

Magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora
The Laurel Tree of Carolina
Catesby's *Natural History*, 1743

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

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Preserving Southern Landscapes: The First Decade of the Southern Garden History Society

by Mary Palmer Dargan, ASLA
Meeting Host, Charleston, SC 1992

Our Society's contributions to the preservation of southern gardens and landscapes, as illustrated in light of the programs offered during its



*The Garden at 55
Church Street, The
Benjamin Phillips House*

first ten years of existence, is the focus of the upcoming annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, from March 20th-22nd. To commemorate this special occasion, a Retrospective Exhibit will be on display highlighting both this meeting and those held previously in Atlanta, Georgia; Natchez, Mississippi; Annapolis, Maryland; Montgomery, Alabama; Charlottesville, Virginia; Nashville, Tennessee; Savannah, Georgia; Mount Vernon, Virginia; and St. Francisville, Louisiana. Each of these meetings uniquely combined scholarly presentations with trips to public and private gardens in a way which provided our members an intimate view of the historic landscapes in their

respective regions. Topics ranged from archival and research techniques, maintenance of historic properties, antique plants, to the stories of landscape creations and their designers. Issues facing the perpetuation of once-private gardens going public is a recurring topic presented to the Society. Thus, this display presents a unique opportunity to review SGHS interests and to encourage rich contributions to southern garden history in the next decade.

Magnolia, the quarterly bulletin published by the Society, is also featured in the retrospective. This important resource offers membership

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research papers, news of landscape restoration projects, and related member activities. It exists due to the contributions of the membership. The editors of *Magnolia*, Harriet Jansma from Arkansas (1982-1990), Peggy Newcomb from Virginia (1988-present), and Kenneth McFarland from North Carolina (1990-present) are the unsung heroes of this publication. In the retrospective, issues of this significant quarterly bulletin will profile articles by SGHS members and illustrate the scope of *Magnolia's* content.

The Cherokee Garden Library in Atlanta was designated as repository for books and documents of the Society in 1989. Its formation coincided with the early days of the Southern Garden History Society as an independent project developed by the Garden Club of Atlanta. This centrally located repository for SGHS documents is vital to the future accessibility of membership contributions to southern garden history.

The presentation of this exhibit consists of twenty-four display boards, two per meeting, and four boards dedicated to *Magnolia*. A booklet reproducing the exhibit will be provided to each participant at the annual meeting. It includes not only the retrospective display reproductions but also the meeting content bound into a single document. Lecturer profiles and synopses of their talks, plans of gardens visited in the Historic



District, plantation histories and plans for current research, and the list of conference attendees make this document a celebratory feature to utilize and treasure ♦

Living with Landscape Preservation

Charleston, as noted in the previous issue of *Magnolia*, entertains a rich, three-hundred-year history of gardening in a city shaped by early colonization patterns, war and civil uprisings, the vicissitudes of nature, and the advent of tourism. Preservation of the landscape and city fabric is an active concern of its population. The Preservation Society of Charleston, founded in 1920, is the oldest community-based membership preservation organization in America. In 1947, Historic Charleston Foundation was created. There are several Historic District neighborhoods and a strict, city-appointed Board of Architectural Review which studies and approves any built feature visible from the street. Included are renovations and additions to houses, and choice of paint color, as well as garden gates, outbuildings, and garden walls.

Volunteerism and tourism to benefit preservation has deep roots in the community. The Garden Club of Charleston promoted local garden tourism in the mid-1930s to raise funds to preserve the Joseph Manigault House (c. 1803) and the Heywood Washington House (c. 1772)

Calendar

March 20th-22nd, 1992: *SGHS 1992 Annual Meeting* in Charleston, SC. Meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. Friday with an opening address at the Mills House Hotel. Optional pre- and post-conference walking tours for Friday morning and Sunday afternoon must be registered for in advance. For more information, please contact the meeting registrar in Charleston, Peggy Ledford, at (803)766-8218.

May 17th, 1992: *Mayflowers Garden Tour and Tea*. The third annual tour of private Annapolis gardens will offer visitors the opportunity to explore the delightful hidden retreats enjoyed by residents of many historic homes. The tour will include tea on the terrace of William Paca House overlooking Paca's restored 18th-c. garden where, as an added feature, horticultural experts will be on hand to answer gardening questions. Sunday, from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. For additional information

write the William Paca Garden, 1 Martin Street, Annapolis, MD, 21401 or call (410) 267-6656.

June 13th-19th, 1992: "*SEEDS OF TIME: Cultivating New Visions of the Past*," the Annual Meeting of ALHFAM (Association of Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums), to be held in Winston-Salem, NC. The theme will explore how ongoing research and visitor expectations influence museum programming. Sessions will address changes in the interpretation and audiences of history, particularly in the context of living-history sites. The conference will include hands-on information sharing and a behind-the-scenes look at Old Salem and other sites. For more information, contact: Sue Hanson, Conference Chair, Henrico County Division of Recreation and Parks, P.O. Box 27032, Richmond, VA 23273. (804) 672-5123.

structures and gardens. The Charleston Museum, founded in 1773 as the first museum in America, administers these properties and offers daily tours. These historic homes have recreated landscapes that interpret life in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Spring and fall tours of homes and gardens in the historic districts held by Historic Charleston Foundation (HCF) and the Preservation Society provides funding for their many preservation programs. The immediate success of the HCF 'Glorious Gardens' tours in the mid-nineteen eighties enabled many visitors access to private courtyard gardens. This single act was an unexpected boon to landscape preservation. Higher standards of maintenance became the norm and the public interpreted "show garden" is now a locally popular preservation concept.

