



# MAGNOLIA

Bulletin of the  
Southern Garden  
History Society

*"The Laurel Tree of Carolina"*  
from Mark Catesby, 1731  
(MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA)

v. 5, no. 3 (Winter, 1989)

Dr. Edgar G. Givhan II, President  
Harriet H. Jansma, Vice-President  
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SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY  
Old Salem, Inc.  
Drawer F, Salem Station  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
7th ANNUAL MEETING of SGHS -- May 12-14, 1989, in Savannah, Georgia

Our annual meeting this year will feature the influence of English gardening and gardeners on agricultural and horticultural efforts in the colony of Georgia. Events planned for the meeting on Friday and Saturday include lectures by recognized authorities, tours of Historic Savannah and of special gardens in the city, and visits to historic houses and their gardens.

As has been our custom, Sunday is planned as an optional day, priced separately, with tours in the area near Savannah. Planners hope that every member will take advantage of the rare opportunity to tour Historic Liberty County, with visits to Midway Church, Cemetery, and Museum; to LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation Site; and to Tea Grove Plantation, which still belongs to a descendent of the LeConte family. This day will include an authentic Low Country Dinner.

Attendance at this meeting is limited to members of Southern Garden History Society, except for the Saturday luncheon, which will be open to non-members. A final brochure will be mailed soon to all members. In the meantime you may address questions to Mrs. Joseph H. Howard, SGHS Meeting Chairman, 211 E. 53rd St., Savannah, Georgia 31405.

Since many people travel to Savannah in May, members are urged to make hotel reservations early at the DeSoto Hilton, Bull and Liberty Streets, Savannah, Georgia 31402 (tel. 912-232-9000). The rate will be \$65 single or double, and \$15 for additional occupants in a double room. Make your plans now to join us.

## NORTH CAROLINA GARDEN HISTORY NEWS

from Ken McFarland, State Editor

Planning for the 1989 conference on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" at Old Salem is now in the final stages, and again the meeting promises to be excellent. "Gardening for Pleasure in the South -- a View from Three Centuries" is the theme; the dates of the meeting are October 5-7, 1989.

Suzanne Turner, of Louisiana State University, will open the program, and will be joined by such excellent and authoritative speakers as Rudy Favretti, Landscape Architect; Arthur Tucker of Delaware State College; Bradford Rauschenburg of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts; and John Clauser, archaeologist with the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. As always the conference will offer the charm of Old Salem in autumn. Mark your calendars now.

The Davidson Horticultural Symposium, planned for March 21-22, 1989, will also be of interest to readers of Magnolia. This year's theme is "From Jungles to Freeways," and the program offers an inviting list of topics and speakers. For information write: Davidson Horticultural Symposium, P.O. Box 1145, Davidson, N.C. 28036. Or telephone 704-892-5266 (Mrs. Hubbard).

In this issue of Magnolia readers will find information on the Heritage Rose Foundation's symposium, in College Station, Texas, April 20-22.

I have recently had the opportunity to share some concerns with the president of the Foundation, Charles Walker of Raleigh, about the old rose garden at Chatwood, a fine old Hillsborough home familiar to many North Carolinians [see page 4 for further information -- SGHS members may be able to help]. Mrs. Helen Watkins, the owner of Chatwood, who serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Rose Foundation, recently described her "Early Garden at Chatwood" in the newsletter of the Foundation. It is reprinted here with permission:

### THE EARLY GARDEN AT CHATWOOD

If there ever was a first garden here, it should be dated no earlier than 1806. This is the second coach-house on this property, and was built on higher ground, when the inn near the river burned. The first site, now a pile of stones in the field below, covered with a big multiflora rose, should be dated 1770. Both former taverns served the King's Highway, or The Great Road which, as The Ancient-Indian Trading Path, ran between Oxford and Salisbury and guided Cornwallis in 1781, on his way from Hillsborough to the Battle of Guilford Court House.

The restoration of Chatwood was begun by a former owner in 1937. My husband and I decided to continue the restoration twenty years later. We began the garden in 1958. There were only three old roses on the grounds, but they were bushes of some size and were apparently well-established.

Most impressive of our roses was a huge Setigera, which stood on the front lawn at the entrance to the wing. "Too big," we thought, and banished it to a damp spot, well below, where it responded by growing

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ten feet broad by six feet high, climbing a tree, then heading across the meadow toward open ground! The flowers are bright pink, of medium size, with much white striping and swirling of petals, opening from perfectly scrolled buds. In favorable springs, I have seen this rose opening most of its buds at one time, holding them long enough to give a delightful effect of a tree covered with little candles. We have several reasonable-sized bushes now, and have passed along a number of slips; so perhaps this rose will be definitely named before long.

Two other large roses were also found and have proved to be identical to those being grown elsewhere as 'Pink Pet' and its climbing form. Everywhere were cascading the wild multifloras in bloom, the joy of our first spring here and of every following spring for the past thirty years.

Since I knew almost nothing about old roses, I had much to learn as chairman of the Horticulture Committee of the Hillsborough Historical Society. Our committee undertook the task of interviewing the owners of all the old gardens in town. In 1971 we published "Gardens of Old Hillsborough," which I had the joy of editing. We described thirty-two old gardens, in most of which we had discovered old roses. I could find very few descriptions to help me name them, but a copy of Gerard's Herbal helped me identify 'Old Double Musk' at the Burwell School.

This old rose was very probably brought down from Virginia by the Reverend and Mrs. Robert Burwell in 1837, when they established their well-known Female School in Hillsborough. In 1850, when the Burwells moved to Charlotte, a slip or plant was taken with them for the family plot in Elmwood Cemetery, and this bush was discovered there recently by Ruth Knopf and Carl Cato. I slipped the 'Old Double Musk' at the Burwell School in 1964. A few years later, the grounds were cleaned up by a workman with a machete, and our rose and its supporting tree were both cut down. The Hillsborough Garden Club later had an arbor built to support the School's rose, and I received a good piece of root, which settled down happily in my rose garden.

