



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

Magnolia

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The Mount Vernon Annual Meetings

On December 18, 2020, a sad, but not surprising, notice hit our inboxes: the 2021 Mount Vernon annual meeting has again been postponed. Written by a rightly chagrined Dean Norton, it nonetheless promised a never-to-be-forgotten gathering once the time is right. Everyone agrees Dean deserves boundless kudos for his dedication and hard work in organizing yet a fourth Mount Vernon come-together, just as he is due all the support he can be given while he endures multiple postponements and reschedulings.

As we all look forward to “**a celebration like has never been seen in the annals of the Southern Garden History Society**,”* to quote Dean’s message, the editors of *Magnolia* thought this an appropriate moment to scan back over the history of these decennial functions. They have clearly become “marker moments” in many ways. Telling their story provides an opportunity to celebrate past moments while we eagerly anticipate the continuation of a great tradition.

We begin by asking what other annual meeting has offered us the opportunity to soar up in a hot air balloon to get a bird’s eye view of both the first president’s home and grounds, plus the glorious Potomac River? Or a ride in a carriage pulled by a handsome pair of mules? Or, walk about with George, the “Indispensable Man,” himself?



1990: A tradition begins

A look at photos from the first time we met at Mount Vernon underscores how relatively young the Southern Garden History Society was in 1990. And this “youth” was true of both the organization and many of its members. Faces of key founders and founding board members speak more vividly than words. It is especially haunting to see photos of Flora Ann Bynum and William Lanier Hunt who at this meeting were savoring the fruits of their visionary efforts of eight years earlier.



Dean Norton with his daughter Penelope (Nellie) in 1990.

Our website (nonexistent in 1990, of course!) recalls the Society’s founding moments in 1982 while offering a review of the annual meetings occurring prior to Mount Vernon. Those yearly gatherings had become key to the success of the Society, and their individual success an impetus for future organizers to go “all out.” And that is just what happened at Mount Vernon in 1990.

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CALENDAR

During this period of closures and modified events, many webinars are now available online. We encourage you to search for programs of interest.

February 6—August 1, 2021. “Virginia Arcadia: The Natural Bridge in American Art,” an exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) explores the artistic portrayal of this spectacular 400-million-year-old geological formation and natural landmark. Museum is located at 200 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd., Richmond, VA 23220. Visit: www.VMFA.museum.

March 19, 2021. Dumbarton Oaks Virtual Webinar, “Humanistic Uses of Herbaria.” This online webinar focuses on the history and contemporary relevance of herbarium collections, and the importance of herbaria to science and conservation. The webinar explores the humanistic angles by engaging with history, the history of the book, art history, and contemporary art, thus placing the discussion at the intersection of the arts and sciences. Visit: www.doaks.org

April 2, 2021. “Celebrating Daffodils,” digital webinar hosted by the New York Botanical Garden, featuring SGHS member and daffodil authority Sara Van Beck, and NYBG curator Claire Lyman. The program will trace the history of the daffodil from Europe to the US and discuss the rare historic cultivars at the Botanical Garden. Visit: www.nybg.org to register.

April 17-24, 2021. Historic Garden Week in Virginia, “The Path Forward.” This year’s event will include 30 unique tours organized and hosted by 48 member clubs located from the foothills of the Shenandoah Valley to the beaches of Tidewater, showcasing the full range of Virginia’s landscapes and gardens. Contact: Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, State Director: Karen@VAGardenWeek.org, (804) 644-7776 or www.vagardenweek.org

April 19, 2021. Georgia Perennial Plant Association and Cherokee Garden Library Virtual Program, Atlanta History Center. Film Screening and Conversation with Thomas Piper, filmmaker, director, and producer, “Five Seasons: Gardens of Piet Oudolf.” <https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/programs-events/author-talks/>

April 22-25, 2021. Colonial Williamsburg’s 74th Annual Garden Symposium, “Celebrate Planet Earth: Giving Back with our Gardens.” This year’s virtual event features national gardening television host, Joe Lamp’l, professor and researcher, Doug Tallamy, and David Mizejewski,

spokesperson for the National Wildlife Federation. Award winning authors Anne Spafford and Nancy Lawson will discuss creating successful gardens for pollinators and other wildlife. Email: educationalconferences@cwf.org or visit: www.colonialwilliamsburg.org

May 10-28, 2021. “Public Landscapes and Public Health: An Inquiry into the Histories of Landscape Design,” a virtual, three-week workshop hosted by Dumbarton Oaks. Visit: www.doaks.org

May 12, 2021. Cherokee Garden Library Virtual Talk, Atlanta History Center. Jennifer Jewell, host of public radio’s award-winning national program and podcast Cultivating Place, will discuss her new book, *The Earth in Her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants* (Timber Press, 2020). Visit: <https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/programs-events/author-talks/>

June 5-13, 2021. Philadelphia Flower Show. The nation’s largest and longest-running horticultural event will move outdoors for the first time, making the 2021 show a history-making experience that will incorporate the beautiful Frederick Law Olmsted landscape of FDR Park in Philadelphia. Visit: <https://phsonline.org/the-flower-show>

Mark your calendars:

April 22-24, 2022. Re-scheduled SGHS Annual Meeting at Mount Vernon. Follow updates on the events page of the SGHS website, www.southerngardenhistory.org



The Mount Vernon Annual Meetings *(continued from page 1)*

Based at the Holiday Inn in the heart of historic Alexandria, Virginia, the 1990 meeting began with an array of Friday afternoon lectures that greatly widened our knowledge about the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, as well as several excellent discussions of eighteenth-century paint colors and finishes. Then a fine evening at nearby Gunston Hall was capped off by an examination of Italian gardens, always a favorite subject.

Saturday kicked off with the start of a tradition: a yacht cruise down the Potomac with a landing on the



Anthony O'Grady and Peter Hatch, Director of Gardens and Grounds, Monticello, aboard the Spirit of Washington, 1990.

pier at Mount Vernon. Roses are always close to the heart of Society members, so it was all-the-better to begin our experience there with a talk by highly regarded rose authority, Holly Shimizu. She was followed by Brent Heath with his look at eighteenth-century bulbs; lunch at the Woodlawn Plantation house and grounds; C. Allan Brown's examination of "Masonic Influences on Garden Design;" and Anthony O'Grady's discussion of the American influence on the British landscape. A Dean Norton tour of the ever-remarkable Mount Vernon grounds and a performance of Washington-era music capped this amazing second day. (For full details, readers can visit the website, where they can find both the meeting brochure and a full write-up in the Summer 1990 issue of *Magnolia*.)

On Sunday many of us enjoyed an optional tour program that took us out of Virginia and into Georgetown in the District of Columbia. For some it was a first look at Beatrix Farrand's garden creations at Dumbarton Oaks, an experience that has to be the highlight of any day.

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Dean Norton gathers members in Mount Vernon's vegetable garden, 1990.



Founding board member Hugh Dargan (right) enjoying a carriage ride with Anne Carr, whose leadership as a member of the Cherokee Garden Club of Atlanta established the Cherokee Garden Library in 1975.



Founding members William Lanier (Bill) Hunt and Glenn Haltom during the 1990 reception.

The Mount Vernon Annual Meetings *(continued from page 3)*

Quite nearby, we also visited Evermay and Tudor Place, where terraced gardens, a smoke tree grove, roses of great age, and much more revealed another side of the city of Washington.

In total, the 1990 annual meeting was exceptional at every turn. At that moment, however, it is hard to say that anyone imaged a tradition had been established that would become a milestone marking the playing out of many of our own lives decade upon decade.

For further details, visit:

<https://southerngardenhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/1990-Summer-Vol.-VII-no.-1.pdf>



Y2K Mount Vernon Annual Meeting

In the year 2000, the eighteenth annual meeting at Mount Vernon launched the new millennium for the Society. Dean Norton, along with Gail Griffin, then director of gardens at Dumbarton Oaks, coordinated a repeat performance of the 1990 gathering with a record attendance of 170+ members. While the 1990 meeting reminded us of the origins and early days of the Society, by 2000 the reality of time passing was evident by the fact that Dean and his wife Susanne, who had just welcomed their firstborn in 1990, now had four beautiful daughters.

The newly renovated Old Town Holiday Inn in Old Town Alexandria was once again home base of operations, where we boarded buses for the Friday afternoon program at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. This was a unique venue opportunity for talks on eighteenth-century plants, herbs, fruits, and cut flowers by Lucy Coggins, Laura Viancour, and Sarah Becker, Tom Burford, and Libbey Oliver.