The advent of hurricane Hugo in 1989 had a profound effect on the preservation of Charleston landscapes. Building techniques for walls and dependencies damaged by the storm were reviewed by the city, HCF, and the Preservation Society. These organizations prepared pamphlets on approved methods of repair of damaged structures which utilized building technology appropriate to the age of the structure. Craftsmen



with national and international expertise in restoration methods came to Charleston and many have stayed. ReLeaf, a national organization and its sister, Global ReLeaf, initiated programs which provide matching

funds for the countywide replanting of trees lost in the storm. Historic district neighborhood representatives went door-to-door to collect funds for street tree plantings. Local tree surgeons have perfected techniques to sustain live oaks and other canopy species in future 135 mph winds.

The annual meeting brochure and registration form, which was mailed to you January 17th, outlines our varied and extensive program which includes presentations from noted archaeologists, historians, preservationists, and garden writers. Additionally, our plans for study tours within the historic district and to three outlying plantations are designed to provide a fuller and in-depth look at landscape preservation, interpretation, and recreation in this region.

We welcome members to this exciting event. Although the meetings are generally limited to 125 participants, we hope to accommodate all members interested in attending this very special gathering as we take a look backward with an eye to the future of the Southern Garden History Society ♦

Garden Club of Virginia Funds Restoration Effort at Oatlands

by Jill Winter, grounds manager, Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg, VA

One section of an early 19th-century stone and brick wall which surrounds the four-and-a-half-acre terraced gardens at Oatlands Plantation was fully restored in the fall of 1991 as a result of funding support received from the Garden Club of Virginia. Rudy Favretti, consulting landscape architect for the Garden Club, provided ongoing consultation and direction. Oatlands House, its walled garden, and brick dependencies were constructed between 1803 and 1810 by George Carter, a great-grandson of Robert "King" Carter. Originally composed of native fieldstone topped with brick, the restored 60-foot length of wall consists of four descending sections which vary in height from approximately six feet at the top of a steep slope to ten feet at the bottom. Mortar was reproduced from analyzed samples, and the replacement stone came from remnants of collapsed fencing elsewhere on the property. In keeping with historic precedence and evidence from another section of the existing wall at

Oatlands, a cedar shingle roof caps the courses of brick which, in turn, are laid above the stone.

Three distinct levels of terracing at the base of the restored section of the wall were also unearthed and redefined, with some minor repair and reconstruction of the stonework as needed. Current ideas for treatment of these planting beds center around the selection of perennial and annual flowers popular in George Carter's day, as a counterpoint to the predominant flavor of the garden as a whole, which reflects its transformation in the 1920s to an ornamental English-style garden with Italian influences. Plans include an early spring display of *Tulipa sylvestris*, the fragrant Florentine tulip which has naturalized in large areas of the lawn and grounds at Oatlands since its introduction by Carter in the early 1800s. The restored section of wall and newly opened planting beds will provide a special focus of interpretation for visitors that highlights the early years of this plantation's history ♦

Delmarva: A Wasteland or Unexplored Wilderness of Horticulture?

by Arthur O. Tucker, Ph.D, Delaware State College, Dover, DE

The Peninsula of Delmarva consists of Delaware (3 counties), the Eastern Shore of Maryland (9 counties) and the Eastern Shore of Virginia (2 counties). While Delaware was once the "three lower counties of Pennsylvania," only upper New Castle Co. had a distinct Philadelphia flavor in architecture and politics. Delaware "Below the Canal" has more in common with the Eastern Shore of Maryland than with upper New Castle Co.. (Most of Delaware is south of Baltimore with a climate that is more southern than northern.) Delmarva remained relatively isolated until the Bay Bridge (between Annapolis, and Stevensville, MD) and the Bay Bridge-Tunnel (between Norfolk, VA and the Southern tip of the peninsula) were built in the late 1940s/early 1950s. Indeed, the oystermen of Smith Island in Maryland were so isolated that their Elizabethan English, even in the mid-twentieth century, was studied by scholars as the purest still surviving. Alas, the bridges that brought us the prosperity of the twentieth century are now rapidly eroding the quiet charm of Delmarva with extensive development and concomitant escalating property values.

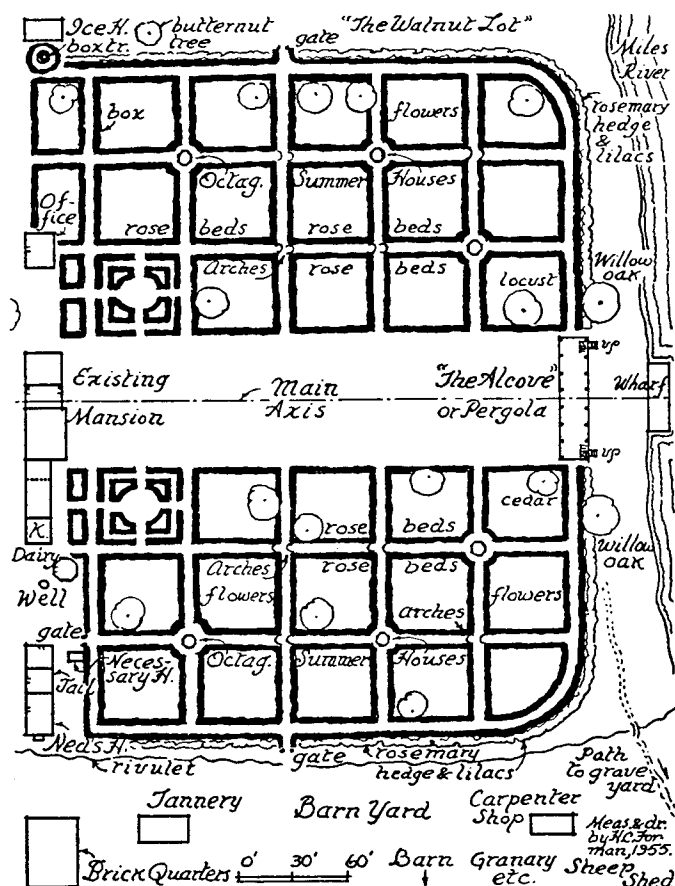
Excepting Longwood Gardens (which is really in Pennsylvania but a DuPont legacy), Winterthur Museum and Gardens, and Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, I have heard Delmarva characterized as a "horticultural wasteland." The longer I live on Delmarva, the more I realize that this view is one of ignorance of what was once, and still is, on the Peninsula. I hope to show here that Delmarva is really an unexplored horticultural wilderness.

