



Magnolia

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

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

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Summer 1995

The Landscapes of Southern Alabama's Gulf Coast

by Mary Anne Pickens, Columbus, Texas

The thirteenth-annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, held in Mobile April 21st – 23rd, focused on “The Gulf Coast Influence: Landscapes and Gardens of Mobile.” Dr. Edgar Givhan, with his able assistant Holle Briskman, put together a program to enlighten and entertain us on Mobile's colorful history.

We experienced the Gulf influence immediately. In fact, the meeting's theme song surely could have been “Singing in the Rain.” I felt a bit like Gene Kelley as we danced our way through the Oakleigh Garden District between sprinkles. By Sunday, as I toured the lovely old Magnolia Cemetery in still more April rains, I began to more fully understand Mobile's lush vegetation. None of the showers dampened our enthusiasm, however, knowing April showers truly bring the flowers that bloom not only in May, but apparently through most of the year in “tropical” Mobile.

Mark McDonald, director of Mobile's Historic Development Commission, set the tone of the meeting in his opening



A 1920s or '30s photograph showing a front-yard garden on Church Street. Among the elaborate walkways, a few azaleas are discernable, but hydrangeas dominate the scene. Iris, ginger lilies, and agapanthus are scattered throughout the garden. All photos in this article courtesy of the University of South Alabama Archives.

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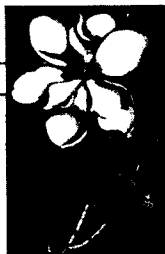
Through September 19th, 1995.

"Shaping an American Landscape: The Art and Architecture of Charles A. Platt," an exhibition at the Octagon Museum in Washington, D.C. A man of the American Renaissance, Platt's career as artist, architect, and landscape designer is examined through his many public and private works.

September 27th & 28th, 1995. "The Southern Garden: A Retrospective." This event, held at Discovery Place and the New Charlotte Convention center features noted garden writer Penelope Hobhouse and Dr. James Reveal, author of *Gentle Conquest*, a Library of Congress publication on early North American plant exploration. For more information, write c/o Jeanne Martin, 2001 Radcliffe Ave., Charlotte, NC 28207, or call Sue Pannvill at (704) 331-0969.

October 5th - 7th, 1995. "The Influence of Women on the Southern Landscape." The tenth-biennial conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes focuses on the role of southern women in America's gardening history, from plantation mistress to garden club grande dame. Among the roster of speakers are SGHS members Susan Haltom, Christy Snipes, Ken McFarland, Greg Grant, Davyd Foard Hood, and others. Valencia Libby serves as conference moderator. SGHS is a sponsoring organization. Contact Kay Bergey, Registrar, Old Salem Inc., Box F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27108, or call (910) 721-7313.

October 6th-8th, 1995. The third-annual "Charleston Garden Festival." Speakers include Ryan Gainey, Dr. William C. Welch, J. C.



Raulston, Richard Hartlage, Robert McCartney, and Rick Berry. Twenty private gardens will be on tour. For more information or ticket reservations call (803) 722-7526 or write to: 19 Saint

Margaret St., Charleston, SC 29403.

October 13th - 14th, 1995. Southern Garden Symposium & Workshops - Exploring Southern Gardens. This year's symposium features SGHS board member Catherine Howett speaking on "History, Myth, and Memory in Southern Gardens." She will be joined by a host of "internationally acclaimed lecturers" including Mark Plotkin, former head of the plant program at World Wildlife Fund and author of *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice*. For registration information call (504) 635-4220 or write to: P. O. Box 2075, St. Francisville, LA 70775.

November 4th, 1995. "Our Gardening Heritage." Symposium focuses on heirloom plants and their use in today's garden. Speakers include SGHS members Dr. Arthur O. Tucker, Florence P. Griffin, Peggy C. Newcomb, and Felder Rushing. Contact Cindy Reittinger, Education Manager, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park at The Prado, Box 77246, Atlanta, GA 30357, or call (404) 876-5859, ext. 213.

May 9th - 12th, 1996. The fourteenth-annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society will be held at the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Talbot County Historical Society will sponsor the meeting, which will be headquartered at the Tidewater Inn in Easton. For further information contact SGHS board member Ed Shull at (410) 744-2681 or write: 1302 Edmondson Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228 ♦

Landscapes of the Gulf Coast *continued from page one*

address on "Architectural History of Mobile." Jay Higginbotham enlarged upon this theme in "Colonial History of Mobile." The city's distinctive French and Spanish heritage, along with its British, gives Mobile the unique flavor that it proudly preserves as it moves into the twenty-first century. The restored Fort Conde and the newly constructed, ultra-contemporary Federal Building

exemplify both the extremes and the eclectic blend of past and present. Continuing on architectural topics, James I. Bargainier presented his "Restoration of a Southern Urban Property," showing the many challenges, as well as satisfactions, of his restoration work. The Most Reverend Oscar Lipscomb, Archbishop of the Diocese of Mobile and former president of the

