

Magnolia

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

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A History of Southern Apples

by Creighton Lee Calhoun, Pittsboro, North Carolina

In every region of the South apples have been grown and esteemed for centuries. To confirm this, you need only talk to elderly southerners who grew up on a farm. Their eyes light up as they speak of almost

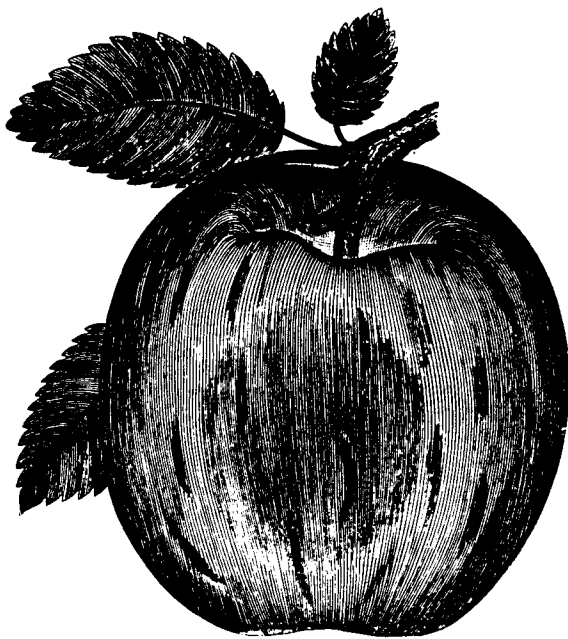
forgotten apples: Buckingham, Red June, Yates, Nickajack, Magnum Bonum, Blacktwig, Horse Apple, Smith's Seedling, Edward's Winter, Hall, Sally Gray, Hunge, and Summer Orange. They will tell you of apples fried for breakfast in the drippings from sausage or side meat. They remember wrapping apples in newspaper and storing them for the winter in boxes in an unheated room and how those apples perfumed the whole house. They recall vinegar and cider making and peeling apples for drying. But most of all they remember the incomparable taste of a freshly picked southern apple, dense and high in soluble solids, baked right on the tree by those long, hot southern summers.

We are living in the last days of the southern apple. When these last elderly

southerners are gone, so will be the lore of southern apples. Most of these varieties have already passed into history. Indeed, over eighty percent of those varieties which originated in the South are already extinct.

In the South, where commercial orchards have always been rare, the apple was an integral part of the life and diet of the subsistence farmer, the

Continued on Page 2 . . .



Johnson's Fine Winter or York Imperial. From 1894 catalogue of Old Dominion Nurseries, Richmond, VA.

**Inside
this
Issue**

Page 5 *Legacy of a Botanist*
Page 7 *Gardening of Annie Isabella Iredell*
Page 12 *Azaleas in the Antebellum Landscape*

Calendar

September 25th-27th, 1992: The North Carolina State University Arboretum will host a symposium to honor the fiftieth anniversary of publication of Elizabeth Lawrence's *A Southern Garden*. Speakers include Allen Lacy, Pamela Harper, and William Lanier Hunt. For more information, contact The NCSU Arboretum Garden Symposium, NC Agricultural Foundation, P.O. Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609 or call (919) 515-3132.

September 26th & 27th, 1992: "Refining the Garden: The Trowels and Pleasures of Gardening," a symposium co-sponsored by the Atlanta Historical Society, Inc. and the Georgia Perennial Plant Association. Speakers include Bill Funkhouser of Wayside Gardens, Elizabeth Murray (author of *Monet's Passion: Ideas, Inspiration and Insights from the Painter's Gardens*), and SGHS member and garden designer Ryan Gainey. For more information, contact: The Atlanta History Center, 3101 Andrews Drive, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30305. (404) 814-4070.

October 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th, 1992: The Charleston Tea Plantation, the only tea plantation in the United States and producer of American Classic tea, will have a free open house with



walking tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays in October. The plantation is located at 6617 Maybank Highway on Wadmalaw Island fifteen miles south of Charleston. No reservations are needed; for more information call (803) 559-0383.