Alice B. Lockwood, in her monumental two-volume *Gardens of Colony and State* (1931-1934) listed only three gardens on the Eastern Shore, and the gardens in Delaware were all from upper New Castle Co.. This is certainly not representative of the Delmarva that I have come to know. When horticultural history in Maryland is mentioned, it is inevitably about the Western Shore, again reflecting the isolation of the Peninsula. Who has not marveled at the beautiful

gardens of the William Paca House in Annapolis, rescued from beneath a bus parking lot? What heritage rosarian has not envied the collection that Ethelyn Emery Keays built up in her travels around Calvert Co.,

Maryland and later outlined in her *Old Roses* (1935)? Even Barbara Wells Sarudy's wonderful study, "Eighteenth-Century Gardens of the Chesapeake" (*Journal of Garden History*; vol. 9, no. 3, 1989), extols the virtues of the Western Shore. Certainly the literature is more readily available for the Western Shore; most of the Eastern Shore never had the same degree of documentation.

My interest was initially generated by the



Perry Hall, Talbot County

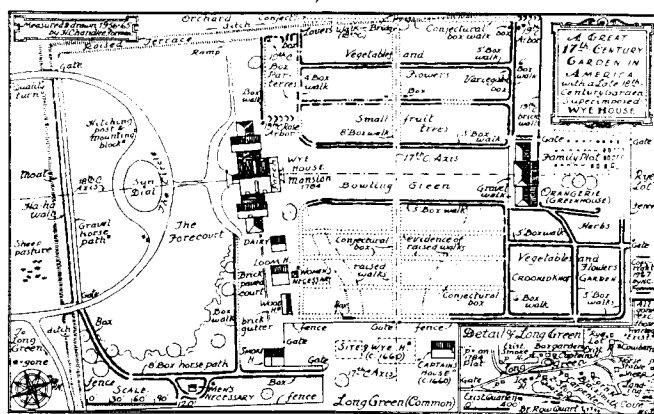
gardens of Perry Hall in Talbot Co., Maryland, just an hour from my home (see *Rose Letter*, August 1991). Between 1820 and 1822, Mrs. John Rogers (nee Maria Perry) engaged Kercheval, an English landscape designer, to create a great garden of thirty boxwood-edged rectangles, to be filled with roses and other flowers, on a gentle slope down to the Miles River. At the terminus of the 76-foot-wide main axis (called the "bowling alley") was a two-story pergola covered with lattice and roses,

used occasionally for dances at Perry Hall. Backing the "alcove," as the pergola was called, were willow oaks and the serene river. The entire garden was hedged with lilacs and rosemary.

Henry Chandlee Forman, in his *Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens* (1956), showed a diagram of what remained of the parterre, the boxwood then averaging 9 feet in height, and where the roses, lilacs, and large variegated box had been. Unfortunately, in 1974 the main house was "renovated" by MEBA, a marine engineering training school that purchased the property. While the house received aluminum siding, the garden was almost completely "land-scaped" down to a few remaining black locusts and red cedars. In my 1991 visit to Perry Hall, I found that *nothing* remains of the roses, lilacs, or rosemaries, and only a few boxwood sprigs poke their heads up here and there.

Consoling myself at the loss of these roses, I turned to finding what still remains on Delmarva. I have found Forman's *Old Buildings and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland* (1967) an invaluable resource. Forman was an architect based in Easton and, *mirabile dictu*, emphasizes the Eastern Shore over the Western Shore.

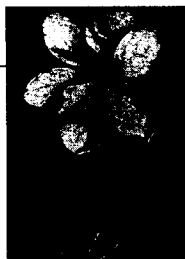
Both Lockwood and Forman have detailed the seventeenth-century garden of Wye House, a late eighteenth-century residence on the Wye River in Talbot Co., Maryland. The still-functional orangerie, ha-ha, long green, and other architectural features of the landscape are Eastern Shore treasures today and justifiably revered. Wye House could be the subject of an entire article and



Measured plan of Wye House garden

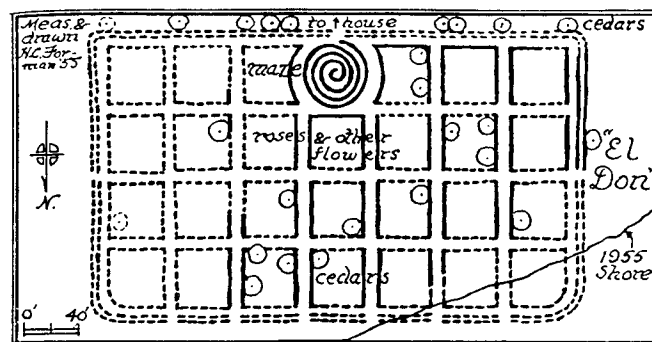
is too well documented to discuss here. I am more concerned with less-known, "neglected" gardens that might still hold out some treasures.

Forman hints at things like Henry Ward's



kitchen herb garden of 1684 in Cecil Co. but neglects to mention where it was. Carmel Plantation in Worcester Co., Maryland once had gardens as recorded in a sale of 1695.