Mrs. Patty Warren of Chapel Hill, one of the Spurgeon sisters who grew up in the Burwell School, and a member of our committee, remembered that the centers of the flowers of 'Old Double Musk' mature early in the sun. Ruth Knopf also suggests planting it in semi-shade. It is a real treasure, even when not in bloom. Its long slender branches and new matte-finished leaflets of pale green, which "fan at the tips," as Graham Stuart Thomas notes, are characteristic of musk roses, and of many roses with musk in their ancestry. A few years ago, a plant was discovered by Charles A. Walker, Jr., John and Marie Butler, and Judy Holley in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. There may also have been plants in the large garden of Mrs. Burwell's "Aunt Bott" in Petersburg, where she spent much of her childhood. It would be an interesting project to look for the rose there.

In 1964, we began a sanctuary garden for our old roses at Chatwood to hold the many plants I had slipped in Hillsborough, but it was soon necessary to enlarge it. We put in the brick-walled gardens between 1970 and 1974, and then began to plant along the west side of the garden in the informal section, with the help of Douglas Ruhren. Roses have also found a place in the wild flower shrubbery below the house, planted in 1982 by Doug, with work still continuing.

## North Carolina Report, continued

by Ken McFarland, State Editor

Now, unfortunately, the work at Chatwood may be in some jeopardy; a proposed reservoir threatens to inundate much of its land. Hearings on the proposal are underway in Hillsborough; an alternate site is under consideration. Members and others who wish to express concerns for the Chatwood house and gardens should write immediately to Mr. Moses Carey, Jr., Chairman, Orange County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278.

Finally, Chip Callaway, who has devoted immense energy to another Hillsborough gem, Ayr Mount, has won the Minette C. Duffy Landscape Award of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina for 1988. Many members will remember Chip's talk on Ayr Mount at the Old Salem Landscape Conference in 1987, and the discussion of the Ayr Mount landscape restoration in Magnolia, vol. 3, nos. 3-4. As a major force for historic preservation in his home town of Greensboro, Chip has worked on many other landscape restoration projects as well. He recently prepared a plan for restoration of the historic landscape at Stagville Plantation; work on this project, under his guidance, has begun. Every North Carolinian interested in garden history and restoration is proud to have Chip Callaway in our midst.

## SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

The garden recreation at 58 South Battery, Charleston, South Carolina, by Hugh and Mary Palmer Kelley Dargan of Hugh Dargan Associates, 123 Meeting Street, Charleston, has received an Award of Merit for Historic Preservation from the American Society of Landscape Architects in South Carolina.

The only private residential garden to receive a nomination, this garden appears in Garden Style by Penelope Hobhouse. Although it is seldom open to the public, it is on tour during Historic Charleston's Tour of Homes in the spring and the Preservation Society of Charleston tour in the fall.

Hugh and Mary Palmer (both active members of SGHS; he serves on the Board of Directors) were praised by the judges for transforming a "non-environment" to a classical Charleston garden, for designing creatively in a small space within the context of a tight period style (in keeping with the restoration date of 1797 for the house), and for careful plant selection to define handsome spaces and patterns. Another member of SGHS, Jane Symmes of Cedar Lane Farm in Madison, Georgia (a nursery concentrating in plants of early gardens of the region), consulted with the design team in plant selection; and large crepe myrtles and camellias were obtained from Shady Grove Nursery in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Spanish moss helped to give the garden an air of permanence, and an organic mixture applied to the front wall encouraged moss to "age" it very soon after the installation of the garden.

Congratulations to the Dargans and to Chip Callaway for their awards, and for the attention they bring to the importance of garden history.

## CALENDAR

March 21-22, 1989 (Tuesday-Wednesday)

DAVIDSON HORTICULTURAL SYMPOSIUM, "From Jungles to Freeways"

For information: Davidson Horticultural Symposium, P.O. Box 1145  
Davidson, N. C. 28036. (tel. 704-892-5266)

April 20-22, 1989 (Thursday evening through Saturday evening)

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM, at College Station,  
Texas. This meeting will include a display of old roses  
and a garden tour. For information, or to register, write to  
The Heritage Rose Foundation, c/o Charles A. Walker, Jr.,  
1512 Gorman St., Raleigh, N.C. 27606.

May 12-14, 1989 (Friday afternoon through Sunday evening)

SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY 7th annual meeting in  
Savannah, Georgia. See page 1 for information.

May 25, 1989 (Thursday)

CELEBRATION OF ROSES at WILLIAM PACA GARDEN, Annapolis,  
Maryland. An all-day meeting planned to coincide with the  
blooming of heritage roses at the Paca Garden, featuring  
lectures, lunch on the terrace of the William Paca House,  
horticultural advice, and sale of heritage plants. Write to  
William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401, or  
call 301-267-6656.

October 5-7, 1989 (Thursday afternoon through Saturday morning)

OLD SALEM SEMINAR on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes"

For information write to Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem  
Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108.

## IN PRINT

A History of Horticulture in America to 1860, by U. P. Hedrick, has  
been reissued, with an addendum of books published from 1861-1920 by  
Elisabeth Woodburn, and is available from Timber Press, 9999 SW  
Wilshire, Portland, OR 97225. The price of the hardcover edition is  
\$39.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling for the first copy, \$2.00 for  
each additional copy.

Hedrick's history, first issued in 1950, is probably familiar to  
members of SGHS. It is concerned with gardening, fruit growing, and  
viticulture, and surveys both chronologically and geographically the  
development of fruits, flowers, and vegetables throughout the United  
States. Hedrick provides information on gardening in relation to its  
cultural setting, and includes chapters on plant explorers and botanic  
gardens and plant breeding.

The new addendum by Elisabeth Woodburn, a leading dealer in books about  
horticulture and gardening and landscape subjects (and also a member of  
SGHS), extends the history by indicating key sources on subsequent  
developments in American horticulture.

## LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AT HISTORIC MURFREESBORO

by M. C. (Mac) Newsom, III, Landscape Architect

[Editor's note: This article, written by the consultant to the project, long a member of Southern Garden History Society, was submitted with permission for republication by Kay P. Mitchell, Executive Director of the Murfreesboro Historical Association, P.O. Box 3, Murfreesboro, N.C. 27855. It was first published in a slightly different form in the newsletter of the Association in June, 1988, and seems especially appropriate as we prepare to visit Savannah, another city where historic preservation and architectural and landscape restoration have been city-wide concerns.]

What was the landscape like in Murfreesboro before the days of Shore Juniper and Bradford Pear? Have some yards always been enclosed by chain link fences or vast hedges of Red Top Photinia? How could the Murfreesboro Historical Association expand its fine interpretive program beyond the walls of the restored homes and buildings? These were some of the questions that faced the Association back in 1984 when the decision was made to develop a landscape master plan and vigorously pursue its implementation. After the Master Plan was approved in the summer of 1984, work was begun immediately to recapture the landscape settings in early Murfreesboro.

As funds became available, the fledgling landscape program gained momentum. Soon the somewhat nebulous circles and rectangles on the Plan evolved into planting plans and construction details for the areas given highest priority. The Association's decision to concentrate on one area at a time, with immediate implementation of plans, has allowed the Historic District to use the sites for interpretation while others are developed; and the Association has thereby avoided sinking large amounts of money into detailed plans that might not be implemented.

First priority was given to laying out a system of walkways linking point of interest within the District. Over 2320 feet of walks were installed to connect both public and private historic sites. Those routes most heavily traveled were paved with brick pavers, chosen for their durability; less traveled routes were paved with a local pea gravel edged with bricks. Circular brick terraces, many with wooden benches, offer visitors places to gather, rest, or regroup. The winding walkways just north of the Wheeler House and behind the Rea Museum are reminiscent of the typical layout of garden paths in the mid-nineteenth century.

One major accomplishment in connecting this system of walkways was the construction of a footbridge over the District's ravine. The heavy-timbered bridge spans a gap of about 120 feet and closely resembles the original bridge shown in early photographs of the site. Another small bridge of similar design will connect the municipal parking area with the Hertford Academy.

An early highlight of the landscape program was the dedication of the Ella Cobb Camp Garden in 1986. This garden is located at the corner of Broad and Fourth Streets just across from the John Wheeler House.

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Although certainly not authentic to the site, the Ella Cobb Camp Garden, a purely ornamental garden, is typical of the plantings and layouts of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Crape myrtles, old-fashioned roses, annuals, and perennials add texture and color to the closely clipped border of boxwood and dwarf yaupon holly. Benches are located in several places in this highly geometric garden for the enjoyment of its visitors.

Across street is the wonderfully restored John Wheeler House, ca. 1810, which serves as Historic Murfreesboro's educational house museum. Plans are underway to extend the interpretive program of the house into its grounds. The reconstruction of the landscape around the Wheeler House is an attempt to recreate what might have been there in the 1850's, including appropriate dependency buildings and fences as well as plantings of that period.

References to repair work in the Wheeler diaries give some documentation of the outbuildings on the property. In addition to the separate dining room, which was restored along with the house, a carriage house was probably located within the compound not too far from the main house. A smoke house was likely close to the adjoining kitchen building. A smoke house was recently moved to the site from another site in the county.

The original kitchen foundation, walls, and floors were identified and located by archaeological work a few years ago. Until funds are available for a full-fledged reconstruction, the location will be marked by a low foundation wall built of old bricks in such a way as to avoid disturbing archaeological remains.

Other dependencies mentioned by Dr. Wheeler, such as the barn, pig pen, mule shelter, cow stall, corn crib, lumber house, tool house, and servants' quarters, were located further from the house.

Fences and enclosures in antebellum times varied in style but were always functional, for gardens, orchards, and crops needed to be protected from free-ranging domestic and farm animals. In Murfreesboro, fences were especially important landscape features. Future plans therefore include the introduction of several types of fences appropriate for the periods of the restored structures of the town. The detailing of the picket fence around the Wheeler House, for example, was copied from one pictured in an early Murfreesboro photograph.

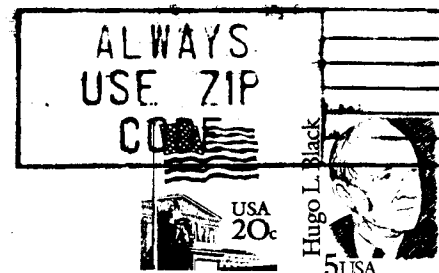
The recently constructed kitchen garden and grape arbor behind the Wheeler House will be a wonderful place to teach visitors about period vegetables, herbs, perennials, and fruits. An orchard of apple, peach, and pear trees is planned for the open field north of the house. An old mulberry tree growing near the northwest corner of the house is a reminder of days past when Dr. Wheeler "set irish potatoes under the fence near Mulberry tree."

Other plantings have been chosen because they were available in Murfreesboro in the mid-nineteenth century. Native plants popular in gardens of the period are freely used in recreations of period gardens. Landscape plans have been based on diaries, photographs, and the above-mentioned archaeological work.

SPRING ISSUE

We will be glad to consider publishing your article on any aspect of Southern garden or landscape history. Send it by April 24, 1989 to Peggy Newcomb, Associate Editor, at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Send us also your news of events, meetings, and publications on topics of interest to our members.

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Charlottesville VA 22903





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## Editor's note:

We are sending this issue to arrive before the annual meeting, which will be held in Savannah, Georgia on May 12 through 14. We hope to see many of you there for the outstanding program that is planned for us.

To assist all members, perhaps especially those who cannot be present this year to learn from our speakers and tours, we have made sources of information in print the theme of this issue. We include announcements and reviews of several new books, and an extensive list of sources for historic seeds and plants, compiled by Scott G. Kunst of Old House Gardens, Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the Seeds and Plant Materials Committee of the Association for Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums. We are grateful to Mr. Kunst and to the Associations Museum for allowing us to provide it to you. The list is printed as an insert to this bulletin, unnumbered, so that members can remove and use it as a separate reference guide.

