



MAGNOLIA

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

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

Catherine M. Howett, President
Dr. Edgar G. Givhan II, Vice-Pres.
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Newsletter edited and
distributed by

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

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EDITOR'S COMMENT...

Careful readers will notice that our subtitle has changed with this issue, from Newsletter to Bulletin; it is our Board's intent to allow this regular publication to reflect your wishes as expressed in the articles submitted to it. They have seemed to us to be more substantial than "news." This change is not meant to discourage brief announcements of meetings or publications or other newsworthy events.

The change is also not meant to discourage your participation in the collection of news and information within your states. State editors are listed on the back page. Peggy Newcomb, our associate editor, coordinates their work. Send items to her as follows:

Peggy Cornett Newcomb
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Charlottesville, VA 22901

The excellently organized and very substantial meeting at Monticello has happily yielded more articles than ever before for this issue of our quarterly publication, but ironically none of them treats Monticello or Jefferson. We have therefore included other excellent reports in this issue, and will strive to feature the Monticello meeting in our fall issue, when speakers will have had time to recover from late summer projects, jobs, and trips and to send in their summaries for the benefit of unfortunate members who could not attend. Thanks to all who sent reports for this issue.

MAGNOLIA ESSAYS

In response to another perceived need, our Board decided at its June meeting at Monticello to support the regular but intermittent publication of a series of longer essays on subjects in garden and landscape history in our region. This supplement, entitled Magnolia Essays, will be launched sometime in the late fall.

Essays can be longer than submissions to Magnolia: approximately 6-20 double-spaced pages. They will be printed on the smoother paper that was used in the spring issue for the supplementary essay that Rudy Favretti provided to us; this paper allows reproduction of black and white illustrations. The number of illustrations may vary, depending not only on the length of essays but on the scale of the illustration and the space required for its clear reproduction.

Essays will be read and approved for publication by our publications committee, made up of John B. Flowers, Chairman, and four other Board members: Flora Ann Bynum, Florence Griffin, Catherine Howett, and Harriet Jansma. Manuscripts and inquiries should be submitted directly to Mr. Flowers:

John B. Flowers
3136 Heathstead Place
Charlotte, N. C. 28210

MEETINGS

RESTORING SOUTHERN GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES--6th meeting

The sixth meeting in this excellent and now well-established biennial series at Old Salem will take place October 29-31. The program was announced in the spring issue of Magnolia, and all members of SGHS should have received a brochure announcing this conference; if you have not received a brochure and want to attend, write to Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27108; or call the conference registrar at (919) 723-3688. The fee of \$130 includes several meals as well as all other conference events.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE RESTORATION SYMPOSIUM

This meeting, sponsored by Sleepy Hollow Restoration, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, and the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, will take place at Phillipsburg Manor, Upper Mills, North Tarrytown, New York, on Sept. 18-19, 1987. Registration fee is \$75. Call (302) 451-8420.

SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY -- ANNUAL MEETING, 1988

Board member Ben Page of Nashville has announced the dates of our meeting there next spring. Mark your calendars now: May 20-22. Members will receive detailed information about this 1988 meeting by the end of 1987.

NOTEWORTHY PUBLICATIONS

I. Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States has published the first issue of its newsletter, which includes announcement of two sources of information in the South: the Joseph Vestal and Sons [Nursery] Collection at the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR 72032 ; and a document handwritten by George Washington on the construction of a deer wall at Mount Vernon, housed in the Library at Mount Vernon. The newsletter is published by Wave Hill, 675 W. 252nd St., Bronx, N.Y. 10471.

II. Mark Stith, a staff writer for the Atlanta Journal and Atlanta Constitution, attended the annual meeting of SGHS in Charlottesville and subsequently published several feature articles about Monticello, Jefferson's gardens and their restoration, and Montpelier, the home of James Madison. These appeared in the Sunday issues of June 28, July 12, and July 26.

III. Interest in old roses remains strong in Texas, as witnessed in every issue of this bulletin, and in other publications as well:

Thomas Christopher wrote "On The Trail with Texas Rose Rustlers," which was published in Horticulture, August, 1987; the article mentions several members of SGHS and recounts their search for old roses in their state.