Very tantalizing is the boxwood garden and maze at El Don on Hurst Creek, Dorchester Co., Maryland. The house at El Don was destroyed by fire in 1846, but remnants of the garden persisted in 1955. Also interesting is the garden of Dr. Alexander Hamilton Bayly on High St., Cambridge, Maryland with 12 boxwood parterres similar to



El Don garden plot plan

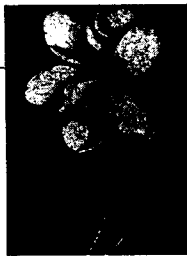
those of Perry Hall near Easton. This garden sported smoke bush, tamarisk, hollyhocks, magnolias, sunflowers, roses, and a strawberry bed. Was Kercheval engaged here and there, or were boxwood rectangles *de rigueur*? St. Giles "on the Eastern Shore" (Forman does not offer us any precise directions) had a cruciform house and correspondingly shaped boxwood garden dating from 1820 with Victorian additions of Mt. Atlas cedar, ginkgo, lily-of-the-valley tree, and franklinia. Burley Manor on Trappe Creek in Worcester Co., Maryland, was established 1832-33 with later additions of extensive flower and vegetable gardens. General Forman's Rose Hill in Cecil Co., Maryland had extensive plantings with good documentation; on April 20, 1829 General Forman received from Mr. Josua Longstreth of Philadelphia a "tea scented rose, Lady Greville rose, Champeny Rose, Chalcedonian Iris, and European Sycamores." These are just a *few* highlights from the tantalizing glimpses that Forman and Lockwood offer us.

Rockwood, a Rural Gothic estate with a Gardenesque landscape design, is now under the direction of New Castle County's Dept. of Parks and Recreation. The associated trees and shrubs (even a monkey puzzle tree) date from *circa* 1851. In Kent Co., Delaware, Belmont Hall in Smyrna is just waiting for documentation of its plantings with its champion yew and hemlock grove. This

should be done soon while the former residents are still living and before the Rt. 13 realignment changes the landscape further. A recent hurricane wiped out many fine, large specimen trees. Buena Vista in New Castle Co. was primarily a working farm with dairy and orchards, but ornamental plantings were obviously made with some direction in landscape architecture. The John Dickinson Plantation in Kent Co., Delaware was also a working tenant farm with wheat, flax, and orchards; a colonial revival garden was installed in the early 1950s, erasing what few plants may have existed. Lewes and Milton in Sussex Co. were the homes of many governors (Rafinesque stopped over at Governor David Hall's residence in Lewes in 1804.) What plants survive here?

Lockwood and others [e.g., Frances Archer Christian and Susanne Williams Massie's *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia* (1931), and Dorothy Hunt Williams's *Historic Virginia Gardens* (1975)] have devoted all their efforts, justifiably, to the gardens at Monticello, those on the James River, and those surrounding Richmond in Virginia. Travelling through very rural Northampton Co. and Accomack Co., Virginia, though, I am struck by the large number of plantations with long, bordered driveways hidden beyond Rt. 13. What treasures lie hidden here? Has anyone documented these potential horticultural riches?

The small, private gardens of Delmarva abound in treasures, such as "Old Grandmother's Early Blue" iris, which was the subject (with *Iris germanica* 'Florentina') of Van Gogh's painting in 1889; the clone offered commercially by Adam-



grove and others is not the same pre-ninth century clone. Other early *I. variegata* cultivars, peonies, chrysanthemums, and even dahlias have leaped into my consciousness.

In addition to the many vernacular gardens, nurseries abounded on Delmarva. In the archives of the Society of Natural History of Delaware (which includes all of Delmarva in its membership), we found a pre-1858 catalog of Edward Tatnall's Brandywine Nurseries in Wilmington, Delaware; the rose and orchard lists are very impressive. Edward Tatnall was not only a pioneer botanist, having published a catalogue of New Castle Co. flora in 1860, but also a nurseryman. His herbarium (native and cultivated, dating to 1832) is currently at the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium at Delaware State College, Dover, Delaware.

Several years ago I was lucky to find an abandoned daffodil farm near Marydel, Maryland. All around the mid-nineteenth-century house, now in shambles, and the outline of a circular barn, were daffodils galore! I found 10 different cultivars, including the very common English daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *pseudonarcissus*), 'Trumpet Major' (*N. pseudonarcissus* subsp. *major*), 'Telamoneus Grandiplenus' ('Van Sion,' called locally Eggs and Bacon), *N. x medioluteus* 'Primrose Peerless,' and many forms of *N. x incomparabilis*, including the very double 'Butter and Eggs' and the true 'Eggs and Bacon.' The latter two are especially interesting as I know of no commercial or private source today.

Hmph! Wasteland indeed! ♣

South Carolina Seed Merchants and Nurserymen Before 1820

by Barbara Wells Sarudy, Monkton, MD

Whether ordering their lands for necessity or pleasure, early South Carolina gardeners were initially bound to England for stock and guidance, but soon enterprising colonial seed dealers began importing plants to sell directly to South Carolina gardeners. Newspaper advertisements, broadsides, and estate inventories give an accurate reflection of at least some of the seeds and plants offered in this region before 1820.

The *South Carolina Gazette* was Charleston's first newspaper, commencing publication in January 1732. Most early seed dealers used this newspaper as a vehicle for marketing their wares. The earliest seed dealer advertising there was

Samual Everleigh. He advertised throughout the 1730s, but unfortunately his ads weren't very specific. In the December 23-30, 1732 issue, he offered for sale "divers sorts of best Garden seeds," and three years later in the December 27-January 3, 1735/36 issue Everleigh again advertised, "Garden seeds fresh and good." Also during this period Charles Pinckney and Robert Pringle, both with shops "on the Bay," offered seeds just imported from London.