In a renewed effort to obtain information on activities, projects, and studies in all the states of our region, we also include in this issue a list of our current state editors for Magnolia. Please send information and news about your own activities in garden and landscape history, or about those of others that you know about.

Only by exchanging such information can we all learn how to do what we are doing; by presenting information about restoration and maintenance problems and how they have been solved, you can enable others to learn from your experience. And by telling members where your project is, and what it is, you can bring interested visitors to your community.

## CALENDAR

May 12-14, 1989 (Friday afternoon through Sunday evening)  
SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY 7th annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

May 18-20, 1989 (Thursday evening through Saturday noon)  
MORDECAI GARDEN SYMPOSIUM, Raleigh, North Carolina.  
Theme of this year's program is "The Well-Furnished Garden." Members \$65; non-members \$75. Checks should be to Mordecai Square Historical Society, 1 Mimosa St., Raleigh, N. C. 27604.

May 20, 1989 (Saturday)  
Symposium on HORTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES: PAST AND PRESENT at Green Spring Farm Park, Annandale, Virginia. Fee, which includes luncheon, is \$35.00. For information telephone (703) 759-5241. Send check for registration by mail to: Fairfax County Park Authority, 3701 Pender Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

May 25, 1989 (Thursday)  
CELEBRATION OF ROSES at WILLIAM PACA GARDEN, Annapolis, Maryland. An all-day meeting planned to coincide with the blooming of heritage roses at the Paca Garden, featuring lectures, lunch on the terrace of the William Paca House, horticultural advice, and sale of heritage plants. Write to William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401, or call (301) 267-6656.

October 5-7, 1989 (Thursday afternoon through Saturday morning)  
OLD SALEM CONFERENCE on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes," Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Theme of this 7th conference is "Gardening for Pleasure in the South;" the program will begin with an address by Suzanne Turner, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University, and a member of the SGHS board of directors, entitled: "Gardening for Pleasure in the South: A View from Three Centuries." The fee of \$135 includes three meals. For information, write to Landscape Conference Registrar, Old Salem, Inc., Box F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108; or telephone (919) 721-7300.

## IN PRINT

American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places, edited by William H. Tishler, ASLA, is an overview of our country's designed places and those who created them. It shows how the field of landscape architecture developed from the fine art of "embellishing grounds by fancy" into a sophisticated science of site and city planning. The paperback volume is available from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. The price of \$10.95 is presently discounted 10%; shipping is \$1.50 for 1 or 2 copies, \$2.50 for 3 to 5 copies, and \$3 for 6 or more copies.

## THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

Chairman Pro-Tem Francis H. Cabot (Box 222, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516) has announced plans to form the Garden Conservancy, an organization whose purpose is to encourage and facilitate the transition from private to public status of exceptional American gardens, and to encourage the preservation and restoration of important gardens.

Sponsored in its initial phase by the Tides Foundation of San Francisco, the project is being organized on the model of the Trust for Public Land, and will seek members of the public who endorse its goals, particularly those who visit gardens in their own communities and elsewhere and who want to know about gardens in North America open to the public.

Tax-deductible contributions to the organization are possible now under the umbrella of the Tides Foundation, to which checks can be made payable. Declare your interest, seek information, or make a contribution to The Garden Conservancy, Box 219, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516.

## IN PRINT

I. The Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States, a project of the American Garden and Landscape History Program at Wave Hill, 675 W. 252nd St., Bronx, N.Y. 10471, publishes a Newsletter announcing landscape records available for study in all parts of the United States. More than 3000 correspondents now participate in its exchange of information. Readers may call or write for information on particular topics of study, and all are encouraged to send information for others.

An inquiry in the Catalog's Newsletter for Winter, 1989, follows:

The Memphis, Tennessee parkway system's Overton and Riverside Parks are the subject of study and an exhibition. In 1900, Olmsted Brothers were instrumental in the establishment of the Memphis Park Commission. The actual commission to design the parks went to George E. Kessler in 1901. He worked on this project until 1910. Any information, correspondence, illustrative materials or memorabilia related to the Memphis park system or Kessler is sought for this study and exhibition. Contact: Lisa Thompson, Ritchie Smith Associates, 3355 Poplar Avenue, Suite 200, Memphis, TN 38111, or tel. (901) 458-1136.

II. Once Upon a Windowsill, a history of indoor plants, by Tovah Martin, has been published by Timber Press, 9999 S.W. Wilshire, Portland, OR 97225. The large format book is illustrated with 19th-century engravings. Logee's Book Shop, 141 North St., Danielson, CT 06239, tel. (203) 774-8038, offers autographed copies for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 postage and packing. The book lists appropriate plants for Victorian homes, and provides instructions for growing indoor plants of the Victorian era.

IN PRINT, continued

Fearing Burr's FIELD AND GARDEN VEGETABLES OF AMERICA, reprinted  
--a review by Peggy Newcomb, Associate Editor of  
Magnolia and Assistant Director of Gardens and  
Grounds, Monticello (She is author of Popular  
Annals of Eastern North America: 1865-1914.)

After 123 years, Fearing Burr Jr.'s Field and Garden Vegetables of America returns in a long-awaited third edition, beautifully reproduced by the American Botanist, Booksellers. Regarded by experts as the definitive analysis of nineteenth-century vegetable cultivars, this treasured and, heretofore, scarce resource can now become an indispensable addition to the libraries of garden historians and preservationists. Burr's colorfully detailed varietal descriptions are fascinating; and, accompanied by 98 superb botanical renderings by Isaac Sprague, they remain one of the few specific accounts available to aid in the documentation and recreation of early American gardens today.

The book is unique for its ambitious scope and breadth of material. When Burr approached this topic in the early 1860's, America's horticultural literature was already saturated with "how-to" manuals in the garden calendar style, as popularized by Bernard McMahon's The American Gardener's Calendar. However, Burr himself, a seedsman and well-respected authority on horticulture throughout New England, recognized a further need to begin to unravel the already mounting confusion of nomenclature in the seed trade -- a problem compounded by a few unconscionable seed dealers who renamed pirated varieties routinely for their own gain.

