



MAGNOLIA

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

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

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EARLY CHARLESTON GARDENERS: BOTANISTS, PLANT HUNTERS & BUILDERS OF PLANTATIONS

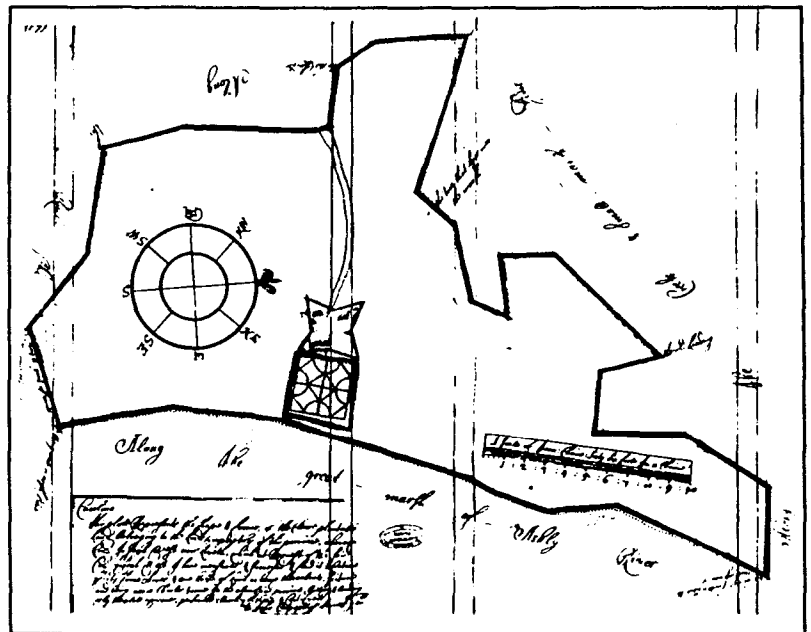
by Mary Palmer Dargan, ASLA

(excerpted in part from Charleston
Gardens, 1951, by the late Lourel
Briggs)

Welcome to a City of Gardeners.

Charleston is well known for its contribution to garden history, thus it is appropriate that this historic city of gardeners acknowledge a decade of contribution by the membership of The Southern Garden History Society by hosting its Birthday Celebration at the Tenth Annual Meeting from March 19-21, 1992.

Charleston hosted many notable contributors to garden history during its 310 documented years of interaction with plant



COURTESY, SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CHARLESTON, S. C.

MAP MADE BY CULPEPER OF PROPRIETOR'S CLEARED LAND

--Continued on page 3

CALENDAR

December 3rd-4th, 1991. Garden Club Volunteers provide Swan House with Seasonal Splendor. Plans are underway for the return of Candlelight Tours to the Atlanta History Center. To be held on two nights only, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.. The volunteer efforts of many Northside Garden Clubs will turn the Swan House into a holiday wonderland. Participating this year are the Boxwood, Cherokee, Iris, Ivy, Peachtree, Planters, and Rose Garden Clubs. Each club has chosen a specific area that they will develop individually, and each, though unique, will complement a central theme. Swan House will recreate that lovely 1930s era of "The Inmans in Buckhead," and the Tullie Smith house will depict a holiday celebration in much the same fashion as farm folks before the Civil War. For more information contact the Atlanta History Center, (404) 261-1837.

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 20-22, 1992: SGHS 1992 Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC. The speaker roster is almost complete and should feature Jonathan Poston, Director of Preservation, Historic Charleston Foundation, on context and evolution, the need for landscape preservation; Martha Zierden, Archaeologist, Charleston Museum, on Charleston yards and their history; Elise Pinckney, author, Early Charleston Gardens, on Charleston's Botanists and early gardening history; Jim Cothran, ASLA, author, Gardens of Charleston's Historic District (1992), on

the history of garden design in Charleston; Louise Pringle Cameron, author, The Private Gardens of Charleston, on Charleston's contemporary gardens; and Mary Palmer Dargan, ASLA, and Hugh Graham Dargan, ASLA, on Charleston's Plantation Landscape.

May 14th-16th, 1992. The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia and the Gillette Committee will host the first annual Charles F. Gillette Forum. Gillette effectively dictated trends in garden design from the early twentieth century until the present day. Speakers include: John Brookes, noted English Landscape Designer; J.C. Raulston, Director of the North Carolina State University Arboretum; Jack Robertson, Fine Arts Librarian, Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, University of Virginia; Reuben Rainey, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture. Participants will also visit in the Richmond area: Agecroft Hall and Virginia House, the restored Warwick Priory; and in Orange: "Little Yatton" and "Meadowfarm," ancestral home of President Zachary Taylor. For more information contact: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 28246, Richmond, Virginia, 23228.