Alabama Historical Association, spoke on "The Diaries of Bishop Michael Portier," the first bishop to reside in Mobile. Bishop Portier made many observations of the flora around Mobile during the early nineteenth century. He also described and documented the plants in the gardens at Spring Hill College, Visitation Monastery, and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Continuing on a botanical note, Nicholas Braswell's presentation introduced us to "The French Vine and Olive Colony." As history has shown, high hopes and dedication were not enough to override the harsh realities of climate, and neither colony prospered. Ed Givhan, our conference coordinator, spoke on the "Restoration of a Southern Rural Property," showing slides of his work at Lime Ridge Farm. Ed uses plants from "Miss Betty's plant list" (Betty Givhan, 1885–1962)



and those he remembers from his grandmother's garden (Lena Givhan, 1886–1949). His restoration work shows how he happily incorporates heritage plants in his fast-paced gardening.

Colonial Williamsburg's landscape foreman, Terry Yemm, returned to his Mobile roots to give a provocative and delightful program. [Terry was a speaker for the twelfth-annual meeting held at Colonial Williamsburg in 1994. See Vol. X No. 4 "In Search of the Colonial Landscape" and Vol. XI No. 2 "The Great Plant Hunters of Colonial Virginia"] His lecture, "*St. Elmo*: A Southern Expression of the Downingesque," showed us once again that he is a master at sleuthing the history of southern gardening. This time, Terry explored the work of a popular southern novelist of the nineteenth century, Augusta Jane Evans. By citing certain passages from her 1866 novel, *St.*

Elmo, Terry illustrated her use of landscape descriptions derived from the work of noted American landscape gardener, Andrew Jackson Downing (1815–1852).

Ron Jackson, Urban Forester for the City of Mobile, elaborated on the city's beautiful and historic trees in his talk, "The Oaks of Mobile." Having lived many years in Houston, I have seen how unchecked suburban development can devour large chunks of native vegetation. I retired to rural Columbus, Texas only to witness the fall of a majestic oak to make way for a new tire store. I was grateful, therefore, to learn that in Mobile, trees cannot be cut down without city permission. Mobile is to be saluted for not only protecting



1895 photograph at the Henry Fonde house, with a giant century plant (*Agave americana*) sprawling like an octopus across one corner of the yard. In the background, a shrub rose peeks over the century plant.

its urban forest, but also increasing it by planting additional trees every year. There is a lesson here for us all.

Touring the Oakleigh Garden District gave us a sense of history while showing us modern Mobile's preservation efforts. The owners of six private, turn-of-the-century homes graciously opened both their houses and their gardens to SGHS members. The enclosed gardens, each a little hidden treasure, showed Mobile's historic European influence. Shade from the massive live oaks, a commanding element throughout the neighborhood, was counterpointed by dots of sunshine that allowed flowering shrubs and perennials to brighten the gardens. Although the azaleas had bloomed early this year due to the unseasonably warm weather, the striking oak-leaf hydrangeas were luminous. SGHS members enjoyed cocktails at Twelve Oaks, a Greek Revival mansion, built in 1868.

Our umbrellas were used for shade Saturday afternoon as we toured the well-known Bellingrath Gardens with chief horticulturist, Pat Ryan. Sunday, while some members toured the Eastern Shore and were enchanted with the rain porches of the homes, others visited Mobile's historic sites. A small group of us toured Magnolia Cemetery with historian John Sledge. The cemetery was still strewn with spring wildflowers, giving us a bit of Alabama's native flora. As we rode through the cemetery in the light rain, John



quietly told us the cemetery's history and of the foundation that preserved and protected it. He pointed out tombstones of interest and acquainted us with the families buried in the cemetery. Several plots had immense

central stones topped with firefighters' hats, giving evidence to the many firefighters buried there. An anchor rested on the sites of some of Mobile's early seamen. Large stone dogs reposed peacefully on some family plots. John pointed out several tall stones carved as if they were completely draped with cloth, indicating that the one resting beneath was the last of a family line. The ornamental iron work throughout Mobile is one of its signature features, and that in Magnolia Cemetery is undoubtedly noteworthy. Much of it was in a sad state of neglect, overgrown and broken, before the preservation of the cemetery began. When we toured, many of the enclosure fences had been repaired and restored; others were in progress.

