



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

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Adina de Zavala – In Search of a Garden

By Mary Anne Pickens, Columbus, Texas

Researching historic gardens can be a fascinating pursuit, particularly when the garden in question may be a very early Texas garden, like that of Adina de Zavala's grandmother, Emily de Zavala. Emily was the second wife of Lorenzo de Zavala (1789-1836), a patriot of both Mexico and Texas. Miranda West Cresswell, an attractive young widow with a small son, was twenty years his junior when Lorenzo de Zavala married her in New York in 1832. Zavala renamed her Emily, the name she used thereafter. Together they had three children, Augustine, María Emilia, and Ricardo.

They became residents of Texas in 1835 and Lorenzo signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, helped draft the Constitution of the Republic of Texas and served as the interim Vice-President of the Republic. Thus, by dating Emily's personal garden, we may tie our garden history to the Republic of Texas.

We know that Emily was a gardener from an article written by her granddaughter, Adina De Zavala, the eldest daughter of Augustine, which was published in the *San Antonio Express* on September 2, 1934, and reprinted in the *Dallas Morning News* on December 16, 1934. [See page 8] Adina described her grandmother's garden in great detail, listing plants and telling where they existed in the garden. She named roses and gave the possible origin of some of them. Her descriptions led the reader to believe she may have been a gardener herself. She did not give any dates for the garden, nor did she say exactly where the garden was. In fact, she specifically said she was actually describing two gardens, an early one, which she couldn't personally remember and a later one.

It was not clear where the gardens were located. The de Zavala homestead was near the San Jacinto battleground, and the assumption was that Emily gardened there. If so, her earliest garden could date from their arrival in Texas, but Adina does not tell us that. I recognized Adina was a name dropper and names

were clues to follow. Her article mentioned everyone from Sam Houston (1793-1863), first President and later Governor of the State of Texas, to Mollie E. (Moore) Davis (1844-1904).

Mrs. Davis, as it turned out, was a significant clue in one garden's location.

According to *The Handbook of Texas*, Mrs. Davis is described as a 19th-century poet and writer of renown, publishing at least twelve books. Her life in Texas is well documented, including the places she lived. She moved to Galveston in 1867, but there is no mention that she ever lived near Zavala Point, as the de Zavala home place was called. I concluded that when Adina wrote about the passage to the "quaint story-and-a-half house," which her grandmother owned and in which Mrs. Davis lived, she was describing a garden in Galveston. "This passage was lined with roses of every hue, form, and fragrance." This garden was not the Republic of Texas period garden, but "the later garden," the one Adina described in great detail.

The time frame of the garden was yet to be determined.

The first garden must have been on the de Zavala property on Buffalo Bayou. But how old was it? I began to see that this early garden did not date from pre-revolutionary Texas. The de Zavala family history precludes that. I also began to have serious questions about Adina's statement that "the crimson Gloire des Rosomanes, the Louis Philippe, the rosy flesh colored Madam Bosanquet, and perhaps others, came from the gardens of St. Cloud." The dates and the facts do not support that supposition.

Adina knew that her grandfather had been Mexico's



"Emily West de Zavala"
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CALENDAR

February 17-18, 2005. Southern Garden Heritage Conference in Athens, Georgia. Sponsored by the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, UGA School of Environmental Design, and the Garden Club of Georgia. Speakers include Denise Adams (horticultural consultant and ornamental plant historian), Jim Cothran (president of the Southern Garden History Society), Rick Crown and Richard Simpson (co-owners of Madison Gardens), Charles Hudson (anthropologist and author of several books on Southeastern Indians), Sue Smith (active in restoration of LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation), Ted Stephens (well known plantsman and owner of Nurseries Caroliniana), Keyes Williamson (former horticulturist at Old Salem), and Carleton Wood and Dee Smith (executive director and horticulturist at Hills & Dales Estate). To request a program and registration information, write, call or e-mail: The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, 2450 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, Ga. 30605; (706) 542-1244; garden@uga.edu. For directions and other information about the State Botanical Garden, visit their Web site at: www.uga.edu/botgarden.

February 21-22, 2005. Federated Garden Clubs of Virginia's Landscape Design Study Program Course II, at the Ramada Inn 1776 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Instructors include Marie Butler, Landscape Coordinator for Virginia Zoological Park in Norfolk; Gordon W. Chappell, Director of Landscape for Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Jack Douglas, instructor, University of Richmond; Carolyn Murphy, Zoning Administrator for the City of Williamsburg; and Ian Robertson, professor, Piedmont Virginia Community College. Course II is one part of a four-part study program open to anyone interested in landscape design and the environment. It is not essential to take the courses in order. For more information, contact Jean Cole, Course Chair, at 13704 Harbourwood Rd., Midlothian, Va. 23112; jkathleencole@earthlink.net.

May 5-8, 2005. *The 8th US/ICOMOS International Symposium*, Charleston, South Carolina. The theme for the 8th Symposium will be interpretation and presentation of heritage sites. Be on the lookout for a call for papers in the coming weeks.

April 3-5, 2005. The 59th Garden Symposium at Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg, Virginia. This annual event, co-sponsored by *Fine Gardening* magazine and the American Horticultural Society, is a traditional rite of spring for gardening enthusiasts across the country. Consult Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Web site for further information as it comes available: www.ColonialWilliamsburg.org

April 15-17, 2005. "Colonial Meets Revival: Fredericksburg and the Northern Neck of Virginia," the **23rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society**. Plans are well underway for this meeting, which is co-chaired by Beate Jensen, head gardener at Belmont, the Gari Melchers' Estate and Memorial Gallery and former SGHS president and Stratford Director of Preservation and Education Ken McFarland. [see page 10] The meeting will be headquartered in Fredericksburg, and the first day will focus on the influence of the Garden Club of Virginia and the work of Alden Hopkins, as well as on the region's battlefield landscapes and battlefield preservation efforts. On Saturday the group will visit the landscapes of Virginia's Northern Neck, including an extended look at some of the 1700 acres that now comprise Stratford Hall Plantation, birthplace of Robert E. Lee and home to two signers of the Declaration of Independence. More information will be presented in future issues of *Magnolia* and on the SGHS Web site: www.southerngardenhistory.org

May 14-15, 2005. The 2005 Historic Hillsborough Spring Garden Tour, featuring many of Hillsborough's loveliest public and private gardens in the downtown area and outskirts of the town. Highlights will include Chatwood Gardens and its collection of heritage roses, 18th-century Faucette Mill, Burwell School Historic Site (with its rare Musk Rose, *Rosa moschata*), the gardens and landscape of Antebellum Burnside, the Ashe House Garden and more. This is the culminating event of the yearlong celebration of the Town of Hillsborough's 250th anniversary (1754-2004). For more information, contact Cathleen Turner at (919) 732-7741; alliance@historichillsborough.org, or visit the Web site at www.historichillsborough.org.

September 29-October 1, 2005. The 15th conference on *Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes* at Old Salem, Inc. in Winston-Salem. The Southern Garden History Society is one of the sponsors of this biennial conference along with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Reynolda House Museum of American Art, and Old Salem, Inc. The planning committee is co-chaired by Davyd Foard Hood, former SGHS board member, and Sally Gant, director of information for MESDA in Old Salem. For further information, contact Sally Gant at (336) 721-7361, sgant@oldsalem.org; or Kay Bergey at (336) 721-7378, bergeymk@wfu.edu; or write Ms. Bergey at: Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108.

Adina de Zavala – ...

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"De Zavala home at Buffalo Bayou" - *De Zavala (Adina Emilia) Papers* - Center for American History - The University of Texas at Austin CT 0603

ambassador to France, and she probably remembered that her grandmother Emily reminisced about the beauty of the gardens there. Research on her part would have determined the ages of those roses, which actually pre-date the de Zavala's stay in France. I think she simply wanted to mention her family's colorful history in her article.