October 9th-10th, 1992: The Fifth Anniversary Celebration of the Southern Garden Symposium, "Exploring Southern Gardens" in St. Francisville, Louisiana. For information, contact The Southern Garden Symposium, P.O. Box 2075, St. Francisville, LA 70775.

October 15th-17th, 1992: The AABGA Southeast Regional meeting will be held in Asheville, NC at The North Carolina Arboretum of the University of North Carolina and will address the topic "Buried Treasure: Unearthing the Diamonds in Your Own Backyard." For more information, contact the North Carolina Arboretum of the University of North Carolina, P.O. Box 6617, Asheville, NC 28816-6617. (704) 665-2492.

April 16th-18th, 1993: Eleventh annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, to be held in Washington and Fayette counties in Texas. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *Magnolia*.

A History of Southern Apples Continued from Page 1

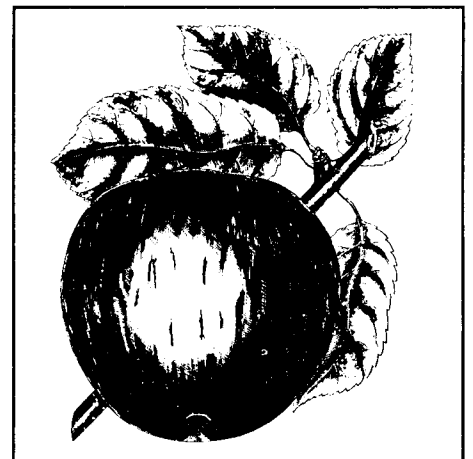
dirt farmer. While pictures of rich plantations may come to mind when thinking about the old South, the actuality was far different. For two hundred years the South was largely a land of small subsistence farms where people grew almost all of their own food. For people like these, the apple was a godsend. Here was a fruit which could be eaten fresh off the tree and which made excellent vinegar. Most important of all, here was a fruit that could be kept fresh through the winter — the only fruit with this unique capability.

The Apple in the Colonial South

The earliest southern settlers were Englishmen, coming from a country where apples flourished and cider was universally consumed. Needless to say these early settlers quickly began

growing apples as soon as land was cleared in the coastal regions. In 1634, Lord Baltimore directed the first settlers to Maryland to carry "kernalls of pears and apples, especially of Pipins, Pearemaines and Deesons for making thereafter of Cider and Perry."

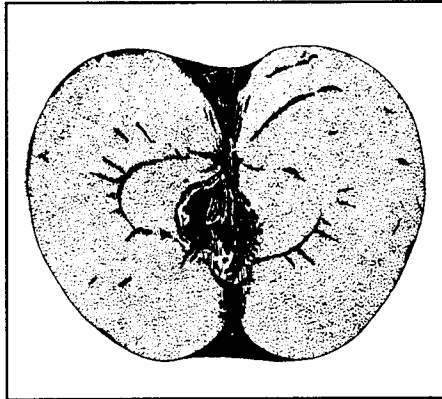
Because the colonist planted trees in virgin soils, leaving behind many diseases and insect pests, it is hardly surprising that apples flourished in the colonial South.



Shockley Apple. From 1887 catalogue of Willow Lake Nursery, Marshallville, GA.

Visitors to the South as early as the mid 1600s remarked on the many fruit orchards far exceeding yield and fruit quality of those in England.

Large southern landowners imported



Paragon Apple. From 1896 Tennessee Ag Experiment Station Bulletin.

grafted English and French apple trees and by the mid 1700s supported nurserymen who grafted and sold fruit trees. But imported or grafted trees were not for the hard

scrabble farmer out on the frontier. He could not afford to buy fruit trees, and, in most cases, he had simply outrun nurseries which tended to arise in areas where settlements were well established. Grafting has always been a rare skill among southern farmers. Frontier families planted apple seeds and established seedling orchards, or they got root sprouts from the better apple trees of neighbors. It does not appear that nurseries selling grafted trees were present in the South in any number until about 1750 and were not common until the early 1800s.

