



# 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-President  
Flora Ann Bynum, Secretary-Treasurer

SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Old Salem, Inc.

Drawer F, Salem Station

Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108

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distributed by

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You are invited to attend

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF SGHS, IN NASHVILLE, MAY 20-22, 1988

Members should by now have received a preliminary announcement and will receive a registration brochure soon for this year's meeting. If you fail to receive the preliminary mailing, write to us.

The conference will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 20, with registration during the late morning and through the noon hour at the conference hotel, the Hampton Inn--West End. Events will extend into the evening on both Friday and Saturday, and the registration fee of \$160 for the main two-day conference will include both dinners as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday and drinks at receptions, all transportation and entrance fees.

Registrants will make their own hotel reservations with cards provided in the packet. A room for one person with one double bed is \$41; a room for two persons with two double beds is \$46. Continental breakfast is included.

On Sunday, May 22, we will continue our tradition of offering an optional tour of historic sites and landscapes of the larger region of the conference city; this year they include the Hermitage, Cragfont, Wynnwood, and Fairvue. The fee of \$25 includes transportation, lunch, entrance fees, and afternoon drinks.

For details concerning the program, consult your announcement, and write for additional copies if you should need them. We hope to see many members again this year.

CENTER FOR HISTORIC RESOURCES ESTABLISHED AT TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY  
a report from Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape  
Horticulturist at the University, who serves  
as our Texas editor

Texas has had a keen interest in exploring and preserving its rich cultural heritage for the benefit of future citizens, but concerned groups and individual persons have often worked without organized support. There was a need for such support in many disciplines to assist individual efforts; the Center was organized in 1987 to meet that need.

Directed by Professor Gordon Echols, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, the Center has a faculty advisory committee from various disciplines; it includes Nancy Volkman, Associated Professor of Landscape Architecture, and Bill Welch, Landscape Horticulturist, who have discovered that Texans have a considerable interest in historical gardens and plants of Texas.

The goal of the Center is to share in and support the discovery, preservation, conservation, and restoration of historically significant elements of the built environment in Texas. Its functions include educating and training professionals interested in historic resources; providing services to public agencies, private foundations, and business organizations in historic resources; undertaking research in cooperation with local, state, and national efforts involving historic resources; coordinating and encouraging historic preservation efforts; and serving as a repository for architectural and engineering drawings, photographs, manuscripts, and other valuable documents useful in research of historic resources.

AN INQUIRY

From The Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States (published at Wave Hill, 675 W. 252nd St., Bronx, New York 10471) comes this request:

Information is sought on private estate gardens from 1890-1940, their owners, and designers, in North and South Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Kansas, Iowa,.... Anyone with photographs, plans, correspondence or other documentation, please contact: Mac Griswold, Harry Abrams, Inc., 100 5th Ave., New York, NY 10011; (212)496-8255.

Any member of Southern Garden History Society, or any person sharing our interests and goals, may send contributions to Magnolia, which is published in February, May, August, and November. Submission date for our Spring issue is May 1, 1988. Send your articles and news to: Peggy C. Newcomb, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

## THE CHANGING GARDEN SCENE:

THE SWORD GATE HOUSE GARDEN, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
report from Mary Palmer Kelley of Hugh  
Dargan Associates, Landscape Architects,  
who serves as our South Carolina editor

The Sword Gate House, at 32 Legare Street in Charleston, will have a rose garden constructed early in 1988. Sword Gate House is a private home, but the garden can be viewed from a slate sidewalk through the famous sword gates.

This property is reputed to be the first location of the Pink Cluster Noisette Rose, introduced by John Champney in 1811. Champney's Pink Cluster blooms repeatedly, with clusters of one-and-one-half-inch double pink flowers. It is a climber which reaches 8 feet in height.

According to the late landscape architect Loutrel Briggs in his book, Charleston Gardens (1951), "Legend has connected Phillip Noisette, a French florist, with the designing of the grounds [of Sword Gate House], but no foundation of fact has been found. It is known that Noisette came to Charleston from Santa Domingo around 1800 and established a nursery, and so it is not improbable that he laid out some of the garden patterns of the period." The garden pattern on the opposite page is from Briggs' book, drawn by Briggs from measurements taken on the grounds.