G. Michael Shoup, Jr., has sent a very attractive and informative catalog, "The 1986-87 Antique Rose Emporium Catalogue," which is available from him at the Antique Rose Emporium, Route 5, Box 143, Brenham, Texas 77833.

IV. A scholarly article entitled "The Mathematics of an Eighteenth-Century Wilderness Garden," by Barbara Paca-Steele [a member of SGHS], assisted by St. Clair Wright [SGHS Board member from Maryland] has been published by the Journal of Garden History, in Vol. 6, no. 4. Using the William Paca garden in Annapolis, Ms. Paca-Steele explores the possibility that the mathematical ordering of gardens could have been far more important to their 18th-century designers than has heretofore been recognized.

V. A substantial article by George R. Stritikus [active in garden history research in Alabama, and active in SGHS as well] entitled "Stepping into the Past: The Story of the Battle-Friedman Garden," was published in the Summer, 1987 issue (No. 5) of Alabama Heritage, a quarterly publication of the University of Alabama. Single issues are available for \$4.50, including postage and handling, from Eleanor Streit, Circulation Manager, Alabama Heritage, Center for the Study of Southern History and Culture, University of Alabama, P.O. Box CS, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-2909.

VI. The National Park Service has published National Register Bulletin No. 18 this year to encourage the nomination of designed historic landscapes to the National Register of Historic Places.

According to Ken Thomas, historian with the State of Georgia's Historic Preservation Office, this bulletin is the result of new emphasis in the National Register program on the importance of the historic landscape, whether associated with a historically significant architectural structure or not.

In February 1987, Westover, a property near Milledgeville in Baldwin County, Georgia, was placed on the National Register because of the significance of its remaining designed landscape and surviving early plant material, although the original grand plantation house, built circa 1825, was destroyed by fire in this century and has been replaced by a reconstruction.

A designed historic landscape is defined in National Register Bulletin No. 18 as:

a landscape that has significance as a design or work of art; was consciously designed and laid out by a master gardener, landscape architect, architect, or horticulturalist to a design principle, or an owner or other amateur using a recognized style or tradition in response or reaction to a recognized style or tradition; has a historical association with a significant person, trend, event, etc. in landscape gardening or landscape architecture; or a significant relationship to the theory or practice of landscape architecture."

A copy of National Register Bulletin No. 18 may be obtained by writing to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

NORTH CAROLINA

Late summer brought news from State Editor Kenneth M. McFarland, as well as information about a garden restoration in Raleigh and another in Fayetteville. They follow.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

Information or news from any member on any state in the region is welcome. All submissions for the fall issue of Magnolia should be received by the Editor or Associate Editor by November 1, 1987. All readers will appreciate your efforts to share your garden and landscape history activities and knowledge.

NORTH CAROLINA GARDEN HISTORY NEWS

by Kenneth M. McFarland -- tel. (919) 477-9835

August 13-18 saw the grand finale of North Carolina's celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Raleigh/Roanoke Island voyages. Southern Garden History Society member Davyd Foard Hood helped to mark the occasion through a talk given as part of the Elizabethan Garden Lecture Series presented at Manteo. (The Elizabethan Gardens, which operate under the aegis of the Garden Club of North Carolina, observed an anniversary of their own in August: they first opened on August 18, 1960.) Apropos of the setting and event, Davyd spoke on "Gardens of Pleasure and Purpose: English Antecedents for the Elizabethan Gardens on Roanoke Island."

Incidentally, Davyd recently returned from a lengthy stay in England, where he participated in the Victorian Society's Anglo-American Summer School. Sandwiched into periods of study of that most Victorian of architectural forms, the Gothic Revival, were visits to Hampton Court, Kew Gardens, landscapes designed by Gertrude Jekyll, and other garden sites of interest. Members may wish to "corner" Davyd at the next meeting for the interesting details.