In March 1834, de Zavala, accompanied by Emily, arrived in France as the Mexican ambassador to the Court of Louis Philippe. Holding court at the newly refurbished Castle of St. Cloud, one of his ancestral homes, Louis Philippe officially recognized de Zavala in April. Shortly after his arrival in France, de Zavala began to hear reports that Mexico's president Santa Anna had become more centralist and dictatorial, turning away from the more republican policies de Zavala had supported. He sent Santa Anna a letter of resignation stating that he could not in good conscience represent a government with which he did not agree. He was ordered to stay at his post until his replacement arrived in France, and then he was to report to Mexico City. Lorenzo sent Emily and the children to New York in September of 1834, and it was eight months later before he arrived on May 4, 1835.

At that time, de Zavala was essentially a man without a country, much less a home, but as Texas historian Dr. Margaret Henson points out, de Zavala was pragmatic. Knowing he had no future in Mexico, and well aware of what was going on in Texas, he decided that he would cast his lot there. He sent Lorenzo de Zavala, Jr., his son by his first wife, to Texas to locate a home for the family. Lorenzo, Sr. arrived in Texas in July 1835 and was soon involved with helping form the new government. In December 1835, fourteen months after she left France, Emily and the younger children arrived with the household goods. Although it is probable that Emily visited gardens during her brief stay in France, there is no evidence that she brought roses from the Court of St. Cloud back to Texas.

The frontier Texas house de Zavala bought was thought to have been a one-story log cabin that had been covered by board-and-batten siding. De Zavala felt the 177-acre tract at the junction

of the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou with easy access to Galveston Bay would be a commercially viable investment. He "liked the location and the neighborhood better than the heavily forested Brazos communities. Here the tree-lined banks gave way to open prairies and long vistas of open water leading to the Gulf."¹ Adina remembers "the house in a level place on top of a fine hill, commanding a view in every direction." One can only imagine how Emily felt about her new home after being at the Court of St. Cloud.

Lorenzo de Zavala suffered from malaria during his first months in Texas.

During January and February of 1836, he rested and worked on volume three of his history of Mexico. He felt well enough to supervise a thorough housecleaning with the

aid of his three French speaking hired men and also had them prepare a large garden to sustain his family. He left home the last week in February to go to Washington-on-the-Brazos to attend the convention of delegates.²

Col. William Fairfax Gray (whose diary, *From Virginia to Texas*, described his journey to Houston and involvement with the Episcopal Church) visited the de Zavala family in March 1836. He described the house as small, with one large room and three small bed closets, a porch and a kitchen. He commented that they had only moved into the house in the fall and have all the improvements to be made, but he was confident that when the "foreign taste and skill of the proprietor and his servants shall have time to make an impression on the face of nature, we may expect to see the desert smile."

Gray reported that Mrs. De Zavala had one Irish girl servant, one Black cook, and that there were several Frenchmen who did the outwork, "attending the horses, cows, garden, etc." Gray described Emily as a "fine, beautiful woman, of tall, dignified person and ladylike manners, black eyes, twenty-seven years old..."³

A small, undated, black-and-white watercolor picture of the house in the Adina de Zavala collection at the Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin shows a



"Adina De Zavala and the 'Margil Vine'" *De Zavala (Adina Emilia) Papers* Center for American History The University of Texas at Austin CT 0604

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gallery across the front. Gray makes no mention of the gallery in 1836.

After the battle at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, the de Zavala house, directly across the bayou from the battleground, was used as a hospital for the wounded. De Zavala and his family had vacated their home and fled to Galveston along with other government officials. It was the end of May 1836 before all the wounded were removed and the de Zavala family could return to their house. Again, de Zavala was ill much of the time. In November, he felt strong enough to row up the bayou with his young son Augustine. Upon his return, the boat overturned. De Zavala managed to rescue his son, but de Zavala himself developed pneumonia and died on November 15, 1836.⁴

One would surmise that Emily had little time to plant roses in 1836, and now widowed once again, she and her children returned to New York. Lorenzo, Jr. stayed in Texas as executor of his

father's estate. We next learn Emily has married Henry Foch, and she writes to her stepson that she and Foch are considering returning to Texas. In a letter dated November 16, 1838 to Lorenzo Jr., she solicits his opinion about returning and says she would like to live in her house.⁵

She apparently kept up with affairs in the New Republic for she writes that she understands there are steamboats passing regularly from Galveston to Houston. She makes inquiries about the quality of schools in Texas, wondering whether or not she should leave Augustine in school in

of the celebrated battle-field of San Jacinto....Immediately opposite us, however, and upon the other side of the bayou, stood a pretty cottage, which is quite worthy of notice. It was once the residence of Lorenzo de Lavalla [sic], and was then occupied by his widow. Lavalla was a Mexican of superior abilities, wealth, and distinguished position."⁶

Emily de Zavala Foch Hand lived at Zavala Point for more than twenty years. With her property's fine view, and her circumstances, ambition, and taste, there is no doubt she made her garden attractive also. Eventually, she probably did plant the roses that she had known so briefly in France when they became available in the trade. They could have been shipped to her from New York long before they were available in Texas.

Sometime around 1866, Emily's house burned. Now fifty-seven years old, she moved to Galveston where Augustine and also her Foch sons resided. Thus, she left her "first" garden and established her "later" garden in Galveston. How long she lived in Galveston is unknown, but she died in Houston in 1882.⁷

Having pieced this much of Emily's story together, let us turn our attention back to Adina, who is generally acknowledged to have been her grandfather Lorenzo's heir apparent in all things political and social. Adina Emilia de Zavala was born at Zavala Point on November 28, 1861. Her father Augustine was a captain in the Confederate navy and was stationed in Galveston. Her mother was Julia Tyrrell, an Irish immigrant who had come to Galveston in 1855. In about 1867, Augustine moved the home he had built for his family at Zavala Point by barge to Galveston.⁸ They resided there until 1873 when they moved to San Antonio.

While it is conceivable that Adina could have remembered something of her grandmother's garden at Zavala Point, she was six years old when Emily moved to Galveston, and her memories of Emily's later garden would seem more believable. Memories reinforced by family stories blur together, however. In one of Adina's stories she tells of going from her house to her grandmother's house when she was little more than two years old. Her mother sent her to fetch Emily for help with Adina's sick infant sister. Adina remembered being frightened of the cows in the pasture, but she described the experience as her first lesson in courage.⁹ This story confirms the close proximity of the two houses, but it remains uncertain if her memories as a two-year-old are valid.

At the time Adina De Zavala wrote the description of her grandmother's garden in 1934, during the depth of the Great Depression, she was a seventy-three old woman of distinction. She had earned acclaim in the field of historic preservation and was widely respected for her work. She had grown up attending Confederate Veteran meetings with her father, hearing the men relive their war years, and she knew all the family stories about her illustrious grandfather Lorenzo. She was a published author. She learned to write very early; archival collections have reams of stories, both published and unpublished, many of which have religious themes. She attended Ursuline Academy in Galveston from 1871 to 1873 and was a devout Catholic. She attended Sam Houston Normal Institute in Huntsville from 1879 through 1881



"Adina De Zavala"
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New York. Perhaps the elegance of France is still on her mind, for she mentions paper for her house and says that if she returns she intends to make the house not only comfortable but handsome. She tells her stepson that a chimney is the first necessity and wants to know his advice about the availability of bricks in Texas and if she should bring them from New York instead.

Emily returned to the de Zavala property in 1839. That is the very earliest that she could have possibly begun to garden there and presumably her house would have required her attention before the garden. She and Foch had two children, but once again, she was widowed in 1849. Not to be deterred, she then married a neighbor, E. D. Hand. Hand passed away in 1859 and Emily stayed, a widow, now for the fourth time, at Zavala Point.