June 13th-18th, 1992. Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums Annual Meeting and Conference at Old Salem and Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The theme is "Seeds of Time: Cultivating New Visions of the Past." More information about this conference will be provided in future issues of Magnolia.

TEXAS TO HOST SGHS IN 1993

At their October Fall Board meeting held at Old Salem the Southern Garden History Society unanimously voted to accept the invitation to hold their 1993 annual meeting from April 16-18 in Texas. Texas Board member Dr. Bill Welch outlined tentative plans for a country setting in the Washington/Fayette counties.

Lodging and some meals are being held at the Preference Inn located in Brenham, Texas (about 75 miles NW of Houston). Additional sessions will be held at the University of Texas Winedale Historical Center. Tours will focus on restored homes and gardens of the 1830s to about 1900 with emphasis on Germanic and other ethnic influences. The dates have been scheduled to concur with the peak of the spring wildflower and garden season.

Continued from page 1

hunters and plant propagators, pioneer horticulturists, naturalists, botanists and plantation managers. These industrious and adventurous souls included the likes of Thomas Ashe, who, in 1682, wrote in his pamphlet encouraging the settlement of Charleston,

"The Garden also begin to be beautiful and adorned with such Herbs and Flowers which to Smell or Eye are pleasing and agreeable, viz: the Rose, Tulip, Carnation, Lily."

(Quote provided by Elise Pinckney, a guest speaker for the upcoming SGHS meeting.)

Importing Technical and Botanical Expertise into the Colonies

This was a period of discovery and colonization. The natural history of the region was intensively studied. Frequent exchange took place between Charleston and England. Boats crossed the Atlantic carrying parcels of plants and raw goods and returned with books, current newspapers and publications and other items of cultural enrichment. Books which interpreted the colonials' needs were unavailable and great emphasis was placed in the adaptation of British techniques to the soils of the Colonies.

To put Charleston in the context of what was happening in and beyond the colonies during the eighteenth century, the following is useful to garden historians. John Custis (1678-1749), whose garden is archaeologically studied at Colonial Williamsburg, became politically illustrious when George Washington married his son's widow. Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) implemented his "modern" system of botanical nomenclature. Phillip Miller (1691-1771) in England sent in 1732 a seed of cotton from his garden, the Chelsea Physic Garden, to the new colony of Georgia. Alexander Pope (1688-1744) won fame as shaper of the new picturesque landscape movement in England.

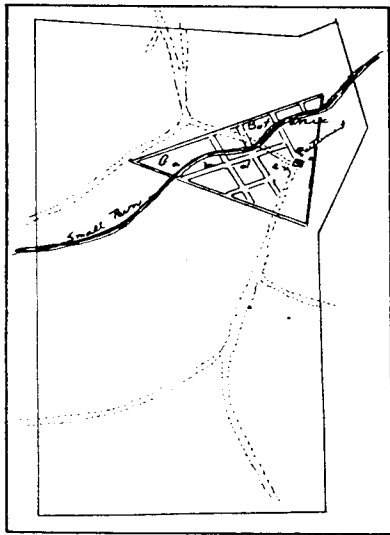
John Randolph (1727-1784) is often credited with publishing the first gardening book in America, Treatise on Gardening (1788), modeled on Phillip Millers' Gardener's Dictionary. However, two calendars published in Charleston, by Martha Logan and Robert Squibb, were earlier, smaller issues of similar Kitchen Garden calendars specifically written for the South. Before that, the majority of books were modeled on England's climate.

Several years after Thomas Ashe's visit to Charleston, Mark Catesby (1682-1749), the English naturalist, travelled to the Southern colonies in 1722-26 and visited Charleston. Here he painted the snakes, birds, fauna and flora of the region with a distinctive naive flair.

Plants were limited and were often exchanged from one gardener to another. Sales of "diverse sorts of best garden seeds" were offered for sale in 1732 in the "South Carolina Gazette" for, before the Revolution, there were few local nurseries.