Only a short distance west of Roanoke Island one finds another North Carolina site rich in history -- and the scene of noteworthy garden restoration activity -- Murfreesboro. An important 18th and 19th century port for the shipment of naval stores, Murfreesboro preserves many of the homes built by its successful merchants and planters. Society member and landscape architect M. C. (Mac) Newsom III is implementing for Murfreesboro a phased master plan for landscape restoration in the historic district. Mac's activities have included designing a public 18th-century style formal garden, and he is now at work restoring the gardens and grounds of the Wheeler House (ca. 1810). For the latter project, Mac is making extensive use of the Wheeler family papers. Some planting has begun (gingko, golden rain, and red bud as well as wax myrtle), and the fence surrounding the main house has been reconstructed. Mac plans to restore as faithfully as possible that mixture of the baldly practical and the ornamental that typified northeastern North Carolina landscapes of the era.

(For further information about historic Murfreesboro, call (919) 398-1886, or write: Roberts-Vaughan Village Center, 116 E. Main St., Murfreesboro, N. C. 27855.)

Mac Newsom's work in primary sources (which includes some very helpful information which he has extracted from the Civil War period diary of Kate Edmonston of Halifax County) is a reminder of the wealth of such material available in North Carolina. Particularly noteworthy is the Southern Historical Collection in Chapel Hill, a repository for a vast number of family papers collected from across the South. Guides to the collection are available at a reasonable price by contacting: The Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. Anyone seriously approaching research in the area of Southern

gardens and landscapes would do well to investigate the holdings to be found there. Members may wish to combine a visit to Chapel Hill with attendance at this fall's sixth conference in "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" at Old Salem. [see announcement on page 2] Certainly few spots can be more pleasant than Old Salem in October, and when this is joined to the excellence of the landscape conference, one has the makings of three halcyon days.

Also on the fall horizon is the Twelfth Annual New Bern and Tryon Palace Chrysanthemum Festival, to be held October 17-18. On both weekend days, the Tryon Palace gardens will be open free to the public from 9:30 to 5:00. Tryon Palace continues to hold garden workshops, with the September program being devoted to fall pruning. For details, call (919) 638-1560.

In western North Carolina, the staff at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville is already planning its Victorian Christmas decorations, for which it is nationally famous. Biltmore also holds a Festival of Flowers in the spring. For information: Travis Ledford, Special Projects Coordinator, or Bill Alexander, Horticulturalist, at (704) 255-1776; or write to them at Biltmore Estate, 1 N. Pack Square, Asheville, N. C. 28801.

HAYWOOD HALL GARDENS

at Raleigh, North Carolina

(submitted by M. C. Newsom III, landscape architect; and Carole H. Woodward, Chairman, Haywood Hall Garden Restoration Project)

Reconstruction of the Haywood Hall garden, located in Raleigh at 211 New Bern Place, is nearly complete. This \$40,000 project began in May of 1983 under the direction of M. C. Newsom III, landscape architect, and H.A.N.D.S., Home and Neighborhood Development Sponsors, a coalition of thirty Raleigh garden clubs, and is scheduled to be completed in December of 1987.

This 185-year-old garden was the pride and joy of Eliza Haywood, wife of John Haywood, the first Treasurer of the State of North Carolina. Information gathered from the state Archives and History and from family members relates how Eliza spent time in her garden to escape the rigors of being the wife of a prominent public servant and the mother of twelve children.

The garden had deteriorated badly over the years, and there were no drawings of the original design; so reconstruction based on family documents was necessary. HANDS members spent months reading personal letters and family history to gather information on all aspects of Eliza's garden. They learned that it had included a gazebo, grape arbors, a rose garden, and paths which meandered through the garden, as well as certain species of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that Eliza favored.

With this information, Mac Newsom drew a major landscape plan for HANDS to follow in the reconstruction. Today a beautiful new gazebo proudly stands in the rear of the garden, two grape arbors are installed, a brick paved rose garden complete with statuary is planted with early rose specimens, and gravel paths wander through the garden along and near the freshly painted wooden fences. Most of the plantings are in, as well as one of five benches. Trees, shrubs, and the other benches will be added in the fall as the rest of the needed money is raised. Although the project has taken four years to complete, the HANDS organization is proud to have supported the recreation of this lovely historic garden.