In the September 15, 1745 issue of the *Gazette*, Richard Lake advertised for sale at his plantation on the Ashley River, "Lemon Trees with Lemons on them, in boxes, Lime Trees and

Orange Trees in Boxes, and several curious Plants in Pots, also variety of young Fruit Trees, particularly white Mulberry and Orange Trees."

In January, 1749 Richard Lake advertised his plantation for sale. He stated that it had "a very large garden both for pleasure and profit . . . all sorts of fruit trees consisting of many thousands, a great deal of fine asparagus, and all kinds of kitchen-garden stuff, a young nursery with a great number of grafted pear and apple trees . . . thousand of orange trees . . . several lemon and lime trees in tubs and boxes, with fruit on them."

Martha Logan first advertised her gardening wares in November, 1753 in the *South Carolina Gazette*. She offered for sale "seeds, flower roots, and fruit stones" at her house "on the Green, near Trotts Point." Martha Logan was the daughter of Robert Daniels, Landgrave and Deputy Governor of South Carolina. She was born December 29, 1704, and married George Logan, Jr. on July 30, 1719. A "Gardener's Kalendar" that she wrote appeared in various almanacs until past the turn of the nineteenth century. She carried on a lively correspondence with Philadelphia botanist John Bartram. Bartram wrote to his English mentor Peter Collinson in May, 1761 that she was "an elderly widow lady who spares no pains on cost to oblige me; her garden is her delight and she has a fine one; I was with her about four minutes in her company yet we contracted such a mutual correspondence that one silk bag of seed hath repast several times."

In the March 14, 1768 issue of the *South Carolina Gazette* she advertised seed imported from London, "A Fresh assortment of very good garden seeds and flower roots . . . with flowering shrubs and box for edging beds, now growing in her garden." This ad verifies that box was used for edging in pre-Revolutionary gardens. Martha Logan died in 1779.

Many South Carolina gardeners continued to order their seeds directly from England; however, the domestic commercial sale of both imported and locally grown plants continued to grow in popularity. For example, in 1764 Thomas Young advertised that he had imported "A Great Variety of kitchen-garden and flower seeds, which are very fresh, having had a short passage." Later in that same year, when Young was about to move from his house at the west end of Broad Street, he advertised "a parcel of seeds to dispose of cheap;



also some shrubs, trees, roots, etc. among which are a great number of Cork, walnut, with some chestnut and almond trees, with squill and other medical roots and seeds."

One of the most important gardeners and seedsmen of the last half of the eighteenth century in South Carolina was John Watson. He came to the province seeking work as a gardener from London in 1755 and was advertising imported seed in the *Gazette* by 1763. On September 21, 1765 Watson advertised an expanded line of garden wares, including ". . . a great collection of fruit trees, of all kinds, which have been grafted and budded from the best fonts in the province, with a great variety of English grape vines." The November 10 issue added "a great variety of Tulips, hiacynths, lilies, anemonies, ranunculuses, double jonquills" as well as asparagus roots.

His advertisements in the *Gazette* from 1769 until 1774 included grafted and innoculated fruit (apples, pears, plums, English walnuts, mulberries, etc.) and vegetables (peas, beans, onions, cabbage, carrots, savoy cauliflower, lettuce, turnips, leeks, mustard, cresses, endive, parsnips and physical herbs.) His wares became more exotic by his November 28, 1776 notice in the *Gazette* offering "Sweet Almonds . . . Filberts . . . English Quinces, Olives, China Oranges, double flowering Peaches, Almonds and Pomegranates."

On January 1, 1778 his ad in the *South Carolina and American General Gazette* offered "Hazel Nuts . . . Nutmeg, Myrtle flowering Trees . . . Magnolia or Laurels fit for Avenues, etc. any height from three feet to twenty, Artichoke."

Watson's last notice appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on February 13, 1789 when he offered ". . . seedling cassenas for hedges, tallow trees. . . for expontation." In March, 1789 John Watson died. His sons James Mark and John ran the nursery until John left South Carolina in 1802 selling "Watson's Gardens."

In the 1770s and 1780s grapes were becoming a popular item in both South Carolina and Georgia where a friendly competition was growing between neighbors. The March 26, 1772 issue of the *South Carolina Gazette* announced, "Yesterday also arrived here, with Captain John Turner, in the ship *Carolina Packet*, from London . . . 30,000 Plants of Vines producing true Champagne and Burgundy Grapes, procured by the Assiduity of Mr. Masnil de St. Pierre (from the French settlement at Longcanes called New-Bourdeaux) who has received great encourage-

ment in London, to perfect his scheme of making wines in this province, and obtained from the Society of Arts a Gold Medal."

By the 1780s Benjamin Franklin had his hand in potential domestic wine production. The May 1, 1783 issue of the *Gazette of the State of Georgia* in Savannah noted, "Sometime ago Dr. Franklin sent to South Carolina nine vine dressers from Burgundy, and 1,200,000 sets of plants of vines, to try whether those plants would thrive there. Our merchants do not wish they may." Domestic wine production was never the success its promoters hoped.

On September 29, 1774 the *Gazette* was carrying news of another experimental plant. Aaron Loocock was promoting and selling the dying root madder. "Those Gentlemen who chose

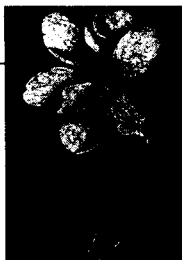


to make Trial of this valuable and profitable article may depend on not being disappointed of Plants, if they order them in Time, either delivered at my Plantation at Goose Creek, or to any of their friends at Charles-Town, at Five Pounds a

Thousand. Printed directions, from experiences in this Province, will be given."