The "Charleston Courier" advertised in 1734 that "Mr. Peter Chassereau, newly come from London, surveys Lands, and makes near Maps thereof, draws Plans and Elevations of all kind of Buildings whatsoever, both civil and Military, likewise perspective Views or prospects of Towns or Gentlemens Houses or Plantations, he calculates Estimates for Buildings or Repairs, inspects and measures Artificers Works, sets out ground for Gardens or Parks, in a grand and rural manner, and takes Level; young Gentlemen and Ladys will be attended at their own Houses to be taught Drawing." (Briggs, Charleston Gardens)

And, in November 1752, the following appeared: "This is to give Notice, to such Gentlemen and others, as have a taste in pleasure and kitchen gardens, that they may depend on having them laid out, leveled, and drained, in the most complete manner, and the politest of taste, by the subscriber; who perfectly understands the contriving of all kinds of new works, and erecting water works, etc. as fountains, cascades, grottos, and planting vineyards and making vines. As his stay in the province will be but short (if he does not meet with sufficient encouragement) he desires those who are inclined to employ him will signify their pleasure as early as possible to him at Mr. Thomas Doughty's, and they shall be waited on by their most humble servant, John Barnes, Garden Architect." (Briggs, Charleston Gardens) See map by Culpepper 1671.



COURTESY, CHARLESTON MUSEUM
ANDRÉ MICHAUX'S GARDEN

Local Talent and Pioneer Horticulturists

The first locally documented "Botanick Garden" was located on the west side where Lamboll Street is today and extended to the Ashley River from King Street. Mrs. Thomas (Elizabeth) Lamboll's garden dates to about 1750 and was "a large and handsome flower and kitchen garden upon the European Plan." Mrs. Martha Logan, a neighbor, followed in her steps with her own garden and shortly thereafter wrote the book, The Gardener's Kalendar in the mid-1750s.

In a similar botanical vein, Alexander Garden set up his garden in Charleston in 1754. Linneaus, with whom he corresponded, named the genus *Gardenia* in his honor. Garden was the first to describe the genus, *Halesia*.

The botanists and plant collectors, John Bartram (1699-1777) and his son, William Bartram (1739-1823) sailed to Charleston "to search the Floridas and the western parts of Carolina and Georgia for the discovery of rare and useful productions of nature, chiefly in the vegetable kingdom." Thomas and Elizabeth Lamboll were their hosts. Later, William Bartram set up a plantation

across the Ashley River from Charleston in 1773.

Thomas Walter, a botanist from England, established a plantation on the Santee River, not far from Charleston. His book, Flora Caroliniana, Secundum Systema Vegabilium Perillustris Linnaei Digesta, published in 1784, was the first complete work on American botany during the eighteenth century.

In 1786, Andre Michaux purchased 111 acres of land here for a botanical garden. Sent by the French government, he was to investigate indigenous plants valuable for import into France. He is responsible for importation of the *Albizia julibrissin* (mimosa) into this country, as well as *Lagerstroemia indica* (crepe myrtle), *Osmanthus fragrans* (tea olive), *Melia azedarach* (china berry) and *Ginkgo biloba* (ginkgo). It is assumed he is responsible for introduction of the *Camellia japonica* and *Azalea indica*. His son, Andre Francois Michaux, produced North American Sylva. Andrew Michaux's garden was located between Crowfield and Middleton Place, its site verified archaeologically by many broken flower pots.

Robert Squibb, Gardener, of Charleston, published his Gardener's Calendar in 1787. According to Briggs, his Garden was located at the "upper end of Tradd street" and his Nursery near "Rumney Bridge" and according to Briggs and Charles Fraser in his Reminiscences, "Squibb's Garden was on the south side of Tradd street, extending opposite Logan Street to the corner of Legare street." [Author's Note: We will seek out the locations of Squibb, Logan and Lamboll's gardens, and hopefully visit the vicinity of Michaux's garden during our tours at the Tenth Annual Meeting in March 1992.]

Plantation Pioneers and Plantation Managers?

Plantation owners depended upon the importation of skilled craftsmen. Two well-documented gardens are assumed to be influenced by garden designers from abroad, Crowfield (1730) and Middleton Place (1742). They are extant, although presently Crowfield is awkwardly situated in the middle of a golf course and ringed with large houses under construction within a subdivision carrying its name.

Crowfield boasted of unusually fine surrounding, vast lawns, woodlands and formal gardens. In 1748, Eliza Lucas' described the garden at Crowfield as Early Picturesque, a transitional style related to the Classical Period and influenced strongly by Alexander Pope's dictates. Quite advanced for rural America at this time, Crowfield reflected the current tastes in English landscape gardening. Eliza writes:

"The house stands a mile from, but in sight of the road, and makes for a very handsome appearance; as you draw near it new beauties discover themselves; first the fruitful vine mantling the wall, loaded with delicious clusters. Next a spacious Basin

in the midst of a large Green presents itself as you enter the gate that leads to the House wch is neatly finishd, the rooms well contrived and elegantly furnished.