One additional reference to her home comes from Philip Paxton who toured Texas in about 1852. He describes crossing the San Jacinto River on horseback and "riding slowly along the edge

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"Augustine de Zavala house moved by barge from Buffalo Bayou to Galveston, ca 1867" - De Zavala (Adina Emilia) Papers - Center for American History - The University of Texas at Austin - CT 0601

and studied music at a school in Missouri. She taught school in Terrell, Texas and then, for many years, in San Antonio.

She was a member of the Texas Folklore Society and swapped stories with J. Frank Dobie and Alan Lomax. She corresponded with Elizabeth Ney, the sculptor whose representations of heroes of Houston and Austin grace the State Capitol. Adina was a member of the Texas Philosophical Society and a founding member of the Texas State Historical Society. She corresponded with governors and legislators and was very much a part of the social and cultural scene of her time.

Adina's most significant work, however, was in the field of preservation. She formed one of the first patriotic organizations in the state in 1889. This group later became the De Zavala Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She was largely responsible for saving the Alamo long barracks from destruction. That is a story unto itself, and her confrontation with wealthy young Clara Driscoll over preservation matters was dubbed the "Second Battle of the Alamo." During this battle, in 1908, Adina even locked herself in the barracks and refused to come out for three days! Officials allowed her only water, not the coffee and breakfast her friends wanted to bring her.¹⁰

Bebe and Mary Fenstermaker, who resided near San Antonio and whose grandmother, mother, and aunt knew Adina, described her with the utmost esteem:

"Miss Adina really went to bat for the Alamo Long Building which everyone wanted to tear down because the general thought was that it wasn't original. Our family had a history of trying to save the building and of course Miss Adina's efforts were supported by the family. Now it has been pretty well proven that the Long Building was a part of the complex and Miss Adina is given the credit for saving it. She took a stand, held fast and that was, in those days, a difficult thing for anybody to do. People called her crazy. We were assured by our

grandmother, mother, and aunt that that term was something often said about one if they took a stand opposite the entrenched thought. But it was just a thing that one had to do—you got up off the soft sofa and acted—if you wanted something saved or changed."¹¹

After her Alamo battle, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) was split into factions and eventually the De Zavala Chapter ceased to exist. In 1912, Adina formed the Texas Historical Landmark Association, which through the years marked thirty-eight different historical sites. In 1915 she began her campaign on behalf of the Spanish Governor's Palace in San Antonio. Her colorful articles describing the bedraggled looking building as a Spanish Governor's Palace eventually led to its restoration. The fact that no Spanish Governor ever even got near San Antonio didn't bother her.

In Spanish records the structure is called the "casa de capitan" and was used as the military headquarters, but Adina translated that into "Spanish Governor's Palace." The City of San Antonio purchased the building in 1928 after more than a dozen years of needling by Adina. By 1930 it was open to the public and today it is one of the favorite tourist spots in San Antonio. While its restoration authenticity may be questionable, according to Kenneth Hafertepe, it is the only remaining piece of residential architecture existing from the Spanish Colonial period in San Antonio. As he said, "De Zavala blended myth and history together in the service of preservation..."¹²



"Home of Adina's mother Mrs. Julia K. de Zavala at 117 4th St., San Antonio" - De Zavala (Adina Emilia) Papers - Center for American History - The University of Texas at Austin - CT 0602

In addition to her newspaper articles, Adina also wrote a number of pamphlets and short stories. In 1917, she self-published her book, *History and Legends of the Alamo and Other Missions in and around San Antonio*. Richard Flores, professor of Anthropology and Chicano Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, edited a reprint of her book in 1996 and wrote eloquently and

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analytically about her combined use of well researched data and of more mythical legends.¹³

Adina's 1934 article is certainly a combination of research and romanticized memories, but why did Adina write the article? Who or what prompted her to write it? To have written so authoritatively, was she a gardener?

She very forthrightly opens her story by saying she was asked to tell about the roses, which grew in her grandmother's garden down to 1846. But again, she does not say who asked her to do the telling.

At the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio I had the good fortune to meet Basil Aivaliotis, Head of Public Services at the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Library, and when I mentioned Adina's roses, he nodded his head wisely. As it turned out, he describes himself as Greek by birth, Texan by choice, and "rosarian" by conviction. He gave me access to the index to the Adina collection, which contained references to roses. A significant find was a carbon copy of a questionnaire from one Samuel E. Asbury asking for assistance "to determine the roses cultivated and wild, used in the yards, gardens and on the porches, etc. of homes during the Colonial, Revolutionary and National Years, 1820-1845." Following that was a copy of an undated note to him from Adina.

"Your note asking me information of "old Texas roses" brought up a long train of memories with the vision of my grandmother's garden. The only thing I am not sure that I may not mix grandmother's older and newer gardens and aunt's and mother's. I am waiting to see if an older relative can help me. I remember grandmother's garden distinctly—with its yellow, red, and white, pink roses—climbing and bush—it's the names I confuse. Grandmother de Zavala was quite a botanist and loved flowers and plants of every kind."

On June 27, 1934, Adina wrote another letter to Mr. Asbury:

"I remember my grandmother's garden and the beautiful roses of all colors, forms, and fragrance, but when it came to putting down names, I did not know and had to avail myself of outside help. George Bancroft, the famous historian, was a great rose lover and rose grower. It was said that Mr. Bancroft's Rose Garden at one time, had no rival in America. And his tea roses were especially beautiful. There is a tradition about my Grandmother having cuttings or rose plants from his garden. He was my uncle's favorite tutor and they were all close friends in the early days."¹⁶

She then lists 13 roses by name and gives descriptions of each, but does not mention the source of this information. Her letter concludes with:

"Grandmother's Gardens spread over a long time and the Maréchal Niel was one of her later favorites. When you check this up, I wish you would let me know who else had the same roses. There were many more, but I suppose this is enough."

A post script adds:

"Grandmother often spoke of the Garden at St. Cloud, France, at the time she was there as the wife of the Ambassador. It is very probable some of her French roses came from those garden[s]."

The University of Incarnate Word contained Samuel E. Asbury's response, written on September 8, 1934, thanking Adina for the material and commenting that her grandmother was a wonderful woman and that he hoped Adina would give him a "word Portrait of her in full length." Then he gives his "one



A celebration at the historic "Spanish Governor's Palace," San Antonio, Texas. (Adina De Zavala, center) - Center for American History - The University of Texas at Austin - CT 0618

criticism." He points out: "If George Bancroft raised tea roses in New Port, Rhode Island, they were either reared under glass or the tea roses of his day were much hardier than those of today." He comments that her list is the fullest he received to date and encourages her to send anything she can about old roses.

By the time Asbury sent his comments, Adina's gardening article had already been published as a feature article on the society page of the San Antonio Express, complete with pictures of George Bancroft's Newport home. Again, it was an artful blend of fact and fiction.

According to Dr. William C. Welch, of Texas A&M University, Asbury was a chemistry professor at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College and was an avid rosarian.¹⁷ Asbury and Adina were friends, both members of the Texas Folklore Society. But additionally, they were both actively involved in plans for the Texas Centennial scheduled for 1936. Adina was on the Governing Board of One Hundred, made up of members from

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across the state, to plan for the proposed grand event, even though the legislature had yet to confer money and legislation. Adina was certainly well qualified for that committee, with her “go-ahead” attitude, and Asbury, on his own initiative, but possibly as a centennial project, decided to research roses of 1820 to 1846 and so sent his questionnaire to many friends and acquaintances.

The search for Emily de Zavala’s gardens came to an end. Her early garden at Zavala Point could not have been started prior to 1839 and assuming Emily would have addressed the house before a pleasure garden, her gardening efforts would more realistically date from 1840. Texas joined the Union in 1845 and Emily would have five years to garden during that period for us to classify her garden as a Republic of Texas garden. All we know for sure is that Paxton describes the house as a pretty cottage, worthy of notice in 1852. His words encompass both the house and its setting for he was across the bayou from Zavala Point.