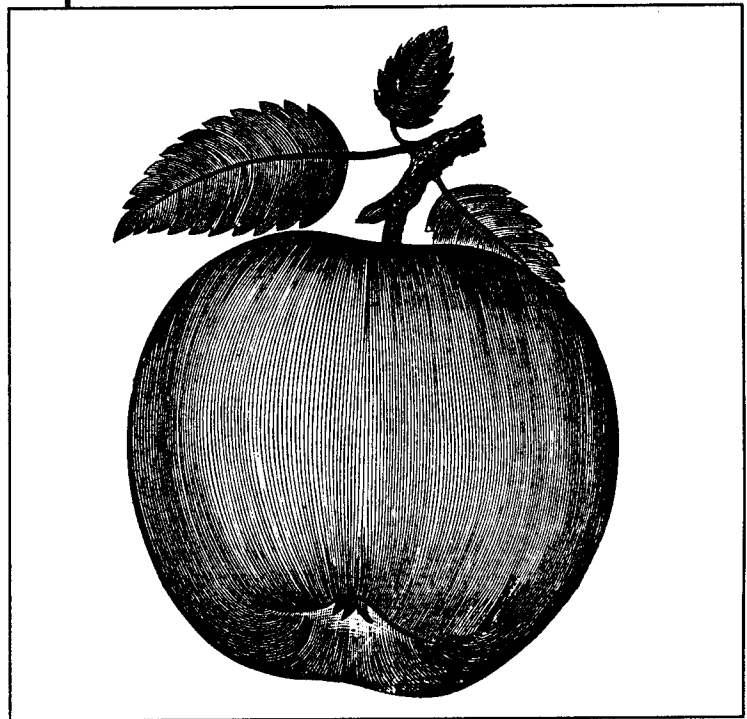
In a history of Virginia written in 1705, the author says he never heard of anyone grafting fruit trees. Twenty years later a professor at William and Mary College said, "The Apple trees are raised from the seed very soon, which kind of kernal fruit needs no grafting. . ." Apple seeds grow into trees which are not true to type. Often the fruit from a seedling tree is quite ordinary, suitable only for cider and vinegar. Occasionally a seedling tree bears excellent fruit. This tree can be replicated in two ways — either by grafting or by digging up and transplanting root sprouts. As nurseries were established in the 1700s, the nurserymen saw the popularity of certain seedling apple varieties and built up an inventory of the best American apples. Newspaper advertisements from Virginia nurseries, dated 1798 and 1804, show only one or two European apples listed out of a total of over twenty varieties.



Southern Apples in the Nineteenth Century

By 1830 the entire southern region to the Mississippi River had been settled. The Five

Civilized Tribes of Native Americans were defeated and deported to the lands that became Oklahoma. Texas and Arkansas were being rapidly settled and, as these new lands opened up, vast numbers of apple trees were planted, again, primarily as seedling orchards. From these orchards, and from the extensive seedling orchards left behind by the Indians, southerners began finding trees adapted to the South. As the frontier passed and conditions became more settled, nurseries opened up, eager to graft and sell the best of the new southern apples. These southern nurserymen began a litany in unison, saying, "northern and European apple varieties do not do well in the South. Grow the new southern apples. Plant large orchards and sell your apples in Southern markets." It was to be of no avail. While there did evolve some successful commercial orchards, the South could not grow

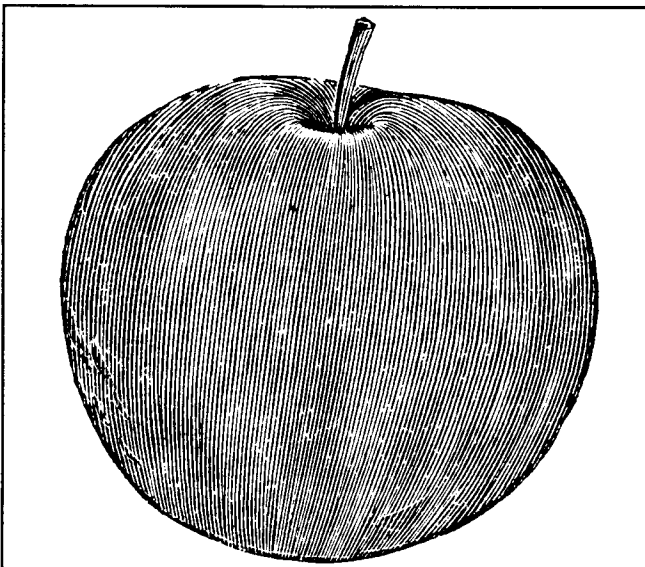


Roberson Apple. From 1894 catalogue of Old Dominion Nurseries, Richmond, VA.

