



MAGNOLIA

Newsletter of the
Southern Garden
History Society

(MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA)

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SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
Old Salem, Inc.
Drawer F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108

Distributed by
Dr. Edgar G. Givhan II
Montgomery, Alabama

V. 2, no. 3 (Winter, 1986)

OLD ROSES IN THE SOUTHEAST--AN APPEAL FOR HELP

[Editor's note: This message addressed to members of the Society comes from Mr. Charles Walker, Jr., of Raleigh, North Carolina, who sent it at the recommendation of our honorary president, Bill Hunt.]

Old roses are intimately associated with the history of southern gardens. Their appeal was and still is universal, and fortunately they seem to be enjoying a comeback. Several nurseries specializing in the propagation of old roses have sprung up, and the demand for plants is increasing.

But old roses are disappearing from their traditional habitats, such as old homesites and cemeteries. Commercial land development, systemic herbicides, the desire to "clean up" vegetation, and increasing shade in old gardens have all taken their toll. Our climate has already weeded out the misfits and ne'er-do-wells among the old roses; although those still surviving are well-adapted to their southern environments and moderately resistant to our pests and diseases, the remaining cultivars are now being lost to new forces against which they have no defense.

I am aware of no effort to salvage the surviving old roses except by a few dedicated but widely dispersed individual gardeners. And there is only so much that one gardener can do. Garden space is limited, as is the time required to search out plants.

What is needed is an on-going project whose sole purpose is to collect and maintain these old treasures. The fact that they have survived, unidentified or otherwise, is enough to make them valuable, both in historical landscape restoration and in future rose-breeding work.

(continued--)

Such a project could also have an educational role. Properly planted in period settings, these roses can be used to show various aspects of the developmental history of the rose as well as its historical use in the landscape.

Several gardens in the Southeast and elsewhere feature old roses among their plantings, but to my knowledge there is not and never has been an American organization established solely to collect and preserve old roses. It is time we rectified this oversight. What I propose is the establishment of a non-profit foundation in the Southeast to perform these functions. In time, a research capability can be added, with an appropriate library of rose literature, both popular and scientific.

What is needed now are people willing to help establish this foundation, select a site for its garden, and seek support for its functions. Members of Southern Garden History Society who would like to participate in this endeavor are most welcome; please write to: Charles A. Walker, Jr., 1512 Gorman St., Raleigh, N. C. 27606.

IN SEARCH OF THE LOST ARKANSAS ROSE

[Ed's note: This rose is not so very old, but it has importance in the state's history this year, the 150th anniversary of statehood for Arkansas. Efforts to find it within the state have so far failed; perhaps our south-central neighbors can help.]

The Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebration Commission has launched a search for the rose that was developed to commemorate the state centennial in 1936. Called the "David O. Dodd", after an Arkansas boy who was hanged by the Union army for spying behind their lines at Little Rock during the Civil War, the hybrid tea rose was developed, patented, and marketed by Joseph W. Vestal and Sons, a nursery founded in 1868 in Indiana and established in the Little Rock area in 1880, where it is still run by members of the Vestal family.

Although no known specimens of "David O. Dodd" are known to exist today, it was sold for many years by the Vestal nursery, and later by a California nursery. The last Vestal plant of this rose died eight years ago.

"David O. Dodd" is a thornless hybrid. Old catalogues describe it as "a magnificent rich crimson, flushed scarlet, with well-shaped buds, carried erect and opening into a large beautifully shaped flower."

Anyone who knows of a living plant of "David O. Dodd" should contact the Arkansas 150 Commission, P.O. Box 1986, Little Rock, AR 72203, or call (501) 371-1500. It is time for us to recultivate this part of our state history.

OLD ROSES FOR SALE IN TEXAS

[Ed's note: This announcement comes from Pamela Ashworth Puryear, of Navasota, Texas, editor of The Old Texas Rose]

On February 1, 1986, the Antique Rose Emporium will open a new retail center and display garden. It is located between College Station and Brenham in Southeast Texas, on an 8-acre tract in the old town of Independence. This town was settled in 1826 by Judge John P. Coles and was called Coles Settlement until after the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836, when its name was changed in honor of the victory. (Texas is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its independence from Mexico this year.)

The main building on the site is an old stone kitchen of the C. C. Hairston home, built in 1855. The building has been restored, and porches have been added. A cottage garden has been created around it featuring most of the twenty varieties of rose known to have been growing in Texas during the Republic Period (1836-1846). It also contains native and naturalized perennials.

The entrance arch to the garden is constructed of intertwined persimmon saplings. Along the north porch is a hedge of Cramoisi Superieur (1832) with drifts of cottage pinks, golden columbine, wood fern, native sage, and other wildflowers. The south porch garden features Archduke Charles (1840). Old cedar pergolas elsewhere on the grounds support species climbers, hybrid musks, and noisettes of later dates.