Emily’s second garden was the Galveston garden, which she began after her move there in approximately 1867. In 1875, horticulturist William Falconer described Galveston as “the flower garden of Texas” where people “strive for superiority as gardeners.”¹⁸ Here Emily likely would have enjoyed the companionship of other gardeners and would have developed the garden that Adina remembers more clearly.

As for Adina, I now know why she wrote the article and I know I cannot accept everything in it as fact. She was not a gardener, she was a writer. She belonged to many organizations during her life time, but I found no mention of a single garden club. Her grandmother’s garden article and a story she presented at the Texas Folklore Society in 1927, entitled “How the Huisaché

Received Its Bloom,” a legend with a religious miracle theme, may be her only “gardening” efforts.¹⁹ She often was pictured in wildflower fields as she searched for historic sites, and one picture shows her with “an ancient huisaché and the old Margil Vine,”²⁰ and another shows her visiting Melrose Plantation, so perhaps she falls into that category of an “appreciator.” She said that her grandmother was an “ardent botanist” who tried to teach her about flowers and plants. I conclude that Adina simply identified more with her grandfather than her grandmother.

Miss Adina lived a long and fruitful life. Mr. Aivaliotis, of University of Incarnate Word, believes that when she was quite elderly, one of the Sisters of Charity would ride the city bus to take lunch to her. Adina’s home was stacked with books and papers, and only a path through it all led to Miss Adina, resting in her rocking chair. When she could no longer stay at home, she resided in a small apartment at the University of Incarnate Word, being cared for by the Sisters.²¹ She died in Santa Rosa Hospital on March 1, 1955, at the age of 93, and is buried at Saint Mary’s Cemetery in San Antonio along with her parents and siblings. Interestingly, none of the tombstones have dates.

Sometime around the turn of the century, Adina changed the “de” in the family name to “De” because she thought it was more distinctive. Miss Adina De Zavala earned the distinction. If her patriotism and romantic versions of history seems out of step with today’s world, we should still be grateful to her. If Adina elaborated a bit on her story about her grandmother’s garden, so be it. She was a writer and a preservationist. Thanks to Adina, we know there was an Emily and that she was a gardener. We can

End Notes...

¹ Henson, Margaret Swett, *Lorenzo de Zavala, The Pragmatic Idealist*. 1996. Fort Worth: TCU Press. p 83.

² Ibid. pp 100-101.

³ Gray, William F., *From Virginia to Texas, 1835, Diary of Col. Wm F. Gray*. 1909. Houston: The Fletcher Young Publishing Co. 1965. pp. 144 -145.

⁴ Henson, p 116.

⁵ Letter from Emily de Zavala to Lorenzo de Zavala, Jr., November 16, 1838, Adina De Zavala Collection, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.

⁶ Paxton, Philip, *Stray Yankee in Texas*. New York: Redfield, 1853. pp 188-189.

⁷ Emily de Zavala died in Houston in 1882 at the home of her granddaughter, Catherine Jenkins whom she had raised from birth. Emily’s daughter María Emilia, Catherine’s mother, had died in childbirth.

⁸ Henson, Margaret Swett. “Understanding Lorenzo de Zavala Signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol., CII, No. 1. (July, 1998): 13.

⁹ Untitled story, Adina De Zavala Collection, 2M165, CAH, Austin, Texas

¹⁰ Ables, L. Robert, “The Second Battle for the Alamo,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 3 (January 1967): pp 372-413.

¹¹ Email from Bebe Fenstermaker to Mary Anne Pickens, August 18, 2004. Fenstermaker’s grandmother was Rena Maverick Green, eldest granddaughter of Samuel and Mary Maverick.

¹² Hafertepe, Kenneth, “The Romantic Rhetoric of the Spanish Governor’s Palace, San Antonio, Texas,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, CVII, No. 2 (October 2003): pp 239-277.

¹³ De Zavala, Adina, *History and Legends of the Alamo and Other Missions in and around San Antonio*. 1917. Houston: Arte Público Press, 1996.

¹⁶ The uncle she mentions is Lorenzo de Zavala, Jr. Bancroft (1800-1891) started Round Hill School in Massachusetts.

¹⁷ Asbury, Samuel E. Collection, Cushing Library, Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University, College Station, Texas.

¹⁸ Falconer, William, “Gardening at Galveston, Texas,” *The Gardener’s Monthly*, August, 1875: pp 225-226.

¹⁹ De Zavala, Adina, “How the Huisache Received Its Blooms,” Adina De Zavala Collection, 2M 165, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, Austin.

²⁰ A vine named for Father Antonio Margil de Jesús, an early Texas missionary who founded several missions in Texas, significantly, San José y San Miguel de Aguayo in San Antonio. In her *History and Legends of the Alamo and Other Missions in and around San Antonio*, Adina De Zavala includes a story “Legend of the First Christmas at ‘The Alamo’, The Margil Vine” in which she describes a vine with triform green leaves. In his book, *Trees Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southwest*, (p 275), Robert A. Vines lists Margil as a vernacular name for *Cocculus carolinus*, more commonly known as Carolina Snailseed.

²¹ Aivaliotis, Basil A., E-mail to Mary Anne Pickens, August 2, 2004

In Grandmother's Old Garden Where the Rose Reigned as Queen

[Inserted here were pictures with the following captions: *A Garden Nook, The Old DeZavala Home, a Nook to Rest In, Bancroft in His Prime, Home of George Bancroft the Historian at Newport, R. I., Where Mrs. DeZavala is Buried, Mrs. Lorenzo DeZavala.*]

"Early Texas Pioneers Found Solace in the Beauty of Nature's Blooms, and Modern Folk Might Do as Well So Adina DeZavala Thinks"—

By Adina De Zavala

I was asked to tell about the roses which grew in my grandmother's garden down to 1846. Of course it is not possible for me to tell of these roses of my own knowledge at that period, but I decided to do the best I could and tell of the rose plants and flowers that had been brought down or still survived of the old garden to my childhood days and also to avail myself of the knowledge of the generation ahead of me who were eye witnesses and had had first hand information.

We know from old letters, diaries and reminiscences of old settlers, that many of them brought seeds, cuttings and plants whence they came and friends and relatives sent them others when occasion offered, and that they exchanged seeds and plants with friends and neighbors. Some of these died and some thrived. I have read a letter dated in the late sixties, I think, in which the writer offered to send fruit trees from New York to his relative.

The subject of my grandmother's garden brought up lovely visions of the past and a long train of memories that were almost submerged and of which I would never have thought again, except for this request.

As I gazed back in memory on my grandmother's garden, my first picture was of a beautiful Althea which stood on the right of the gate as one entered—and not far from the house. I loved it—it seemed always in bloom, and the tree symmetrical and perfect. The flowers were delicate pink, double, almost like a rose—in fact—it was thought by many of the unknowing in flower lore, to be a tree of roses, it was so beautiful.

The house faced south, and on the right or east side of the small veranda, was a yellow climber, the Yellow Banksia, on the left or west side was a dark, crimson double cupped climber, Cramoisi Superieur. It appeared to be a continuous bloomer.

A small passage on the east side of the house led down to a lot to the north on which was a quaint "story and a half" house belonging to grandmother in which the writer and poetess, Mollie E. Moore (Davis) lived. This passage was lined with roses of every hue, form, and fragrance. The Roses of Provence are well remembered for the way the leaves wrapped about one another, and for this reason they were called Cabbage Roses.

Bancroft's Hobby

George Bancroft, afterward to become America's great and noted historian, was my uncle's tutor. He was then writing his history of the United States, and his chief relaxation was planting and tending roses which he ardently loved. There is a tradition that my grandmother's garden had roses of his selection. When he was about to start his school Bancroft wrote to S. A. Eliot (as Bassett in his *American History*, page 146 says): "We intend going into the country. We shall choose a pleasant site where nature in her loveliness may breathe calmness and inspire purity. We shall train up a few minds to virtue and honor, and hope that when we die there will be some hands to throw flowers over our tombs." His rose garden which became so famous was that at his magnificent estate at Newport, R. I. It was said this rose garden had no rival in the United States, in its earliest days, and that his tea roses were especially beautiful.