Evidently Loocock's methods were successful, for almost twenty years later in the June 21, 1794 issue of the *Augusta Chronicle and Gazette* of the State of Georgia his "printed directions" appeared under this introduction, "As the soil and climate of this country is said to be well adapted to the cultivation of that valuable dying-root, Madder . . . a publication of the following observations on it will be very acceptable . . . written twenty years ago, by a gentleman in South Carolina . . .".

A minor scandal in the South Carolina seed world occurred in 1786 and 1787 when someone claiming to represent Peter Crouwels, a famous Philadelphia florist who had immigrated from Holland advertised in the *Gazette* on December 11, 1786, "for sale, an extensive variety of the most rare and curious Bulbous Flowers, Roots & Seeds, Which have never appeared in this country before: they are just imported from Amsterdam . . . the most choice sorts of Hyacinths, double Jonquilles, Polyanthos, Narcissusses, Tarcetts, Tulips, double Tuberoses, Pasetouts, Carnations, with a great



variety of Double Ranunculas & Anemonies, a sort of Rose Bushes, etc."The "representative" advertised again in the *Columbian Herald* on January 8, 1787 noting that, "he intends to leave this city in a few days."

Apparently his departure was well-timed. On July 12, 1787 in the *Columbian Herald* the following warning appeared, "A Caution. Having observed the advertisement . . . as well as divers hand-bills circulating in several of the United States . . . I hereby declare that I was never concerned with or employed any person whatever on the continent of America to sell any roots or seeds for my account . . . Peter Crouwels, Philadelphia."

Imports from Holland were soon joined by imports from France. In the *South Carolina Gazette* of February 1790, "John Chalvin & Co. Florists and Gardeners, from France," announced that they had brought "from France a great variety of Seed and Plants of flowering trees, lilly roots, jacinths, and crow feet of the scarcest and prettiest qualities; rose bushes of different colours; as also a great variety of pot herbs seeds" which they had for sale at a very moderate price at No. 6 Elliot-street in Charlestown. But English seeds continued to dominate the South Carolina import market.

John Bryant was an English gardener who arrived in South Carolina sometime before his 1794 marriage to Jane Thornton in St. Philip's Parish in Charleston. He first advertised in the *City Gazette* and the *Daily Advertiser* on June 6, 1795 as a gardener for hire, but also noted that, "He like wise imports, on commission, all kinds of trees, shrubs and seeds, either useful or ornamental, from, England, Philadelphia and New York."

Bryant gained confidence in his buying public as the years passed, and by the December 15, 1807 issue of the *Charleston Courier* he was advertising,

"A QUANTITY OF FRUIT TREES, FLOWERING SHRUBS and PLANTS, of the most esteemed for quality and beauty. The Fruit Trees consist of Peaches, Nectarines, Pears, Cherries, Plumbs and Quinces, of the largest size ever imported, for their age, into this state."

In 1807 Bryant was the Clerk of Charleston's Market Hall, but in the fall of 1808 he died. His wife Jane kept the garden operating into the spring of the next year. She advertised in the

February 13, 1808 issue of the *Charleston Times*, "For sale at the late John Bryant's Garden, upper end of King Street - grafted Peach, Nectarine, Apricot, Plum and Apple Trees; Pride of India . . . Pine Apple plants . . . Geranium, and other Green House Plants." She did not advertise again.

Imported seeds began to lose some of their popularity by the end of the eighteenth century. Robert Squibb, South Carolina's famous botanist, nurseryman, gardener, and writer, advertised local seeds for sale in the August 19, 1795 issue of the *City Gazette and the Daily Advertiser*. "The Subscriber, after many years practice in this state, is fully convinced that garden seeds saved here are much . . . than those imported . . . and does hereby forewarn his friends and customers against depending on foreign seeds, in particular such as onion, leek, carrot, parsnip, parsley, celery, lettuce, endive and spinage."

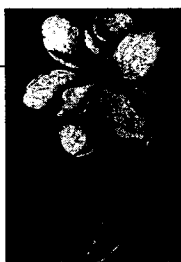
Squibb called his Charleston garden and nursery "The Botanic Garden." In the June 8, 1802 issue of the *Charleston Times* he advertised imported seed as well as ". . . a few kinds of Seeds on his own saving, equal to any ever saved in this state. Market Gardeners may be supplied with London Salmon Redish Seed, at one dollar per pound."

Robert Squibb died on April 22, 1806 at Silk Hope Plantation near Savannah, Georgia and was buried there. However, an ad for the "Botanic Garden" appeared in the *Charleston Courier* on November 2, 1812,

"At the Botanic Garden. . . A variety of Elegant Plants, such as Ligustrinums, Geraniums, Clerodendrons, Rosa Multifloras, double and white Oleanders, Flowering Heaths, Laurustinus."

Often seed merchants appeared only briefly in the records. In the November 18, 1803 issue of the *Charleston Courier*, shopkeepers Tait, Wilson & Co. advertised:

Early Charleston Peas	London Cauliflower
Dwarf Marrowfat do.	Early Cabbage Lettuce
Early Frame do.	Coss Cabbage of all sorts
Crown, Trans-	White and Black Mustard
parent, and	Solid Celery
Tall Sugar do.	Curled Parsley
Dwarf White	Green Curled Endive
Kidney Beans	Early and Imperial York



Long Prickley
Cucumber
Early Sugar-loaf do.
Drumhead do.
Round Spinnage

Portugal Onion
Garden Cress
Salmon Raddish
Scarlet Salmon Raddish
Red Pickling do.
Early Purple Broccoli
Late do.
Siberian do.
White do.
Large Green Savoy
Dwarf do.
Yellow do.