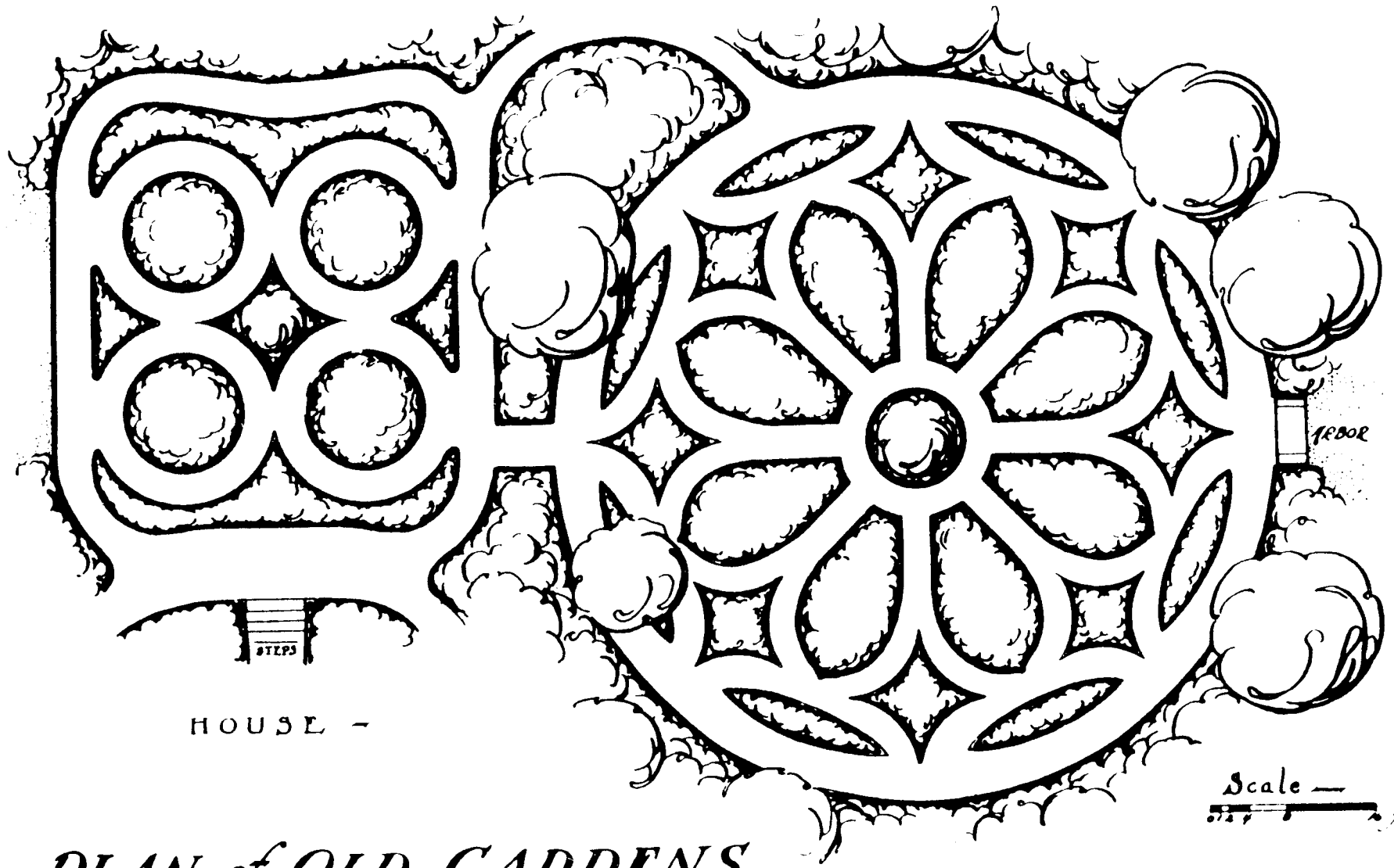
For many years the garden was in decline. Early in this decade, every living plant except some live oaks and magnolias was removed from the grounds, which were then modernized, with the addition of lighting and irrigation and the installation of a lawn outlined with red brick borders. A large circular fountain was built and now dominates the rear of the garden. Any old roses or brick-bordered planting bed patterns which may have existed are long gone.

It is a credit to the new owners that they are interested in the creation of a rose garden. This new garden space answers the need for intensive flower gardening and provides a pleasant view for frequent passersby. Few gardens in Charleston can be viewed in their entirety from the original gate.