"From the back door is a spacious walk a thousand feet long; each side of wch nearest the house is a grass plat ornamented in a Serpentine manner with Flowers; next to that on the right hand is what immediately struck my rural taste, a thicket of young, tall live-oaks where a variety of airey Chorristers pour forth their melody, and my darling the mocking bird joyn'd in the artless Concert, enchanted me with his harmony. Opposite on the left hand is a large square boling green, sunk a little below the level of the rest of the garden, with a walk quite round composed of a fine large flowering Laurel (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and Catalpas wch aford both shade and beauty.

"My letter will be of unreasonable length if I don't pass over the Mounts, wilderness, etc. and come to the bottom of this charming spot where is a large fish pond with a mount rising out of the middle the top of wch is level with the dwelling House, and upon it is a roman temple, on each side of this are other large fish ponds properly disposed which form a fine Prospect of water from the house. Beyond this are the smiling fields dressed in vivid green; here Ceres and Pomona joyn hand in hand to crown the hospitable board..." (Briggs, Charleston Gardens)

Middleton Place, well known before the Revolution, has no exact date of creation. However, the land was acquired by Henry Middleton in 1740. Later as President of the Continental Congress, and following his marriage to Mary Williams, the owner of the property, he sent to England for an experienced landscape gardener. Colonists of wealth and culture were in close touch with the art and styles of the "home countries." At that time, the formal style of Andre LeNotre, the late seventeenth-century landscape architect for Louis XIV, was fashionable in certain circle, with Versailles only just completed in 1686. According to Briggs, Middleton is essentially English, but has French formality, and he goes on to state, that at Middleton, statuary was specifically used for accent. Formally arranged trees are sheared up to allow vistas and sheared hedges generally outlined geometrical patterns. The bowling green is still traceable, but is now an octagon shaped garden and the mount is nearby.

Arthur Middleton, son of Henry, left this garden to his son, Henry, who took an interest in the garden. Andre Michaux often visited and four of the first camellias grown in America were received from him.

Other eighteenth-century plantations we may visit during the meeting include Middleburg, one of the oldest plantations in the Low Country, with a land grant of 1690. It is located on the east branch of the Cooper River and the building was completed in 1699. The earliest description is of a live oak avenue and grass forecourt, flanked by magnolias, on river side. Beyond the garden is a rectangular pond which was the "duck pond" on an old map of the plantation. The forecourt has a square formal garden on either side. Today's garden is of later date according to Briggs.

In 1714, Mulberry was built by Thomas Broughton on a hill overlooking rice fields and river. Once part of Fair Lawn



COURTESY, UNIVERSITY SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

This drawing of *PINCKNEYA PUBENS* is from *FLORA BOREALI-AMERICANA* by André Michaux. The genus was named by Michaux in honor of General Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

Barony, it was one of the largest Colonial holdings consisting of twelve thousand acres and granted to Sir Peter Colleton in 1687. Its fortress-like building with brick walls several feet thick served as a refuge for women and children during Indian raids. There is no record of an old garden, according to Briggs.

Medway, the oldest brick house in South Carolina, also hosted inland rice culture. Likewise, there is no record of old gardens. Medway is on Cooper River about 6 miles from Crowfield.

According to Briggs, the South Carolina Gazette of 1749 published the sale of a garden on the Ashley River which includes "a very handsome entrance into the garden, a very large garden both for pleasure and profit, with a variety of pleasant walks with mounts, basons, canals, and all sorts of fruit trees consisting of many thousands, a great deal of asparagus, and all kinds of kitchen-garden stuff, a young nursery with a great number of grafted pear and apple trees of the best sorts, with some thousands of orange trees, some of which are grown 8 feet since the last great frost... several lemon and lime trees in tubs and boxes, with fruit on them, several garden benches, and iron rowler..." We wish we could find this plantation, but it is lost.

Thus, Charleston has a rich history in gardens and garden design. During our meeting, we hope to visit Crowfield, Medway and Mulberry, however plans for these visits have not been finalized.

Sources: Briggs, Loutrel. Charleston Gardens. Pinckney, Elise. Early Charleston Gardeners: Thomas and Elizabeth Lamboll.

CAMPUS RESTORATION AWAKES INTEREST IN LANDSCAPE

by Harriet Jansma

When the fences went up around Old Main at the University of Arkansas in 1980, no one was sure its restoration would be funded, much less that work on it would rekindle a strong interest in the surrounding landscape and the trees around it.

But that is just what happened. As the interior work neared completion last spring and planning and publicity for the rededication celebration began, memories poured in from graduates, new information was discovered, and the entire campus became the beneficiary.