enough apples for its own needs and remains an apple deficit area to this day. To fill the southern markets, sailing vessels brought down New England apples and New Jersey cider to southern coastal cities. Flat boats floated down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, bringing apples from the

north central states. After the Civil War, railroads carried in apples from northern orchards. In spite of the lack of commercial success, rural southerners continued to grow enough apples for their own use in family orchards, but they could never fully supply the growing southern towns and cities. (The pippin industry could be sited as perhaps the only exception.)

There were several large southern nurseries whose sales and influence reached all over the South. The oldest was Lindley's Nursery in Greensboro, North Carolina, started by Joshua Lindley about 1850. The second great southern nursery was the Fruitland Nursery in Augusta, Georgia. This nursery was purchased by a Belgian, P. J. Berckmans, in 1858, and rapidly became one of the South's top nurseries. The third was operated by Franklin Davis in the 1850s in Staunton, Virginia, then for many decades in Richmond. The number of apple varieties sold by each of these large nurseries is astonishing, ranging from 160 to over 400 different varieties of apples. All three nurseries lasted well into the twentieth century, only expiring in the 1930s and 1940s. By 1900, however, all three had made gross reductions in the number of varieties listed in their catalogues.



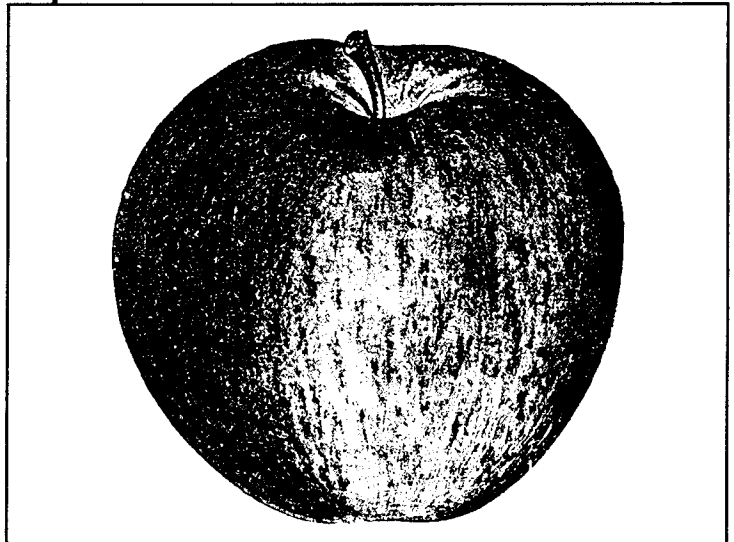
Winesap Apple. From William Coxe, A View of the Cultivator of Fruit Trees. 1817.

Through my research, I have tabulated 1,387 different apple varieties which originated in the South before 1928, and most of these in the 1800s. These unique southern apples were dependent



upon subsistence farming for their existence. Each one answered some need for farm families. And by 1900 subsistence farming was dying out as the South became increasingly industrialized and urbanized.