Cabbage
Large Norfolk
Turnip
Red Beet
Green Glaze do.
Battersea do.
Cornish York do.
Early Penton
Cabbage
Short Top do.
Turnip do.
Naples do.
London Leek
Choux de Milan
Brussels Sprouts
White Scarlet
Runners

In the next year, general merchants Simmons and Sweeny, at the corner of East Bay and Broad Streets, advertised in the January 4 issue of the *Charleston Courier*, "JUST received and for sale by the subscribers a few bundles FRUIT TREES, of the best quality; each containing twenty-four TREES, vis: Honey CHERRY, Amber do., Early White Nutmeg Peach, Green do., Early red, or rare ripe do., large yellow Lemon clingstone do., White Blossom do., English Swalsh (or Nectarine), Green Catherine do., Late October Clingstone do., Red Pine Apple do., Early black Damask Plumbs, Magnum Bonum, or Yellow Egg Apple, large Early Harvest do., large Red Spitzenburgh do., Fall Pippin do., Newtown do., Early Sugar Pear, Jergonet, or large flavored Summer do., Vergaline or fine Melting Fall do., Almond, Nectarine, Apricot."

Imported bulbs, roots, and seeds continued to flood the Charleston market. J. F. Gennerick at 150 King Street advertised in the *Charleston Courier* on June 8, 1807, "ELEGANT FLOWER ROOTS: RANUNCULUS, Anemone, Imperical Martagen, Blue umbellated Crechum, The Striped Lilly, Scarlet Caledonian do., Double Scarlet do., Dotted Arcadian do., The Two Stage Martagon, Variegated Colechicums, Double do., Broad leafed Poncratium, Purple Hemanthus, Guernsey Lilly."

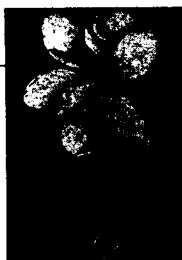
John Foy's Seed Store at 184 Meeting Street was especially active in 1810. In the November 14, 1810 issue of the *Charleston Times*, he placed this notice,

"A General Assortment of Choice Garden, Flower, and Bird SEEDS, FLOWER POTS, and some excellent APPLE TREES:

ASPARAGUS-Gravesend;
 BEANS-Long Pod, Mazagan, Windsor;
 BEET-Breen, Blood Red;
 BROCCOLI-Purple, White;
 BURNET;
 CABBAGE-Early York, Heart Shaped,
 Sugar Loaf, early and late Battersea,
 Drum Head, Red Dutch, Green
 Glazed' Bergin, Green Savoy;
 CARROT-Early Morn, Orange, Yellow;
 CAULIFLOWER-Early and Late;
 CELERY-Solid, Italian, Chardoon, Chervil;
 CUCUMBER-Early Frame, Short Prickly, Long
 Green Roman;
 ENDIVE-Green Curled, White Curled,
 Broad Leaf or Batavian;
 BEANS-Bush, China, Liver, Yellow, Refugee,
 RUNNERS-Scarlet, White;
 LETTUCE-Imperial, Grand Admirable, Tennis
 Ball;
 ONIONS-Silber Skin, Large White, Red;
 LEEKS;
 PARSLEY-Double and Single;
 PARSNIP;
 PEASE-Early Frame, Golden Hospur, Early
 Charlton, Dwarf Marrowfat, Pearl and
 Prusian;
 RADISH-Early Fram Salmon, White and Red
 do., White and Red Turnip, Salsafy,
 Scorzonara, Sorrel;
 SPINACH-assorted;
 TURNIP-assorted;
 BIRD SEEDS-Canary, Hepp, Maw, Rae (sic);
 HERB SEEDS, HYACINTHS;
 Assortment of most approved PEAR AND
 APPLE TREES from the Botanic Garden,
 New York."

Another gardener, botanist, and seedsman
 active in Charleston in the same period was Philip
 S. Noisette. He was especially interested in the
 production of sugar cane and ran this ad in the
 November 14, 1814 edition of the *Courier*:

"P. S. NOISETTE begs leave to inform the
 Planters of South Carolina that he has successfully
 cultivated, for some years past, in his garden at
 Romney Village, opposite Mr. Turpin's farm, the
Sugar Cane, and that he has at this moment canes
 from which Sugar may be extracted. In
 consequence of the great advantages likely to be
 derived to this state, from this valuable plant, he
 offers cuttings for sale, to such as wish to increase
 their wealth, and that of their country, at the rate



of Five Dollars for a hundred buds, or eyes.
 "He has also in his garden, a great quantity
 of FRUIT TREES, grafted by himself, of the
 best kinds from Europe; such as different
 kinds of Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots,

Plumbs, Pears, Apples, Figs and Grapes; as well as
 many foreign, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and
 Plants . . . also for sale, a collection of garden
 SEEDS, FLOWER SEEDS & FLOWER ROOTS."

The pattern established by the growing
 South Carolina seed and nursery trade is similar to
 that of the Chesapeake, but there are some
 significant differences. In the Chesapeake,
 merchants dedicated to selling plants found their
 most secure footing after the Revolution. South
 Carolina seed merchants successfully began selling
 both useful and ornamental plants decades before
 their northern counterparts. In South Carolina,
 much seed and plant material was imported from
 England both before and after the Revolution. In
 the Chesapeake, the earliest seed merchants
 and nurserymen after the Revolution were from
 France and Germany. After the war, Dutch bulbs
 and roots found their way into South Carolina as
 well, and French seed merchants also peddled
 their wares in Charleston; but English nurserymen
 continued to dominate these Carolina businesses.
 In both regions, English gardeners and nursery-
 men came to dominate the local seed and nursery
 trade by the turn of the century. Both Chesapeake
 and Carolina garden entrepreneurs offered a full
 range of stock from greenhouse plants to seeds for
 field crops, from traditional medicinal herbs to
 fragrant shrubs in the beginning of the nineteenth
 century.

