeologists such as Ms. Singleton hold a vitally important key to expanding our knowledge of such subjects, for example, as slave family gardens. Finally, architectural historian Edward Chappell of Colonial Williamsburg will focus the issue on a familiar location as he examines the "Landscapes of Chesapeake Slavery," drawing on his research at Carter's Grove Plantation. Given the influences across the South of economic and cultural patterns first shaped in the Chesapeake region, Mr. Chappell's talk will be instructive no matter which area draws our interest.

While such presentations alone make the 1991 conference well worth attending, they will be joined by other talks certain to provide insights to students of the Southern landscape. The agricultural terrain, for example, will be discussed by Margaret Supplee Smith of Wake Forest University who will examine the relationship of Katherine Smith Reynolds and Reynolda Farm. On Saturday, in addition, Dan Freas, site manager at the nearby Horne Creek Living Historical Farm, will deliver a talk on the yeoman farmstead with his "Introduction to Methodology Used in Restoring a Farm Landscape." (An optional Saturday afternoon visit to the Horne Creek site will be available.)

Often, yeoman farms, as well as plantations, were the sites of Civil War battles. Michael Gore, executive director of Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, Virginia will examine that topic in his talk on "Civil War Battlefields as Vernacular Landscape." Mr. Gore, who is also president of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, is himself in the front line of the battlefield preservation movement. Kenneth McFarland, of Stagville Center, will then follow up on Mr. Gore's analysis with an overview of the Civil War Photographic record and its great potential as a documentary resource for historic landscape restoration projects.

Past participants in the Old Salem conferences will realize that even this summary does not include all that the event provides. In addition, those who attend will be offered guided tours of Old Salem's buildings, as well as the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts; an exhibit of old landscape photographs from the Salem area will be mounted by MESDA; several excellent meals will be provided; and the Thursday evening "Sharing Session" will offer insightful discussions of restoration projects occurring across the South.

A brochure on the 1991 conference, along with registration material, is being mailed to all Southern Garden History Society members. Please read it through, and if you have any questions call the conference registrar, Mrs. Jackie Beck, at (919) 721-7300. We look forward to seeing you in October at Old Salem. [Editor's Note: Due to recent funding cutbacks for this conference, the SGHS board has voted to help sponsor it. Photos courtesy of Sally Gant, MESDA.]

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Christy Snipes, SGHS member from Columbia, SC, was one of three South Carolina women featured in a month-long exhibit held during March at The Museum, Greenwood, SC, in celebration of women's history month. At the opening of the exhibit held March 2, Christy spoke on "Just What is Historic Landscaping?"

and her work as a historic landscape consultant was exhibited in the Second Floor Gallery of the museum.

SGHS board member and Nashville landscape architect *Ben Page*'s work on the renovation of the landscape at Ironwood, a historic estate outside of Bowling Green,

Kentucky, is featured in the Gardening column of the April 1991 Southern Accents. The estate, whose house was built in 1852 by Senator Joseph Roberts Underwood and his wife Elizabeth, has been recently restored to a working agricultural landscape by current owners David and Charlotte Garvin. The historic research on the landscape was based on letters written from Elizabeth Underwood to her husband while he was in Washington which described in detail the life of the gardens and workings of the estate. Because of the need to adapt the estate to the needs of a twentieth-century family, *Page* concentrated on giving the suggestion of the once extensive gardens by the use of a formal walled garden and to restore more distant views by thinning the canopies of the trees, as well as sculpting the land to form a ha-ha which hides the service road around the house.

Arthur O. Tucker, SGHS member and research professor, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Delaware State College at Dover received the Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor from the Herb Society of America. The medal, the highest honor awarded by the HSA, is given for outstanding contributions to HSA or horticulture.

The March 1991 issue of Horticulture has a lengthy and fascinating article, "A Library Rebounds" by E. Annie Proulx, on the great Massachusetts Horticultural Society Library and its head librarian, SGHS member *Walter Punch*, who is also the founder of the New England Garden History Society. SGHS members should write Massachusetts Horticultural Society Library, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA (617) 536-9280 for information on visiting or becoming a member.

Darrell Spencer has been hired as director of the department of horticulture for Old Salem Incorporated in Winston-Salem. Darrell began April 17th, replacing Julianne Berckman who resigned last November. Before coming to Old Salem, Darrell was located in Surry, Virginia, as horticulturist for the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Darrell

was in charge of maintenance, interpretation, and development of the seventeenth-century garden and grounds at Bacon's Castle in Surry and he also worked in landscape planning with other APVA properties throughout Virginia. Darrell is a graduate of Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, and has a degree in landscape gardening from Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst, NC. He worked for Old Salem as horticultural assistant for two years, 1984-1986, has been a horticultural intern at Monticello, and was an agricultural intern for a year at a historical farm museum in Michigan, assisting especially in research and interpretation of draft animals. At Old Salem, he will be in charge of maintaining and developing the re-created gardens and other landscape features and the educational interpretation of the landscape program to the public.