Small local nurseries began closing and the larger



"Capt. Moses. Originated in Coweta Co., Ga., near Turin, where it has been known for 40 years. The original parent tree is now living and annually bears large crops of unusually beautifully and valuable fruit. The tree is large, of beautiful shape, the top being about 35 feet across, and the trunk about 14 inches in diameter. The young trees are of very vigorous growth, making 5,6 and often 7 feet in the first year. The fruit is medium in size, conical; yellow overspread with red; flesh juicy, crisp, sweet, slightly vinous and exceedingly pleasant. The fruit hangs long on the tree, often till Christmas, and will keep until May or June. We have personally known and tested the Apple for three years, and consider its keeping qualities remarkable. Its very fine flavor, size, beauty and very remarkable keeping qualities make it undoubtedly the best winter Apple for market, for which purpose it is grown largely where it originated."
Page taken from 1894 catalogue of Atlanta Nurseries, Atlanta, GA.

nurseries drastically reduced the number of apple varieties for sale. This meant no one was grafting and selling the southern apples which were popular only in certain localities and counties. So the old trees declined and died and, ultimately, the knowledge of these apples died as well. Today we are left with about twenty percent of the apple varieties once grown on southern farms.

Southern Apple Varieties

Every southern state, almost it seems every southern county and rural community, had its own special apple varieties not grown elsewhere. For example, in my home county of Chatham in North

Carolina, there has long been grown an apple called Summer Orange. I find it nowhere else. In Iredell County, North Carolina, the Tony apple has been grown for over one hundred years and old trees are everywhere. Just to the south of Iredell, in Union County, the Lacy apple is still grown by a few rural families. North of Iredell, in Surry County, you can find the John apple and the Sparger apple, two apples grown only in Surry County. Most of the 1,300 varieties which originated in the South were local apples, just like these.

Over and above these local apples, there were certain apple varieties grown all over the South. In this latter group are Winesap, Horse apple, Yellow Transparent, Yates, Ben Davis, Summer Pearmain, Hall, Red June, Buckingham, Carter's Blue, and a few others. These are well adapted to southern growing conditions and have qualities giving them broad appeal to Southerners.

The rural South is full of old apple trees. What



is required is to find an old apple tree of known variety, and for this the memory of an elderly person is usually essential. Because of the large number of southern apples with incomplete and confusing descriptions, it is seldom possible to reliably identify an old tree of unknown variety. In the past eight years I have rediscovered over fifty rare old southern apples, tracking them down one by one and grafting them into our heritage orchard. If you have an orchard on your heritage farm, try to include some of the rare varieties, especially local apples from your area. Make your farm an instrument for preserving these heirloom apples +

(This article is part of a paper presented by Mr. Calhoun at the 1992 annual meeting of the Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.)

Legacy of a Botanist

By Liz Druitt, Washington, Texas
Photos by Michael Shoup

When Philippe Stanislaus Noisette died in 1835, he left behind him a number of important things. He left a family of mixed heritage whose future in the South was uncertain; he left his reputation as Botanist of Charleston with the gardens and plant collections he had established; and he left his name attached to a brand new class of roses - the first to be developed in the United States.

Noisette came to Charleston by an indirect route. He belonged to a family of distinguished horticulturists in France (Napoleon's Empress, Josephine, is said to have modelled her gardens at Malmaison upon those at the Paris nursery of Philippe's brother, Louis), but seems to have decided to strike out for himself. Whether he wished to establish a separate reputation or perhaps to expand the plant-collecting range of the family business, Philippe chose the island of Haiti as his new home. His descendants are in agreement that he picked Haiti because it had a good climate for gardening, but while living there he fell in love with and married a Haitian citizen, Celestine, and began to raise a family of his own.

In 1793 or 1794, Noisette made the decision to relocate to Charleston, South Carolina, because of



'Champney's Pink Cluster'

danger from the Haitian slave rebellion. He accepted a position as superintendent of the South Carolina Medical Society Botanical Gardens and purchased a large tract of property on the outskirts of the city where he had room for both gardens and a nursery. His family was now secure, but it must have been at least somewhat unsettling for Celestine - because of the miscegenation laws of South Carolina, she and her children were now legally slaves of the man she had freely married.