Saturday morning, a leisurely, two-hour excursion



Mr. Washington with Ed Shull and Dean with his three young daughters in 2000.

and breakfast, this time on the Cherry Blossom paddle wheeler, launched our day at Mount Vernon. While enjoying the scenery along the Potomac River, Terry Sharrer

presented a talk on eighteenth-

century biological

thought and agricultural practices, based on his article “An Undebauched Mind:’ Farmer Washington at Mount Vernon, 1759-99,” which previously appeared in the Winter 1999 issue of *Magnolia*.

Upon arriving at Mount Vernon’s four-acre Pioneer Farm, we had the opportunity to view the extraordinary 16-sided threshing barn that was reconstructed in 1996. Members spent the rest of the morning touring the



Ken McFarland, Mr. Washington, and Tom Burford (left to right) in 2000.



Mr. Washington welcomes Beate Jensen to Mount Vernon, 2000.

gardens and grounds around the mansion before gathering at the Ann Pamela Cunningham Building for a lecture by Joanne Seale Lawson on Rose Ishbel Greely (1887-1969), an American landscape architect and the first licensed female architect in Washington, DC.

Lunch was held at nearby River Farm, considered one of George Washington's best farms and home of his personal secretary Tobias Lear. Following tours of the American Horticultural Society's gardens at River Farm, we returned to Mount Vernon with a final talk by renowned author and historian William Seale on "The Landscape of America's Home, the White House."

As the day concluded we were invited to "spend an evening as guests would have done 200 years ago on the grounds of Mount Vernon." It was a magical time to take a horse and mule-drawn carriage ride, stroll the serpentine avenues, have cocktails while listening to light opera on the expansive piazza overlooking the Potomac, and getting a bird's-eye view of the landscape from a hot air balloon.

Sunday's optional field trips included tours of special gardens and sites in the heart of Washington and Georgetown beginning at Hillwood. The house, first known as Arbremont, was built in 1926 with gardens designed by Rose Greely and Willard Gebhart. Marjorie Merriweather Post acquired the estate in 1955, remade the house and grounds as her own, and gave it the name Hillwood. During lunch at the Washington National

Cathedral, we were introduced to the "close gardens" designed by the Olmsted Brothers. We spent the rest of the afternoon at two significant sites in Georgetown: Dumbarton Oaks and Oak Hill Cemetery. The magnificent gardens of Dumbarton Oaks, designed by Beatrix Farrand for Mildred Barnes and Robert Woods Bliss in the 1920s, are well known to SGHS members and often featured in *Magnolia*, including the fall 2020 issue. We ended our journey at Oak Hill Cemetery, a 15-acre landscaped cemetery established in 1849 whose layout and design exemplifying the nineteenth-century Romantic Movement was conceivably prepared by Andrew Jackson Downing. The Mount Vernon annual meeting in 2000 most certainly met the standards set in 1990 and propelled the Society resoundingly into the twenty-first century.

For even more, visit:

https://southerngardenhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Magnolia_Spring_2000-1.pdf

(continued on page 6)



Ken McFarland at Dumbarton Oaks in 2000.



George Washington greets the SGHS gathering in 2000, including founding member Flora Ann Bynum in blue pants.



Mount Vernon 2000 balloon.

The Mount Vernon Annual Meetings *(continued from page 5)*

Ten Years into a New Millenium: 2010

As years fly by, so also do decades, a thought shared by many when in 2010 we gathered once more at Mount Vernon. While the schedule followed a now well-established pattern, presentations and activities were anything but staid and repetitive. Attendees were treated, for example, to talks by the authors of two important new garden history publications, Andrea Wulf and Therese O'Malley. On Friday, the former drew from her *Brother Gardeners* to speak about the interwoven stories of six individuals crucial to the study of plants in the eighteenth century: John Bartram, Peter Collinson, Phillip Miller, Carl Linnaeus, Daniel Solander, and Joseph Banks—an impressive sextet by any standard. The next day, at Mount Vernon, Ms. O'Malley covered subjects raised in her wonderfully illustrated and deeply researched *Keywords in American Landscape Design*, a study spanning three centuries. Other talks encompassed revelations from modern-day botanical explorations at far-apart locations in Venezuela and Myanmar, offered respectively by Deborah Bell and W. John Kress, both of the Smithsonian. Much closer to home, Mount Vernon archeologist Esther White and horticulturist Dean Norton gave us a close look at recent work to expand our knowledge of the property's Upper Garden, located but a coin toss from where we sat. All fun stuff, and a foretaste of what we can expect when we actually do gather once more in Northern Virginia.

Of course, Society members came to see, feel, and smell as well as to hear, and once more, there was no disappointment.

Immediately after the ever-memorable cruise down the Potomac and disembarking at Mount Vernon, we entered the Pioneer Farm area. In particular, this writer joined many others in being once more taken in by the amazing threshing barn. We saw too the work being done to interpret the many enslaved



Peggy Cornett with husband Chris Morash on the Cherry Blossom paddleboat in 2000.

at Mount Vernon through a recreated cabin and small garden. At the same time, at another location, the recently opened distillery was available to explore near the working grist mill. All this was complemented by a visit to the new education center, where among other points, we sharpened



Greg Brandl of Opelousas, Louisiana, enjoyed his first meeting in 2010.



Food, wine, music, and even hot air balloon rides almost overshadowed the magnificent view of the Potomac from Mount Vernon's veranda.



A view of the stunning woodland garden designed and created by Donna Hackman at her home Highland Spring in 2010.

our awareness of the central role women played both in saving Mount Vernon in the nineteenth-century and operating the property today.

The Sunday optional tours also lived up to the standard set at previous meetings. Leaving behind the extensively developed areas near Alexandria and Fairfax, we ventured into still rural parts of Northern Virginia's famed "horse country." Society members will long recall visiting James Monroe's home Oak Hill, strolling around Glenstone near the origin of Bull Run, and enjoying lunch at the always-popular Oatlands. The afternoon was capped off by walk-about through the fine landscapes and gardened areas at Seven Springs and Highland Spring. One could not imagine a more perfect day of country touring!

And for more yet, visit:

www.southerngardenhistory.org [Magnolia editors Staci Catron, Peggy Cornett, and Ken McFarland collaborated to write this retrospective of the Mount Vernon Annual Meetings in 1990, 2000, and 2010.]

*The fourth Mount Vernon SGHS annual meeting has been rescheduled for April 22-24, 2022.

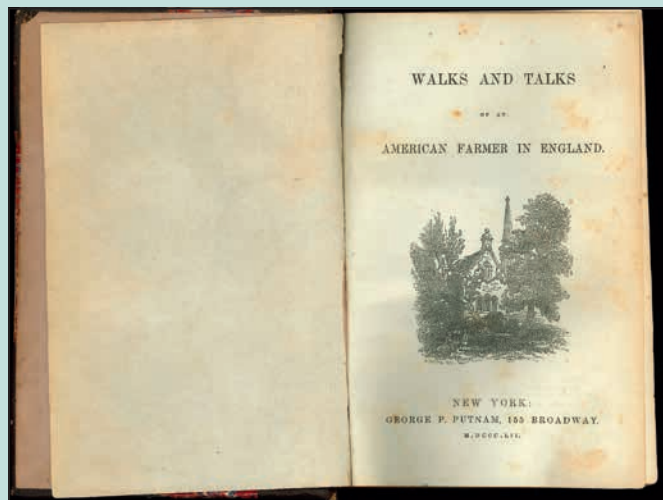


Peggy Cornett, Elizabeth Boggess, and Anne MacNeil admire the Hog Island sheep, a rare breed named after a seventeenth-century English settlement in Virginia at Mount Vernon's Pioneer Farm in 2010.

Olmsted 2022

It is an uncommon issue of *Magnolia* where the name "Olmsted" does not appear at least once. In keeping with that tradition, it is a pleasure to draw our readers' attention to the bicentennial anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth coming up in 2022. Doubtlessly, many have already received messages from Olmsted200, an organization consisting of many partners working in cooperation with the National Association of Olmsted Parks. Details are available at <https://olmsted200.org>, a website which includes an excellent overview of FLO's life and work.

Do yourself a favor and take a few minutes/hours to refresh your knowledge about this individual so crucial to American landscape history. Moreover, review some of the lesser discussed aspects of his interests and endeavors. For, example, have a look at his important work as executive secretary of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, an organization set up in the summer of 1861 to aid Union soldiers suffering from wounds or disease. Or, explore his visit to his ancestral homeland (and briefly to the Continent) in 1850, as he was to describe in *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*.^{*} It may be recalled that it was early in this trip that Olmsted explored Birkenhead Park, near Liverpool, one important source of inspiration for the work he and Calvert Vaux were later to undertake in New York.