In his Hingham, Massachusetts, garden outside Boston, Burr undertook the monumental task of actually collecting and testing thousands of the vegetable cultivars then flooding the market. His efforts to clarify these synonyms are indeed commendable. It is difficult to imagine the overwhelming challenge of paring down 75 types of cabbage lettuce to 32, for example, or determining that 86 broccoli "varieties" were, in actuality, a mere 34! Through his systematic and comprehensive approach, Burr was, in fact, attempting to create an organization for vegetable cultivars to match the level and calibre of fruit classification.

This 1988 edition includes perhaps the greatest statement of its significance in the Preface by Kent Wheatley, Director of the Seed Savers Exchange, and Introduction by Robert Becker, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Cornell University. Each in his own right has contributed immeasurably to the understanding, appreciation, and preservation of heirloom vegetable cultivars. Becker not only presents an illuminating biographical sketch of Burr, but also delves extensively into the horticultural literature and activity of the period. His twentieth-century perspective combines with Burr's exhaustive work to provide a rare window into the nature of garden vegetables in an earlier time.

## SOURCE LIST FOR HISTORIC SEEDS AND PLANTS

COMPILED BY SCOTT G. KUNST, OLD HOUSE GARDENS, 536 THIRD ST.,  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48103, FEBRUARY 1989

FOR THE SEEDS AND PLANT MATERIALS COMMITTEE, ASSOCIATION FOR LIVING  
HISTORY FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL MUSEUMS, c/o ROBERT F. BECKER,  
P.O. BOX 52, RUSHVILLE, NY 14544.

Finding period plants is not easy. Modern hybrids are often very different from earlier varieties, and many once-popular plants are no longer widely available. But here are some tips.

1. Know what you are looking for. With jumbled diversity the rule, it is the only way to find what you need. Educate yourself nationally, regionally, and (most importantly) site-specifically.
2. Start with what you have--including "weeds." Every old site has plants waiting to be rediscovered and appreciated. Then look over the fence and down the road. In general, the closer you stay to your site, the more appropriate your plants will be.
3. Ask your site's descendents, neighbors, friends, and long-time local gardeners for seeds or plants. Older forms often persist in family gardens.
4. Collect seeds or plants from abandoned home-sites, cemeteries, and so on--with sensitivity and permission. Old plants are often tenacious.
5. Avoid modern hybrids. Choose open-pollinated varieties, and use origination lists to search for historic cultivars.
6. Choose species, botanical, or wild forms of garden plants. These are often the same as older garden varieties.
7. Save seed. Seed collected from modern plants can revert to less-improved, more old-fashioned forms.
8. Look harder, and ask. Call one more nursery, look beyond all the marigolds--you may be surprised. And demand creates supply.
9. Order by mail. Though almost every nursery carries a few historic items (rarely identified as such), the following sources will be of more help than most--if you know what you are looking for. (And, again, if you don't find something, ask.)

Especially valuable sources are marked with asterisks. A few important organizations are included, too. For other sources, see Barbara J. Barton's monumental and current Gardening By Mail II (Tusken Press, Box 597004, San Francisco, CA 94159, \$18.50 postpaid).

### I. GENERAL CATALOGS

W. Atlee Burpee Co.  
Warminster, Pa 18974  
mainstream, free

Stokes Seeds  
PO Box 548  
Buffalo, NY 14240  
many bedding plants, free

Geo. W. Park Seed Co.  
Cokesbury Rd.  
Greenwood, SC 29647-0001  
mainstream, free

\*\*\*J.L. Hudson, Seedsman  
PO Box 1058  
Redwood City, CA 94064  
many species, \$1

\*\*\*Thomas Jefferson Center for  
Historic Plants  
Monticello/ PO Box 316  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
small but growing list, SASE

Comstock, Ferne and Co.  
P.O. Box 125  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
since 1820, free

Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co.  
2751 Page St.  
Yankton, SD 57078  
since 1866, free

R.H. Shumway, Seedsman  
PO Box 1  
Graniteville, SC 29829  
since 1870, \$1

Earl May Seed & Nursery Co.  
P.O. Box 500  
Shenandoah, IA 51603  
classic, free

D. Landreth Seed Co.  
PO Box 6426  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
est. 1784, mainly new list, \$2

Abundant Life Seed Fdn.  
PO Box 772  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
New Age, \$1

De Giorgi Co.  
1529 N. Saddle Creek Rd.  
Omaha, NE 68104  
\$1

Farmer Seed and Nursery  
P.O. Box 129  
Faribault, MN 55021  
classic, free

Henry Field's Seed & Nursery Co.  
407 Sycamore St.  
Shenandoah, IA 51602  
since 1892, free

J.W. Jung Seed Co.  
335 S. High St.  
Randolph, WI 53956  
classic, free

Heinloom Garden Seeds  
PO Box 138  
Guerneville, CA 95446  
\$2

## II. ORNAMENTALS

### A. ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, SHRUBS, TREES

Andre Viette Farm and Nursery  
Rte. 1, Box 16  
Fishersville, VA 22939  
perennial plants, \$2

Wayside Gardens  
P.O. Box 1  
Hodges, SC 29695-0001  
plants, many unusual, \$1

Bluestone Perennials  
7211 Middle Ridge Rd.  
Madison, OH 44057  
inexpensive cell-packs, free

White Flower Farm  
Rte. 63  
Litchfield, CT 06759-0050  
perennial plants, \$1

Louisiana Nursery  
Rte. 7, Box 43  
Opelousas, LA 70570  
shrubs, etc. \$2; iris, etc. \$2

\*\*\*The Fragrant Path  
PO Box 328  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023  
seeds, many old, \$1

\*\*\*Seed Source/ Sharp Plants  
Rte. 2, Box 265B  
Asheville, NC 28805  
Maver's, many species, \$3

Canyon Creek Nursery  
3527 Dry Creek Rd.  
Oroville, CA 95965  
perennials, many old, \$1

Primrose Path  
RD 2, Box 110  
Scottdale, PA 15683  
perennials, some old, \$1.50.