An office and meeting room are located to the west of the kitchen in a converted barn, and a gift shop for old rose-related items is housed in a nearby log cabin.

The Antique Rose Emporium will offer approximately 200 varieties of own-root container-grown old roses for sale, and about 30 species of native perennials, numerous native Texas trees and shrubs, and books and other items. A catalogue is available for \$2.00 from the Emporium, Rt. 5, Box 143, Brenham, TX 77833; and a brochure with directions to the center is available upon request.

EARLY MARCH EVENT

William Lanier Hunt, SGHS honorary president, will speak at the Second Davidson Horticultural Symposium on "The Vagaries of Southern Gardening." This one-day symposium will be held Wednesday, March 5, at Davidson College, Davidson, N.C. Other speakers include William Flemer III, president of Princeton Nurseries, Princeton, N.J., on "Nature's Guide to Successful Landscaping," and Michael Van Valkenburgh of the Department of Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design, on "Historical Gardens of France as Reflected in the Gardens of Fletcher Steele."

For registration information: Second Davidson Horticulture Symposium, Box 1145, Davidson, N.C. 28036.

ANNUAL MEETING IN MONTGOMERY

By the time you receive this newsletter, you may already have received a late reminder and made plans to join us for the annual meeting of Southern Garden History Society, March 14-16, in Montgomery, Alabama. The registration fee of \$125.00 includes all conference events and meals for Friday evening and all day Saturday. In addition to the impressive array of conference events listed in the brochure sent before Christmas to all members, there will be an exhibit of Alabama garden history, produced with the support of the Society by Mr. George Stritikus of Montgomery.

Dr. Ed Givhan, who has organized this meeting, says that members should expect mild weather and can expect to be comfortable in either a sweater or light jacket. However, spring in the south can bring occasional cool days or rain; please bring an all-weather coat.

Late registrants may join us, space permitting, by paying an additional charge of \$15.00. Please telephone Dr. Ed. Givhan of Montgomery for details: (205) 277-2220.

Reservation inquiries should be made to the Governor's House: (205) 288-2800. For conference rates, mention the Southern Garden History Society.

The Society hopes that members who cannot attend the meeting will be able to see the exhibit at a later date. It has been scheduled for showing in Mobile. To inquire about bringing it to your state or locale, write to: Mr. George Stritikus, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, 4576 S. Court St., Bldg. 2, Montgomery, AL 36196.

ROSES AND MAY FLOWERS IN ANNAPOLIS

The William Paca House and Garden, in the heart of the Historic District of Annapolis, is the setting for "Roses and May Flowers Day": Thursday, May 29, 1986, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This popular annual celebration, honoring Maryland's namesake, Queen Henrietta Maria, features horticultural lectures at the historic Brice House, identification of rose cuttings by experts, the sale of old roses and other hard-to-find plants, and lunch on the terrace of The Paca House overlooking the falling terraces and parterres.

Eleanor Weller, Archivist for the Garden Club of America, will present a slide-talk entitled "Historic Rose Gardens". Mrs. Weller's slide collection includes rare hand-colored glass slides of gardens of the 1920s and 1930s. Dr. Arthur Tucker, Professor of Botany at Delaware State College, and an avid gardener who specializes in plants grown for fragrance, will speak on "Saving Antique Plants".

For registration information: Elaine Reed, William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401. Telephone: (301) 267-6656 or (301) 269-0601.

OTHER MEETINGS

MORDECAI GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

The 4th annual Mordecai Garden Symposium will be held May 15-17, 1986 at Mordecai Historic Park and nearby locations in Raleigh, North Carolina. Allen Patterson, Director of the Royal Botanic Garden, Ontario, Canada will deliver the keynote speech, entitled "A Cottage Garden for the 1980's".

Other internationally recognized speakers will include James van Sweden, who will speak on "Garden Design for Limited Spaces". The meeting will also include workshops, garden tours, picnic lunches and receptions, book sales, and a plant exchange.

The Park and Symposium have been inspired by an 1830's garden, that of Ellen Mordecai. The meeting has been recognized in the region as one of the best opportunities available for excellent lectures and field trips. For registration information: Mordecai Square Historical Society, 1 Mimosa St., Raleigh, N.C. 27604. Telephone (919) 834-4844.

ARKANSAS CHAPTER, ASLA

The spring meeting of the Arkansas chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects will be held in Little Rock on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-24, 1986. The area of emphasis for the meeting is historic landscapes. ASLA members and other interested persons from outside the state, as well as from Arkansas, are encouraged to attend.