Courtesy Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center.

Those are just several of many Olmsted milestones to heed in trying to understand the complexity of his achievements. Look for more in future *Magnolia* issues, along with birthday celebration updates.

^{*}For discussion and analysis of this period, see Garrett Dash Nelson's University of Nottingham MA dissertation *Olmsted in England* at: <http://people.matinic.us/garrett/olmsted/OlmstedinEngland-WebBound.pdf>.

Towards a Garden History Canon

Most readers will probably agree that certain books on garden history might be called seminal or even canonical. Yet reaching common accord on which publications (and their authors) merit inclusion in such a grouping is daunting ... if not impossible. Your *Magnolia* editors nonetheless feel beginning a compilation of candidates could be a fascinating endeavor, which might provide an opportunity for any Society member so inclined to share his or her opinions on works others put forward, as well as to toss in a title or two at the top of their personal lists.

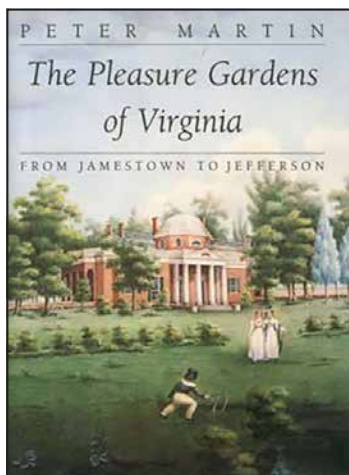
Since we are the *Southern Garden History Society*, this proposed undertaking also provides a chance to create a “canon” not only of general garden history works, but also of titles that might fit under a narrower heading addressing the region loosely considered the “American South.” Quickly scanning the home bookshelf, one might, for example, cite Charles Platt’s *Italian Gardens* as a title suitable for the broader group. That same bit of shelf reading could also bring out Elizabeth Lawrence’s *The Little Bulbs*, which might fit within a Southern garden history canon, though the Lawrence fan base surely covers a much larger area.

What might make a book seminal could rest on the influence that work has had on the reader/researcher’s life, career, or outlook. Thus, in commencing this examination the editors will begin with short discussions of several such titles for the consideration of our readers. When possible, these discussions will include a link to a longer review found in *Magnolia* and/or to other readily accessible resources.



Ken McFarland on *The Pleasure Gardens of Virginia*

Almost 30 years ago I reviewed *The Golden Age of American Gardens: Proud Owners*Private Estates, 1890-1940* in the fall 1991 issue of *Magnolia*. This was to be the first book I would reference for canonical classification. However, in considering another possible candidate, early Society board member Peter Martin’s *The Pleasure Gardens of Virginia: from Jamestown to Jefferson* (1991), I discovered that for unknown reasons the book was



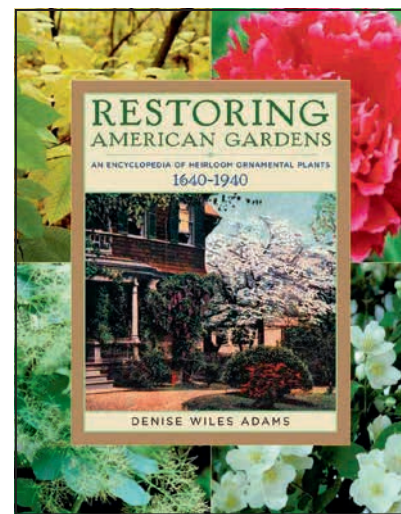
never reviewed in *Magnolia*. In brief, over the years since its appearance, Martin’s book has been an ever-at-hand resource in writing for this and other publications, as well as in preparing seminar and conference talks. Of course, since I was employed at Stratford, site of a significant Virginia eighteenth-century garden/landscape and often seeking context in writing and speaking about the same, the connection is self-apparent. For now, I will leave it to *Magnolia* readers, should they wish, to seek out more on their own about the author and his book. It remains available at low prices, nicely covers this important period in the development of Southern garden history, and is thoroughly end-noted for those who wish to probe further. While there is some nominal mention of the importance of enslaved labor here, it might be assumed that in wearing his garden historian’s hat the author did not see this as part of “his brief.” Times are changing, or so it is to be hoped. A fuller story deserves telling.



Peggy Cornett selects Denise Adams’ *Restoring American Gardens*:

In the 2004 *Magnolia* I reviewed Denise Wiles Adams’ recently published book: *Restoring American Gardens: An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants 1640-1940* (Timber Press publishers). At the time I praised it as an ambitious, beautifully produced, and comprehensive

resource on the histories of plants in American gardens. Adams’ research continues to be an essential work, which I recommend for everyone from professional landscape and garden historians to the homeowner seeking period appropriate plants for their private landscapes. My review concludes with this challenge for garden historians: “Despite the extensiveness of her study, Denise Adams makes clear that this book should not be considered the definitive work but rather an inspiration and a launching point for future study, further analysis, and endless debate and discussion, with the ultimate goal of precise documentation and accurate interpretation. In this regard,



Ms. Adams raises the bar and puts the challenge to us all.”
[see *Magnolia*, Vol. XIX, No. 1. Winter-Spring 2004]



Staci Catron on Bartram's *Travels*:

Like the book chosen by Ken McFarland, my choice also has never been reviewed in *Magnolia*. Therefore, the following is a fuller consideration of William Bartram's *Travels*, an essential addition to every Southern gardener's bookshelf:

Bartram's *Travels*

Adapted from the Local Component of Following in Bartram's Footsteps Exhibition hosted by the Cherokee Garden Library of Atlanta History Center in 2014, text written by Staci L. Catron

Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek confederacy, and the country of the Chactaws; containing an account of the soil and natural productions of those regions; together with observations on the manners of the Indians, by William Bartram | Philadelphia: printed by James and Johnson, 1791 | 522 pages; illustrations (some folded); frontispiece of Mico

Chluccho, or Long Warrior, a leader of the Seminole village of Cuscowilla, engraved from Bartram's original sketch.

William Bartram is considered the first author in the modern genre describing nature through personal experience and scientific observation. Published in 1791, his seminal work, *Travels*, gives a naturalist's vision of frontier America, documenting and illustrating his long exploration of the South between 1773 and 1776. *Travels* is a scientific study of the flora and fauna of the Southeast in the late eighteenth century as well as a historical source concerning indigenous people of the Americas and settlers. The work is also a landmark in American literature, significantly influencing writers in the United States and abroad, including Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, François-René de Chateaubriand, Thomas Jefferson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry David

Thoreau. Bartram's *Travels* is still widely read today.

Bartram traveled extensively with his father, John, in the Southeast in the 1760s, gleaning his first impressions of the region. At age 33, William Bartram left Philadelphia on March 20, 1773, and returned to the South on a journey that led him 2,400 miles and lasted four years ending at the close of 1776. His travels took him from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to Florida, and through the Southeast interior to the Mississippi River. He documented hundreds of species of plants observed on his travels and cataloged the birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles, snakes, alligators, and tortoises of the South. He also described the inhabitants he met in towns and the hunters, trappers, and traders in the backcountry. Bartram observed and wrote about his experiences with indigenous peoples of the Americas, including Cherokee, Creek, and Seminole peoples. He relied on the hospitality of his father's connections and acquaintances among the colonists in Charleston and Savannah, as well as generosity

from indigenous peoples he met throughout his travels.

William Bartram identified hundreds of species of regional plant life in *Travels*. He discovered scores of new plants during his momentous journey, including *Hydrangea quercifolia* or Oakleaf hydrangea, which he identified in Crawford County, Georgia, in 1776:

I observed here a very singular and beautiful shrub, which I suppose is a species of Hydrangea (H. quercifolia.)

It grows in coppices or clumps near or on the banks of rivers and creeks; many stems usually arise from a root, spreading itself greatly on all sides by suckers or offsets; the stems grow five or six feet high, declining or diverging from each other, and are covered with several barks or rinds, the last of which being of a cinereous dirt colour and very thin, at a certain age of the stems or shoots, cracks through to the next bark, and is peeled off by the winds, discovering the under, smooth, dark reddish brown bark, which also cracks and peels off the next year, in like manner as the former; thus every year forming a new bark; the stems divide regularly or oppositely, though the branches are crooked or wreath about horizontally, and these again divide, forming others which terminate with large heavy pannicles or thyrsi of flowers.

Bartram's writings about his travels and on indigenous

(continued on page 10)



Bartram's *Travels* 1793. Courtesy Cherokee Garden Library Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center.