The new rose garden will be a haven for a few older varieties; they will be situated in a four-part bed adjacent to the existing lawn with the convenient backdrop of an ancient 14-foot brick wall. A garden pavilion will provide a setting for the fountain at the rear. The 12-foot iron gates are being cleaned, and the overhead gas lantern is being repaired. Existing new wooden fencing along a parking court is being redesigned to be more in keeping with the period of the walls.

Since the construction of the modern garden erased all evidence of the early planting design, it is very fortunate for us as designers and for the new owners of the property that Loutrel Briggs recorded the Sword Gate House at one point in its history.

[Hugh Dargan serves on the board of Southern Garden History Society; Mary Palmer Kelley serves as South Carolina State Editor; they have residences in Charleston and Columbia, S.C., and work from 25 Devine St. in Columbia, 29205.]



HOUSE -

Scale —  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 feet

*PLAN of OLD GARDENS*  
— at —  
*32 Legare St. — Charleston · S · C ·*

*Measured and drawn by*  
*Louise W. Briggs - Landscape Archt.*

NOTES FROM ANOTHER PRACTITIONER ON HISTORIC GARDEN RESEARCH

from William Garbo, Landscape Architect,  
2006 Cherokee Dr., Jackson, MS 39211

The more I try it, the more I'm convinced that research is the key to credibility in restoring historic landscapes. I was recently faced with the task of recommending the paving material for a winding road through an old estate. My mind went back to a letter written in 1863 which I value greatly for its detailed description of elements surrounding another great mansion of the same period:

"As you approach upon the broad carriage way that gracefully sweeps past the high columned portico, shaded by the cypress and magnolia and crape myrtle gorgeous in it's bloom and blooming always, your feet crackling over the gravel and sea shells, now almost lost in labarynthine ways, over terraces and undulating green sward, over rustic bridges, through cool and verdurous valleys of gloria mundi, Japan Plums, the live and water oak, literally a flowery pathway of exotics; exotics of gorgeous coloring and startling magnificence, almost indigenous to the soil in which they grow. The river view bursts suddenly upon you and in the beautiful summer house you sit down entranced, wondering if it is all real, or if the scene has not been suddenly composed by an enchanter's wand. Flowers and blooms and fruit are all around, and almost sick with perfume. One can dream away the hours in ecstasy of enjoyment, the air so soft and balmy, all so still so peaceful apparently .... You return to the house by the orchards and cultivated land by the greenhouse, hot house and pineries, a house that cost a small fortune has been built to shelter a single banana tree that grown within it's hot atmosphere bears fruit and puts forth it's great green leaves, three feet or more in length. Numbers of plants are clambering about the conservatories, the more ordinary beauties of the greenhouse and of the parterre smile in boundless profusion and perfection of bloom. Pines and Figs of three or four varieties, Melons I should be afraid to tell you how large for you would not credit me. Canteloupes, peaches, pears and the most delicious nectarines are brought fresh to the table every day. Shooting galleries and billiard rooms elegantly fitted up for ladies as well as gentlemen are placed in picturesque positions in the grounds and gardens. Stables and office all consealed, nothing to offend the most fastidious taste. One continuously wonders that such a Paradise can be made on earth."

The letter was written by General Thomas Kilby Smith to his wife on July 19, 1863. General Smith was serving in the Union Army, Headquarters U. S. Forces, Natchez, Mississippi during the War Between the States; he was billeted at a great mansion called Clifton in Natchez. Unfortunately Clifton was destroyed, with all its gardens and grounds, for the construction of fortifications; but General Smith's letter remains to paint a picture from the past, a valuable piece of information for all of us.

## CARLYLE HOUSE LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

written by Karen Bizier, Curator,  
Carlyle House Historic Park,  
Alexandria, Virginia

The Carlyle House, completed in 1753, was the home of John Carlyle, a wealthy merchant and one of the founders of Alexandria, Virginia. Opened to the public in 1976 as an historic house museum, the site has recently been the recipient of a grant from The Garden Club of Virginia for a landscape plan to restore the front yard to its 18th-century appearance. The Garden Club will also fund an exhibit in the museum's reception room and a series of plaques in the garden describing to visitors the layout of John Carlyle's entire town property. These displays will make visitors aware of 18th-century features currently missing from the site, such as the outbuildings which served domestic functions and Carlyle's mercantile activities.