Preceding the sessions, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program will sponsor a lecture, on Thursday evening, May 22, by Rudy Favretti, Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut, entitled "1836-1986: One Hundred Fifty Years of Landscape Tradition," in commemoration of the 150th year of Arkansas statehood.

Mr. Favretti will also participate in the first session of the ASLA meeting, on Friday afternoon, which will deal with education in the fields of historic preservation and landscape architecture, and how they relate.

Session 2, on Saturday morning, will center on the problems of identifying, evaluating, and recording historic landscapes. The Saturday afternoon session will deal with present-day opportunities for practitioners in the field of historic landscapes.

Additional speakers will include Philip Morris, an editor of Southern Living magazine.

For registration information: Mr. Bill Hall, 7000 Hillwood, Little Rock, AR 72207. Telephone (501) 371-2763.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues notices for the 1985-1986 fiscal year were mailed January 28th. Those members who have already paid for this year were not sent a notice. Any members who have a question about the status of their dues are asked to write the Society office.

Dues notices have normally been mailed in August, and the Society secretary-treasurer, Flora Ann Bynum, apologizes for the lateness of the billing this year. In order to bring the membership records up to date before the billing went out, she last fall over a period of three months sent delinquent dues notices to members who had paid one time and never again. Those members who did not respond after three delinquent notices were removed from the membership files.

By the time Mrs. Bynum had in mid-November completed this updating of the membership lists, the staff of Dr. Ed Givhan's office was in the process of moving the office from one location to another and did not have time to do the billing until late January. Board member Dr. Givhan has kindly allowed the Society to use his office computer service for mailings and membership billings. As the Society has no paid staff, secretarial work is done completely on a volunteer basis, and having the use of a computer service has been a wonderful help.

The Society gains a few members each month, mainly by word-of-mouth, as there has been no general membership solicitation. Members who join after January 1 are credited for the upcoming year; in other words, members who join now will be marked paid for the fiscal year May 1, 1986 through April 30, 1987. The current Society membership is 211, with members scattered throughout the fifteen southern states, and some members outside the south.

Members who know people interested in the Society are urged to send names to the Society address (Old Salem Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108). Brochures will be mailed to these potential new members.

LIBRARY INTEREST IN GARDEN HISTORY

Robert L. Byrd, Curator of Manuscripts for the Duke Library, Durham, North Carolina, has written to the Society that the preservation of garden plans, plant lists, catalogs, and other documents is a concern to the library. "We would be interested in cooperating with you in any appropriate way to accomplish this goal," Mr. Byrd says.

Mr. Byrd learned of the Society's work and purposes by reading an article by William Lanier Hunt for the Durham newspaper. He sent photocopies of some materials already in the library's possession that may be of interest to garden historians and members of SGHS, including title pages of four early nursery catalogs: Esquiline Nurseries of Columbus, Georgia, for 1891-92; Gaines, Coles, & Co. of Mobile, Alabama, for 1877; F. A. Mauge, Selected Roses, of Augusta, Georgia, for 1853; and Fruitland Nursery of Augusta, Georgia, for 1858.

Flower Garden Plants

Hedges

Bridal Wreath
Box Bushes
Jall Arbor Vitae
Snow Ball Bush
Lilac

Flowering borders

Cris.
Jonquils
Lily of Valley
Phlox
Sweet William
Pinks
Poppies
Madona lily
Peonies

Roses

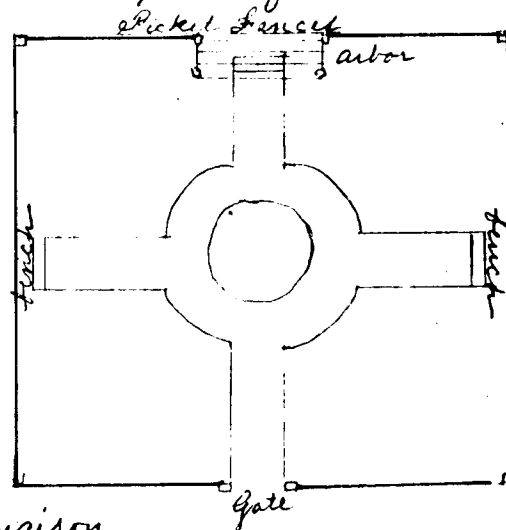
Celeste
Maidens Blush
Chapeau de Napoleon
Honore de Brabant
Celsiana
Cardinal Richelieu
Grannies Old Blush
Souvenir de la Malmaison
Moss rose
Madam Hardy
Chestnut rose
Stanwell Perpetual
Red and White Moss

Bent's Circle

Dwarf Box Bushes
Cris
Pinks
Japsonica
By the Garden Gate
Rosemary
Crape Jassamine on fence