A bonus on the Magnolia Cemetery tour was the company of Bill Finch, *Mobile Press and Register* garden writer. He and SGHS member Liz Druitt gave us running commentaries on the roses in the cemetery. As a novice rosarian, it was more than I could digest, even with notes from Greg Grant that I had already. While Liz and Bill debated about the white multiflora ramblers that were possibly coming up from below the graft, I just enjoyed the profusion of blossoms. As they



An 1885 photograph of an elaborate front-yard rose garden with immense wooden trellises. Note the hard-packed sand paths leading to the Dunlop home, once near Lyon Park on Spring Hill Avenue in Mobile.

pointed out the crimson Chinas 'Louis Philippe' and 'Cramoisi Superieur', I marveled at the intensity of the reds and prayed that my two small bushes back in Texas would prove as hardy as these in Magnolia. 'Old Blush' and 'Cecil' Brunner' were likewise present, two friends one would expect to find in any aged cemetery.

As we completed our tour, Bill invited our group to explore a nearby neighborhood where several small gardens had interesting flora. He led us directly to a little house with a real show-stopper in the front yard: a majestic white rose interwoven with a bright orange *Lantana horrida*. As we gazed in amazement at this absolutely smashing combination, Bill and Liz were already out of the vehicles and visiting with the gentleman from the house next door who came over to inspect us. Soon we were invited into the backyard where we saw everything from mustard greens to native mock orange, *Philadelphus inodorus*. By the time we returned to the front yard, the gardener herself — a lovely, petite



African-American grandmother — emerged to greet us. She had been raised nearby and had lived in this house for many years, collecting and enjoying her plants. We pressed her as to the name of her beautiful white rose. She simply nodded and smiled, showing just a sparkle of gold, and said, "White Rose." We all smiled and nodded in return, saying, "Hmmm! White Rose." It was a memorable close to a memorable tour of a southern garden.

I hope to return to Mobile. It has a proud heritage and I think there remains much to see. As with all SGHS annual meetings, the gardens where we linger keep drawing us back ♦

Illustrations for this article are from an exhibit of Mobile's gardening history coordinated expressly for the annual meeting by Bill Finch, assistant Living Editor of the Mobile Press Register. Captions by Bill Finch. Photos courtesy of University of South Alabama Archives.

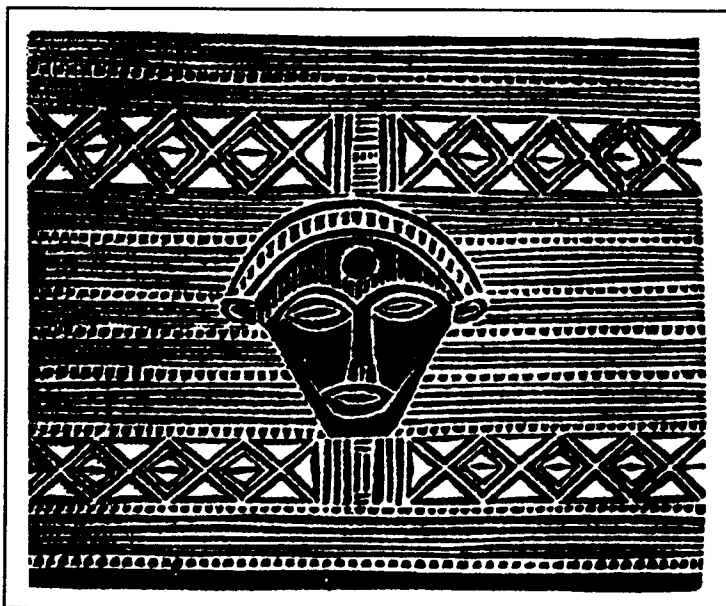
North Carolina A & T State University Presents African-American Landscape Symposium

by Kenneth M. McFarland

April 6th – 7th saw the Landscape Architecture Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University offer the second in an ongoing series of symposia dedicated to a thorough examination of the many ways African Americans have shaped their landscape surroundings, both under enslavement and after the Civil War. Landscape professionals, historians, students, and others journeyed to Greensboro for a program that began with the always-stirring words of poet Dr. Maya Angelou.

A wide range of topics and settings were then examined by speakers such as Alice Eley Jones of Durham's Historic Stagville. Ms. Jones looked at the infusion of African spiritual elements into the landscape as part of the way slaves and their descendants assigned meaning to their surroundings. At least some African influence can be seen also in the practice of brick laying by black sorority and fraternity members at Morgan

State University (and other schools), a subject discussed by Morgan State professor Mark Cameron. A second historically black institution



was scrutinized by Ian Grandison, of the University of Michigan, who has studied the self-protective location of Tuskegee University in connection with harassment and violence directed against the Tuskegee community.