On March 10, 1991, at the Southeastern Regional Meeting of The American Society of Landscape Architects, held in Charleston, SC, Hugh Dargan Associates, Inc., received the Award of Merit in Design for the design of The Garden at 55 Church St., "The Benjamin Phillips House" in Charleston. *Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan*, ASLAs, received slide narrated comments at the Awards Banquet from jury chair, Laurie Olin, ASLA principal of Hanna/Olin, Philadelphia. Judge Olin stated "An Award of Merit ... means excellence ... in design, execution and content. It requires the recipient to have pushed the limits of his craft and methods..." The Garden at 55 Church St. was determined by the judges to be "... excellent in the cultural tradition of both city and region. ... A healthy extension of the conventions of the tradition, this garden is unselfconscious and confident, modest and well put together." *Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan* worked closely with the owners of 55 Church St. to quickly and effectively create a setting for the 1818 Benjamin Phillips House. Many of the thirty foot trees arrived by crane and walls were constructed of hand-made, antiqued brick. Twin brick garden houses, reminiscent of

eighteenth-century privies, are coupled with the centerpiece sundial to provide the organizational element in the garden. The

sand-shell pathways are bordered by oversized old Charleston brick and outline planting beds containing aged heirloom camellia varieties.

IN PRINT

Martin, Peter. The Pleasure Gardens of Virginia: from Jamestown to Jefferson. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1991. 281 pp., 89 illustrations, 16 maps. \$29.95.

The Pleasure Gardens of Virginia is the first thorough study of gardening in colonial Virginia. Using a fascinating assortment of contemporary garden plans, paintings, prints and drawings, Martin reconstructs both the ornamental town gardens of Williamsburg and the pleasure gardens of plantation owners such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, William Byrd, and John Custis. In presenting accounts of their gardening efforts, Martin writes of the intricacies of colonial garden design, plant searches and experimentation, and

the difficulties of adapting European landscaping ideas to local soil and climate. Peter Martin was garden historian at Colonial Williamsburg and SGHS members may remember his talk in the 1982 program of "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" at Old Salem.

Spongberg, Stephen A. A Reunion of Trees. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990. 270 pp., \$35.00. Horticultural Taxonomist at the Arnold Arboretum, Spongberg interweaves tales of adventure, history, science and art in this volume about the discovery and introduction of trees and shrubs from other temperate parts of the world into European and North American gardens.

AFFLECK ON HEDGING

by Pam Puryear

The great star among Southern nurserymen was Thomas Affleck who was born in Scotland in 1812, and during the 1840s and '50s ran the famed Southern Nurseries of Natchez, Mississippi. He migrated to Texas in 1856, and re-established himself at "Glenblythe," his large plantation just north of Brenham.

In the 1830s and '40s there was a fashion for the improvement of Southern plantations with hedging. As timber for extensive "worm" fences was becoming scarcer, and they needed such constant replacement, living, flowering and/or thorny trees and shrubs were popular. As early as 1840, Bennet H. Barrow of "Highland" in West Feliciana hedged with Cherokee Rose (*Rosa laevigata*). It had been an early import from China via England into the American South, where it thrived; so much so that later settlers to Georgia and the Carolinas assumed it was native there and attributed it to the Indians. The very year Thomas Affleck moved to Natchez, the local editor wrote of local examples of Cherokee and Bois d'arc hedges, and further suggested the use of thorny honey locust, planted from seed. Evidently Affleck admired the local usage because he wrote on the subject in DeBow's Review in 1848. His later catalog offers pyracantha as well. In 1860, Affleck gave specific directions on how such a hedge should be set.

Another convention of the era was to throw up a ban like a ha-ha and plant *R. multiflora*, the Japanese Rose, atop it. Mary Austin Holley described this feature of her brother Henry Austin's plantation "Bolivar" near Columbus, Texas, in 1835. Another Barrow plantation in Feliciana was

named "Rosebank," perhaps commemorating a similar rose hedge planting there.

[If SGHS member have any other examples in mind, or know more of the sources of this fashion, please communicate them to Miss Pam Puryear, 708 Holland, Navasota, TX, 77868, or call (409) 825-3320. The summer issue of Magnolia will feature a lengthy article on Thomas Affleck and his Southern Nurseries.]

Notice

A new SGHS membership brochure has been printed and copies were distributed at the annual meeting in Louisiana. Anyone wishing extra copies of the brochure to have on hand to give to people interested in the society may obtain copies by dropping a postcard to the society headquarters in Old Salem. Individual memberships are \$15 annually. For more information write SGHS, Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC, 27108.

Summer Issue

Please send your articles and announcements to Kenneth McFarland, Stagville Center, P.O. Box 71217, Durham, NC 27722-1217 no later than August 1st.

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