Over its more than two hundred year history, the Carlyle House and adjacent property have seen many changes. The house was built on a bluff along the banks of the Potomac River. An infill project, begun during Carlyle's lifetime, cut away the bluff and eventually filled a shallow cove, moving the river's edge two blocks away. The earth removed from the back yard took with it any potential archaeological evidence for the composition of Carlyle's garden. Along the sides and front of the house, multi-story buildings constructed in the 19th century destroyed any traces of earlier landscaping.

When the Carlyle House was restored by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) in the early 1970's, a decision was made, in part because of scanty evidence, to combine 18th-century and 20th-century design elements and plant materials in the gardens surrounding the house. Part of the NVRPA's interest in the site was to create a public park that would provide more open space and greenery in the heart of downtown Alexandria. Plantings in the front yard of the house included beds of azaleas encircling the perimeter and boxwoods around the foundation.

In recent years there has been a renewed interest in recreating a landscape more representative of the 18th century, thereby providing a more sympathetic setting for the house. A decision was reached in consultation with the Garden Club of Virginia to work on the front of the property, which creates an important first impression on visitors and for which there is some evidence of its 18th-century appearance.

The strongest piece of evidence that exists for the front landscape is a print of the Carlyle House that appeared in Harper's Monthly in 1880. Restoration research suggested that despite the late date of its publication, this print depicted the house as it appeared in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Rudy Favretti, the Garden Club's historic landscape consultant, confirmed that the simple landscape design pictured in this print likely reflected the appearance of the house and property during John Carlyle's era. A design based on this print was drawn by Favretti and will be executed this spring.

Twentieth-century elements such as the plantings around the foundation will be removed, and two short rows of Virginia red cedars will be planted as they appear in the print -- flanking the front walk and aligned with the sides of the house. The rest of the yard will be covered with a lawn, with small borders of ivy. The resulting view of Carlyle's home will be one with which we hope he would be more familiar.

#### TRAPNALL HALL LANDSCAPE RESTORATION FUNDING

provided by Bill Hall, Acting Director,  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program,  
Co-Editor to Magnolia from Arkansas

Long a symbol of grace, elegance, and contributions to the statewide community, Trapnall Hall in Little Rock, Arkansas, is being honored as one of four Southern sites in a nationwide campaign to promote historic preservation. In a campaign entitled "Celebrating the Best of America" the Jack Daniel's Foundation for Preserving American Landmarks and Traditions has chosen Trapnall Hall to be its Arkansas recipient.

Selected in cooperation with the Southern Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Little Rock landmark will receive seed money and publicity towards completion of an historic landscape setting for the already restored structure. Funds will be used to move from known information about the historical aspects of Trapnall Hall's grounds to an actual plan and planting.

Built in 1843 on original Quapaw tribal land, Trapnall Hall was the home of the attorney and politician Frederick Trapnall and his wife Martha. Their home, a center of social activity for the family then and for the people of the state now, is a classic example of Greek Revival architecture, which originally had lawns and terraces leading down to the banks of the Arkansas River.

The house was given in 1929 to the Junior League of Little Rock, which undertook its restoration in the 1960s. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, and given to the State of Arkansas in 1976, when it became the Governor's official reception hall.

Plans for the restoration of the grounds call for use of historically correct trees, flowers, and shrubbery placed so as to accent the beauty of the property while not interfering with its present-day use. Trapnall Hall is owned and operated by the Arkansas Commemorative Commission, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

## BATTLE - FRIEDMAN UPDATE

from George R. Stritikus, Montgomery  
County Agent and Alabama State Editor

[This essay follows an earlier article about the Battle-Friedman house garden (c. 1840) which appeared in Alabama Heritage, summer, 1987, issue. It is available from the Center for the Study of Southern History and Culture, University of Alabama, P.O. Box CS, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-2909.]

It is an exhilarating experience when a hunch leads to new historical evidence. That is exactly what happened to me recently, when, after three years of research on the garden of the Battle-Friedman house, I thought there must be a letter or diary entry somewhere that would reveal who had installed this garden, and when.

I had surmised that the Alfred Battles must have put in the garden, but did not know exactly when. And I didn't know why the garden was so held in esteem, and preserved almost intact for a very long time. But the Battle descendents were unaware of any manuscripts of the family.

After the Southern Garden History Society meeting at Charlottesville last June, I decided to spend a day or two in the Chapel Hill-Durham area to research three prominent collections of manuscripts of Southern families. The Battles were from North Carolina, and had figured prominently in the history of the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, where a building was named for them. At UNC is the Southern Collection, an extensive collection of manuscripts of Southern families gathered throughout the South in the 1920's. Surely, I thought, I would find what I sought there. But I didn't.