The University's other major tradition, Senior Walk, became one focus of landscape interest. Sidewalks on our campus list the name of every graduate of the University; the oldest walks, beginning with the first class (1876), lead up to the front doors of Old Main. This was the walk used for the processional at the beginning of the rededication on September 21, when every class was represented by a member or a descendent of a member who carried a class banner into the building.

The University's physical plant staff rushed to complete the walks for every graduating class as the creative services staff of my own office (University Relations) rushed to complete a Senior Walk Rubbing Kit. It takes a specially-built machine (the "sandhog") and four people 18 days to enter the names of one graduating class into the walks after they are poured to cure for several weeks. Graduates can now take their names or their grandparents' names (we found one five-generation family of graduates) home on paper from their kits, which provide a map of the walks and bits of their history.

Collection of "Old Main memories" for a newspaper sent to donors and parents led us to knowledge of our oldest trees. A local resident remembered that her grandfather had supervised buildings and grounds in the mid-1880s, when the original trees were planted alongside the oldest of the walks. These trees shaded the class representatives and faculty this fall as they made their way back into Old Main for the rededication.

Awareness of the oldest trees rekindled interest in designating the entire campus as an arboretum, and funds have been made available to develop plans. The oldest trees have now been identified and mapped, and University Relations is now planning a tree brochure that we hope will yield gifts for more new trees to add to those that have been planted with funds raised for Old Main.

Almost without special efforts, the University's renovation of Old Main has made our landscape seem special again, and led to a new pride in the entire campus.

EIGHTH BIENNIAL OLD SALEM CONFERENCE

Early October brought students of the historic landscape to Old Salem for the eighth conference on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes." This year they explored the subject of the vernacular landscape-- a concept often easier to grasp intuitively than to define specifically. Dell Upton from the University of California at Berkeley opened the program provocatively by offering both a holistic view of the Southern cultural terrain, as well as an analysis of how different groups have manipulated space within that terrain for their particular social requirements. Other talks ranged from a discussion of the postbellum yeoman farmstead to a multiphased examination of the African-American landscape. The next issue of Magnolia will offer a fuller review of the 1991 conference; however, by reading the synopsis included herein of the recent work of Richard Westmacott-- one of the conference's "sharing session" speakers-- one can get an excellent sense of the exciting material discussed during this year's Old Salem program.

THE VERNACULAR LANDSCAPES OF RURAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN-AMERICANS

Richard Westmacott, from the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia, has recently completed a study funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, "The Traditional Gardens and Yards of African-Americans in the Rural South." His research will be published as a book in 1992 by the University of Tennessee Press.

In his study Westmacott has tried to find out what their gardens and yards mean to African-Americans in the rural South. The research is based on systematic surveys of 15 or more gardens and yards in each of three areas: the Low Country in South Carolina, the Southern Piedmont in Georgia, and the Black Belt in Alabama. During slavery, the yard was an extension to the crowded slave cabins, a place for all mundane chores of daily life, but it was also a place where slave families could assert some measure of independence. Since slavery, the functional roles of gardens and yards have changed. With indoor plumbing, many of the tasks once done in the yard have moved into the house. The importance of the yard as a place to express values and beliefs and to welcome friends has grown. Westmacott examines these beliefs and has sought to identify any uniquely African-American patterns and practices in these places. Many of the values expressed are similar to those found throughout rural America, agrarian values of private ownership, hard work, self-reliance, family and community and yet the manifestations of these values are different.

Richard Westmacott will be doing a future article for Magnolia on vernacular gardens of the rural South.



Fannie Rucker's yard, Hartwell, Georgia.

THE PLANT REPORTER: THE STORY OF THE HAYWOOD CRABAPPLE

Flora Ann Bynum, Winston-Salem, NC

We read in the garden history books how early settlers brought favorite seeds and seedlings from their homes as they moved to new areas. My mother's garden in Raleigh, North Carolina, supplied an example of this practice.

As far back as I can remember, Mother treasured a lovely delicately-branched crabapple that bloomed each April with pale pink blossoms of wonderful fragrance. Many seedlings would appear in Mother's lily-of-the-valley bed under the tree, and I would from time to time try to transplant one with little luck.

Mother said her crabapple came from a seedling Mrs. Howard Powell gave her from the crabapple in the parsonage yard of Edenton Street Methodist Church, our church in Raleigh. Mrs. Powell was the minister's wife years ago, when the parsonage still stood beside the church in downtown Raleigh. She had obtained her tree from the old Hayward home on Edenton Street, Mother said.