THE SOUTHERN BARTRAM CONNECTION

(submitted by Christy Snipes, landscape architect)

In 1867 a young bride brought boxwood cuttings from her ancestral home on the Cape Fear River to her new garden and residence in Fayetteville, North Carolina. It was a common enough occurrence of the time, but recent research has revealed the special significance of the event and family involved.

Jane Robeson McKethan, the young bride, was a collateral relative of the botanical Bartram family. John Bartram, who founded the first botanical garden in America at Philadelphia, had a half-brother, William, who settled in the 1720's in North Carolina. Ashwood, on the northwest Cape Fear River in Bladen County, became his home. William Bartram prospered at Ashwood; he was a prominent land-holder, a colonel in the militia, and a representative in the North Carolina Assembly.

John Bartram and his son William often visited their southern family at Ashwood. The younger William even resided with his uncle from 1761 to 1765 and ventured unsuccessfully into the business of operating a trading post there. In 1765 John Bartram, who had just been appointed Royal Botanist to King George, passed through North Carolina, and was accompanied by his son on a botanical expedition to Florida.

The young William again visited Ashwood from 1770 to 1772. During this period his uncle William, his cousin, and his aunt died there. William returned to Ashwood only one time after this period, at the end of his plant exploration of the southeast in 1776. In his Travels, published in 1791, William Bartram remembered the people and plants of his beloved Cape Fear Region. Drawings of the flora and fauna of that area show a deep understanding of the place that he must have considered a second home. John Bartram had died in 1777; and when William died in 1823, the ties between the northern and the southern Bartrams would be cut for many years.

After Colonel William Bartram's death in 1770, Ashwood had remained in the possession of the southern Bartram family. Mary, Colonel Bartram's daughter, married the revolutionary war patriot, Colonel Thomas Robeson. Jane Robeson, born at Ashwood in 1846, was descended from Mary and Thomas. When Jane married Edwin T. McKethan in 1867, Cool Spring Place in Fayetteville became their home. The structure already had a prominent history dating back to 1789. It was and is the oldest building in the city. Jane Robeson McKethan planned and planted the garden at Cool Spring Place. Remnants of the original boxwood design are still present today. Thus it is the oldest existing garden in Fayetteville.

Jane lived and gardened at Cool Spring Place until 1913, almost 46 years. She had continued over time to bring bulbs and other plant materials from Ashwood. The result was a lovely and useful garden, rich in flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, and flowering shrubs. Over the years Jane had the help of her sister, Mary Harris, who was also an avid gardener; Mary was also the family historian, and she possessed great knowledge on both the Ashwood Bartrams and the Robesons.

In the 1890's a nephew of Jane and Mary, John Robeson of Ashwood, attended dental school in Philadelphia. He made inquiries about the northern Bartrams, made contact with several relatives there, and became a part of the Bartram Reunion of June 8, 1893. John told the Philadelphia Bartrams about Mary's knowledge of the southern Bartram line. Letters were exchanged, and Mary provided genealogical materials and information about Ashwood to the northern Bartrams. In one of her letters Mary stated that family tradition held that the famed "Cypress tree" at the Bartram garden in Philadelphia came from Ashwood. Another letter, dated 1893, from Mr. T. E. Bartram, states, "This is the first occasion since the Revolutionary War the two branches [of the family] had an interview."

Today the legacy of the southern Bartram line exists in eastern North Carolina. The house and gardens are gone from the once prosperous Ashwood, but the land is still owned by the Robeson family. Remnants of the garden that Jane Robeson McKethan began in 1867 at Cool Spring Place still survive. The landscape remains in the McKethan family, and the Fayetteville Garden Club is sponsoring a restoration project for it; Christy Snipes has developed the historic landscape development plan. When the garden of Cool Spring Place is finally restored, it will be a tribute to the character of two Victorian women and also to their Bartram ancestors.