Next I went to the Archives and History library of the State of North Carolina at Raleigh. It is a researcher's dream, but my search there also failed to yield Battle manuscripts.

My last stop was the special collections section of the Perkins Library of Duke University, in Durham. Alas, a search of the manuscript catalog yielded nothing from the Battle family.

But asking for directions, I met William R. Erwin, Jr., Principal Cataloger of the manuscript collection. Mr. Erwin, a native Alabamian, has an interest in historical horticulture, and therefore had a natural interest in helping me find further information about the Battle garden. He disappeared into the back of the library and shortly appeared with five old catalogues of nurseries located in or near Alabama in the middle of the 19th century. I scanned them excitedly and made arrangements to obtain copies. Soon Mr. Erwin reappeared with a small landscape plan of the Henry Watson home in Greensboro, Alabama, dated 1857. This was the earliest landscape plan of an Alabama home that I had seen, and it is an extremely detailed one.

These discoveries had made my trip to North Carolina a very fruitful one, but I had still not found any letters or diaries from the Battles.



But about two weeks later, I received a package from Mr. Erwin. The name Battle had stuck in his mind, and he had scanned several collections of papers from other Alabama families. Sure enough, in the Clement Claiborne Clay papers, one of the larger collections in the library, were several letters written by members of the Battle family. The letter that Mr. Erwin had copied for me, dated March 30, 1844, contained a significant reference to the Battle garden.

Mr. Erwin had chosen to look at this collection because Virginia Caroline Tunstall, who had married C. C. Clay, Jr., in 1843, had lived for some years in the family of Alfred Battle. She was an orphaned niece of Mrs Battle. (A curious aside: the Clays had an orphaned niece living in their household who married the Battles' only son; so the two families were tied to each other by double marriages.)

The letter was written by William Augustus Battle, a 19-year-old University student who had just finished his exams. He writes his cousin Elizabeth to tell her what has taken place in town "since you were here last year" (which probably means "since your wedding last year"). He tells her about the garden: "Ma has had her yard laid off most beautifully by a trans-atlantic gardener, who boasts in his skill and taste, and in truth, he is a proficient in his trade. He says he has lavished profusely his skill and talent in Lord Ashburton's garden, which is quite a recommendation."

At last my question of who installed the garden is answered. It was Mrs. Battle -- Millicent Bradley Beall -- but the garden was not of her own doing. It was English in style, made by an immodest gardener of Lord Ashburton.

We can now also say that the garden was laid off sometime between the winter of 1843 and the spring of 1844. Since February is the traditional month to begin to do yardwork here, and since Dr. Hardy Vickers Wooten, for example, laid off his garden in February, in 1856, I suspect it was installed in the late winter of 1843, following cousin Elizabeth's winter wedding. If it had been 1844, surely William Augustus would have remarked that the garden was laid off and the place was a mess.

And we have the answer to the question why the garden was preserved so well: the status of a tran-atlantic gardener and the reputation of his former employer, Lord Ashburton.

Alexander Baring, the first Baron Ashburton, was the second son of Sir Frances Baring. He was trained in his father's banking firm of Baring Brothers & Co., Ltd., which is still in existence today. Alexander's older brother had a lucrative appointment in the British East India Company, and the firm had many financial connections in the United States. As a young man, Alexander was sent to America to strengthen and extend the family banking connections. While living in America, he met and married Anne Louisa, the oldest daughter of Senator William Bingham of Philadelphia. This marriage and his many business connections were to work in Baring's favor in later years.

Upon the death of his father in 1810, Alexander became head of the firm. In 1817 he purchased "the Grange" in Alresford, Hampshire as his principal residence and set about developing it. This is probably the location about which that trans-atlantic gardener boasted. The property remains in the family today and is currently being restored.

Alexander Baring showed much skill in statesmanship in Parliament and was elevated to the peerage in 1835. When a dispute arose between the United States and Britain over some boundaries, he was sent to Washington to negotiate a settlement. This treaty, known as the Ashburton Treaty, was concluded in 1842.

Daniel Webster said that Lord Ashburton was a man who could see both sides to any issue. Of the Lord and his entourage, Webster said that they had "spread a social charm over Washington and filled everybody with friendly feelings towards England." It appears that his entourage included a gardener who may have decided to stay in the United States, for two years after the treaty was concluded, we find him still in Tuscaloosa, practicing his trade.