Then, too, grandmother often spoke of the beautiful gardens in France, which she much admired when she was at the Court of St. Cloud, as the wife of an ambassador plenipotentiary (Texas was a part of Mexico at this time). I believe that the crimson Gloire des Rosomanes, the Louis Phillippe, the rosy flesh colored Madame Bosanquet, and perhaps others, came from the gardens of St. Cloud.

In the southwest corner of grandmother's yard was a lovely magnolia. On the snowy surface of its flowers' broad white petals my elder playmates wrote names, valentines, and notes. Many, strangers to this lovely flower, do not know that messages written with a pin or other sharp pointed instrument on the magnolia's petals or leaves turn dark brown, and may be easily read. The leaf, of course, is not as perfect a tablet as the white petal. To the children of that by-gone era, in playing, the stamens of the flower—wax-like, with red tips—made mock illuminating matches, and the leaves shaped into wonderful drinking cups; and the scarlet seeds made a pretty and glowing necklace. My sister and I have lately used the magnolia for place cards, just as a reminder of the old days and old time traditions. Sam Houston is said to have sent social notes from the battlefield of San Jacinto after the battle, on the magnolia petals, and Mrs. Mary Jane Harris Briscoe of Harrisburg and Houston, widow of Capt. Andrew Briscoe, told us that Sam Houston often used the white petals for visiting cards. Some of the early settlers had preserved these unique souvenirs—then yellow with age. Just today, I have received some verses on "The Magnolia" written on three magnolia leaves by one to whom we had lately told the story of Gen. Sam Houston's use of the magnolia petals as tablets.

In an Old Garden

In the front of this yard were moss and tea roses of different colors and delightful perfume. Outlining the beds were violets, pansies, forget-me-nots and Johnny-jump-ups. Along the fence were pinks, verbenas and geraniums of many kinds and colors, and beautiful pink Texas stars (I have never seen any of the latter since). There were also lady slippers (moccasin flowers) and larkspur. In the southeast corner was a cape jasmine—quite a large bush with beautiful white blooms.

On the west side, north of the Magnolia, was a long bed of Flower de Louis—not Fleur de Lis—Louis VII named them after himself—"Fleur de Loys." Ruskin says, that the "Flower de Luce is the flower of chivalry with a sword for its leaf, and a lily for its heart." A utilitarian and more prosaic writer says, "Its root is good for a bruise." Further along on the west side were Cox Combs, Bachelor Buttons, Old Maids (Zenias) Touch-Me-Nots, (Sensitive plants) Hollyhocks, Marigolds, etc., and then came a bed of sweet scented herbs of various kinds, and in the northwest corner, a rose bower.

Appendix

continued from page 8

But above even the Althea and the roses, that which most intrigued my childish fancy was an orange tree which grew in the rear yard, a real tree it was—branching high even above adult ready—as I remember it, with stout limbs and measuring as tall as the house and large around. I remember it filled with oranges and I asked my grandmother why she did not pick them. She said they were sour and no one liked them. I tried one, it was slightly bitter and tasted almost exactly, (I think now) like some of our grape fruit when they first appeared on the market. It must have been an old tree because it was so large and I have wondered if it was just what they called it, a “sour orange tree.” It was the only tree of the kind I have ever seen.

The Rose Her Favorite

Grandmother was an ardent botanist, she knew and loved flowers and plants and tried to teach me about them. She loved the wild flowers, and on one of her visits to San Antonio, in the late seventies, she gathered, catalogued and mounted innumerable varieties. She exclaimed and marveled at the many different species obtainable on just a little walk about in the hills.

The garden described above, was, of course, a later garden than the one containing the old roses which I was asked to tell of. The second garden was brought down from the old one and was renewed as new flowers were obtained. I remember one among which she called her later roses, which she loved, the Marechal Neil, pale yellow; the light pink, Catherine Mermet, was another; also the double Ducher; the colored Paul Neron; the beautiful bright pink France, and the rosy pink Moss Rose, Salet, double and fragrant. Of Grandmother's first Texas garden I remember very little. I remember the house in a level place on the top of a fine hill, commanding a view in every direction. There were magnolias, crepe myrtles and roses of every kind and color, and all sorts of sweet scented flowers. There was a rose bower and rose hedges. The Cherokee rose (which by the way is said to have been brought from China, and not native), was in the rear next to the vegetable garden. The old house was burned, but the remains of the old garden lingered here and there for many years, and I understand there are yet, crepe myrtles there.

I remember a negro cabin that was still in existence occupied by “Old Uncle Early,” an ex-slave, one of those who had refused to leave grandmother. His house was fairly covered with different colored climbing roses.

Though grandmother loved all flowers and plants, her favorite was the rose.

The Crown of Roses

The rose seems to be the world's oldest, and most beloved cultivated flower, and is referred to in the Bible, in Greek mythology, in the writings of ancient Roman philosophers and poets. In the Song of Solomon we find “I am the Rose of Sharon.” In Isaiah XXXV 1: “This wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for thee; and the desert shall rejoice, and bloom as the rose.” In another part of the Scripture occurs: “I was exalted as a palm tree in Engaddi, and as a rose plant in Jericho.” And again, “Hearken unto me, ye holy children and bud forth as a rose growing by the brook of the field”; and so, through sacred and profane history we find the rose commonly referred to. And even today

the rose is still blooming in the Garden of Gethsemane, where He who gives joy to the world was sorrowful even until death.

The rose has long been a token of love, respect and devotion. The Catholic Church, centuries ago, adopted the bestowal of the rose as a high honor. The custom of awarding the “Golden Rose” is perhaps, one of the most noted and the gift of the “Golden Rose” one of the most distinguished gifts, or mark of recognition of merit bestowed by the Catholic Church.

Rosarius-Rosarium means a garland or bouquet of roses—the Rosary a crown of roses—a chaplet of salutations in which the Lord's Prayer and the Doxology are recited 15 times. The salutations were at first, merely as curtsies. The repetitions are said to have arisen from the consciousness today of applause given—the length of time taken for clapping—our applause, seems to measure or show the esteem in which we hold the dignitary or public speaker or performer. The Rosary is said to have taken its name from the following pretty legend: “Every time a certain devout person uttered the salutation, the ‘Hail, Mary,’ a beautiful rosebud issued with the breath, and the rosebuds formed a crown on the head of the honored Mother of Christ.” A German metrical version of this legend is still extant dating from the 13th Century. The meaning of the story is that these salutations were accepted by the Virgin Mother as a gift of roses—as a crown of roses—and for this reason this chaplet, composed of the salutations and prayers has ever since been called “The Rosary,” and has been esteemed as a most acceptable form of prayer.

Some Quaint Customs

When the Turks were overrunning Europe in 1571, the Christians got together and prayed. Most of them used the Rosary. The Christian fleet under the command of Don Juan of Austria, met the Ottoman fleet in the Straits of Lepanto, destroyed it completely, and liberated thousands of Christians. The pope, believing that the victory had saved Christendom, by way of commemorating it, instituted the Feast of the Holy Rosary which has been celebrated ever since on the first day of October. The victory occurred Oct 7.

The picturesque old custom of paying a rose for rent was observed in Bethlehem, Pa., and in nearby Manheim. The Rose Tavern, in Bethlehem stands on land granted by William Penn for the yearly rental of “one red rose.” Baron William Stiegel, the first glass and iron manufacturer of note in America, came to the United States in 1750, with a fortune and founded and built Manheim. In 1771, he gave land for the Zion Lutheran church, and inserted this clause in the indenture: “Yielding and paying therefore unto the said Henry William Stiegel, his heirs or assigns, at the said town of Manheim, in the month of June, yearly, forever hereafter, the rent of one red rose, if the same shall be lawfully demanded.”

Nearly three thousand years ago the rose was styled by the Athenians “Queen of Flowers,” and few today will dispute that this title was fittingly bestowed.