While Tuskegee was founded on the site of a cotton plantation, the plantation era itself was the focus of Dell Upton of the University of California, Berkeley, who like Alice Jones, is intrigued by overlapping meanings of landscapes and by questions of who at different times and in different settings, "controlled" those landscapes. Dr. Upton's sometime collaborator, John Michael Vlach of Georgetown University, examined similar subject matter as he discussed the form, function, and placement of dwelling places for enslaved African Americans, drawing material from his recently-published *Back of the Big House: the*



Architecture of Plantation Slavery. Former slaves and their descendants have also shaped much of the landscape of Bertie County, North Carolina, a topic discussed by Arwin Smallwood, a Ph.D. candidate at

Ohio State University. Through slides and commentary, Mr. Smallwood painted a complete picture of an ever-evolving rural community of churches, homes, stores, and even ballparks.

This year's symposium concluded with a panel discussion that both summarized the massive amount of material previously presented, and offered an extended period to field many questions from the audience. All agreed a rich vein of subject matter had only been scratched, giving North Carolina A & T's Landscape Architecture Program a volume of subject material for countless future symposia on the African-American landscape +

Joys Derived: A Georgia Garden of the Civil War Reconstruction Era

by Florence P. Griffin, Atlanta, Georgia

In 1867, Levi Ballard, who had served in the Confederate army throughout the Civil War, purchased two hundred acres of land near

Palmetto, Georgia, some twenty miles southwest of the railroad terminus, Atlanta. There, he built an imposing Greek Revival house facing an old

stagecoach road for his wife and their three young children. Two years later, in 1869, he hired an English landscape gardener to design and build a patterned garden in front of the mansion.

Levi had married Sarah Harrison on December 19, 1861. During the war years and until



Picture postcard view of the Ballard house and garden, circa 1907. The bed in the center of the front walk was characterized by the English gardener who laid it out as "an African spider." The spider appears to have been executed by the clipped shape of the boxwood. The bed itself, outlined in brick, is elliptical. Courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Byrd.

their new home was completed in 1867, the young couple lived with Sarah's father, Nathaniel Harrison, in Campbell County at Pumpkintown on the Chattahoochee River. The house Levi built in Palmetto, some eight miles away, is said to have been modeled after his father-in-law's antebellum home.

This grand house and garden remained in the Ballard family until purchased in 1976 by Dr. and



A Historical Sketch of the Ballard Garden by Cora Ballard Arnold

"In Campbell County, Georgia, on the outskirts of the little town of Palmetto nestling between the intersection of two highways there flourishes a garden of unusual beauty and quaintness typical of the English garden of long ago.

"This garden was the dream fulfilled of the late

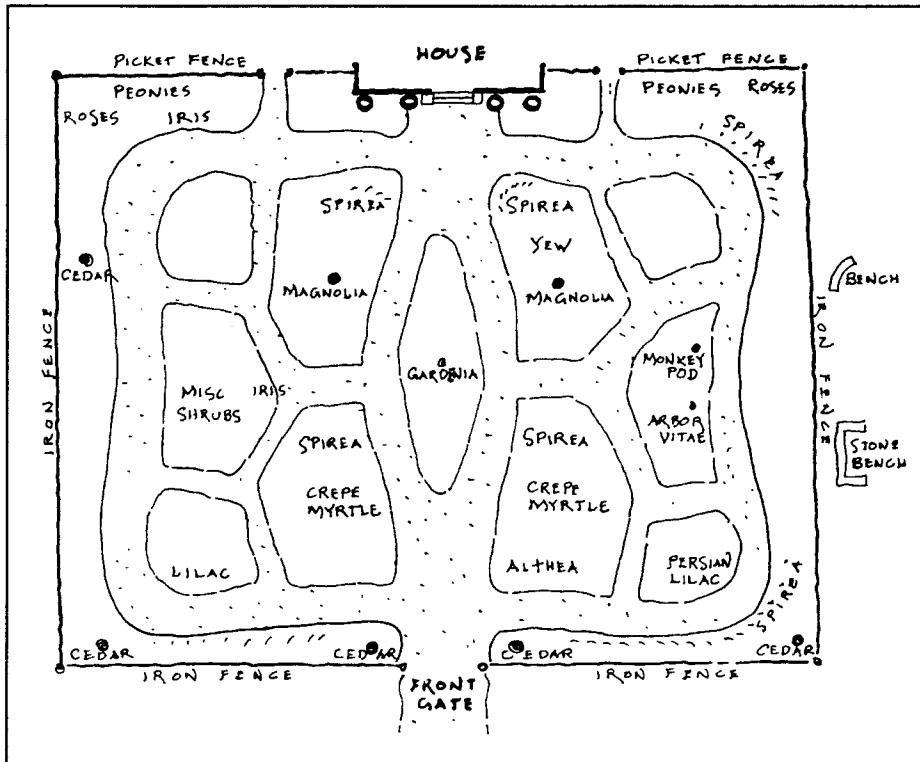
Levi Ballard and his wife just after the completion of a stately colonial home built in 1867. That the home might have a setting in harmony with its dignity in the fall of 1869 a landscape gardener was engaged who had practiced his trade in England. He immediately began to lay his plans and for six months toiled steadily on this job.