Towards a Garden History Canon *(continued from page 9)*

peoples of the Americas also established him as an important figure in American Enlightenment science. Humans, plants, and animals were all interests in his study of the natural world. The landscape Bartram explored was significantly less populated than when Hernando de Soto charged through the territory two centuries earlier. The mound-building societies of the Southeast, known today as Mississippian, succumbed to disease and weapons of Spanish explorers in the sixteenth century, when over a million native peoples filled the region. By the 1770s, perhaps 50,000 Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole survivors remained. Bartram's journey occurred as the historic tribes, the heirs of the Mississippians, were engaged in trading alliances with the colonies, but before the influx of European settlers into Indian territory.

Scholars believe Bartram's Quaker background influenced his enlightened views, leading to his unusual ability to overcome societal bias in his writings of indigenous peoples' cultures. Bartram sought a realistic presentation of Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole peoples. Although some of his colonial contemporaries failed to understand the significance of

his work, the indigenous peoples he met viewed him as a fair observer of their land and customs and welcomed him into their communities. Due to his interest in local plants and animals, Bartram was named Puc Puggy, or Flower Hunter, by Ahaya, or Cowkeeper, chief of the Alachua band of the Seminoles.

Numerous reprints of Bartram's epic work, *Travels*, are available today. A favorite among historians and naturalists is *The Travels of William Bartram: Naturalist Edition*, edited by Frances Harper (University of Georgia Press, 1988). Other invaluable works on Bartram include:

Fields of Vision: Essays on the Travels of William Bartram by Kathryn Holland Braud and Charlotte M. Porter (University of Alabama Press, 2010); *William Bartram on Southeastern Indians*, by Kathryn Holland Braund and Gregory A. Waselkov (University of Nebraska Press, 2002); *Guide to William Bartram's Travels: Following the Trail of America's First Great Naturalist* by Brad Sanders (Fevtree Press, 2002); *William Bartram and the American Revolution on the Southern Frontier* by Edward Cashin (University of South Carolina Press, 2000). To learn more about Bartram, visit the Bartram Trail Conference website: <http://www.bartramtrail.org/>

Two Reviews

In this era of racial reckoning the Commonwealth of Virginia has become a crucible—and not surprisingly so. For the longer part of its existence as a political entity, from 1619 through the Civil War, slavery and the enslavement of human beings for economic, social, and political gain, has been ingrained at the center of its history and the lives of its citizens and bondsmen. Richmond, the capital of Virginia, became the capital of the Confederate States of America in 1861. Following on a short-lived period of reconstruction, a redressed political and social order was clothed successively in the mythology of the “Lost Cause,” the idolization of Robert E. Lee, the rise of White Supremacy and Jim Crow, and the mid-twentieth-century era of Massive Resistance marshalled by Harry Flood Byrd (1887-1966). His roles as governor of Virginia from 1926 to 1930 and as a United States Senator from 1933 to retirement in November 1965 cannot be overstated in the perpetuation of entrenched white entitlement and racial injustice. (He was succeeded in the United States Senate by his son, Harry Flood Byrd Jr.)

The “Lost Cause” had its many champions in Virginia, and beyond its borders. It also found expression in a celebrated instance of urban design of the “City Beautiful” era, Monument Avenue, in Richmond. Initially conceived in 1887 as the site of a memorial to General Lee (1807-1870), this elegant extension of West Franklin

Street was laid out as residential boulevard with parallel one-way lanes flanking a wide, tree-lined, grass-covered median punctuated by a series of statues along its length. The towering equestrian monument to Lee was dedicated in 1890 and followed in 1907 by monuments to J. E. B. Stuart (1833-1864) and Jefferson Davis (1808-1889), and in 1919 by the equestrian memorial to Stonewall Jackson (1824-1863). These were erected along a thirteen-block length of the avenue, from Lombardy Street west to The Boulevard, lined by handsome townhouses, mansions, churches, and imposing apartment buildings. The further westerly path of Monument Avenue was next marked in 1929 by a statue honoring Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873), long known as the “Pathfinder of the Seas,” who was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

In retrospect the slow arc of history—and its redress—began to rise in 1996 with the contested erection of a monument to Arthur Ashe (1943-1993), a Black native of Richmond and tennis legend, at the crossing of Monument Avenue and Roseneath Road, three blocks west of the Maury monument. A handsomely-illustrated, laudatory monograph, *Richmond's Monument Avenue*, published by The University of North Carolina Press, followed in 2001. Seen through the lens of 2020, these events now seem to mark the end of an era, a certain capstone in their individual, particular ways, to one launched in 1890 at

Lee Circle with the dedication of the Lee monument.

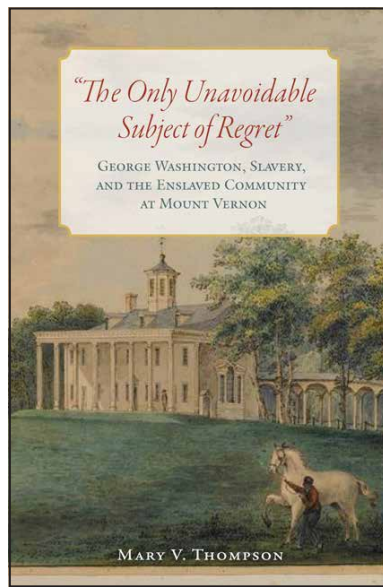
In the context of a conflictual history, and events of the immediately past years, the University of Virginia Press appears as the publisher of three important books. Mary V. Thompson's "*The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret*" – *George Washington, Slavery, and the Enslaved Community at Mount Vernon* was published in June 2019. Two months later, in August 2019, *Educated in Tyranny: Slavery at Thomas Jefferson's University* was released to booksellers. *Black Landscapes Matter* came to our hands and into bookshops in November 2020. Mary V. Thompson's seminal work and *Black Landscapes Matter* will be of especial interest to members of the Society, however, all three are on our shelves here.



"*The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret*" – *George Washington, Slavery, and the Enslaved Community at Mount Vernon*, by Mary V. Thompson. UVA Press | 502 pages, cloth | ISBN: 9780813941844, 2019 | list price \$29.95

Since her arrival at Mount Vernon in March 1980 Mary V. Thompson has enjoyed a distinguished tenure at the presidential estate and enviable opportunities to advance her scholarly interests to the advantage of Mount Vernon and its interpretive program for staff and visitors alike. With background experience as a volunteer at history museums preceding her first months at Mount Vernon and receipt of her graduate degree in history from the University of Virginia in 1980, she became a curatorial assistant in August of that year. Ms. Thompson next served as curatorial registrar from 1986 to 1998, and fulfilled the duties of research specialist until 2008 when she was promoted to Research Historian, the post she now holds. Her scholarship first came to fruition in publication with "*In the Hands of a Good Providence*" – *Religion in the Life of George Washington*, also in 2008.

Mary V. Thompson undertook this new book, crafting the research and writings of three decades into a manuscript and into print, with eyes clearly focused on her subject and an unbiased regard for the characters in her story.



"My intention is that the reader will come away with an understanding of the fact that the institution of slavery was lived by very real people. Each enslaved person brought to the experience his or her own unique background, personality, abilities, family situation, moral standards, and dreams, as did the white people with whom the slave had dealings. All of these factors can, and did, have an impact on how they both experienced, and responded to, the 'peculiar institution.'"

She gives voice to a companion goal later in the introduction. "One of the things I hope this book does is to give readers the basic historical information they need in order to answer the question of how George Washington should be judged by history on the issue of slavery." That readers, is her life accomplishment and the genius of "*The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret*."

Ms. Thompson arranges her narrative in nine chapters wherein she first treats the Washingtons as plantation and slave owners, George Washington's evolving views on the institution itself, and the individuals engaged or employed to oversee the slave force and manage the extensive agricultural operations on the five adjoining, named farms comprising Mount Vernon. In a series of six chapters, comprising the principal part of the book, she directly addresses the enslaved people and their lives, as individuals, as parents, and within families, the work that occupied their days, the degree of leisure they found at labor's end and the joy they created in their circumstances, their foodstuffs and rations, clothing, and habitations, and the controls exercised and employed when resistance arose among the enslaved on the estate.

Through hours with book in hand, the reader will make frequent reference to a sequence of twelve tables in an appendix in which Ms. Thompson lays out, in graphic listings, distinctions critical to the best appreciation of the story she presents. The first of these, "George Washington's acquisition of slaves," covers the years from 1750 to 1775 and has three further columns in which the name, age and occupation are listed beside entries for the source and location of procurement and the type of acquisition, whether by bequest, marriage, rental or purchase, with the price paid if known. "If known" is an understood caveat throughout these tables. The skilled, trained slaves who came to Mount Vernon with Washington's marriage in 1759 to Martha Dandridge Custis (1731-1802), the wealthy widow of Daniel Parke Custis (1711-1757), as part of her dower, were clearly important to the couple's life and its mannered state at the mansion and the Mansion House Farm. Less, other than their names, is known

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Two Reviews... (continued from page 11)

of the twenty-two enslaved people who came from the Custis estate in 1770, for a total of thirty-four.