As to who he was and what happened to him, that information remains to be uncovered. He may have done more work in Tuscaloosa. Mack Broom, archaeologist for the Alabama Historical Commission, says that an excavation at Boone House in Tuscaloosa has yielded evidence of a greenhouse like the one at the Battle-Friedman house, which had a floor three feet below ground level and steps descending into it. An early book on greenhouse design printed in this country does not show such a structure, but a similar design appears on the frontis page of the Garden Calendar, published in 1827 by Robert Squibb, a nurseryman in Charleston, South Carolina, and considered to be the first gardening calendar that took American climate into account. Our SGHS Secretary, Flora Ann Bynum, saw a greenhouse like the Battles' at the West Dean Estate in England; so perhaps the design came across the Atlantic with its trans-atlantic gardener.

## TWO PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

William M. Kelso, Director of Archaeology at Monticello, who spoke to us about the landscape archaeology work there during our annual meeting last June, has edited a book entitled Landscape Archaeology which will be published by the University of Virginia Press this year. It will include Kelso's essay, "Landscape Archaeology at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello," the basis of his talk at our meeting. If space allows, we will include a part of it in a forthcoming issue of Magnolia.

Suzanne Turner, our SGHS board member in Louisiana, has published "Faithful to the Text," an article about her work as lead consultant for the Hermann-Grima House in New Orleans and her award-winning design for Magnolia Mound, near (now in) Baton Rouge, in Landscape Architecture Magazine, v. 77, no. 4 (July/August 1987).

## MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

### Southern Garden History Society

1988 in Nashville: see page 1, and watch for registration brochure;  
1989 in Savannah: May 11-13, 1989. Plan ahead and be there too.

### Historic Charleston Foundation Festival of Homes and Gardens

March 24-April 19. Many walking tours are available for viewing private homes and gardens. For information: (803) 723-1623.

### Country Houses and Gardens of the Brandywine Valley

May 4-6, 1988 (Wed. morning through noon Friday). For registration brochure and information write to Brandywine Valley Conference, Hagley Museum and Library, P.O. Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807, or call (302) 658-2400, ext. 305. The excellent program includes a presentation on "Estate Traditions of Georgia and the South" by our SGHS president, Catherine Howett, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Georgia.

### William Paca Garden Annual Festival of Roses and Mayflowers

To be held May 26, 1988. Mac Griswold, well known for her lively lectures on the relationship of people and gardens through history, will speak. She recently published a book entitled Pleasures of the Garden. For information: William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401; (301) 267-6656 or (301) 269-0601.

### Forty-Second Williamsburg Garden Symposium

April 10-13, 1988 (Sunday afternoon through Wed. noon). A full program includes clinics for gardener and early morning bird and wildflower walks as well as tours and lectures on Williamsburg and other gardens of the South. For a registration brochure: Registrar, Garden Symposium, P.O. Drawer C, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187.

### Mordecai Historic Park Herb and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 30 -- 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Rain date: Sunday, May 1 -- 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
This sixteen-year-old event, sponsored by the Mordecai Square Historical Society, offers over 9000 plants in more than 150 varieties. This year's sale will feature old roses. For information: Mordecai Historic Park, 1 Mimosa St., Raleigh, North Carolina 27604; (919) 834-4844.

### Davidson (N.C.) Horticultural Symposium IV: Secrets of Site Design

March 1-2, 1988. Call (704) 892-5266 for information.

## REPORT ON LANDSCAPE HISTORY RESEARCH IN GEORGIA

from Lucy Lawliss, graduate student in  
landscape architecture, U. of Georgia,  
and our Georgia State Editor

Because my colleagues and I are involved in garden and landscape history research, I am aware of studies that will be of interest to members of Southern Garden History Society:

Anne Knapp English, who passed with distinction at the University of Georgia this past fall, presented a thesis on the Approach Road at Biltmore Estate, Asheville, N.C. She was able to document the changes that have occurred in this century by comparing Frederick Law Olmsted's original plans with current site surveys to see how the road has evolved naturally and what deliberate alterations have taken place. Based on results of the study, recommendations were made for a modified restoration, which the Biltmore Estate management is taking under consideration.