Texas is a land of flowers, a land of such varied soil and climate that nearly everything grows. Why not, now, as a preparation for visitors during the Centennial year, plant more roses of all sorts, so that every vacant spot shall produce a rose plant. Visitors must needs exclaim then, over the quantity and beauty of our roses, and name us—the State of the Roses—the Lone Star State.

Southern Garden History Society, Annual Meeting

April 15-17, 2005

By Beate Jensen and Ken McFarland, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Arguably the name of no state conjures up images of historic gardens more than Virginia. Recognizing the significance of the Virginia's gardens and historic landscapes the Society has met in Charlottesville, Williamsburg, and Alexandria. For the upcoming gathering members will be able to examine an area "in between" those locations during a program entitled "Colonial Meets Revival: Fredericksburg and the Northern Neck of Virginia."

Friday's activities in Fredericksburg will include a series of presentations on the Mary Washington College campus of the University of Mary Washington. Presenters will focus on the Garden Club of Virginia's long-time involvement in preserving the state's garden legacy, the work of one of Virginia's premier

Colonial Revival landscape architect, Alden Hopkins, and the topic of battlefield preservation, one of the Fredericksburg area's most pressing landscape issues. Tours will feature some of Fredericksburg's many fascinating gardens, public and private. The focus of Friday evening's reception and dinner will be Belmont, a National Historic Landmark. An 18th-century site, this was the early 20th-century home of painter Gari Melchers. Head Gardener Beate Jensen will discuss informally her endeavors to restore the gardens and landscapes of Gari Melchers' wife, Corinne.

Saturday will begin with a presentation on the plantation landscape of the Northern Neck of Virginia. This will set the stage for a full-day in the Northern Neck to include an extended look at the formal gardens and

plantation landscape at Stratford Hall. Meeting participants will also visit the gardens and landscapes of two of 18th-century Virginia's most celebrated dwellings, Landon Carter's ca. 1735 home Sabine Hall, and John Tayloe II's Mount

Airy, built between 1748-58. Both properties continue to be owned and farmed by descendants of their builders. Also included will be a trip to Menokin the nearby home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, now a stabilized ruin. Returning to Stratford Hall, Society members will enjoy drinks, dinner, and 18th-century entertainment in one of Virginia's most beautiful and serene locations.

Sunday's tour options will include a trip through the Virginia Piedmont's horse country, as well as study visit of Fredericksburg area

battlefields – some of the most fought over ground in the world.

As some may wish to make a full week of it in the Commonwealth, annual meeting registrants will receive a copy of the Garden Club of Virginia's guide for Historic Garden Week 2005, which will take place April 16-24. In addition, on Sunday, April 16, Stratford Hall's triennial Coaching Day, one of the region's most popular events, may also be of interest.

For more information, contact Beate Jensen, Head Gardener, Belmont the Gari Melchers Estate and Memorial Gallery, (540) 654-1839 and Ken McFarland, Director of Preservation and Education at Stratford Hall Plantation (804) 493-1558.



View of Summer House through arbor at the end of the Long Walk, ca. 1950. Courtesy Belmont, the Gari Melchers Estate and Memorial Gallery.

SGHS Fall 2004 Board Meeting

Louisville, Kentucky, was selected for the 2006 annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society by the board of directors during its fall board meeting, which was held September 11 in Berea, Kentucky and hosted by board member Ruth Coy. Susan Rademacher of Louisville will chair the 2006 meeting and serving with her on the planning committee will be Davyd Foard Hood, Ed Shull, Lucy Lawliss, and Mrs. Coy.



photo by Mary Anne Pickens

Meeting hosts Dr. James and Ruth Coy stand on either side of Susan Haltom (left of Ruth) and Susan's cousin, Leslie James.

The 2007 annual meeting of the society will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, with Susan Urshel and Paul Schmidt as hosts. Dates for both meetings will be announced later.

Several committees were appointed at the board meeting by James R. Cothran, society president. Mary Anne Pickens and Sherry Hollingsworth will serve on publications committee. Susan Haltom (chair), Mrs. Coy, and Mrs. Hollingsworth will serve on the membership committee. Lucy Lawliss will serve as Web site chair, and Mr. Hood as



photo by Mary Anne Pickens

Dr. Coy with Ed Shull and board president Jim Cothran

society historian. Sally Reeves will continue to chair the by-laws revision committee.

Mr. Cothran will develop a booklet of guidelines for annual meeting committees based on the earlier booklet prepared by Gail Griffin.

Flora Ann Bynum, secretary-treasurer, reported that the revised society membership directory was underway and would be sent to members shortly. Paula Chamblee, who serves as membership secretary, is producing the revised directory in the Old Salem office.

Mr. Cothran gave a report for Patti McGee on progress being made on the preservation of the Elizabeth Lawrence House and Garden in Charlotte. Mr. Shull reported for Kenneth McFarland, meeting co-chair, on plans for the 2004 annual meeting of the society, to be held in Fredericksburg, Virginia, April 15-17, 2005.



photo by Mary Anne Pickens

Bob Pickens and Flora Ann Bynum at front of the Coy residence.

The board decided to hold a long-range planning meeting in January or February, to continue the first session, which was organized by past president Gordon Chappell and held at the Atlanta annual meeting in 2003.

A dinner was held Saturday night of the board meeting at the beautiful home, Shady Lawn, of Mrs. Coy and her husband, Dr. James T. Coy, III, which is about thirty minutes from Berea. The large farm property has been in Dr. Coy's family since 1795; he is the sixth-generation to own it. The Coys live in a "Carpenter Gothic" Italianate farmhouse built in 1879. Mrs. Coy gave board members a booklet on "Shady Lawn Garden and History." On Friday and Saturday afternoons, and Sunday, Mrs. Coy toured board members to various sites in Berea and the surrounding area.

—Flora Ann Bynum, secretary-treasurer

Hurricanes Hit Southern Gardens

A number of important historic Southern gardens and cultural properties throughout Florida and the Gulf States were significantly impacted by the four hurricanes of the 2004 season. Historic Bok Tower Sanctuary in Lake Wales, Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando, and Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden were struck by Hurricane Charley, which came ashore on the West Coast of Florida and crossed the center of the state. The September Newsletter of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta reports that Bok Tower Sanctuary sustained a direct hit, which destroyed the nursery, heavily damaged the 100-year-old live oaks and buried the sanctuary beneath four

feet of debris. At the Harry P. Leu Gardens more than 100 trees, representing 75 percent of the canopy, were lost and the camellia collection, the largest outside of California, may never recover. McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach, Florida suffered category 2 hurricane-force winds from Hurricane Frances and the historic 18-acre garden was severely damaged. Several State Champion trees were uprooted and the shade house and Ames Orchid Greenhouses were destroyed. Fortunately, Bellingrath Gardens and Home in Mobile, Alabama was spared major damage from Hurricane Ivan.

Members in the News

Two senior members of the **Monticello** staff have received the highest award bestowed by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. **Peggy Cornett**, director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, and **Peter Hatch**, Monticello's director of gardens and grounds, were awarded the society's Thomas Roland Medal on Sept. 23 at the Elm Bank Horticulture Center in Wellesley, Massachusetts. The award, which is presented from time to time by vote of the Society's board of trustees, recognizes exceptional skill in horticulture. Ms. Cornett and Mr. Hatch were cited for "safeguarding Thomas Jefferson's legacy to America by maintaining a living and thriving botanic showpiece."

"Secrets of Old Salem," a four-page article by Steve

Bender in the November issue of *Southern Living* magazine, features the gardens of **Old Salem, Inc.** in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The story highlights the work of **Keyes Williamson**, former director of horticulture, and **Flora Ann Bynum** who, as chair of Old Salem's Landscape Restoration Committee, has guided the garden restoration for three decades.