[Note: Christy Snipes, who earned the master's degree in landscape architecture at North Carolina State University, recently formed Historic Landscape and Garden Design, a consulting firm specializing in preserving and restoring gardens. Members may request a brochure about the firm and its work from her at 501 Pelham Drive, E-205, Columbia, South Carolina 29209; or tel. (803) 783-6631.]

ANOTHER GARDEN ARCHIVE:

THE GARDEN LIBRARY OF THE NEW ORLEANS TOWN GARDENERS

An important research collection in the Southeastern Architectural Archive

(submitted by William R. Cullison III, Curator,
Southeastern Architectural Archive, Tulane Univ. Library)

The first published guide to gardening in Louisiana...nineteenth century Southern nursery catalogs...one of the first American books dealing exclusively with flowers and their cultivation -- such are the treasures contained in an important garden research library recently donated by the New Orleans Town Gardeners, a New Orleans garden club, to the Southeastern Architectural Archive of the Tulane University Library.

Known as the Garden Library, the collection was begun by the Town Gardeners several years ago as an ongoing project. At present, it contains over 1000 volumes, including practical works, theoretical treatises, histories, biographies, and reference publications. In addition to historic works, there are numerous present-day publications, among them several dealing with garden restoration.

The founders of the Library were Mrs. Shingo Woodward and Mrs. Lucile Monsted [both members of SGHS], both of whom continue to guide its development today. The impetus for establishing the collection, according to its founders, was the lack of a comprehensive garden and gardening library in New Orleans. With the current interest in the history of New Orleans gardens and gardening, particularly among preservationists, Mrs. Monsted and Mrs. Woodward felt that such a collection would be a valuable community asset.

In starting the library, Mrs. Woodward and Mrs. Monsted decided to collect generally for the field of gardens and gardening, but emphasized Louisiana and the South. Within these general guidelines, a few areas of special interest were established: books by Caroline Dorman, the Louisiana botanist and naturalist; books published by the Garden Club of America, of which the Town Gardeners organization is an affiliate member, and rare works on gardens and gardening.

Initially there was no money for acquisitions; so the Library was started through donations, which were received from both club members and others in the community. Eventually, appropriations from the club treasury were made for purchases for the collection. Purchases have been made through Mrs. Monsted, who, as Library Accessions Chairman, is largely responsible for the overall high quality of the collection as it exists today.

At first the Library was housed in an office occupied by Mrs. Woodward, where it was made available by appointment. As the collection began to grow, however, problems of space and accessibility led the Town Gardeners to begin seeking a more suitable home for the Library. After talking with representatives of several public institutions in the city, the organization decided unanimously to give the Library to the Southeastern Architectural Archive at Tulane. The Act of Donation was signed in June, 1986, and the actual transfer of books took place a short time later.

The publications mentioned in the first paragraph are typical of the many valuable works in the Library. The first Louisiana gardening book is J. F. Lelievre's Nouveau Jardinier de la Louisiane, published in New Orleans in 1838. The nursery catalogs, from New Orleans and Mobile, were apparently used in developing the famous, still-extant gardens at Rosedown Plantation, near St. Francisville, Louisiana. The flower book referred to is a first edition copy of Thomas Hibbert and Robert Buist's The American Flower Garden Directory (1832; the first edition is the only one issued with the aquatint frontispiece of the Camellia fimbriata).

A random sampling of other treasures in the collection: the Dublin edition of Bartram's Travels (1793); Bernard M'Mahon's popular American Gardener's Calendar (7th ed., 1828); Oliver O. Rich's Synopsis of the Genera of American Plants (1814), signed by the author to the famous Philadelphia physician Felix Pascalis-Ouviere; Nicolas de Bonnefons' Jardinier Francois (1664 printing of 1654 original), charmingly subtitled "which teaches how to cultivate trees and edible herbs: with the manner of conserving fruits, and of making all kinds of comfitures, conserves, and marzipans;" Daniel Periera Gardner's Farmer's Dictionary (second ed., 1855), an important mid-nineteenth century American reference work; Gardens of China (1949) and China and Gardens of Europe of the Eighteenth Century (1950), both by Osvald Siren, the great historian of Chinese art; and the 11-volume Orchid Album (Robert Warner and Benjamin Samuel Williams, eds.; 1882-1897), a monument of Victorian botanical book production containing 527 chromolithograph and hand-colored illustrations of orchids with accompanying descriptive text.