"The plot covers an area of one-half acre or more. 'Tis surrounded by an euonymous hedge and laid off in beds of different shapes and sizes, each margined with dwarf boxwood. Wide sanded walks wind in and out amongst these beds. In the center of the main walk leading to the home is an elongated bed of unusual lines and characterized by the gardener as an African spider. In this bed

throughout the summer geraniums and heliotrope reigned supreme, and as the fall came on the great heads of heliotrope would almost cover up other plants presenting a mass of purple beautiful to behold and filling the air with their rich fragrance.

"Throughout the other beds every conceivable kind of shrubbery was planted: arborvitaes of various varieties, junipers, yews (English and Irish), deodar cedars, spruce pines, magnolias, laurels, gardenias, etc., interspersed with flowering plants of many kinds and roses of various varieties. As time passed on, many of these shrubs have died but have been replaced by other growth.

"Quite a number of the flowering plants were taken from the old garden that flourished on this



Layout of the Ballard garden. The area within the present fence is approximately 150 feet wide and 100 feet deep.

Mrs. Daniel Byrd of Atlanta. At that time, the original draperies and carpet were still in place in the parlor, and the garden, though neglected, had endured unaltered. The Byrds have respected the integrity of the house and garden. They have not attempted to restore the garden, striving instead to preserve what remains of its pattern and plants.

The following account of the garden was written circa 1919 by Cora Ballard (Mrs. Thomas) Arnold, a daughter of Levi and Sarah Harrison Ballard. A Ballard family member sent this account to Dr. and Mrs. Byrd after their purchase of the house, noting: "... since you own the remnants of the garden, I thought you might like to have my grandmother's written recollection."

same spot fifty years before the Civil War and during its time was one of the show places of this section of Georgia. 'Twas established by the Randles followed by the Watts and had been carefully tended by the slaves. These



planted, and on every vacant spot — not too close to disturb the shrubbery — could be found all kinds of perennials and annuals such as petunias, phlox, larkspur, candytuft, sweet alyssum, mignonette, portulaca, hollyhocks,

four o'clocks, nasturtiums, sweet williams, May pinks (pink and white), verbenas, poppies and many others. Here also were found many clumps of tritoma or red hot poker, a plant of rare beauty and dignity rearing up many heads of scarlet and gold and attracting the attention of all passersby.

"The original cost of the planning, planting and furnishing of this garden amounted to almost \$2,000.00 which at that time was considered an extravagant expenditure in flowers. Yet today, fifty years after its conception, it stands preeminent in the county in its style and expanse, a living memorial to the builders."

What sort of people were Levi (1833–1921) and Sarah (1835–1906), the builders of this garden? Levi was descended from William Ballard, who arrived in Virginia from Greenwich, England in 1627. William's progeny were prominent in the early history of Virginia. His son Thomas served as Speaker of the House of Burgesses, and Thomas's son was vestryman of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. Levi's grandfather, Benjamin Ballard, moved to Wilkes County in eastern Georgia in 1783. Joshua, Levi's father, moved to Morgan County, about fifty miles west of Wilkes, and later another fifty miles west to Anniestown on the Yellow River in Gwinnett County, Georgia, where Levi was born in 1833. In 1835, Joshua and his family moved still farther westward to Campbell County, Georgia, on the Chattahoochee River. Though engaged in the hard work of farming, Joshua was opposed to slavery and refused a portion of his father's estate consisting of slaves.

Levi, of the eighth generation of Ballards in this country, farmed with his father for a time, then taught school for several years, first in Palmetto, Georgia, and later in Arkansas. With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Levi joined the Sixth Regiment of Arkansas. In December of that year, he returned to Georgia and married Sarah Harrison. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the Fifty-Sixth Georgia Infantry and was appointed sergeant. He served in Georgia, Kentucky, and Mississippi, surrendering with his regiment on April 26, 1865, in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Cast iron marker on the grave of triplets in the Levi Ballard family plot at Ramah Baptist Church, Palmetto, Georgia. Small figures in cast iron of three babies adorn the grave. The inscription on the marker is missing. Photo by William W. Griffin.

shrubs — the althea, lilac, English dogwood, crepe myrtle, Spanish bayonet — together with peonies and many monthly and spring roses continue to thrive and bloom and in a silent and beautiful way bespeak a history of long ago. Iris are still found in the background taken from the original garden and thousands of bulbs — jonquils, daffodils, narcissus of several varieties, Butter and Eggs, white and blue hyacinths of the Roman variety — continue in the springtime to flaunt their colors of yellow, white, and blue, seemingly unmindful of their antiquity and history but beautiful and gay in their changed surroundings.