I often wondered about the history of Mother's crabapple. One day my father and I drove by the Haywood home on Edenton Street, and sure enough, there in front was a large crabapple. I would ride by to see the crabapple from time to time when I was home in Raleigh, but somehow I never got up courage enough to knock on the door of the home to ask about it.

Then this March I attended a meeting at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts here in Winston-Salem, and Mrs. Marshall DeLancey Haywood, Jr. of Raleigh was on the registration list. I sought her out and asked about the crabapple and she told me its story. She and her husband own and live in the Richard Bennehan Haywood home (1854) on Edenton Street where the crabapple is today.

Mrs. Haywood told me that when Eleanor Howard Hawkins Haywood came to Raleigh in 1800 from Warren county north of Raleigh, she brought with her planted in gourds two seedlings of native crabapples from the Hawkins family seat, Pleasant Hill Plantation. These she and her husband, Sherwood Haywood, planted at the home they built on the northeast corner of Edenton and Wilmington streets in Raleigh. This house was torn down in 1890. One of the original crabapples died early, but the other lived to an old age, was much admired in downtown Raleigh, but was eventually cut down.

However, seedlings of this crabapple were given by the Haywoods to various friends in Raleigh through the years, and the tree in the yard of the Haywood home on Edenton Street is a large descendant of the original tree. Sherwood Haywood came to Raleigh when the city was founded, as the United States Commissioner of Loans.

Mrs. Haywood told me that her husband had given away many seedlings of the tree from their yard; he has found that the only time to transplant the tree is in the very coldest weather, and that it is important to dig up a large intact root ball.

Josephus Daniels wrote an editorial in the Raleigh News and Observer in the early 1940s about what he called the "old he-crab-apple tree" and how its descendants were now spread "up and down the town." And now that I know the crabapple's story, I think of Eleanor Haywood's bringing the two seedlings in gourds from her family home to the new town of Raleigh in 1800. My two seedlings in my yard in Salem are flourishing, descendants of ancestors which journeyed from Warren County to Raleigh, from a later Haywood to a parsonage, from the parsonage to my Raleigh home, and now to Old Salem.

Under Descriptions of Tender Annuals, we read the following account:

As to the spiriting (or wild) cucumber, though it may be mentioned here, it is very hardy, so as to sow itself in autumn, come up in spring, and will abide as a perennial. Sow in March, and allow it two yards square. This is merely propagated for diversion, as a noli me tangere; for if the fruit is touched when ripe, it bursts, and throws its foeted contents to some distance, perhaps over the clothes of the adventurer.

Comments on Ecballium elaterium found in Charles Marshall's Introduction to the Knowledge and Practice of Gardening. (Boston: 1799, "First American from the Second London Edition.") Vol. II, page 50.

BOOK REVIEW

The Golden Age of American Gardens: Proud Owners * Private Estates, 1890-1940. By Mac Griswold and Eleanor Weller. (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1991. Pp. 408. \$67.50 until 1/1/92; thereafter \$75.00)

The images in this book connect the art of gardening to the art of photography in a way that is instantly compelling for garden history aficionados. Compiled by Eleanor Weller, the most spectacular of the photographs come from magic lantern slides executed decades ago for the Garden Club of America. Initially taken in black and white on glass plates, these were then hand tinted to create a painterly evocation of the gardens they represented.

These excellent plates, joined by many fine period black and white views, illustrate a text by Mac Griswold. There Griswold ranges across the country in her examination of the gardens created in an era of low taxes and great wealth-- wealth often newly-acquired and then conspicuously spent. Using a variety of primary sources, including personal interviews, Griswold reveals how enormous profits from such prosaic sources as oil, tobacco, railroads, and meat processing were transformed into estates of remarkable refinement and beauty. Houses and their landscaped settings became not only retreats from the gritty world of an America in full-blown industrial revolution but also vehicles for social advancement and instant (so it was hoped) respectability.

Griswold's examination of the South will interest Magnolia readers, though the range of color plates here is more limited. In this section, as throughout the book, she discusses the highly talented designers and architects who guided the impulses of their clients in constructing a notable array of early twentieth-century estates. We can compare, for example, the English Renaissance work of Charles Gillette in Richmond to the eclectic endeavors (mainly "Italian Baroque," says Griswold) of Bryant Fleming in Tennessee and Kentucky. In marked contrast to such gardens, with their overtly European antecedents, stood the "Prairie Style" landscapes of Jens Jensen found at "Airdrie" and "Lanark" in Kentucky. In addition, this overview of the South allows Griswold to elaborate further on an important theme of her book: the crucial role of women in shaping American gardens. This is in no one better personified than Ellen Shipman, who cut a remarkable "swath" of gardens across the South, ranging from Virginia to Texas.