Foxborough Nursery  
3611 Miller Rd.  
Street, MD 21154  
dwarf/odd evergreens, etc.; \$1

Far North Gardens  
PO Box 52248  
Livonia, MI 48152  
diverse perennials, etc., \$2

## B. INDIVIDUAL PERENNIALS, ETC.

Brand Peony Farm  
PO Box 842  
St. Cloud, MN 56302  
many old, \$1

Ensata Gardens  
9823 E. Michigan Ave.  
Galesburg, MI 49053  
Japan. iris, ask for old; free

Arthur H. Steffen, Inc.  
PO Box 184  
Fairport, NY 14450  
clematis, wholesale only, \$2

Country Garden  
Rte. 2, Box 455A  
Crivitz, WI 54114  
"for cutting," many cultivars, \$1

Hillier Nurseries  
Ampfield House, Ampfield  
Romsey, Hants. SO5 9PA  
England

Chiltern Seeds  
Bortree Stile, Ulverston  
Cumbria, England LA12 7PB  
extensive, world-wide list, \$3

\*\*\*Select Seeds  
81 Stickney Hill Rd.  
Union, CT 06076  
all antique, \$1.50

\*\*\*Thompson and Morgan  
PO Box 1308  
Jackson, NJ 08527  
everything, color photos, free

Old Thyme Flower & Herbal  
Seed Exchange/ B. Bond  
Rte. 1, Box 124A  
Nebraska City, NE 68410  
heirloom seed exchange

New Peony Farm  
Box 18105  
St. Paul, MN 55118  
many old, free

Heard Gardens, Ltd.  
5355 Merle Hay Rd.  
Johnston, IA 50131  
lilacs, \$1

Lilypons Water Gardens  
PO Box 10  
Lilypons, MD 21717-0010  
\$5

Adamgrove  
Rte. 1, Box 246  
California, MO 65018  
iris, some species & old, \$1

Gilson Gardens  
PO Box 277  
Perry, OH 44081  
groundcovers, free

Kurt Bluemel, Inc.  
2740 Greene Lane  
Baldwin, MD 21013  
ornamental grasses, \$2

Historic Iris Preservation Soc.  
Verona M. Wiekhorst, Treasurer  
Colorado Springs, CO 80917  
society for antique iris, \$3/yr.

### C. SPRING AND SUMMER BULBS

\*\*\*John Scheepers, Inc.  
RD 6, Phillipsburg Rd.  
Middletown, NY 10940  
everything, \$3

Rex Bulb Farms  
PO Box 774  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
lilies, \$1

McClure & Zimmerman  
PO Box 368  
Friesland, WI 53935  
free

De Jager Bulbs  
P.O. Box 2010  
South Hamilton, MA 01982  
free

C.A. Cruickshank  
1015 Mt. Pleasant Rd.  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2M1  
also perennials, \$3

International Growers Exchange  
PO Box 52248  
Livonia, MI 48152  
diverse, \$5/3 yrs.

\*\*\*B & D Lilies  
330 "P" St.  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
many species lilies, \$1

\*\*\*Daffodil Mart  
Rte. 3, Box 794  
Gloucester, VA 23061  
many old, \$1 list

Van Engelen, Inc.  
Stillbrook Farm, 307 Maple St.  
Litchfield, CT 06759  
free

**D. OLD ROSES** - See also the listings of old rose nurseries and experts available for a long SASE from the American Rose Society, PO Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130, as well as the Combined Rose List by Beverly R. Dobson (\$11.50, 215 Harriman Rd., Irvington, NY 10533), which lists sources for some 5000 old and new roses.

Roses of Yesterday and Today  
802 Brown's Valley Rd.  
Watsonville, CA 95076-0398  
extensive, \$2

Lowe's Own-Root Roses  
6 Sheffield Rd.  
Nashua, NH 03062  
\$2

\*\*\*Pickering Nurseries  
670 Kingston Rd.  
Pickering, Ontario L1V 1A6  
high quality, \$2

High Country Rosarium  
1717 Downing St.  
Denver, CO 80218  
\$1



Historical Roses  
1657 W. Jackson St.  
Painesville, OH 44077  
\$1

Antique Rose Emporium  
Rte. 5, Box 143  
Brenham, TX 77833  
\$2

Heritage Rose Gardens  
16831 Mitchell Creek Dr.  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
\$1

Heritage Roses Group  
Dr. Henry Najat/ 6365 Wald Rd.  
Monroe, WI 53566  
society, regional sub-groups, \$5

**E. NATIVE AND WILD PLANTS** - See also Nursery Sources--Native Plants and Wildflowers, David R. Longland & Barbara F. Pryor, eds., 1987, New England Wild Flower Society, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Rd., Framingham, MA 01701.

Woodlanders  
1128 Colleton Ave.  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Southeast natives, 2 stamps

\*\*\*Prairie Nursery  
PO Box 365  
Westfield, WI 53964  
grasses, forbs; seeds, plants, \$2

Prairie Moon Nursery  
Rte. 3, Box 163  
Winona, MN 55987  
wetland, prairie, woodland, \$1

Appalachian Gardens  
Box 82  
Waynesboro, PA 17268  
shrubs, trees, etc.; free

\*\*\*Forestfarm  
990 Tetherow Rd.  
Williams, OR 97544  
many shrubs, etc., \$2

Sunlight Gardens  
Rte 1, Box 600A, Hillvale Rd.  
Andersonville, TN 37705  
\$2

## **F. HOUSE PLANTS, BEDDING PLANTS, EXOTICS**

\*\*\*Logee's Greenhouses  
55 North St.  
Danielson, CT 06239  
extensive, \$3

Color Farm Growers  
2710 Thornhill Rd.  
Auburndale, FL 33823  
coleus, \$.50

Cook's Geranium Nursery  
712 N. Grand  
Lyons, KS 67554  
\$1

The Banana Tree  
715 Northampton St.  
Easton, PA 18042  
exotics, \$.75

Shady Hill Gardens  
821 Walnut St.  
Batavia, IL 60510-2999  
geraniums, \$2

Merry Gardens  
P.O. Box 595  
Camden, ME 04843  
fuchsias, geraniums, ivies, etc.