"The mistress of the garden truly possessed the 'flower touch' and every plant that came under her love and care grew and flourished. How carefully did she guard the tiny seedlings that her hands had



After the war, Levi returned to farming, first with his father-in-law, then on his own. In addition to the two hundred acres purchased near Palmetto in 1867, he continued to acquire land, eventually becoming the largest landowner in Campbell County. He also became a land dealer, a merchant, a banker, and a state senator.

Sarah was born in Asheville, North Carolina, where she received her early education. Her mother died young, and she was reared in the home of a well-to-do uncle in Asheville. Her father moved to Campbell County after her mother's death. As a young lady, Sarah came to Campbell County to live with her father and attended college in Newnan, Georgia.

Following their marriage in 1861, Sarah and Levi had twelve children. In later years, a son, Nathaniel, wrote of his mother: "Like her father, she was of a morose temperament and always took life seriously. She inherited her father's sense of saving and economy. It was her help in this direction that aided her husband to accumulate a competency. She soon became a slave to her home and children, quit visiting neighbors, and remained always at home."

But Sarah's life was not without pleasure. She had her garden. Again, Cora Ballard Arnold remembers: "Although at this time of her life help was scarce and money at a premium, through her judicious management she reared seven children to maturity, planned and served three good wholesome meals a day to this family of nine, kept in order a comfortable, happy home and in what spare time she could find gave attention to the growth and culture of flowers. She possessed a 'flower hand' and everything that came under her care thrived and bloomed luxuriantly. Amongst the happy recollections of my childhood, this is one of the outstanding features, and I delight to recall and revel again in the joys we all derived from her flower garden. I can see her now as she worked so untiringly and lovingly in that garden plot. Here, when worried, she found peace and rest, and what a harvest of bloom did we reap from her efforts."

Numerous shrubs and flowers survive in the garden today. Blooming there on June 12, 1995 were southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), cape jasmine (*Gardenia jasminoides*), single white, red-throated althaea (*Hibiscus syriacus*), perennial sweet pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*), and the white form of rose campion (*Lychnis coronaria*

'Alba'). Earlier, on March 25, 1995, we visited the garden with Robert Bryant, Sue Vrooman, and Peter Kotowski from the horticulture staff of the Atlanta History Center, along with Jim Cothran and Betty

Byrd. Vanhoutte spirea (*Spiraea vanhouttei*) was in bloom, but baby's breath spirea (*S. thunbergii*) and bridal wreath spirea (*S. prunifolia*) had bloomed earlier. A few flowers were left on a particularly handsome flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*). The large, single flowers were white brushed with pink at the throat and red filaments. The elliptical, glossy, dark green leaves seemed unusually large and were thick in texture. We were late for spring-flowering bulbs — only a few grape hyacinths (*Muscari botryoides*) lingered — and too early for iris. I have seen Parkinson's Starre— flower of Naples (*Ornithogalum nutans*) blooming there in past years. According to Elizabeth Lawrence, this was grown in southern gardens as the satin hyacinth. There was one bulbous plant that we could not identify with fresh, dark green, strap-like foliage about ten inches in length and one-and-a-half inches wide. It showed no sign of bud or bloom at the time. By June 12 the plant had disappeared, presumably into dormancy. [Editor's note: this bulb might possibly be Naked Ladies, *Lychoris squamigera*.]

Among the woody plants in the garden are boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'), winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*), winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*), crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), Chinafir or monkey pod (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*), nandina (*Nandina domestica*), arborvitae (*Thuja orientalis*), deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), forsythia (*Forsythia sp.*), mock orange or English dogwood (*Philadelphus coronarius*), and cutleaf lilac (*Syringa laciniata*). There are other woody plants that we have been unable to identify. Spanish bayonet (*Yucca filamentosa*) persists outside the fence surrounding the garden.

Visiting the remains of the garden today and remembering Cora Ballard Arnold's description of the garden as it was, we can catch a glimpse of an era when flowers were not only cherished for their beauty but were also thought to provide strength and moral enrichment to those who admired and tended them. As Sarah Ballard reared seven of her twelve children to maturity here in

the South during the difficult years following the Civil War, she and her family were sustained, as Cora Arnold tells us, by joys derived from her garden.

Is there a parallel phenomenon today? With Americans spending fifty billion dollars a year on gardening, perhaps we, too, are finding strength, sustenance, and renewal in joys derived from the garden.