Fortunately for Southern Garden History Society readers, Griswold also expands her time frame back for our region to include the antebellum years, thus



encompassing a period she terms the South's "Gilded Age." We therefore can learn not only about Nashville's Fleming-designed "Cheekwood" (begun in 1929) but also about Adelia Acklen's 1850 Nashville estate "Belmont"-- to cite but one pre-war example among many. Indeed, gardens across the southern states come under scrutiny, as Griswold discusses their history while she also explores the ties connecting the estates of the antebellum period to their successors which resulted from the prosperity of the "New South."

In summation, "The Golden Age of American Gardens" is a monumental study of the highest quality. It is not, however, a "quick read." Its smallish print, myriad details and overall length demand instead a more studied approach. In the discussion of the South, moreover, the breadth of geography examined and the extended time frame covered lead the author to move forward and backward in a somewhat abrupt manner. Yet her smooth, often witty, prose style, joined by excellent endnotes, makes the effort of reading worthwhile. Together with Eleanor Weller and her selection of breathtaking photographs (worth the price of the book alone), Mac Griswold has crafted a remarkable volume that anyone will be proud to own-- or to present as a surely-to-be-appreciated gift to a fellow fancier of garden history.

--Kenneth M. McFarland, Associate Editor

IN PRINT

Finally, a second printing of Rudy J. and Joy P. Favretti's Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings was published in May by the American Association for State and Local History. Orders can be sent directly to AASLH, 172 Second Ave., North, Nashville, TN, 37201. Include \$23.95 plus \$3.50 shipping. The first edition, published in 1978, has long been out of print.

The Golden Age of American Gardens, Proud Owners * Private Estates, 1890 - 1940, by Mac Griswold and Eleanor Weller, may be ordered directly from the publisher, Harry N. Abrams, by calling 1-800-345-1359. Your local bookstores may also carry this book.

A 50th Anniversary edition of Elizabeth Lawrence's A Southern Garden is available in hardcover and paperback

through Capability's Books, 2379 Highway 46, Deer Park, WI, 54007, or call 1-800-247-8154. Considered a "must have" for all Lawrence devotees.

Katherine Whiteside has once again produced a volume on old-fashioned flowers complete with captivating, full-color photographs by Mick Hales. This book, entitled Classic Bulbs, Hidden Treasures for the Modern Garden, contains fascinating portraits of fifty species of bulbs with accompanying purchasing information and an extensive bibliography. SGHS members *John T. Fitzpatrick* and *Penelope Hobhouse* have contributed forwards to the text as they did for Whiteside's previous work, Antique Flowers. Other SGHS members are featured in the text as well, including *Edith Eddleman*, *Doug Ruhren*, *Nancy Goodwin* and *Flora Ann Bynum* on the Roman Hyacinth. Look for this book to be out by Christmas.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

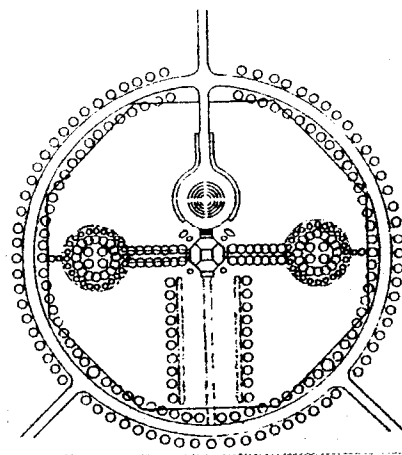
Greensboro landscape architect and SGHS member *Paul Faulkner "Chip" Callaway* was featured in Southern Accents' October story on Ayr Mount, an 1815 Federal plantation-style country house near Hillsborough, NC. The residence, presently owned by financier Richard H. Jenrette, was constructed by William Kirkland, a prosperous Scotsman, who named it Ayr Mount after his birthplace. It was the first brick house in the region. Callaway is credited with the creation of bold and sweeping landscapes around the home in keeping with 1830 - 40 styles in southern plantations. SGHS member *Todd Dickinson* is also cited for his restoration and improvements of the home.

Both the September issue of Smithsonian and the November issue of Southern Accents feature major articles on The Golden Age of American Gardens (see review p. 9). Longtime SGHS member *Eleanor Weller* of Monkton, MD, is coauthor of this colossal volume and is responsible for the selection of gardens from over 1,400 hand-tinted glass slides now in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution.