Anabelle's Fuchsia Gardens  
32531 Rhoda Lane  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
many old, with dates, \$1

### III. EDIBLES AND USEFUL PLANTS

#### A. MAINLY VEGETABLES

Seeds Blum  
Idaho City Stage  
Boise, ID 83706  
\$3

Ronniger's Seed Potatoes  
Star Route  
Moxie Springs, ID 83845  
SASE

Bountiful Gardens  
5798 Ridgewood Rd.  
Willits, CA 95490  
J. Jeavons, Chase Seeds, free

\*\*\*Native Seeds/ SEARCH  
3950 W. New York Dr.  
Tucson, AZ 85745  
native & Native American seeds

Vermont Bean Seed Co.  
Garden Lane  
Fair Haven, VT 05743  
many old beans, peas, free

Nichols Garden Nursery  
1190 North Pacific Hwy.  
Albany, OR 97321  
and herb seeds, free

Heirloom Seeds  
PO Box 245  
West Elizabeth, PA 15088  
\$1

Gleckler Seedmen  
Metamora, OH 43540  
unusual varieties, free

Heirloom Vegetable Gdn. Project  
157 Plant Science Bldg.  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853-0327  
19th-c. collection, SASE + \$1

\*\*\*Seed Savers Exchange  
PO Box 70  
Decorah, IA 52101  
membership \$15; Inventory \$12

Le Marche/ Seeds International  
PO Box 190  
Dixon, CA 95620  
gourmet, some antiques, \$2

The Tomato Seed Co.  
PO Box 323  
Metuchen, NJ 08840  
some antiques, free

\*\*\*Southern Exposure  
PO Box 158  
North Garden, VA 22959  
mostly older or heirloom, \$3

Pinetree Garden Seeds  
Rte. 100 North  
New Gloucester, ME 04260  
free

Johnny's Selected Seeds  
P.O. Box 2580  
Albion, ME 04910  
free

Redwood City Seed Co.  
PO Box 361  
Redwood City, CA 94064  
and other "useful plants," \$1

Peace Seeds  
2385 SE Thompson St.  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
diverse, unusual, \$3.50

Grain Exchange  
2440 E. Water Well Rd.  
Salinas, KS 67401  
soc. for old, unusual grains, SASE

Heritage Seed Program  
c/o Heather Apple  
RR3, Uxbridge  
Ontario L0C 1K0  
heirloom edibles exchange

CORNS/ Carl & Karen Barnes  
Rte. 1, Box 32  
Turpin, OK 73950  
network for old, unusual corn

Seed Saving Project  
Dept. LAWR/ 139 Hoagland Hall  
Davis, CA 95616  
California-adapted heirlooms, \$3

## B. MAINLY HERBS

Catnip Acres  
Christian St.  
Oxford, CT 06483-1224  
\$2

Sandy Mush Herb Nursery  
Rte. 2, Surnett Cove Rd.  
Leicester, NC 28748  
\$4

Well-Sweep Herb Farm  
317 Mt. Bethel Rd.  
Port Murray, NJ 07865  
and flowers, vegetables; \$2

Companion Plants  
7247 N. Coolville Ridge Rd.  
Athens, OH 45701  
\$2

Fox Hill Farm  
440 W. Michigan Ave., Box 9  
Parma, MI 49269  
plants, \$1

\*\*\*Richters  
Goodwood, Ontario L0C 1A0  
Canada's largest, \$2.50

## C. FRUIT

\*\*\*South Meadow Fruit Gardens  
15310 Red Arrow Hwy.  
Lakeside, MI 49116  
vast; free list, \$8 catalog

Leuthardt Nurseries  
PO Box 666  
East Moriches, NY 11940  
espalier, free list, \$1 handbook

J.E. Miller Nurseries  
5060 W. Lake Rd.  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
extensive, some antiques, free

\*\*\*Bear Creek Farms  
PO Box 411  
Northport, WA 99157-0411  
2 stamps

Lawson's Nursery  
Rte. 1, Box 473  
Ball Ground, GA 30107  
antique apples, etc., free

\*\*\*Applesource/ Tom Vorbeck  
Rte. 1  
Chapin, IL 62628  
apples for taste-testing, free

\*\*\*Living Tree Centre  
PO Box 797  
Bolinus, CA 94914  
antique apples, \$6

NY State Fruit Testing Coop. Assn.  
PO Box 462  
Geneva, NY 14456  
free

Makielski Berry Farms & Nursery  
7130 Platt  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
bush fruits, free

Clark Kerr Apple Variety Museum  
Pennsylvania State University  
Dept. of Horticulture  
State College, PA 16801

Bunford Bros.  
Monroe, VA 24574  
apples; list \$1, catalog \$6

Johnson's Nursery  
Rte. 5, Box 29J  
Ellijay, GA 30540  
peaches, free

Edible Landscaping  
P.O. Box 77  
Afton, VA 22920  
figs, natives, etc., free

Foundation Plant Materials  
Service  
Univ. of California  
Davis, CA 95616  
grapes, free list

U.S. Espalier Nursery  
16850 NE Leander Dr.  
Sherwood, OR 97140  
espalier, some old

Worcester Co. Hort. Soc.  
30 Tower Hill Rd.  
Boylston, MA 01505  
antique apples

\*\*\*North American Fruit Explorers  
Rte. 1, Box 94  
Chapin, IL 62628  
society for old, unusual; \$8

#### IV. PLANT SEARCH SERVICES

North Star  
RFD 1 Box 1655A  
Burnham, ME 04922  
(207) 948-2401

"Plants Wanted"  
American Hort. Society/ Box 0105  
Mt. Vernon, VA 22121  
free for members

Plant Finders of America  
106 Fayette Circle  
Fort Wright, KY 41011

V. GARDEN FURNISHINGS, FENCING, IRONWORK, STRUCTURES, ETC. - A listing of catalogs and other sources is being compiled by Scott G. Kunst. Your input is welcome. In the meantime, see the listings in the Old-House Journal Catalog (Old-House Journal, 935 Ninth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215, \$15.95 postpaid) and Gardening By Mail II (as cited in the introduction to this source list).