Since the Library was donated to the Architectural Archive, several projects related to it have been initiated. Through an anonymous gift to the Town Gardeners, a printed catalog of the Library is being prepared. The Town Gardeners have also established an endowment fund, the interest from which will be used to purchase books to add to the collection.

THE REBIRTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S PLEASURE GARDEN

(written by J. Dean Norton, horticulturist at Mt. Vernon,
and Susanne Schrage-Norton)

Exciting changes are in the air at Mount Vernon estate. With each passing year the gardens and grounds more accurately reflect the original plantings as they were when George Washington walked the tree-lined avenues and the garden paths.

Major historical research has been completed and is now being implemented in the garden enclosure called the upper, or north, garden. The story of its development reflects a nation's overall change in design trends and reveals a colonial plantsman's attitudes on the use of garden space on his plantation.

The upper garden was established in 1763. Its size and rectangular shape were patterned to mirror the garden to the south that had been

laid out in 1760. The placement of the garden gave balance and symmetry to the design of Washington's estate, which was in keeping with the popular landscape trends established in Europe.

The initial purpose of the upper garden was practical in nature; it was planted with vast quantities of nut and fruit trees, including French and English walnuts, peaches, cherries, apples, pears, and apricots. The garden remained basically unchanged until Washington's return from the Revolutionary War. Although greatly involved in the fight for his country's independence, he was exposed to many fine gardens during his years of travel. He also was aware of the change in attitude toward landscape style in Europe that was making its way across the Atlantic: the formal was giving way to the naturalistic. Washington's estate underwent changes that reflected the new design movement.

In 1785, the upper garden was expanded and changed in outline from a rectangle to a shield or cathedral window shape. A transformation in the planting scheme occurred as the boundary of the garden grew. Some nut and fruit trees were transplanted to the new areas of the garden, but the majority were moved to other locations on the estate. Flowers began to find their way into the new garden space made available. Eventually the walks were lined with small rooted boxwood cuttings, and two formal boxwood parterres were planted to either side of the greenhouse. The purely practical garden of necessity became an area of enjoyment, a pleasure garden. Washington initiated the transition within the garden, but maintained the desire to have the needs of the family kitchen amply supplied. George Washington's nephew, George Augustine Washington, one of the managers for the estate, was trying to allay his uncle's concern for this matter when he wrote that the gardener "... seems fond of flower but says he will pay strict attention to the more necessary parts of gardening by furnishing a good supply for the kitchen."

During Washington's presidency the number of visitors to his estate increased, which placed a greater demand upon the kitchen garden. Vegetables are documented as having to be grown in the upper garden to help meet this demand, yet visitors to the garden made no mention of seeing them there, which indicates that they were not conspicuously located within the garden enclosure.

Much has remained unchanged since Washington's time: the garden walls, its main paths with their boxwood borders (now large hedges), the school house, necessary house, greenhouse, and slave quarters are as they were in 1799; however, research has brought to light some additional details about the layout of this garden.

To the east and west of the garden's main allee, two formal rose plantings had been displayed for years. The rose beds were determined to be a later addition, planted after Washington's death. The curvilinear beds packed with roses were removed and have been replaced with square and rectangular beds as described by the garden's 18th-century visitors. The period roses once confined in these areas were scattered throughout the garden beds to grow among the fruit trees, herbs, bulbs, and assortment of flowers.

The rose beds to the west were replanted with a mix of flowers and roses, and dotted with fruit trees. This fall a dwarf boxwood edging will be added to these beds. To the east where the rose beds once existed, vegetables have been returned to the garden. As in Washington's time, although a necessary part of the garden, the vegetables are not as obvious to the eye of the visitor as they casually stroll the upper garden.