Four Corners of Garden

Creeper Myrtle trees



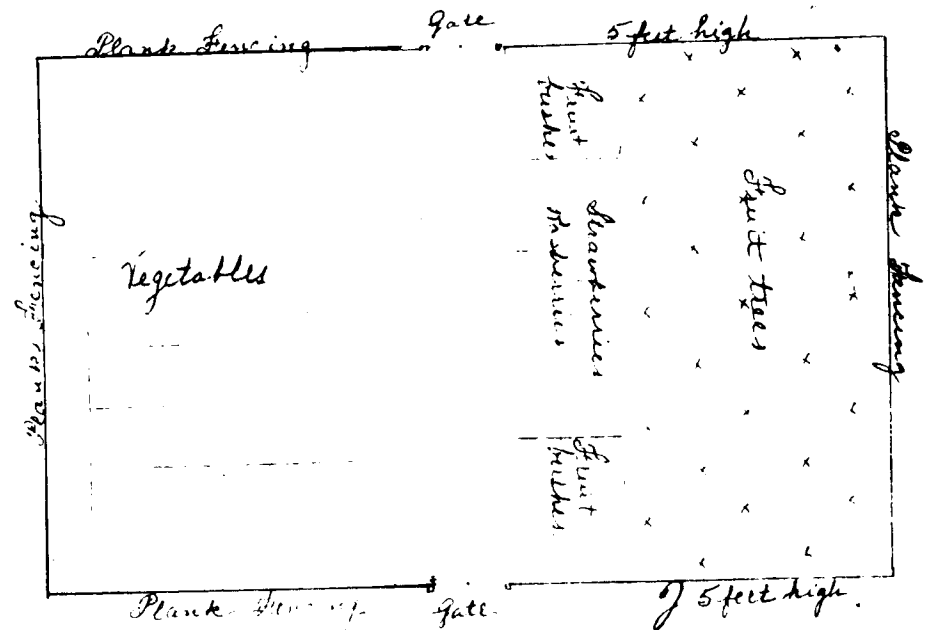
Crape Jassamine on the arbor

Orchard and Fruits in Garden

5 Apple trees	2 cherry bushes
5 Peach trees	6 Quince bushes
3 Plum trees	2 Pomegranate bushes
2 Fig trees	4 rows Strawberries
5 Pear trees	4 rows Raspberries
6 Cherry trees	2 large grape arbors in grove
1 Persimmon tree	

Nut Trees in the Grove

2 Black Walnuts
2 English Walnuts
1 Chickapen
2 Hickorys
5 Pecan trees



Vegetable Garden and Orchard

THE GARDEN AT FLOWERY DALE PLANTATION, EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA,
1835-1878

by John Baxter Flowers

In 1831 Alfred Flowers (1806-1846) purchased a plantation of 1,100 acres on both sides of the Goshen Swamp in eastern North Carolina. This particular plantation extended into three counties: Wayne, Duplin, and Sampson, and was comprised of rich well-watered land and forest cover. The site today lies west of the small towns of Mount Olive and Faison. At the time the plantation flourished, it was part of a cultural enclave with highly distinctive characteristics: large land holdings, with equally large slave populations; a respect for learning, with many local academies with highly trained faculty; close connections with the most gifted politicians of the time in the state; a great love of good racing stock; and an appreciation for the national fashionable trends of the day. It was an area that has been judged atypical for the state in general during this period of 1800-1865. These families are referred to as the Goshen Gentry, so clearly did they put their mark on the landscape with their houses and institutions, both culturally and economically. The Flowers plantation was, compared with all the rest, of middling size.

Here, on a pond, where an old millseat had been established before the Revolution, Alfred build or remodeled a house for his wife and children. The setting was comprised of the pond and a grove of scattered, ancient oaks, and the house site was on the crest of a low hill. The entire property he called "Flowery Dale" in compliment to its site and his surname. In 1833, Alfred Flowers established a breeding stable for blooded horses, many of which ran in local race meets. For several generations the Flowery Dale Stud was noted throughout this part of North Carolina for its fine breeding stock.

Margaret Kornegay Flowers (1809-1862) was a lover of flowers and garden plants, and at some undisclosed date (thought to be around 1835) she began a pleasure garden at her new home. The vegetable garden obviously was put in as soon as the family moved to the site, or possibly before. In the papers that this ante-bellum family left, and which have been deposited in the famed Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, there are two sheets of foolscap paper with diagrams of two gardens, one a vegetable garden and orchard, the other a flower garden. Each is complete with a list of plants.