Another recently completed Historic Preservation thesis by Karen Hudson focuses on the configuration of historic farmsteads in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Karen is continuing her research as a Ph.D. candidate in Folklore at the University of Pennsylvania under Henry Glassie.

Delce Dyer is currently researching the yards and gardens of the Cades Cove Historic District farmsteads in order to help with the restoration of the domestic landscape of the Appalachian Highlanders between 1850 and 1920. Not far from Gatlinburg, this area is included in the Great Smokies National Park. In preparation for this work, Delce recorded the cultural landscapes of five ante-bellum farmsteads in rural Oglethorpe County, Georgia, through research and interviews with farm owners.

Lisa LeMaistre, who also has an interest in rural gardens, is completing a thesis which will describe gardens of blacks in the ante-bellum and reconstruction eras in Georgia. This research will enable Lisa to propose guidelines for historic preservation or reconstruction projects.

Another interesting study which focuses on the historical roots and traditions of gardens of contemporary blacks dwelling in the southern piedmont has been done in Oglethorpe County by Professor Richard Westmacott of the University of Georgia.

Around the state, the City of Savannah has just completed a tree survey which identifies and places a dollar value on every tree in the original historic district and the Victorian District. The total dollar value is approximately \$18,900,000. From this inventory the city has proposed a management plan to include an ongoing tree planting program that will span the next 100 years.

The Columbus Museum (formerly known as the Bradley Residence) in Columbus, Georgia, is completing the first phase of research on the Olmsted Associates garden design for the residence, which was developed in the late 1920's. Lucy Lawliss made visits to the Manuscripts

Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the Olmsted Associates' office (now the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site) in Brookline, Massachusetts, and found the necessary documentation for making an assessment of the site's integrity and information to guide future preservation or restoration of the garden. This work is being done in association with an extensive addition presently under construction at the Museum.

#### FLORA ANN BYNUM RECEIVES LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION AWARD

written by Ken McFarland, Site Manager,  
Stagville Center, Durham, N. Carolina,  
who serves as N. C. State Editor

The Southern Garden History Society's own Flora Ann Bynum, and the Old Salem historic landscape program, received well-deserved attention on November 14 when the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina presented Flora Ann with its new Minnette C. Duffy Award. The Foundation has built a national reputation with its many successes in preserving the state's historic buildings, and its prestigious awards recognize the accomplishments of North Carolina's leaders in the field of preservation.

Increasingly the organization is emphasizing the importance of the historic landscape to any preservation activity. Their new award, named in honor of Minnette Duffy, a leader in the cause of historic preservation in New Bern, will recognize outstanding landscape restoration work in North Carolina. The Foundation and others hope the Duffy Award will further the cause of landscape restoration in our state and provide a model for other groups.

Flora Ann Bynum and the Old Salem landscape program with which she is so closely linked have of course long served as models. Since the early 1970's, Flora Ann has devoted enormous energy to that program and has chaired the Old Salem Landscape Restoration Committee since 1975. During that time she has become a nationally recognized authority on garden history. Few visitors to Old Salem today, garden experts or not, can depart unimpressed by the accomplishments of Flora Ann and her colleagues in restoring and interpreting the landscape of the Moravian town.

A tireless and exacting researcher, Flora Ann has applied her knowledge not only directly to the Old Salem grounds and gardens but also to the preparation of an impressive body of publications (See bibliography on page 14). Mrs. Bynum is presently writing a book on Moravian horticulture, to be published by the University of North Carolina Press; she will also be a contributing author to a book edited by SGHS president Catherine Howett about residential landscapes throughout the history of the south.

A preservationist and scholar of extraordinary talent, Flora Ann is no less gifted as an organizer. In 1979 she played a key role in founding Old Salem's Conference on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes,"

a biennial event which receives ever-increasing regional and national attention. Readers of Magnolia will know too that she was tireless in the efforts that led to the founding of Southern Garden History Society in 1982, and that her energies have sustained it since that time. She continues to serve as our Secretary-Treasurer. Though space will not permit a list of all of Flora Ann's accomplishments, I must also mention that she is a long-time member of the board of directors of the Stagville Center Corporation.

Flora Ann's countless friends and fellow garden history devotees have of course long realized and appreciated her "award-winning" qualities, and applaud loudly the decision of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina to present her with its first Minnette C. Duffy Award.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF FLORA ANN LEE BYNUM

The Christmas Heritage of Old Salem. Williamsburg, Virginia: The Williamsburg Press, 1983.