Three tables with the heading "Growth of the Mount Vernon plantation" document the hired and indentured workmen and the enslaved above the age of sixteen, by occupation or trade, in the years of 1760-1774, 1786, and 1799. Of related interest hereto, is the table listing "Farm managers and overseers at Mount Vernon, 1754-1799," with names, position and status, and years and farm, in three columns.

Four tables are headed "Births at Mount Vernon" followed with four successive, inclusive date sequences for the period from January 1763 to August 1798. Names of the mothers, dates of the births, names of the attending midwives, and interval between births, when sometimes known, appear in four columns under the name of the respective farm on the estate.

Lastly, Mary V. Thompson presents a table of "Origins of names on Mount Vernon slave lists, 1786 and 1799" whereon she lists names by categories, African, Biblical, Classical, English, and other names based on occupation, places, or of unknown origins. There is little repetition except for Alice, Bett/Betty, Grace, Hannah, Jenny, Judy, Kate, Lucy, Moll/Molly, Nancy, Sall/Sally, and Suck/Suckey among females and Ben, Charles, Daniel, Jack, James, Joe, Peter, and Tom among the enslaved males. These names, appearing in alphabetical lists, have a heartrending, bittersweet presence and undeniable power, read one after another on seven pages, with the letters of each being the single, certain possession held by over 300 people during George Washington's lifetime.

Mary V. Thompson approached the ending of this extraordinary story, in the closing pages of her narrative, immediately before the appendix, with an evocative, critically important recount of the eulogy delivered by Reverend Richard Allen (1760-1831), a Black Methodist minister, on 29 December 1799, from his pulpit in Philadelphia. The date was but fifteen days after the president's death at Mount Vernon. Knowing the provisions of George Wash-



Ruins of the brick quarter at the greenhouse beside the upper garden, rear elevation, ca. 1885-1889. "Construction of the new quarter at the greenhouse," Mary V. Thompson writes, "was well underway by the spring of 1792. . . . Late in 1792 or early the following year, people began moving into the new quarter near the upper garden. From that time until George Washington's death in 1799, roughly half the slaves at the Mansion House Farm (98 adults and children in 1799) probably lived in the brick wings flanking the greenhouse, in four large rectangular rooms, each thirty-three feet nine inches by seventeen feet nine inches, a total living space of about six hundred square feet. Each of the rooms had a fireplace on one of its shorter walls and the luxury of glazed windows." The three-part building was destroyed by fire in December 1835, leaving the brick wall(s) seen in this image, that survived with some efforts at stabilization to the last decade of the 19th century.

ington's will, to emancipate the slaves he personally owned at his widow's death, and cognizant of the views on slavery that had led the president to these actions, the minister, a former slave himself, spoke truth to his congregation, with wisdom and a generosity of spirit, in honor of "Our father and friend." (Mr. Allen was the first Black minister ordained by Bishop Francis Asbury, in 1799, in the American Methodist church. In 1816 Reverend Allen would unite five Black congregations in the Philadelphia area as the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first fully independent Black denomination in the United States and was elected its bishop.)

At George Washington's death on 14 December 1799 over 300 enslaved African Americans were at Mount Vernon. The majority of their number, 153, comprised the dower of Martha Washington and would become at her death the property of the grandchildren of her marriage to Daniel Parke Custis. George Washington died owning outright 123 slaves, who were to remain a part of the estate he bequeathed to his wife for her life, and then to be freed. With the counsel of trusted advisors, Martha Washington signed a deed of manumission for her deceased husband's slaves, recorded in the court of Fairfax County, and to take effect on 1 January 1801. Within



Servant's Quarters, Mt. Vernon, Va.



GARDEN AND SERVANTS' QUARTERS, MOUNT VERNON, V.A.

The refitting of the slave quarter(s) at the greenhouse, and a free rebuilding of the greenhouse itself, in a Colonial Revival manner, were among the improvements made early in the long tenure (1885-1937) of Harrison Howell Dodge (1852-1937) as resident superintendent at Mount Vernon. This work was described briefly in the color guidebook published by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in 1921 under the caption "Servants' Quarters," and below a photograph of the buildings and the upper garden. "Two long, red-roofed buildings adjoin the conservatory. These were the quarters for a limited number of servants needed at the Mansion. Comfortable cabins to house the rest of the negroes were located at convenient distances about the plantation. Both these quarters were in ruins, but have been restored—the West Quarters by Mrs. Jennie Meeker Ward, late Vice-Regent for Kansas in 1890, and the East Quarters by Miss Amy Townsend, late Vice-Regent for New York in 1897. While in exterior form these buildings are identical with their original appearance, the interior of each has been somewhat changed to meet existing requirements." These post card images of the east (top) and west (bottom) quarters show the rehabilitated buildings as they stood in the 1890s, prior to the construction of the greenhouse and their covering with uniform "red" roofs.

about two months thereafter most of the 123 slaves owned by the late president had left Mount Vernon with their freedom. The forty-one rented slaves at Mount Vernon at Washington's death were eventually returned to their owners. George Washington also addressed the matter of a group of thirty-three slaves who were formerly owned by Bartholomew Dandridge (1737-1785), Mrs. Washington's younger brother. Mr. Dandridge died before satisfying an

indebtedness to the president. These slaves came into George Washington's ownership in 1785, however, they had remained at the Dandridge plantation in servitude to his widow, until her death. His executors would free these enslaved people in time.

As members of the Southern Garden History Society look to a return to Mount Vernon for an annual meeting, they can happily recall George Washington's expressed admonition, written to his farm manager, of the courtesy to be afforded visitors to the estate in his absence. "I have no objection to any sober, & orderly persons gratifying their curiosity in visiting the buildings, Gardens &c about Mount Vernon." Doing so it would be well also to hold in mind the observation made by one such traveler, Reverend Morgan John Rhys (1760-1804), a Welsh Baptist minister and abolitionist, on 1 January 1795, after a clearly enjoyable visit. Rhys had emigrated to the United States in 1794. "If Mount Vernon was not the house of bondage to so many men, I would call it a little paradise. The mansion modest. The garden neat, the meandering of the Potomac—distant hills and extensive fields combine to render the prospect delightful and would present a happy retirement for one of the greatest men in the Universe."



Black Landscapes Matter, by Walter Hood and Grace Mitchell Tada, UVA Press | 208 pages, soft cover | ISBN 9780813944869, 2020 | list price \$35

Black Landscapes Matter, the newly published book, arrives to attuned, receptive members of the Southern

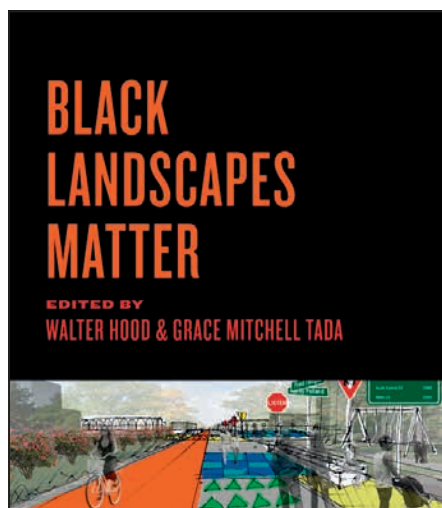
Garden History Society, particularly those who attended the 22nd Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens & Landscapes at Old Salem in September 2019. "Black Landscapes Matter" was the title of the Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture delivered by Kofi Boone as the introduction to a series of papers and presentations organized under the title "Landscape, Race, and Culture: Shaping a

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Two Reviews... (continued from page 13)

World of Color in the American South.” It was a stellar conference with an unusually large number of presenters. Dreck Spurlock Wilson, who appeared at the 2017 biennial conference, speaking on the pioneering career of David Williston (1868-1962), the first professionally-trained Black landscape architect in the United States, returned in 2019 and treated the complementary careers of George Washington Carver and Mr. Williston. In the interim, Mr. Wilson had adapted his first presentation for publication in *Magnolia* (Vol. XXX, No. 3) as “David Williston: First Negro Landscape Architect.” Louis P. Nelson, the co-editor of *Educated in Tyranny: Slavery at Thomas Jefferson’s University*, presented in 2019 as did Shaun Spencer-Hester, the steward of her grandmother Anne Spencer’s House and Garden in Lynchburg, and Matt Reeves, the archaeologist at Montpelier. Research at the Orange County, Virginia, estate of James Madison located the foundations of slave quarters and provided the basis for reconstruction of paired slave houses near the family mansion of the fourth president of the United States. Martha Zierden and Dana Byrd were also among the speakers whose remarks anticipated and advocated the underlying thesis of *Black Landscape Matters*.