Margaret Kornegay Flowers died in 1862, during the Civil War. Her flower garden was maintained until 1878 by her daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth. The house burned to the ground in 1878, and the family abandoned the homesite, first for a house near Mount Olive, and then later for a cottage on the plantation. Five of the Flowers sons enlisted in the Confederate Army; three died in service. Margaret's grandson, born in 1874, recalled in his later years that the garden site was easily recognizable as late as the beginning of the twentieth century, and that shrubs were being removed from it for use at other family gardens. It is likely that Margaret got many of her plants

from friends and family, a time-honored custom. There is a record that her mother-in-law, Sarah Martin Flowers (1785-ante 1870) had a rose, which the family called "Granny's Old Blush," at her garden at nearby Poplar Hill Plantation. There are many scions of this Old Blush rose existing today which tradition traces to Sarah Flowers' bush. It would seem plausible that the one at Flowery Dale came from it. Also, tradition relates that a rosemary bush was placed at the garden gate to symbolize remembrance. The language of flowers was a Victorian custom, and one that no doubt was followed here. The garden plan clearly shows a bush of rosemary at the garden gate.

There is nothing very distinctive about this flower garden. The plant material is typical of the era, and the design is simple and predictable. That is what makes it an interesting garden for study, and what also gives it charm for us today. The garden was located on the southern exposure, and very near the house. Tradition relates that the pailing fence, so typical of the period, was about five feet high, and that it was painted white, with corner posts and arbor of dark green. The vegetable plan clearly shows five foot fences, which would have protected the garden from deer, which are very bothersome in the area to this day.

Today the site is clean swept of any of the complex of buildings and gardens that once dominated it. Even the great trees are gone, the last surviving until about fifteen years ago. The millseat is also gone, as are the remnants of the dam. All that remains is the rich farmland and the creek, a tributary of the Goshen Swamp, which feeds into the Northeast Cape Fear River that flows to the sea past the port of Wilmington, over seventy miles away.

[Editor's note: This delightful essay, with accompanying illustrations, is provided by our president. We will be delighted to hear about other gardens and their plans.]

GARDEN HISTORY REPRINT

Historic Virginia Gardens, Preservations by the Garden Club of Virginia, by Dorothy Hunt Williams, originally printed in 1975, has been reprinted by the University Press of Virginia. The handsome book has over 100 pages of illustrations, many of them in color. It is said on the jacket to be useful as a source of information for those who tour gardens, and for those who want inspiration to carry out garden projects of their own.

To order: The University Press of Virginia, Box 3608, University Station, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903-0608. Price: \$24.95, plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

THANKS

for your information for this newsletter. Deadline for publication of the next issue will be May 15. Please keep sending your local garden and landscape history news. We enjoy sharing it.

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Old Salem, Inc.

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"The Laurel Tree of Carolina"
from Mark Catesby, 1733

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V. 2, no. 4 (Spring, 1986)

FROM THE EDITOR....

For the first time in the history of Magnolia, offerings for the newsletter exceed the space available -- a happy occasion, especially for an editor in the midst of a move back to her Ozark garden. (Please note address change above.)

Business conducted by the Society at our annual meeting in Montgomery included the election of new officers. A message from Catherine Howett follows.

A NOTE FROM THE SGHS PRESIDENT....

Our annual meeting had such a full and exciting agenda, thanks to the hard work of Ed and Peggy Givhan, George Stritikus, and others of our stalwart Alabama members and friends, that I had little opportunity to say "thank you" to our gathered membership for the confidence placed in me in electing me president of this fledgling organization. I want to take the opportunity to do so now, and to assure each one of you that I intend to do my best to keep up the fine momentum that we have already achieved.

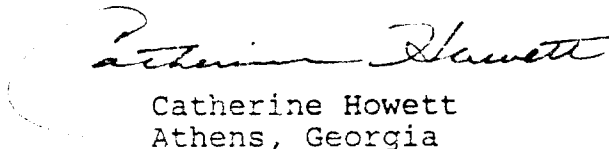
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Even while we have been growing and spreading our wings over the last few years, the cause that brings us together -- our interest in encouraging study of the history and traditions that have shaped Southern gardens and gardening -- has matured in dramatic ways. The series of Old Salem/Stagville conferences and our own four annual meetings have helped to foster a growing awareness that all of us can contribute to the task of rediscovering the landscape history of the region that is our home, and sharing it with others.

There is so much practical and theoretical knowledge still to be recovered, gathered, sorted, interpreted, disseminated and celebrated that it will surely take all of us working together to get it done. Our society is dedicated to the support of scholarship of the highest standard, but we depend as well upon the active participation and help of those who garden and those who have memories of gardens, family historians as well as academic ones. The diversity of our backgrounds and interests constitutes one of the real strengths of this organization.