Seed merchants and nurserymen in both
 areas aggressively advertised their services and
 stock (at both retail and wholesale prices) in
 regional newspapers and sometimes offered free
 printed catalogues to prospective clients.
 Gardeners in both regions sold their seeds and
 plants at their nurseries and stores, at local
 farmers' markets, and through agents at various
 locations throughout their regions. Gardeners
 from both regions sold seeds and plants
 imported from Philadelphia and New York as well
 as their local territories. A new nationwide
 network of capitalistic nursery and seed businesses
 was nipping at the heels of traditional garden
 barter exchanges in both the Chesapeake and
 South Carolina as the nineteenth century began +

In Print

"Source List for Historic Seeds and Plants, November 1991"

by Scott G. Kunst and Charles S. Thomforde. This is an update of the list first published in 1989 for the Seeds and Plants Committee of the Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM). This invaluable pamphlet contains sources for

ornamental flowers, shrubs (including old roses), vines, and trees, spring and summer bulbs, house plants, native and wild plants, edibles, herbs, and more. A useful list of books and other plant-finding aids is also included. U. S. ALHFAM members may receive a free copy simply by sending a business-sized, addressed and stamped envelope to Robert F. Becker, P.O. Box 52, Rushville, NY 14544. All others must send \$1.00 along with the stamped, self-addressed envelope to Scott Kunst, Old House Gardens, 536 Third Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE DIRECTORY: A Source Book of Agencies, Organizations, and Institutions Providing Information on

Historic Landscape Preservation, September 1991. This Directory, edited by Lauren G. Meier, ASLA, was prepared in collaboration with The Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill and the US/ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Historic Landscapes Committee. The emphasis of this Directory is on innovative programs and sources of information that relate directly to the field of historic landscape preservation. For a free copy of this valuable publication, write: Technical Preservation Services Branch Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service, 424, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127

A reprint of Alice M. Coats's **Garden Shrubs and Their Histories** is now available, published by Simon and Schuster from the original and updated by Dr. John Creech, a noted horticulturist. The text includes botanical, horticultural, herbal, and historical information.

Rosa Rugosa, by Suzanne Verrier. Photographs by Charles Steinhacker. (90 pages, 51 color photographs). Original paperback. \$19.95. Available at bookstores or directly from the



publisher: Capability's Books Inc., 2379 Highway 46, Deer Park, WI 54007. By devoting an entire volume to rugosas, Suzanne Verrier sets forth to distinguish the unique attributes and versatility of these

roses. Of great interest to more advanced rose growers and antique plant enthusiasts are the 110 descriptions of historically significant crosses and lost rugosas, those once popular but no longer in commerce. With a foreword by Henry Mitchell.

Of Interest

The Formation of Plant Preservation Council

The American Council for Plant Preservation is a non-profit organization comprised of some of the most well respected names in horticulture today. It is modeled after the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) at Wisley in England and has been formed with their assistance. The ACPP goals are to:

1. Encourage the conservation of uncommon plants that are valuable because of their historic, aesthetic, scientific, or educational value by propagating and distributing them as widely as possible.
2. List plants held in important collections and gardens.
3. Stimulate the widest possible cultivation of uncommon and endangered plants by arranging conferences, exhibitions, discussions, and visits to gardens, specialist plant collections, and nurseries.
4. Encourage the reintroduction and distribution of uncommon and endangered plants.
5. Establish and support National Collections of specific genera and other defined collections of plants for the enjoyment and information of the public and the benefit of science.

The Council seeks inquiries from those parties both private and institutional including botanical gardens, arboreta, colleges, and nurseries who are interested in holding "national collections." A guide will be published listing the collections.

For more information, write to Barry Glick: American Council for Plant Preservation, Route 5, Renick, West Virginia 24966 +

Members in the News

Preservation landscape architects are profiled in Kathleen McCormick's "Fertile Imaginations," an article in the January/February issue of *Historic Preservation*, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Of the six landscape architects featured, four are SGHS members. **Neil Odenwald**, professor of landscape architecture at Louisiana State University, is cited for his work in re-creating a number of historic plantation gardens along the Mississippi River; the team of **Hugh** and **Mary Palmer Dargan** for their many accomplishments in the Charleston area, including the garden at 55 Church Street and Medway Plantation; and **Rudy Favretti** for numerous garden restoration projects during his forty-year career, including Bacon's Castle, Monticello, and Montpelier.

Green Scene, the magazine of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, featured Monticello's Center for Historic Plants in the January, 1992 issue. **John T. Fitzpatrick**, director of the Center, and **Peter Hatch**, director of gardens and grounds at Monticello, are cited for their roles in the development of this educational and preservational program through the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation ♦



Course in Historic Landscape Preservation

The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies is offering a course entitled "Preservation of Historic Landscapes" from July 28th - August 1st, 1992. Sessions will examine the history of and philosophical approaches to landscape preservation, and will include research and fieldwork techniques, methods of site examination, landscape inventory and analysis, an introduction to taxonomy, acquisition of historic plants, registering of historic landscapes, and development of historic grounds reports and landscape plans. This comprehensive program will include lecture, case studies, and field exercises. The course fee is \$500 which includes accommodations. National Park Service scholarships are available. For more information contact The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, P. O. Box 66, Mount Carroll, IL 61053. (815) 244-1173. Registration deadline is June 1st ♦

Harriet H. Jansma, *President*

Florence P. Griffin, *Vice-President*

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