Flora Ann Bynum also recently received the Archie K. Davis Award from the Wachovia Historical Society. This award, named for the late banker, businessman and scholar, honors an individual who has made significant contributions to regional and cultural history. The Wachovia Historical Society is the oldest organization of its type in North Carolina, and the award was presented at the annual meeting of its 109th year.

The Friends of Elizabeth Lawrence

Progress is being made toward the preservation of Elizabeth Lawrence's Charlotte house and garden by the recently organized Friends of Elizabeth Lawrence Steering Committee. A meeting, held in conjunction with a book signing by Emily Wilson for her new Lawrence biography, *No One Gardens Alone*, brought together many supporters of the effort on Monday, October 25th. The new committee, chaired by Mary Davis Smart, is working with consultants Jennifer Hanna of the Garden Conservancy; Davyd Foard Hood, garden historian; Keyes Williamson; and Autumn Rierison-Michael of Preservation North Carolina. The property will be carefully documented, along with the application for local landmark designation by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission.

Lindie Wilson, the present owner of the Lawrence property at 348 Ridgewood Avenue, hosted an evening reception in her garden, which evidenced Ms. Wilson's loving stewardship of the property. The publication of *No One Gardens Alone* promises to bring increased awareness of the importance of saving this property, which is still very much as Elizabeth Lawrence knew it. The Southern Garden History Society is supporting this effort with a pledge of \$3000 to be used to match a National Trust Preservation Services Grant, and individual members of the Society are working with the steering committee.

—Patti McGee, Charleston, South Carolina

Book Review

No One Gardens Alone: A Life of Elizabeth Lawrence, by Emily Herring Wilson. Beacon Press, Boston, 2004. Hardcover, 334 pages, ISBN: 0-8070-8560-0-X

The centennial of Elizabeth Lawrence's birth in 1904 has been marked by two important events: the publication of *No One Gardens Alone: A Life of Elizabeth Lawrence*, and the organization of The Friends of Elizabeth Lawrence, whose purpose is to assure the preservation of her house and garden in Charlotte, North Carolina. Each of these efforts has been in process for some time, and their coincidence this year underscores an increasingly broad appreciation of her place in Southern—and American—garden history. She, like her long-

time friend Eudora Welty, was indeed “one of our own,” but her writings reached a wide appreciative audience outside the “Middle South,” across the country, and beyond the sea in England.

I first came to know Elizabeth Lawrence long after she and her *A Southern Garden* had gained fame. Both were nearing their twilight. It was in early autumn, in the mid 1970s, when I accompanied a friend to a drinks party in the garden of



Elizabeth Lawrence beckoned to readers of her first garden column, published in the *Charlotte Observer* on August 11, 1957. (Courtesy of the *Charlotte Observer*.)

the late Baker Wynne, a Raleigh friend of Miss Lawrence's. His Williamsburg-style brick cottage stood at 1411 Jackson Street, about a block's distance from the Lawrence house at 115 Park Avenue. Bay, my friend, lived on Park Avenue, a few doors from Elizabeth Lawrence's house. She was a student in the department of landscape architecture at North Carolina State University where Elizabeth Lawrence was the first female student. The friendship of the two gardeners was discussed and, so too, was their friendship with Isabelle Bowen Henderson. Her Colonial Revival house and garden were located a few blocks to the northwest, along Oberlin Road, and included an herb house. The Lawrence, Wynne, and Henderson gardens were important efforts at place-making in Raleigh and North Carolina. Today only the Henderson house and garden survive. The Park Avenue house that Elizabeth Lawrence's family owned in Raleigh from 1918 into 1948 was destroyed this year. Its garden had vanished years ago.

This Elizabeth Lawrence renaissance can be traced to the posthumous publication of *Gardening for Love* in 1987, *A*

Rock Garden for the South and *Through the Garden Gate* in 1990, and the re-issue of *A Southern Garden* in 1991, with a new forward by Edith R. Eddleman. Miss Eddleman, one of a new generation of Lawrence admirers, collaborated with Doug Ruhren in the designing and planting of the Elizabeth Lawrence border at the North Carolina State Arboretum. It was kindled anew with the publication of *Two Gardeners: A Friendship in Letters* in 2002. In March 1958, *The New Yorker* had published the first of Katharine S. White's columns, “Onward and Upward in the Garden.” Within months Elizabeth Lawrence wrote a warmly appreciative letter, which prompted a correspondence between the two gifted writer-gardeners that continued up to White's death in 1977. Emily Herring Wilson edited the group of about 150 letters for *Two Gardeners*, which engaged thousands of readers. Soon into its pages one saw that Elizabeth Lawrence was in no way “playing second fiddle” to the better known wife of E. B. White. This was letter-writing between equals at least, if the balance did not actually shift in Elizabeth's favor. It has come to be acknowledged as one of the most engrossing American garden correspondences of the twentieth century.

Now, two years later, Beacon Press has published Emily Herring Wilson's biography of Miss Lawrence. The facts of Elizabeth Lewis Lawrence's life reflect the nurturing of strong female relatives and friends and that of a wider circle of gardening friends, including a cast of sympathetic bachelors, who shared her interest in literature. The daughter of Samuel Lawrence (1874-1936) and Elizabeth “Bessie” Bradenbaugh (1876-1964), she was born in Marietta, Georgia, on 27 May 1904 at the home of her Lawrence grandparents. Childhood visits with these grandparents in Marietta and others with her maternal grandmother Ann “Nannie” Beard (Neal) Bradenbaugh (1856-1933) in Parkersburg, West Virginia, shaped a love of family that sustained her through life. The young Lawrence family first settled in Hamlet, North Carolina, where Mr. Lawrence was engaged in a railroad-related sand and gravel business. After periods in Richmond, Virginia, and Garysburg, North Carolina, where her father organized the Lawrence Sand and Gravel Company, Elizabeth and her family (and the company offices) moved to Raleigh. There, in 1918, they acquired the house at 115 Park Avenue, a short half-block off the capital's prominent Hillsborough Street, which would be their home for thirty years.

Elizabeth Lawrence enrolled at St. Mary's School where she graduated in 1922. Through the influence of Grace St. John, a St. Mary's teacher and mentor, she applied to Barnard College in New York City, was accepted, and graduated from the woman's college of Columbia University in 1926. Returning to Raleigh and living again at home, she applied to North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering (today's North Carolina State University), took courses over a period of years, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in landscape architecture in 1932.

A career of nearly fifty years as a designer, plantswoman, journalist, and garden writer began in 1932 with her association with Isabel Bronson Busbee, an older neighbor in nearby Cameron Park, who had a small landscape

REVIEW...

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and garden practice. This work, the example of Dr. Bertram Whittier Wells, one of her professors and the author of *Natural Gardens of North Carolina* (1932), budding efforts as a garden journalist, and a decade's experience in the garden at #115 came to fruition in 1942 with the publication of *A Southern Garden*.

The death of her father in 1936, war, financial concerns, and family circumstances culminated in 1948 with the Lawrences' removal to Charlotte, North Carolina. There Elizabeth Lawrence and her mother built a house at 348 Ridgewood Avenue, next door to that of Elizabeth's younger sister Ann (1908-1980), who was married to Warren Wade Way, Jr., the son of an Episcopal priest. Here Elizabeth Lawrence laid out a small garden that was both a pleasure and planting grounds for horticultural observation that found its way into books, articles, and columns in the *Charlotte Observer* from August 1957 to June 1971.

The modest one-story house and garden was the writer's home through the publication of *The Little Bulbs* in 1957, the appearance of *Gardens in Winter* in 1961, and the death of both her mother and a devoted gardener-correspondent Carl Krippendorf in 1964. Their deaths were followed by others at the heart of her circle; the sisters Ann and Emily Bridgers in 1967 and 1968, respectively, Caroline Dormon in 1971, and Katharine S. White in 1977. But it was her sister Anne's death in February 1980 that dealt the crushing blow to her energies. It initiated a period of decline culminating in 1984 when, at the age of eighty, she gave up her house and garden and relocated to live with her niece in Annapolis, Maryland. She died on 11 June 1985 and was

buried in the cemetery of St. James Episcopal Church at Lothian, Maryland. However devoted she was to the Episcopal Church, and whatever the beauty of the churchyard, it remains a sad irony that Elizabeth Lawrence, who cultivated landmark gardens in two North Carolina cities and inspired hundred of others to garden and to honor the power and promise of the earth and its seasons, lies in a place apart.