SGHS member *C. Allan Brown* presented a lecture titled "Palladian" Gardening in the South, 1730-1830", at the *Echoes of Palladianism* symposium held at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Nov. 7th-9th. Currently a fellow of the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA, *Brown* has devoted extensive research into Thomas Jefferson's gardens at Poplar Forest, near Lynchburg, VA. Publication of the text of this symposium

are forthcoming. For more information, contact The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, P.O. Box 230819, Montgomery, AL, 36123. The November issue of HG (House and Garden) takes a closer look at Poplar Forest in a story by Frank Rose, "Beyond Monticello." As consultant to the restoration effort, *Allan Brown's* theories regarding Jefferson's geometric treatment of the landscape are detailed.

Recent issues of Southern Living have highlighted member organizations including The Hermitage and Old Salem in the October magazine.



Brown's conjectural site plan of Poplar Forest

NEW HORTICULTURIST JOINS TRYON PALACE STAFF

James Anthony Dove, Jr. has joined the Tryon Palace staff as Horticulturist, replacing previous horticulturist Herb Rea, who has retired. Before joining Tryon Palace, Dove was Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Annapolis Horticultural Services, Inc. where he was responsible for landscape design and cost estimates as well as supervision of all aspects of the business.

From 1973 to 1990, Dove served in several positions with the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks in Annapolis, Maryland. During that time, he designed and developed the Gardens at the London Town Publik House and was responsible for budget and personnel. He also administered all horticultural programs, all undeveloped parkland and the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary.

Dove has served as consultant to the keeper of the Royal Gardens of Windsor Great Park, Windsor, England and has lectured at the Smithsonian Institution.

At Tryon Palace Restoration, Dove will be responsible for the development of all public horticultural programs, grounds development and maintenance and general administration of the Horticultural Services Branch at Tryon Palace Restoration.

OF INTEREST

PIONEER PLANT SOCIETY

Because of the recent revival of interest in old roses, market bulletins, all things Victorian, wildflowers, xeroscapes, and cottage gardens, a group of friends and acquaintances have long considered founding an organization complete with collecting trips, plant swaps (both at meetings and through the mail), and a quarterly newsletter. We hope to appeal to anyone with any interest from a rural farm wife looking for her grandmother's iris, to a learned professor, to a professional nurseryman.

The newsletter will have long WANTS and HAVES lists. Also included will be commercial sources for those who do not want to nurse the contents of soggy packages of "swaps." The September issue will reprint Jeff and Leabeth Abt's edition of the McFarland diary from 1830 & 40s Nacogdoches.

TO JOIN: Send a check for \$7.00 with a sheet listing at least three plants you want, plus at least one (hopefully more) that you have and will trade, to: Miss P.A. Puryear, 708 Holland St., Navasota, Texas, 77868. Include your full and correct mailing address. (Make the check to me, and note PPS on it.) Or call (409) 825-3220 for more information.

CONFERENCE MARKS 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BARTRAM'S TRAVELS

In the late 1700s William Bartram, America's second native-born naturalist, travelled through what are now the southeastern states, studying and collecting specimens of plants and animals native to the area. What he found along the trail that now bears his name he described in detail in Travels, which he published in 1791. Today Travels is considered a classic in American literature.

In early November of this year the Bartram Trail Conference met in Savannah, Georgia, to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the publication of Bartram's Travels. Elliott Edwards chaired the symposium and Malcolm Bell Jr., noted author and historian, delivered the keynote speech, "Bartram's Trail and Others who Followed." An exhibit of all sixty of Bartram's prints, which are on loan from the American Philosophical Society, were displayed at the Massie Heritage Interpretation Center in Savannah and have now travelled to the Coastal Historical Museum on St. Simon's Island, Georgia.

SGHS member *Mrs. Mary Helen Ray* assisted in the planning of the conference. For information on joining the Bartram Trail Conference, authorized by Congress in 1976, contact Elliott Edwards at (912) 944-5766.

SGHS MEMORIES

Photographs and paraphernalia from past SGHS Annual Meetings are still needed for the retrospective exhibit to be shown at the 1992 Tenth Anniversary meeting in Charleston. What better opportunity will you have to join in the collective memory of our Society ! Remember to include all identifying information with each photograph, including names of sites and members. Send as soon as possible to Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan at Hugh Dargan Associates, P.O. Box 357, Charleston, SC, 29402. (803) 723-0942.

Remember your membership must be current to participate in this gala event. Please direct your membership inquiries to Flora Ann Bynum, c/o The Southern Garden History Society, Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC, 27108. Membership year runs from May 1st to April 30th and individual fees are \$ 15.00 per year. Those joining after January 1st will be credited for the next membership year.

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

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