The officers and board of directors are anxious to work steadily and energetically to expand the scope of our activities and our services to members. Please let us hear from you; we need your ideas, and we want to know about the work that you are already doing.

As a landscape architect who also teaches history, I am frequently asked to recommend useful introductory books in American landscape history. There are very few, so my reply is usually to the effect that such a "big" history has still to be written, because it will have to build upon the work of bringing together the separate histories of the various regions of our country. The Southern Garden History Society hopes to contribute substantially to that task, each of us doing our part. We take a proper pride in hoping that the work we do may one day be a model for the entire nation.



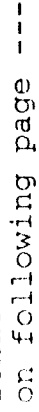
Catherine Howett
Athens, Georgia

MORE NEWS OF OLD ROSES IN TEXAS

The Yellow Rose, a publication of the Dallas Area Historical Rose Group, began in 1984 and has developed a following in Canada, England, New Zealand, and Australia, as well as throughout the United States. Subscriptions to the informative publication are \$10 per year, from Mr. Joe Woodard, editor, 8638 Sans Souci Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

The Dallas group has located, identified, and returned to commerce 25 old roses.

on following page ---



DE ZAVALA GARDEN, 1835-1870

Emily West DeZavala (Falks) made her first Texas garden in the bitter spring of 1836 at Lynchburg, Texas, around a Classical Revival house bought from her husband's kinspeople. She saw the Battle of San Jacinto won from her front porch in April of that year, and saw her husband buried in November. But the cottage garden that she planted there went with her as she remarried and moved in later years, for she took the plants with her and recreated the garden, with some later roses as additions.

Emily's granddaughter, Miss Adina DeZavala, later recalled a beautiful Althea which stood on the right of the gate as one entered, to the south of the house. "It was a delicate pink, double, almost like a rose."

On the east side of the small veranda was a yellow climber, the Yellow Banksia; on the west, was a dark crimson, double cupped climber, Cramoisi Superieur. It appeared to be a continuous bloomer.

Adina also remembered a passageway on the east which was lined with roses, "of every hue, form, and fragrance," especially the Roses of Provence. The newly-bred French roses had been given to the DeZavalas in 1835 when they left the French Court, where he had served as Minister to France, to return to Texas. Adina wrote, "I believe that the crimson Glorie des Rosamanes[?], the Louis Phillippe [sic], the rosy flesh-colored Madame Bosanquet, and perhaps others came from the gardens of St. Cloud.

Adina's commentary continues: "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...." She also remembered lady slippers [moccasin flower] and larkspur, and explains, "the former are the terrestrial orchid which probably grew wild along the San Jacinto River in those wonderful days."

On the west side of the house were the iris beds. Adina says it is the French flower of chivalry: "a sword for its leaf, and a lily for its heart." Further along in this west bed were "Cox Combs, Bachelor Buttons, Old Maids (Zenias), Touch-Me-Nots (sensitive plants), Hollyhocks, Marigolds, etc.," followed by a bed of herbs and a rose bower.

Emily Falk's second garden contained her favorite roses, Marechal Neil, a pale yellow; Catherine Mermet, a light pink; Ducher, Paul Neyron, LaFrance; and Salet, a rosy pink moss, double and fragrant.

Thanks to the DeZavala clan's love of gardens and memories of their grandmother and her beautiful roses, the plan of this garden, a watercolor illustration of the original house, and portraits of Emily and her husband survive--testaments to past beauty amid the bloody conflict of revolution.

OUR MEMBERS TRAVEL

Two members of the society recently retraced a tour of English gardens which Thomas Jefferson and John Adams made in the spring of 1786. The suspiciously Anglo-sounding duo of Allen Smith and Allan Brown visited some twenty gardens on the bicentennial of the visits made by the presidential pair.

Carrying a copy of Thomas Whately's Observations on Modern Gardening (1770), the guidebook used by Jefferson and Adams, Smith and Brown noted the changes evident in 200 years. Some of the gardens have changed relatively little (Hampton Court, Stowe, Blenheim); others have almost completely vanished (Twickenham, Esher Place, Enfield Chase). Two of the gardens are currently undergoing impressive restoration efforts (Painshill, Claremont).

Smith and Brown are graduate students at the University of Manchester and University of Virginia, respectively. The tour experience will contribute to their thesis research on related garden history topics. A slide presentation of the tour is planned for the June, 1987, meeting of Southern Garden History Society in Charlottesville, Virginia.

SUMMER STUDY IN ENGLAND

Barbara Paca Steele, who described her work at Annapolis to members of our society at the 1985 meeting there, has sent announcement of the West Dean Summer School Programme, July 4-10, 1986. The school is held annually at West Dean Estate in West Sussex, England, for professionals and experienced amateurs in landscape-related fields. The topic is "The Protection and Conservation of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens."