Walter Hood, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Environmental Planning, and Urban Design at the University of California, Berkeley, and founder of Hood Design Studio, Oakland, California, and Grace Mitchell Tada, an independent scholar, writer, and journalist with a graduate degree from Berkeley and now based there and in France, are the editors of *Black Landscapes Matter*. Kofi Boone is one of seven writer-advocates for Black landscapes whose essays appear along with the writings of Walter Hood in parts organized as “Calls to Action” and “Notes from the Field.” Most of them hold multiple, advanced degrees in design and landscape architecture, serve on university faculties, and have engaged in landscape, design, and related practices either in the past or presently. The School of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley, is the academic tie, however, work, projects, academic posts, and professional interests have led them into varied communities and parts of the nation, including Washington,



New Orleans, Detroit, Milwaukee, and North and South Carolina, that figure in these essays.

The necessity of reconciling race and place in the American South and the nation, as advanced in these essays, is acknowledged, however, the means of documenting, recognizing, restoring, and preserving historic Black gardens and landscapes await. The broad appreciation of the Anne Spencer House and Garden in Lynchburg is an important beginning, but the home gardens of lesser known women, black, brown, and white, are lost day by day. Black burying grounds and cemeteries also await recognition for the culturally-significant qualities and means of remembrance they embody, rather than being subject to the sometimes critical, dismissive judgments made by those holding different aesthetic references. The work of David Williston and Julian Abele (1881-1950), a brilliant African American architect who joined the Philadelphia office of Horace Trumbauer in 1906, both subjects of Dreck Wilson’s research and writings, also require their full, deserved recognition. Contemporary and vernacular Black landscapes, public and private, commercial and institutional, offer other, often complex challenges to recognition.

Readers of *Black Landscapes Matter* will likely bring their own appreciations of Black landscapes to their readings. My first perceptions date to my childhood and early teens, in the 1950s and early 1960s, when our path from the country into Hickory, for shopping, appointments, and visits to the library, carried us along the six to seven block length of a thriving, if small Black main street, the city’s South Center Street, before we continued north into the white, central business district. Today, a sizable number of surviving early-twentieth-century houses and more impressive bungalows, at least two with a towering *Magnolia grandiflora* and *Cedrus deodora* in the front yard, and one of the two-story brick commercial buildings at the west edge of the street, still stand among later buildings and now grass-covered empty lots. The churches that I remember are now replaced, near or on-site, by their congregations. Today, on a route I take by choice, I can still visualize the animated, prosperous scene of sixty years ago.

Walter Hood’s remembrance of growing up in Charlotte, in the Double Oaks and Druid Hills communities, in the 1960s and 1970s, is warmly treated in “The Paradoxical Black Landscape: Trade and Tryon Streets, Charlotte, North Carolina.” At the close of his essay, in paragraphs under the heading “The Irrecoverable Past,” he eulogizes their loss.

“The paradox of the Black landscape in the urban United States is that although its physicality has

been erased, it lives in the collective consciousness of American society as a mnemonic device. . . .It's a place that is mythical and seems to always live in the past. The Black landscapes are lived experiences. They aren't only mythical; they are real—and the culture we know from those landscapes haunts our memories. I am nostalgic for those separate but equal times. Growing up in a neighborhood with teachers, doctors, lawyers, insurance salesmen, and librarians alongside plumbers, butchers, mechanics, store managers, and garbage collectors was common in Druid Hills. In my memory, community seemed sustainable. Today, we can only imagine a landscape like that."

Later in these pages, Walter Hood includes an album of seventeen photographs by Lewis Watts made in New Orleans between 1994 and 2014. Watts, too, was at Berkeley, in the Visual Studies program at the College of Environmental Design. Hood's first viewing of Watts' work was an epiphany. "His images forever changed how I look at Black landscape space. Lew's work is at once portraiture and landscape; his eye is keen in capturing a moment, a circumstance, and a person." He continues, and concludes, "Lew's work documents Black landscapes, but, more importantly, it documents that we are here, that we were there."

"That we are here, that we were there" is effectively the leitmotif of *Black Landscapes Matter*, resounding through each of the essayists' contributions, with particular resonance here, in a review paired with that of "*The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret*"— *George Washington, Slavery, and the Enslaved Community at Mount Vernon*.

"E pluribus unum: out of many people with diverse backgrounds, we become one The phrase reminds us that Blacks have been present in the landscape since its colonial beginning, offering expertise and talents that shaped a landscape's economy, form, and aesthetic. From the agrarian to the urban, from Louisiana to North and South Carolina, and from Detroit to Milwaukee, these essays have explored the Black diaspora that has shaped landscapes and the patterns and practices of those who dwell in them. The cultivation expertise and other skills and technical knowledge learned through acculturation have produced vernacular Black landscape designers, architects, and builders for the landscapes and buildings that we have assumed and credit to white culture."

Walter Hood connects these insights, in the "Afterword," with a particular instance. "I am reminded of Michelle Obama's words: 'I wake up every morning in a

house that was built by slaves.' She, descendant of slaves, residing in the White House, lives with a double consciousness—she must read spaces and places with multiple meanings."

This is the challenge—and responsibility—we will confront again, and again, and again in southern gardens and landscapes. Kofi Boone addressed it earlier in these pages in his treatment of the critical role of the enslaved Wolof people in rice cultivation at Middleton Place. It was their expertise and labor that created the wealth which, in turn, enabled Henry Middleton to create the extraordinary terraced garden on the river front of his mansion. It, too, was the work of his slaves. When members of the Southern Garden History Society next convene at Mount Vernon for its annual meeting, we, also, will find ourselves in a landscape with multiple meanings. Mount Vernon was the home of George and Martha Washington. Now, with our reading of Mary V. Thompson's book, we know the Mansion House Farm was also the home of ninety-eight of their slaves, of whom about one-half of that number lived in the (lost, now rebuilt) brick quarters flanking the garden conservatory. Our visit is an opportunity to which we can look forward.



In the summer of 2020 important steps toward redress and reconciliation occurred in the landscape—and landscape history—of Virginia. Following the death of George Floyd on 25 May, a rising angst and discontent in Richmond led to the toppling of the statue of Jefferson Davis from his memorial on Monument Avenue in the late evening of 10 June. The city removed the equestrian monument of Stonewall Jackson on 1 July and the removal of statues honoring Matthew Fontaine Maury and J. E. B. Stuart on Monument Avenue followed in its wake. The removal of the final Confederate memorial on Monument Avenue, the equestrian statue of Robert E. Lee, situated unlike the others on state property, is believed to be destined for removal once privately-supported legal suits reach resolution in the Supreme Court of Virginia. In Charlottesville, in August, the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers, honoring an estimated 4,000 enslaved persons who lived and worked on the grounds of the University of Virginia from 1817 into 1865, was completed. The known names of 578 of this number are inscribed on the inner circle of the memorial's two concentric rings. It is sited on a prominent part of the campus trod across during the infamous Unite the Right march in August 2017.

Davyd Foard Hood
Isinglass
Vale, North Carolina

Update on the Hidden Town Project at Old Salem

By Martha Hartley, Director of Moravian Research and Co-Chair, Hidden Town Project

Booker T. Washington delivered the lecture “On Mother Earth” at Tuskegee Institute in 1881. His analogy of a tree’s essential rootedness in the earth to finding one’s bedrock of life was a character-building address for his students. He commended the value of working the land and emphasized the importance of owning the land as foundational. This brings us to the essence of Old Salem’s Hidden Town Project: *People* and *Place*.

The project research continues to identify *People* of African descent, build their biographies, and understand their life within the white Moravian world <https://www.oldsalem.org/core-initiatives/hidden-town-project/>. *Place* is more complicated. The landscape of slavery is invisible, and the landscape of freedom is compromised; however, identifying and understanding these cultural landscapes are essential, as they are foundational for descendants.

The Hidden Town Project continues to advocate for revitalization of the historic Happy Hill neighborhood, a historic place brutalized by twentieth-century public policies. This first African American neighborhood in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is called “The Mother of

All Black Neighborhoods.” Its origins are in 1872 when the Moravian Church in Salem created a segregated place across Salem Creek for Freedmen who were eager to buy land and build homes for their families. The beautiful rolling landscape of Happy Hill was a stable Black neighborhood until it was repeatedly impacted by decisions made well beyond its control.