The quest for historical accuracy would not be complete without displaying the same fruit trees, roses, vegetables, and flowers that adorned George Washington's garden. The search continues for historic plants, and each 18th-century addition further enhances the authenticity of the garden.

Thanks to the availability of extensive historical records, the upper garden is again planted substantially as it was in 1799. Today the visitor to Mount Vernon has the opportunity to stroll the paths of an 18th-century pleasure garden, the same paths that George and Martha and their guests strolled 188 years ago. The hope is that the visitors today will feel the same admiration for the plants and flowers as did a gentleman in 1799, who wrote that they were "wonderful in their appearance, exquisite in their perfume and delightful to the eye."

A VIEW OF THE GARDEN AT OATLANDS PLANTATION

(submitted by Jill Winter of the Oatlands staff)

The restored formal garden at Oatlands reflects the personal history and predilections of two families which, each spanning a century, brought their very different experiences to bear on the character of the unique garden that is Oatlands today. In the first decade of the nineteenth century, George Carter, great grandson of Robert "King" Carter, carved out the basic design and structure of the garden. That structure remains unchanged, its solidity indicative of the determined persistence of the Carter descendents, for whom the garden was a source not only of aesthetic pleasure but also of practical sustenance in the growing of fruits, vegetables, and grapes. A century later, Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis cultivated the garden as an expression of the Victorian age, adding a refined elegance that reflected a family identity shaped by world travel and civic leadership bound up in the social and political fabric of nearby Washington, D.C.

By 1810, George Carter had constructed a series of connecting terraces on a hillside facing south and west near his imposing Georgian home, with its classic Corinthian columns. Two stone stairways led then, as now, from an entrance gate in different directions down into the four-acre garden. Its entire circumference is bounded by a six-foot stone wall topped with brick. Several dependencies, including a smokehouse, are included within those walls. Outside the garden, Mr. Carter constructed a brick orangery which boasted a hot-water heating system.

Trees planted by George Carter included American box, European larch, and an English oak, all of which shape the character of the garden today. Records of Mr. Carter's plantings at Oatlands are somewhat scarce. Among plants which have been documented are grapes, English white thorn, and fruit trees, including figs, apricots, and almonds. The orangery was noted as a prolific source of cut flowers and tropical plants.

The economic devastation of the Civil War was a blow from which the Carter family never fully recovered. Their fortunes were mirrored in a garden which slipped gradually into a state of disrepair. In 1903, Mrs. Edith Eustis viewed with fascination a mass of green growth, weeds, and crumbling brick. It is said she was so taken with the garden that she purchased Oatlands without looking at the interior of the house.

Oatlands became a summer home for the Eustis family. Mrs. Eustis enlarged the flower beds, extended the boxwood parterres, designed a rose garden, and added statuary and garden ornaments. In the early 1920s, a Victorian teahouse was constructed at one end of a bowling green lined by boxwood, while a reflecting pool was installed at the other end. The grapevine terrace became a boxwood parterre, accented by a large terracotta vase placed at each end. These and many additional refinements were expressions of classic English design patterned largely after the ideas of Gertrude Jekyll.

Oatlands became a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1965, following the death of Mrs. Eustis. In the 1980s, under the direction of horticulturist Alfredo Siani, serious restoration efforts began in the garden. Overgrown boxwood has been severely pruned and restored to health, the rose garden has been redesigned, and the flower beds are once again graced with the soft pinks, blues, and whites preferred by Mrs. Eustis. Seasonal displays of daffodils, wisteria, peonies, lilies, clematis, and hosta evoke a romantic mood. The focus of restoration has been the maintenance of a comfortable balance between historical accuracy and practical recognition of the improvements offered by selected modern hybrids.

Oatlands house and garden are open to the public from April through December. For information, write to Oatlands, Route 2, Box 352, Leesburg, Virginia 22075; or call (703) 777-3174.

PLEASE HELP to provide a bountiful harvest of articles on garden and landscape history for our fall issue. Send them to arrive no later than November 1, 1987.

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