Notes:

1. Campbell County was organized in 1828 from lands of several surrounding counties and



dissolved in 1932 through merger into Fulton County, whose county seat is Atlanta.

2. Information about Levi Ballard, Sarah Harrison Ballard, and their family not otherwise noted, is from Ballard family

manuscripts and documents in possession of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Byrd.

3. William F. Northern, ex-governor of Georgia, ed. *Men of Mark in Georgia Covering the Period from 1733 to 1911* (Atlanta: A.B. Caldwell, Publisher, 1912), Vol. VI, 41-43.

4. Thomas Jaffe and Damon Darlin, "Ah the sweet smell of manure" *Forbes*, 22 May 1995, 84 +

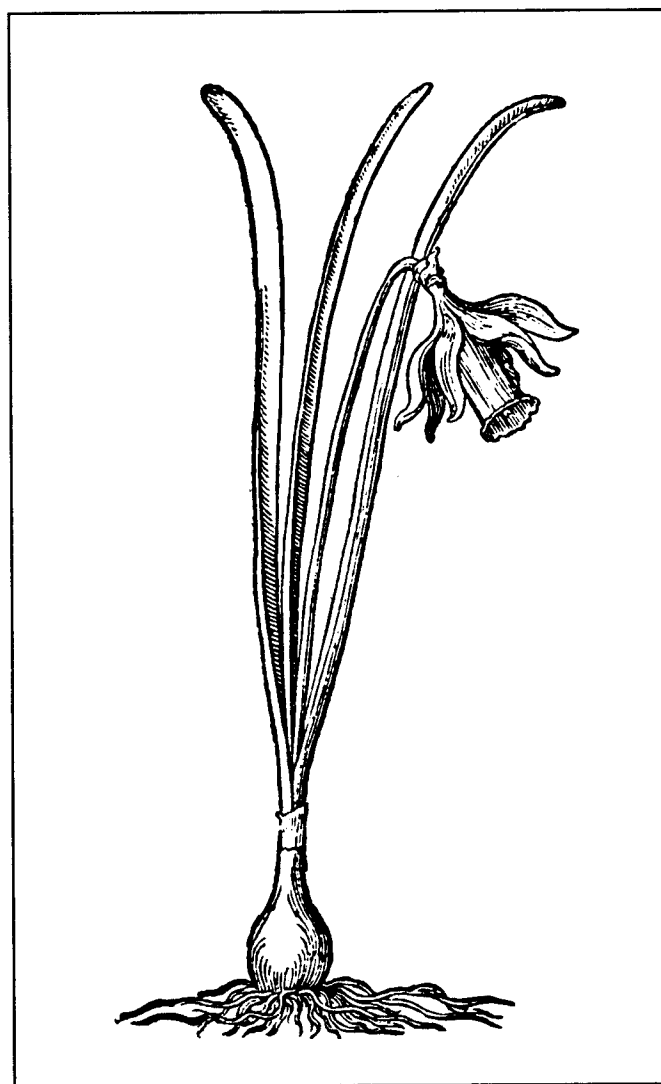
More on White Pipes from Cather Novel

Flora Ann Bynum's "Plant Reporter" column in the spring 1995 issue of *Magnolia* (Vol. XI No. 3, p. 12, "White Pipes and Silver Bells — Ring in the Spring") generated some interesting responses from our readership. Perhaps the most intriguing was a letter from garden writer Marty Ross of Kansas City, Missouri. Marty, *a la* Terry Yemm and *St. Elmo*, cited a quotation from Willa Cather's 1940 novel *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*. The passage that follows is an excerpt from a first edition copy (Alfred A. Knopf, New York):

"[Mrs. Blake] left the laundry and walked about the negro quarters to look at the multitude of green jonquil spears thrusting up in the beds before the cabins. They would soon be in bloom. 'Easter flowers' was her name for them, but the darkies called them 'smoke pipes', because the yellow blossoms were attached to the green stalk at exactly the angle which the bowl of their clay pipes made with the stem."

The setting of the novel is Hayfield Plantation, near Winchester in northwest Virginia. Although the blossoms Willa Cather described were yellow instead of white, there appears to be a yellow form still in the trade. A catalog from Jacques Amand, a major British bulb dealer, currently lists "*Narcissus moschatus*. Very graceful pseudo-narcissus, delightful pale creamy yellow nodding flowers. Few only. Rare."

Daffodil Mart, the nursery of SGHS member Brent Heath, offers "*N. pseudonarcissus moschatus cernus* (Silver Bells) — lovely, nodding, all-white trumpet; 'Swan's Neck Daffodil'" in its 1995 catalog. For ordering information, call 1-800-ALL-BULB +



The nodding "White Bastard Daffodil" as illustrated by John Gerard in the 1633 edition of The Herbal or General History of Plants.