The school includes, in addition to lectures by speakers of eminence in the field, visits to landscapes and historic parks and gardens of the area. The West Dean Estate, consisting of 6000 acres of farm and woodland, includes 30 acres of landscaped gardens and the 42-acre St. Roche's Arboretum, containing trees renowned for their size and stature.

Both resident and non-resident arrangements are offered. For information contact West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO 13 0QZ, England. Telephone Singleton (024363) 301.

ANNOUNCED -- A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NATIONAL SCOPE

Quarterly publication of The Bulletin of American Garden History has been announced by Ellen Richards Samuels. Price is \$7.00 for 4 issues. The next issue will include news of California period gardens, and of events and resources in the field of garden history on the west coast. Orders and news items should be sent to the Bulletin, P.O. Box 397A, New York, N.Y. 10024.

REPORT ON A RESTORED SOUTHERN GARDEN

The history and restoration of the gardens of Middleton Place plantation, near Charleston, South Carolina, are discussed in an article in the April, 1986, issue of Historic Preservation, the bimonthly publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Entitled "The Enduring Mystery of Middleton Place," the article is by Charles Fenyvesi, whose gardening column appears weekly in the Washington Post. The article calls the garden of Middleton Place, laid out in 1741, "the North American continent's first great French-style formal garden."

AND MORE PRAISE FOR THE RESTORATION AT ANNAPOLIS....

The May/June, 1986, issue of Historic Preservation gives deserved credit to SGHS board member St. Clair Wright for the great success of historic preservation efforts in Annapolis, Maryland. Michael Olmert, author of the article, "How Annapolis Keeps Its Charm," describes the town this way: "as fine an example of a still-active 18th-century city as you'll see anywhere," and Mrs. Wright, Board Chairman of Historic Annapolis, Inc., as the person without whom "Annapolis today would be just another waterfront assemblage of condos and fern bars."

Historic Annapolis, an organization of 70 employees, 180 volunteers, and 3000 members at large, manages 13 historic properties and instructs the 90000 visitors who come to Annapolis each year. (In 1985 they included the delighted members of Southern Garden History Society.) Mrs. Wright's greatest triumph, Olmert asserts, is the restoration of the William Paca house and gardens. (As SGHS members learned, the gardens were replanted after removal of more than nine feet of backfill dirt--a task, involving archeological work as well as the skills of many other professionals, whose results will inspire the restorer of any Southern garden.)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

SGHS fall board meeting: Charlotte, North Carolina, Oct. 24-25, 1986. Send us your suggestions.

SGHS Annual Meeting, 1987: June 12-14 at Charlottesville, Va.

Sixth conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes, Old Salem, North Carolina, Oct. 29-31, 1987 (The fall board meeting of SGHS is held in alternate years in conjunction with this meeting.)

SGHS Annual Meeting, 1988: Early May, at Nashville, Tennessee; exact dates to be set in 1987 at Charlottesville.

CONFERENCE ON LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., at Monticello and the University of Virginia will conduct a 2-day conference on landscape archaeology at the University of Virginia and Monticello, September 25-27, 1986.

The program will include presentations of current research on the scientific method and theory of local and regional landscape studies worldwide as well as studies of town and country gardens in the South. The on-going research and restoration of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello landscape will serve as the conference's on-site focus.

Archaeologists, other interested scholars, and the members of the public interested in this field should contact Dr. William N. Kelso, Director of Archaeology; Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902, or telephone (804) 296-5245 for further information.

A VERY SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERY

The New York Times reported on December 26, 1985, the discovery at Bacon's Castle, a manor house 12 miles south of Williamsburg, Virginia, and across the James River, of a garden dating from 1680. According to Nicholas M. Luccketti, the state archeologist involved in the project from its inception, the find is "the largest, earliest, best-preserved, most sophisticated garden that has come to light in North America." It comprises six rectangular planting beds and outlying brick garden pavilions, and covers an area 360 feet long and 195 feet wide, adjacent to the 1665 high-Jacobean manor house.

The six raised rectangular beds, three on each side, are separated by a 12-foot-wide central walk on the north-south axis and 8-foot-wide paths on the east-west axis. All of the paths, including a 10-foot-wide perimeter path, were of compacted sand. Bordering the sides of the garden are 6-foot-wide planting beds. There is additional evidence of a frame structure that may have been used in connection with garden maintenance, and of an arbor along the eastern perimeter path. Soil samples are being examined at the University of Pennsylvania for seed and pollen that will indicate what flowers and herbs were grown in the garden.