In the United States, residential security maps, or redlining, were formal means of racial discrimination, especially in banking services and insurance, where neighborhoods were graded for quality and desirability. The implications were severe as Black neighborhoods were highlighted as high risks and denied loans or fair loans, and homes were undervalued, all depriving African Americans of wealth-building. Municipal infrastructure was withheld from Black neighborhoods and led to disrepair which often ended with bulldozing. Public policy also targeted Black neighborhoods for urban renewal and highway development. Destruction included homes, businesses, churches, livelihoods, and social fabric as the landscape was ravaged. *Displacement*...what does that do to one’s foundation? Happy Hill bears the scars on its landscape.

How do we repair the generational damage done to African Americans places? “Reparative Planning” is an

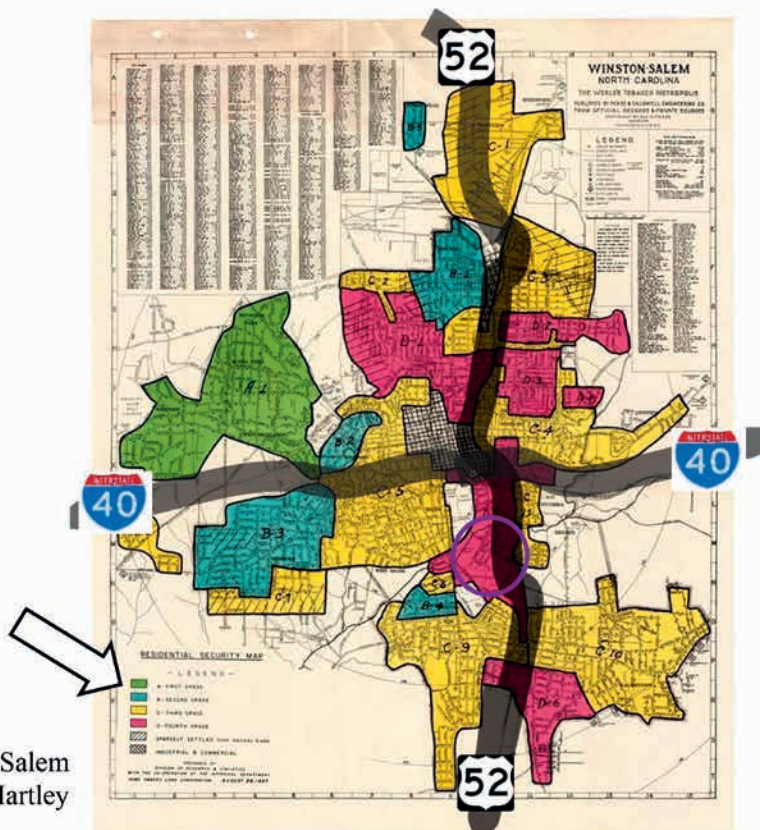
RESIDENTIAL SECURITY MAP

- L E G E N D -

- A first grade
- B second grade
- C third grade
- D fourth grade
- /// sparsely settled
- xxx industrial commercial

Prepared by
Division of Research & Statistics
with the Cooperation of the
Appraisal Department
Home Owners Loan Corporation
August 20, 1937

“Redlining” in Winston-Salem
Highways built 1950s and 1960s, overlay by Martha Hartley



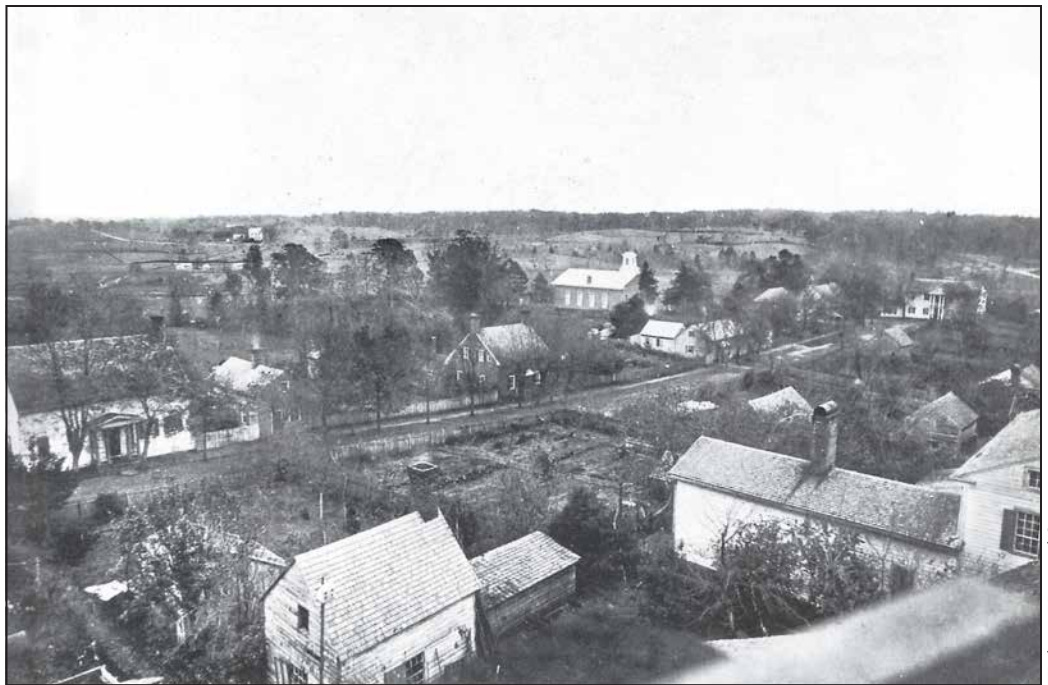
Residential Security Map of Winston-Salem, NC, 1937. Highway impacts to African American neighborhoods (purple circle is Happy Hill) added by Martha Hartley.

emerging concept that seeks to dismantle built-in racist practices, to redress past wrongs, and to create place through inclusivity. Reparation can take many forms but understanding and facing truth in history is basic to the conversation. The pandemic has brought forward an overlooked but major inequity in urban places: access to nature and green space. This derives from the history of displacement, as profiled by Biophilic Cities, an initiative of the University of Virginia's School of Architecture, that works to build nature-full urban places <https://www.biophiliccities.org/pandemic-lessons-equitable-urban-nature>.

The Hidden Town Project continues to promote public awareness by engaging audiences through conferences, webinars, and special lectures. The project is also in collaboration with the Institute for Dismantling Racism in Winston-Salem on an initiative to provide education in community history and a path forward. A Hidden Town Community Research Fellowship was established to bring descendant participation into the research process, and the 2021 Black History Month Genealogy Regional Conference provided a forum for outreach https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKlqJmSvx7k&feature=emb_logo.

The landscape is cultural memory, visible or not. Our challenge is to reveal the history and to acknowledge the past. *Place* then becomes the landscape for reparation.

This is an update to the article by Martha Hartley appearing in the Fall-Winter 1999 issue of *Magnolia*.



View southeast across Salem, ca. 1865, to background landscape that will become Happy Hill in 1872.

Wachovia Historical Society



Rena Hill, resident of Happy Hill, ca. 1935.

Across the Creek Collection, Old Salem, Inc., Courtesy of Sam McMurray

Jemison Park Booklet

Jemison Park, Mountain Brook, Alabama: Sketches of a Streamside Preserve, Illustrations and design by Guy Arelló | Friends of Jemison Park | softcover, 38 pages | Made possible by The Little Garden Club of Birmingham | April 2006 | Copies may be ordered from Friends of Jemison Park, 327 Easton Circle, Birmingham, AL 35223. \$10 each, including shipping and handling.

What is old becomes new again, but is mostly timeless, if nurtured properly. This is the story of Jemison Park in the Mountain Brook neighborhood of Birmingham. Thoroughly documented and beautifully illustrated, the publication, *Jemison Park, Mountain Brook, Alabama: Sketches of a Streamside Preserve*, is now enjoying a wider audience. It presents scholarly archaeological and geological information alongside meticulous, colorful drawings and descriptions of native birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, trees, shrubs and vines, butterflies, wildflowers, ferns, fishes, dragonflies, and damselflies. Thus, the work is sure to excite young readers as well as adults who appreciate the scientific names of flora and fauna and habitat descriptions.

Travelers who have visited the Birmingham suburb of Mountain Brook, and readers of Marjorie Longenecker White's chapter, "Mountain Brook Estates," in *Warren H. Manning: Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner*, will recognize the area that Birmingham developer Robert Jemison built and promoted, along the lines laid out by Manning. Attendees of the 2019 SGHS annual meeting toured some of the exquisite and extensive gardens on the hills above Jemison Park.