This source list incorporates the work of Arthur O. Tucker, Robert F. Becker, Martin McGann, the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, ALHFAM Seed & Plant Committee members, and many others. Thanks to all.

It was published February 1989 and will be updated regularly. Please help by sending us suggested additions, deletions, corrections, and other feedback.

Single copies are available by mail. ALHFAM MEMBERS please send a business-size, self-addressed, 25-cent-stamped envelope to Robert F. Becker (address above). ALL OTHERS please send \$1.00 plus a business-size, self-addressed, 25-cent-stamped envelope to Scott G. Kunst (address above).

IN PRINT, continued

PERENNIAL COLOR FOR TEXAS AND THE SOUTH, by William C. Welch  
--review by Nancy Volkman, Associate Professor  
of Landscape Architecture, Texas A & M University

Many books on perennials have come out in recent years, but Dr. Bill Welch [a member of the SGHS Board of Directors] has written one which gives useful guidance in how perennials can be used to create garden designs which are well adapted to the modern small garden and to the contemporary necessity of a relatively self-perpetuating and water-conserving garden, and which rely on historical precedent for both materials and design concept.

As he clearly explains, perennial gardens are well adapted to contemporary life. They provide almost constantly changing effects of varying color and texture, while requiring relatively little maintenance or additional expense, once established. If the average homeowner would spend the one or two hours a week now devoted to lawn maintenance on a perennial garden, he or she would realize how misplaced is the notion that lawn is "easy care" and planting beds time-consuming. Homeowners would also have the greater beauty and variety of the flower garden to enhance their properties.

Proper selection of perennials and companion plants would also assist in water conservation, already an important consideration in much of the South. Many plants used for cottage gardens have survived in these climates, untended, for decades. The history of the use of these plants, such as old roses and native forbes, give testimony to their drought hardiness. Tolerant perennials and shrubs offer a way to create a xeriscape [a landscape adapted to a dry environment] that does not look like a "desertscape."

While the main purpose of Perennial Color for the South is obviously to provide useful information for today's home gardener, this new book also makes a major contribution to the embryonic study of historic landscapes in Texas. The preservation of historic landscapes in Texas is hampered by the lack of well-documented information on how people arranged and planted the land that they occupied. All too often those who wish to create a "period landscape" either use older plants arranged in a modern composition, or, equally inauthentically, copy designs from other areas of the country which in no way reflect the Texas experience and character. Dr. Welch's brief history of cottage gardens and their unique development in the south-central region is an important piece in the historic landscape puzzle just beginning to be assembled.

Beginning with the Spanish period, perennials were used in landscapes of missions and private residential gardens. The Lynchburg, Texas, plantation of the de Zavala family, which was described in detail in a letter, gives readers some idea of the richness of Spanish gardens. An artist's rendering of the design will be included. Other noted Texas gardens, such as those at Eagle Island Plantation and Bolivar, are also mentioned. Thomas Affleck's contributions, both as a nurseryman operating in Natchez, Mississippi, and Washington County, Texas, and as

continued--

## Review of Perennial Color for Texas and the South, continued--

author of the influential Southern Rural Almanac, are noted. Other sources of inspiration for cottage gardens, from the mid-nineteenth century "Hill Country Germans" of Texas to the writing of Gertrude Jekyll, are also reviewed. The historical section concludes with a discussion of popular plants of early gardens.

"Perennials Past and Present," a detailed encyclopedia of perennial plants, presents horticultural information in a clear and practical manner. Even those species for which a great amount of information is needed are treated in full, rather than in an overly simplified and brief summary. I have found Perennial Color for Texas and the South to be an exceptionally fine publication, and recommend it for its clarity and usefulness.

## AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AWARD

Jane Campbell Symmes, owner of Cedar Lane Farm, a wholesale nursery in Madison, Georgia, has been chosen to receive an award from the American Horticultural Society at its annual meeting in July of this year. The choice of Mrs. Symmes, an active member of Southern Garden History Society who helped to plan our first annual meeting at Atlanta, was announced in the AHS News Edition, March, 1989.

Mrs. Symmes, a native of Atlanta, became interested in historic houses and gardens while studying art history at Agnes Scott College. She and her late husband, John Cleve Symmes, founded Cedar Lane Farm. For her work there to continue the cultivation of high quality cultivars that are no longer widely available in the trade, Mrs. Symmes will receive the Commercial Award given to an individual person for outstanding work in horticulture.

Jane Symmes served on the first board of trustees of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. As a board member of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, she conceived the exhibition "John Abbot in Georgia: The Vision of a Naturalist Artist (1751-ca. 1840)," presented in 1983. She was named Outstanding Nursery Person by the Georgia Nursery Association in 1982. We join others in praising her for her accomplishments in horticulture and historic preservation, and in congratulating her upon receiving this newest award.

## REPORT ON SGHS MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues have been coming in well, reports Flora Ann Bynum, secretary-treasurer. Notices for annual dues were mailed at the end of January. A second notice was sent at the end of April to those who did not respond to the initial notice.

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Kentucky

No editor at present--  
please volunteer or suggest  
someone who can send us news  
from Kentucky.

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Our editor has moved out of  
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SUMMER ISSUE

We will be glad to consider publishing your article on any aspect of Southern garden or landscape history. Send it by August 1, 1989 to Peggy Newcomb, Associate Editor, at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22901, or to the state editor for your state, listed on the previous page. Send us also your news of events, meetings, and publications on topics of interest to our members.

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

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809 Winston Terrace  
Charlottesville VA 22903