Old Salem Garden Guide. Winston-Salem, N.C.: Old Salem, Inc., 1979.

A Landscape Guide for Residents of the Historic District of Old Salem. Winston-Salem, N.C.: Old Salem, Inc., 1978.

Forsyth, The History of a County on the March. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1976.

"Historic Horticulture" Series for North Carolina Preservation, 1986-87.

"The Putzes of Christmas." The State, December, 1983.

"The Bethabara Land." Three Forks of Muddy Creek, Volume VIII, 1981.

"Haystack Farm." Meredith, Volume IV, No. 5, Fall, 1980.

"Cultivated Plants of the Wachovia Tract in North Carolina, 1759-1764". Old Salem, Inc., 1979.

"Father of American Mycology." Three Fork of Muddy Creek, Volume II, 1975.

#### Publications in Progress

Book on Moravian Horticulture for the Univerity of North Carolina Press;

Contributing author to a book on historical landscape restoration being compiled and edited by Professor Catherine Howett, School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia.

[Editor's note: Because we received so many reports for this issue, we cannot print the following report from Ken McFarland in its entirety this time. We will provide an introduction now, and give you the whole report in the May issue. Ken's thorough reports are a model for all of us; we appreciate them.]

SIXTH BIENNIAL "RESTORING SOUTHERN GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES" CONFERENCE  
CONTINUES TRADITION OF QUALITY

One hundred registrants attended the Old Salem landscape conference in October. Present were garden history enthusiasts representing eleven states and the District of Columbia. They were rewarded with presentations that were well-balanced between historical analysis and the discussion of applied garden restoration and interpretation issues.

Charles Beveridge, editor of The Olmsted Papers, presented the keynote address and set the tone of the conference with a highly able overview of the career of Frederick Law Olmsted. In actuality, Mr. Beveridge noted, there were two Olmsteds: one, the traveler who journeyed through the antebellum South and whose detailed accounts remain important tools in understanding the history of the area and its people, the other the landscape architect whose projects dotted the South, and who devoted the final five years of his life to work on the Biltmore Estate at Asheville, North Carolina. In both roles, Beveridge observed, Olmsted was keenly interested in the human condition, and his work never lacked a component of social consciousness, whether in exposing the evils of slavery or in using the private Biltmore Estate for botanical projects that were a benefit to the public.

Kent Brinkley, Director of Landscape Architecture at Colonial Williamsburg, spoke on the history of the gardens in and around the eighteenth-century Virginia capital. In addition he explored changing twentieth-century methods of garden restoration and interpretation at Williamsburg. In earlier decades of this century, he told us, Colonial Williamsburg had emphasized the ornamental instead of the practical functions of the gardens. Today, however, at least in part because of the growing attention given to social history by scholars, more effort is being devoted to depicting the realities of eighteenth-century daily life at Williamsburg. Evidence of this trend can be seen in the increased emphasis on kitchen gardens in the town.

Rudy Favretti, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut at Storrs [recently retired, in order to pursue his consulting work full-time], discussed another interesting Virginia garden project, Bacon's Castle, a fine seventeenth-century Surrey County house. After explaining the research methodology used to determine the garden's early configurations, Favretti outlined the possibilities for interpreting this important early garden: to document the garden thoroughly and prepare interpretive literature, then recover the excavated area; to outline the garden areas on the ground, in order to give visitors a sense of its original dimensions (as at Prestwold in Mecklenburg County, Virginia); or to restore the garden completely. The final decision will depend on funds available not only for the restoration but also for the long-term maintenance of the garden area.

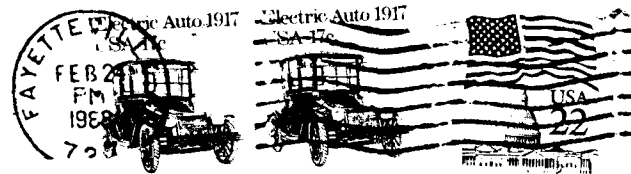
[to be continued in May]

THANKS

Our productive staff of state editors, with the encouragement of Associate Editor Peggy Newcomb, has made this issue our most complete report to date on garden and landscape history activities in the states of the Southern region. Nine of the thirteen editors sent reports. Thank you! We hope to hear from you and others next time.

The next issue will be produced in early May. Please send us your news, articles, and announcements by May 1, 1988. Mail them to Peggy C. Newcomb, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

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