Before the discovery of this garden, the garden at Middleton Place, near Charleston, South Carolina [mentioned on page 6], was considered the earliest documented American landscaped garden. Catherine Howett, commenting to the Times on the significance of the discovery, said: "The English Renaissance tradition that the Bacon's Castle garden represents was the dominant model for the high-style gardens that persisted in the South well past the middle of the 19th century. This garden's discovery dramatically illustrates the importance of landscape archeology to the restoration of historic landscapes."

BEYOND BOXWOOD? -- A QUESTION FOR RESTORERS OF SOUTHERN GARDENS

Past and present members of the Friends of Montpelier, a non-profit group of volunteers who recently considered a landscape master plan for Montpelier Mansion, in Laurel, Maryland, have wrestled with a problem often mentioned by restorers of Southern gardens at the meetings of Southern Garden History Society: to keep or not to keep the boxwoods.

These particular box plants, forming a large informally trimmed hedge leading to the front entrance of the 18th-century house, were criticized by some members of the Friends as not authentic to the front walk in the early period proposed for the garden restoration, and for obscuring the view of visitors approaching the lovely house itself.

Defenders of the box hedge, among them a past president of the Friends of Montpelier, cited the beauty and health of the planting and the known age of the boxwood at Montpelier. (Historians have documented that cuttings from the Montpelier boxwood were used by George Washington to start his boxwood at Mount Vernon, according to articles in The Laurel Ledger, on October 17, 1985, and February 27, 1986, sent to us by SGHS member Ed Shull of Catonsville, Maryland.)

The Prince George's County Planning Board approved the landscape master plan and the removal of the boxwood from the entrance to Montpelier at its meeting on Feb. 20, but only on condition that attempts be made to transplant the hedge to another location on the property. If that attempt fails, the Board's decision mandates that cuttings be taken to propagate and thus perpetuate the plants somewhere on the property.

Mr. Shull has not reported whether the County's Historic Preservation Commission, which must also give approval to the plan, ratified the Planning Board's decision at the Commission's meeting on March 18. A similar proposal to move boxwood from its central location to another at the Arkansas Territorial Restoration, in central Little Rock, a few years ago brought about quick approval of its landscape plan. We are guessing that the compromise suggested by the Maryland board has had the same result.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

We appreciate your items and correspondence sent to Magnolia.

Please send your news items, comments, and suggestions for the summer issue to the editor's new (old) address in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Deadline for receiving news is August 15.

THE DELIGHTS OF MONTGOMERY

Your editor is left with the impossible task of summarizing the events of our March weekend in Montgomery in the space of one short page. What follows are a few very personal responses; in mentioning one garden or experience, she intends no slight on other events of the very lovely weekend.

This meeting was extremely well planned, as even members who could not attend must have noticed as they received information about it, early and late. But the enthusiasm that carried it out was equal to the good planning: the combination of skills in Ed and Peggy Givhan and George Stritikus rewarded us with a time of learning without a touch of difficulty. We were taken care of, and we were taught about Alabama gardens and history.

Members who arrived early or stayed late were provided with a self-guided tour of private gardens. Because the Board met on that Friday afternoon, our tours were shorter than those of other members. The experience of glimpsing these gardens proved so inspirational for this writer that she insisted on returning Sunday to several of them. Particularly memorable were the whimsical ironwork garden structures of Montgomery architect John Shaffer.

Friday night's dinner meeting gave us a taste of the enthusiasm of George Stritikus, who also created the Alabama garden history exhibit that we saw the next day at Hull Street Historic District. "Alabama -- Her Successive Waves of Development," a lecture by Dr. Edwin C. Bridges, Director of Alabama Department of Archives and History, set the scene for our visitations the next day in Montgomery and its area. George's slide-lecture, "Fine Tuning the Period Garden: Six Tools to Help Localize Plant Material Recommendations," enumerated examples of information sources from oral history, archeology, and written documents (letters, nursery catalogues, journals and diaries, and collections of pressed flowers) that he has found in Alabama. Thus we were properly informed and inspired.

After a breakfast lecture on the history of Southern Living magazine by Mr. John Floyd, its editor, we toured gardens and exhibits in Montgomery, with a luncheon break in the beautiful setting of the Givhans' home garden. Afternoon visits ended at Jasmine Hill Gardens, where Benjamin and Mary Fitzpatrick built in the 1930's a garden of magnitude adorned with copies of classical Greek sculptures. We dined in the Jasmine Hill house restaurant after leisurely tours of the gardens.

Our business meeting on Saturday morning resulted in election of officers and board members listed on the following page. Most of us were able to stay on for a delightful visit to the pilgrimage at the nearby village of Lowndesboro on Sunday.

Those who missed the meeting may want to request written materials from it from Mr. Stritikus through the editor.

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May 1, 1986 to April 30, 1988

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