Elizabeth Lawrence chose to illuminate her fist article for the *Charlotte Observer*, published on 11 August 1957, with a photograph showing her at the gate to the Ridgewood Avenue garden. She wrote:

This is the gate of my garden. I invite you to enter in: not only into my garden, but into the world of gardens—a world as old as the history of man, and as new as the latest contribution of science; a world of mystery, adventure and romance; a world of poetry and philosophy; a world of beauty, and a world of work.

No One Gardens Alone is the title of a gate into another garden—the life which Elizabeth Lawrence created for herself, her family, friends, and her readers. Emily Herring Wilson has now opened it wide to us and, surely, to legions of other grateful readers.

—Davyd Foard Hood, Book Review Editor
Isinglass, Vale, North Carolina

Daffodils in Florida: A Field Guide to the Coastal South, by Linda M. Van Beck and Sara L. Van Beck. Published by the authors and available through the Florida Daffodil Society (www.fladaff.com), the American Daffodil Society (www.daffodilusa.org) and Old House Gardens (www.oldhousegardens.com). \$24 plus \$4 shipping. ISBN 0-9759216-0-6.

The publication of this field guide is a testament by the Van Beck's, to the years of research and documentation of growing daffodils, in northern Florida, by the late John L. Van Beck and the Florida Daffodil Society (FDS). Although somewhat limited in scope it is a very apt guide to growing daffodils in the Coastal South, what John Van Beck called the "Live Oak- Spanish Moss Belt." The Coastal South extends from Beaufort, South Carolina to Houston, Texas, zone 8b by the current U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map.

This guide is organized into four main sections, the first deals with an introduction to daffodils; how they grow and are named, bloom times, stresses and weather. It finishes with a history of the bulbs and a look at daffodils in the South. The next section is the true heart of this book for it introduces us to the daffodils that have proven satisfactory in the FDS test gardens, both species and intersectional

hybrids and then goes on to the historic (pre -1940) and modern varieties that have been grown and proved in Florida. We are given some of the predictors for successfully growing all these groups, i.e.: late season daffodils do not succeed in Florida. We have been given a listing of about a hundred daffodils, with gorgeous color photographs, that can be grown in the Coastal South, USDA Zone 8b. This is a tremendous accomplishment, well worth the price of admission. The third section is almost as important as it instructs us on how to plant and care for our daffodils to insure that they will survive. There are several very important cultural requirements if you are to be successful in growing daffodils in this region. In some cases the instructions given by bulb growers and sellers are contradictory to what has been discovered about these daffodils in the FDS test gardens, for example, pre-chilled bulbs do not survive. The guide then goes on to daffodils grown in Florida, their uses in the landscape, flower care, record keeping and the propagation of daffodils. The final section is for those adventurous gardeners who are always willing to try those plants that can be just a bit more trouble. It starts with the tazettas, their history, known varieties and newly found old unidentified varieties that have been relisted, complete again with color photographs. It then goes

REVIEW...

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on to the daffodils that were considered marginal in the FDS test gardens, ending with a short guide for identifying daffodils by foliage. The guide finishes with a series of appendices that show what survived and what did not survive in the FDS test gardens, a listing of cultivars growing in the central Florida test gardens, companion bulbs and plants, for daffodils, and lastly a botanical description of the species and intersectional hybrids.

Daffodils in Florida should become an invaluable reference and resource for anyone, gardeners and non-gardeners alike, who enjoy daffodils and want to have them in the Coastal South and I strongly suspect that there are some lessons here for those of us who garden in the Mid-Atlantic region as well.

—Don McKelvey, Garden Historian, Colonial Williamsburg

Progress on the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS)

By Cari Goetcheus, Chair, HALS Subcommittee
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA),
Historic Preservation Professional Interest Group

Over twenty years in the making, October 25, 2000 was a monumental day in the field of landscape preservation. On that day the Director of the National Park Service permanently established the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), as a sister program to the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). HALS is intended to document significant historic landscapes throughout the United States via narrative history, drawings and photography.

Similar to the HABS/HAER approach, teams of students, as well as interested professionals in landscape architecture, architecture, planning, horticulture, and associated fields will conduct fieldwork for HALS in short-term projects. Guided by HALS documentation professionals, the participants will record significant historic landscapes nationwide through historical research and reports, measured and interpretive drawings and large-format photography as well as other documentation techniques.

As the primary force behind the development of HALS to date, the ASLA Historic Preservation Professional Interest Group, HALS Subcommittee has led several key projects to benefit the national HALS program, including:

- Developed an educational/fundraising brochure.
- Created a Memorandum of Agreement between the National Park Service, Library of Congress and ASLA to cooperatively develop the HALS program.
- Created a private donations account at the HABS/HAER/HALS Foundation.
- Received a \$20,000 grant from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The money was used to sponsor three national interdisciplinary workshops to brainstorm on the content of HALS Landscape Documentation Guidelines.
- Beginning to identify historic landscapes nationwide that merit HALS documentation. The intent of this effort is to provide the national HALS program with a list of prescreened sites as potential HALS documentation projects.

- Hired consultants to write the HALS Landscape Documentation Guidelines for Historical Research and Reports, Drawings and Photography. (Completion in March 2005)
- Since 2000 ASLA has continuously lobbied Congress for permanent funding of the national HALS program. In 2004 ASLA successfully lobbied Congress and there is currently \$189,000 identified for the national HALS program in the Senate Appropriations Committee bill (unresolved).

Although many successes have occurred on behalf of HALS, there are still two primary challenges: identification of significant historic landscapes nationwide and funding.

The location, duration, and complexity of HALS projects will be determined on the basis of historic significance, landscape type and potential partnership opportunities. HALS will work with ASLA, state, local and national preservation organizations, academic institutions and other interested parties to identify and develop projects, exploring funding possibilities for both short and long-term documentation efforts. HALS encourages partnerships with private, government and educational institutions to develop landscape documentation and encourage landscape preservation. To assist in identifying potential HALS documentation sites, please contact Cari Goetcheus (clg2964@netzero.net).

Although ASLA is leading the effort on federal funding, private donations, gifts and grants have been the primary funds received to date. To donate to the newly established HALS fund, make a tax-deductible contribution to the "HABS/HAER/HALS Foundation" (noting "HALS Donation" in the memo line), and mail to:

HALS Donation
HABS/HAER/HALS Foundation
National Building Museum
441 F Street, NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001-2728

For more information on HALS, visit the ASLA Historic Preservation Professional Interest Group Web site (<http://host.asla.org/groups/hppigroup/>), or email specific questions or comments to hals@asla.org.

Publications Available Through SGHS

The New Louisiana Gardener - *Nouveau Jardinier de la Louisiane*, 1838
publication by Jacques-Felix Lelièvre and translated into English by Sally Kittredge Reeves. Published by LSU press in cooperation with SGHS. Hardcover. 186 pages with color photographs and halftones. Specially priced for SGHS members at \$25 (plus \$3.95 postage). *NC orders add 7% sales tax.*

Bound Sets of Magnolia Back Issues. Includes Vol. I, No. 1 (Fall 1984) through Vol. XIV, No. 4 (Winter/Spring 1999), with index. \$50. Price includes postage and tax. (Individual back issues of *Magnolia* \$5.00 each)

NEW *Cultivating History: Exploring Horticultural Practices of the Southern Gardener* (2001 proceedings of the thirteenth biennial Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes Conference held at Old Salem). \$10 (plus \$3.95 postage). *NC orders add 7% sales tax.*

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