Shades Creek runs 14 miles before traversing through Jemison Park, and then runs another 43 miles before emptying into the Cahaba River. The park is in the flood plain purposefully left alone during the development of Mountain Brook. In Jemison's own words, he sought "... to preserve native woodlands, with high hills and rounded knolls...clear springs and sparkling streams...with appeal to every instinct for the beautiful in nature... precipitous bluffs, meadow-land, level areas with beautiful trees,

brooks and streams."

It should be no surprise that the large, open floodplain area of Mountain Brook would catch the eye of developers and road planners. With the passage of time and growing populations in the surrounding areas, upgrades were needed to infrastructure, such as sewer lines, streets, and bridges. Neighbors of Jemison Park, led by attorney Robert Reid, were watchful, knowledgeable, resourceful, and proactive in fending off proposals that would damage the ecosystem and beauty of the park. The recounting of various initiatives to preserve and maintain the park is interesting on a local level, but perhaps just as important, they serve as models for other neighborhood conservation efforts. The neighboring homeowners were instrumental in founding The Friends of Jemison Park include SGHS

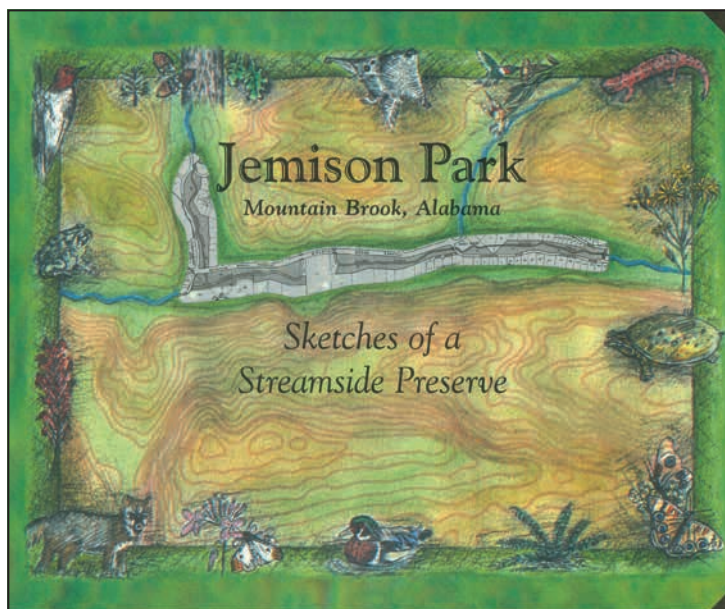
members George and Isabel Maynard and Elberta Reid.

The publication also holds a discussion of the cycles of flooding, displacement of native plants by invasive ones, and other changes that must be monitored continuously. Many of the original horseback-riding trails evolved into walking trails in Jemison Park and were a spark for the development of the Mountain Brook trail system as well as hundreds of miles of trails

throughout Jefferson County developed by the Freshwater Land Trust.

The Friends of Jemison Park has been an effective watchdog organization working with the city of Mountain Brook to monitor the incremental changes that have occurred in the park due to a growing population looking for a greenspace to walk, run, picnic, and even for festivals. The park attracts increasing numbers of visitors from other parts of Birmingham, bringing opportunities and challenges. The Friends of Jemison Park work year-round to maintain and protect the vision of Robert Jemison. The current Friends of Jemison Park Board includes SGHS members Jenny McCain and Alleen Cater. Discover more about the Friends of Jemison Park at www.friendsofjemisonpark.org

By Alleen Cater, Birmingham, Alabama



William C. Welch, Professor and Landscape Horticulturist Emeritus

By Larry A. Stein

Regents Fellow/Associate Department Head/Professor/
Extension Horticulturist, Texas A&M University

At the close of 2020, the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University conferred upon Dr. William (Bill) C. Welch Emeritus status. This is the most prestigious honor that Texas A&M AgriLife bestows on those individuals who have excelled at their vocations.



Dr. Welch has devoted his 41-year career to the betterment of Texans' lives through his landscape and gardening work not only with county Extension agents but also with many outside partners. Dr. Welch is the greatest ambassador for Extension Horticulture and for Extension general. At any book signing event, he is quick to give Extension credit for what he has been able to accomplish.

Welch was instrumental in working with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) to develop the Texas Certified Nurseryman Program. This work and his body of written knowledge for professional nursery personnel led to him receiving the Arp award from TNLA in 1987, the organization's highest honor given to an individual professional for their outstanding contributions to the Industry.

Dr. Welch established a strong bond with the Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Garden Club of America. He has served on the Board of the Texas Garden Clubs Inc. as the Landscape Design Chairman for over three decades and was awarded a Lifetime Membership to TGC for his outstanding service. In 1993, Welch was recognized as an Honorary Member of the Garden Club of America. He received the Zone IX Historic Preservation Award in 2007. In 2008, Dr. Welch received the Garden Club of America Distinguished Service Medal. For his

horticultural work, Dr. Welch has become a fixture in Extension Horticulture's gardening mission for the general public and his knowledge is sought by many outside individuals as indicated by quotes from individual support letters for his Emeritus nomination:

Nancy Thomas, former president of the Garden Club of America, "Bill is the author of many informative and aesthetically pleasing books, ... His wonderful gardening books have served as a great educational tool for many interested readers who have learned from and enjoyed their expertise."

Neil Odenwald, Professor Emeritus, LSU, "Over the years, I have been impressed with his ability to reach the lay public and share with them understandable information and inspirational instruction. His insight into both technical knowledge and contemporary developments in plant science have increased the beauty in our world."

Renee Blaschke, former president of the Texas Garden Clubs, "He was immediately accepted by the members of TGC; Inc. and is highly respected by all ... He has always freely shared his knowledge and expertise with all of our members throughout the United States."

Garden writer Thomas Christopher, "His enthusiasm for these plants (heirloom roses) was partly due to the important part they had played in the history of Texas and the South more generally. However, it was also largely based in practicality: Dr. Welch had the insight to recognize that any plants that had survived for so long in Texas with such minimal care or complete abandonment could be valuable resources to contemporary gardeners."

Staci Catron, Cherokee Garden Library Director, "His gardening books have been a vital part of his educational program for decades and have contributed significantly to American horticultural literature."

Steve Taber, Southwest Wholesale Nursery, "As long as I have known him, I have witnessed Dr. Welch be an unselfish, sincere and genuine wealth of knowledge and inspiration to all professionals in the nursery and landscape industry."

Most importantly, Dr. Welch has been a great student of the Land Grant System and the fine role that Extension plays in the lives of homeowners, gardeners, and professional horticulturists everywhere. Truly, Welch is richly deserving of the status of Professor and Extension Landscape Horticulturist Emeritus.



Southern Garden History Society

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Awards and Scholarships

The *Flora Ann Bynum Medal* is awarded to recipients who have rendered outstanding service to the Society. Nominations may be made at any time by any member.

The *William Lanier Hunt Award* recognizes members, non-members, and/or organizations that have made an exceptional contribution to the fields closely aligned with the goals of the Society. Nominations may be made by any member.

The title *Honorary Director* (Board of Directors) may be bestowed on individuals who have rendered exceptional service and made significant contributions to the Society.

The *Certificate of Merit* is presented to a member or non-member whose work has advanced the mission and goals of the Society.

Society *Scholarships* assist students in attending the Society's annual meeting and are awarded to bona fide students enrolled in college and university majors relevant to the mission and goals of the Society and to new professionals in the field.

Details, requirements, and directions for submitting applications are posted on the SGHS website: www.southerngardenhistory.org. For those without internet access, a copy of this document can be mailed. Contact Rebecca Hodson, SGHS Administrator.

Annual Membership Dues

The Society's membership year is from *August 1—July 31*.
Membership categories:

<i>Benefactor</i>	<i>\$500 and above*</i>
<i>Patron</i>	<i>\$250</i>
<i>Sustainer</i>	<i>\$125</i>
<i>Institution or Business</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Joint</i>	<i>\$60</i>
<i>(two individuals living in the same household)</i>	
<i>Individual</i>	<i>\$40</i>
<i>Student</i>	<i>\$15</i>

***Contact the membership administrator if you would like to pay more than \$500 via credit card. For more membership information, contact:**

For more membership information, contact:

Rebecca Hodson, SGHS Administrator

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Winston-Salem, NC 27113

Phone: (336) 298-6938

Mobile: (336) 655-2286

Email: membership@southerngardenhistory.org

Memberships can now be made electronically on our website!
www.southerngardenhistory.org

Deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of Magnolia is May 15, 2021.

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