Books: In Brief

MONEY, MANURE & MAINTENANCE ingredients for successful gardens of MARIAN COFFIN Pioneer Landscape Architect 1876-1957, by Nancy Fleming. Country Place Books, Weston, Massachusetts. 1995. 128 pages, paperback. \$14.95.

This well-researched and thoroughly documented study of the life and work of Marian Cruger Coffin brings to light another truly outstanding figure among the first professional landscape architects in this country. Miss Coffin ranked among but a handful of talented and determined women, including fellow MIT graduate Beatrix Jones Farrand and Ellen Biddle Shipman, who pursued this field during the early twentieth century. In 1906 she established her office in New York City and became a Junior Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. By 1930 she had won the prestigious Gold Medal of the Architectural League of New York. At a time when the work of most women landscape architects was limited to residential design, Coffin was landscape architect for Delaware College (now The University of Delaware), from 1918-1952. Additionally, she made plans for Connecticut College in New London (1940) and



Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Virginia (1947-48).

Her designs for over one-hundred thirty private clients, however, compose her most distinguished achievements. Based primarily in the Northeast, her southern works were often the result of northern connections. Her southern commissions included The Hacienda, a Boca Grande, Florida estate owned by H. Rodney Sharp of Wilmington, Delaware. Through her du Pont connections, Miss Coffin also designed the Kentucky estates of William Marshall Bullitt (Oxmoor, 1909-10), Charles T. Ballard (Bushy Park), and the adjoining Alexander Humphrey property in Glenview. The Ballard and Humphrey estates on the bluffs of the Ohio River are known today as Melcombe and the preservation of the Coffin design remains important to the current owners.

Miss Coffin's designs for Henry Francis du Pont (Winterthur, 1928-53), Lammot du Pont Copeland (Mt. Cuba, 1950), and Stephen H. P. Pell (The Pavilion of Fort Ticonderoga, New York) are now familiar sites whose preservation has been assured through the non-profit sector. Through Nancy Fleming's book we come to know the fuller picture of this pioneering landscape architect +

—Peggy C. Newcomb

Southern Garden History Society – Membership Form

Annual Dues (Check One):

_____	Student	\$ 5.
_____	Individual	20.
_____	Joint (husband-wife)	30.
_____	Institution or business	30.
_____	Sustainer	75.
_____	Patron	150.
_____	Benefactor	250.
_____	Life Membership	1000.

Name _____

Institution/business (if not individual) _____

Address _____

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

The membership year runs from May 1st to April 30th. Members who join after January 1st will be credited for the coming year beginning May 1st. Contributions to the society are tax deductible. Two people may attend an annual meeting on one institutional or business membership.

SGHS Welcomes New Board Members

During the annual meeting in Mobile the following dedicated members of the Southern Garden History Society were elected to serve on the board for a three-year term.

James I. Bargainier from Montgomery, Alabama. Jim was a host at the October 1992 board meeting held in Montgomery and was a speaker at the 1995 annual meeting. He is the architect for the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and has a strong, active interest in landscape preservation. Ed and Peggy Givhan consider him the best amateur landscape architect in Montgomery.

Mrs. Theodore J. (Nancy) Haywood from Houston, Texas. Nancy is exceedingly active in landscape and garden club projects in Houston. Some of her many activities include: president-elect of The Park People; past president of the River Oaks Garden Club during which she received the Garden Club of America's 1993-94 Montague Medal for outstanding civic achievement; Zone IX Representative of the GCA; and president-elect of The Houston Seminar.

Kenneth M. McFarland from Hillsborough, North Carolina. Ken is site manager for the Stagville Center of the



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. He has been a longstanding member of the planning committee for Old Salem's "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" conference and is extremely active in restoration in Hillsborough. Additionally, Ken serves as associate editor and frequent contributor to *Magnolia*.

J. Dean Norton of Mount Vernon, Virginia. Dean, the longstanding horticulturist for the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, was host to the Society for its 1990 annual meeting at Mount Vernon. He also serves on the screening committee for The Garden Conservancy.

A current listing of all SGHS board officers and directors is available from society headquarters +

Members in the News

The June issue of *Southern Living* magazine featured SGHS members **Don** and **Mary Shadow** of Shadow Nursery in Winchester, Tennessee. Don, representing the fourth generation of Shadows in the nursery business, has supplied the South with rare and unusual plants for nearly three decades. The Shadows were hosts to the SGHS board of directors during their fall meeting in 1994 +

Ben G. Page, Jr., *President*
Dr. William C. Welch, *Vice-President*
Flora Ann Bynum, *Secretary-Treasurer*
William Lanier Hunt, *Honorary President*

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