It is to be hoped that the situation was not too disagreeable for her, because Noisette didn't get around to rectifying it until almost upon his deathbed. The family papers include a late



Louis Noisette

petition to "the Honorable the President and the Honorable the Senate of the State of South Carolina" in which Noisette states that he has always meant to emancipate his "faithful slave named Celestine" and their six children, but that "unfortunately,

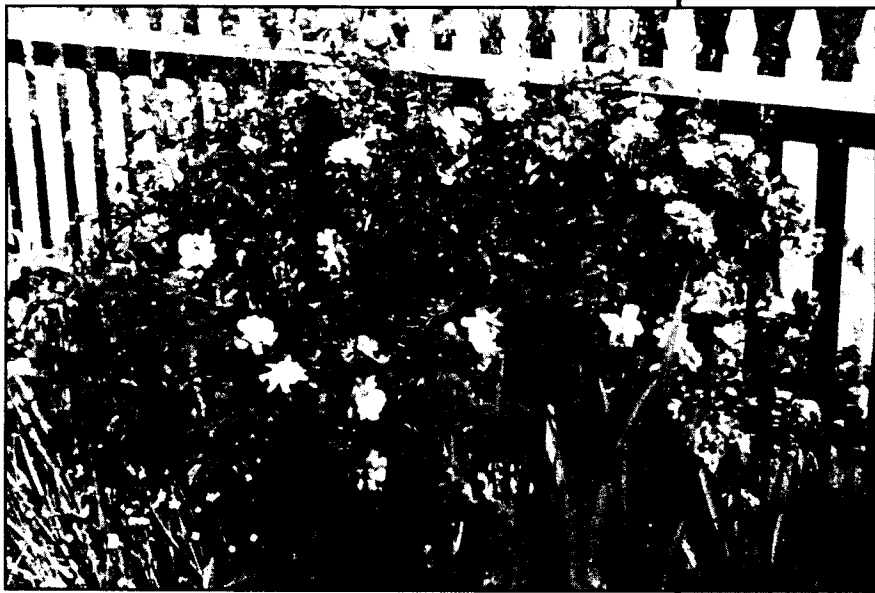
he procrastinated the measure." The hope expressed in the petition is that his family will be freed and allowed to inherit his property so that they will not, as he delicately states it, become "burthens upon the public." At the time of his death, however, Noisette must still have been uncertain about their future status. The will that he signed only a few months before his death begins with instructions to his executors about transporting "Celestine and all her said issue my children, out of this State to some other State, Territory or Country, where they can severally be made free and their liberty secured to them respectively."

In spite of Noisette's tardiness in dealing with this problem, and perhaps because of his solid reputation in botanical and horticultural circles in the state, there seems to have been no difficulty after all in securing his family's freedom and inheritance. They were able to remain in Charleston and continue the operation of the nursery, gradually selling off tracts of land as necessity and profit dictated. Today very little of the original property, now all residential, remains in the hands of Noisette's descendants even though much of the family still lives and works in Charleston. Noisette's house on Rutledge Avenue, which was sold in the 1940s, has no garden at all attached. Within recent memory, however, the northwest section of the city of Charleston that was once his land was still known as "The Rose Garden," and a past-President of the Low Country Rose Society, Peggy Heinsohn, recalls that as late as the 1920s her husband's two maiden aunts were sent regularly on Saturdays up to "the Noisette farm" to get fresh roses for Sunday's dining table.



Louise Noisette Merrell, great granddaughter of Philippe Stanislaus Noisette, still resides in Charleston.

As a botanist, Noisette seems to have been better organized than he was as a husband and parent. His will arranges that his herbarium (and a collection of snakes and insects "preserved in spirits of wine") be sent to the Garden and Royal Museum of Natural History at Paris, while his collection of seeds, trees, and plants indigenous to South Carolina and other parts of the United States is left to his brothers, Louis (in Paris) and Antoine (residing in Nantes). A charmingly florid poem, written by an unnamed friend and entitled "Epistle to Mr. Noisette, Agriculturist and Botanist," contains a sort



'Old Blush' Rose

of description of Noisette's grounds with a listing of some of the plants he had established and presumably was marketing, including magnolia, Franklinia, Pinkneya, jujube, olive, and palm. This interesting piece of work also mentions Noisette's best-known introduction: "...thy Rose, fit emblem rare Of all that's modest, smiling, soft and fair!"

This rose is known as 'Blush Noisette', and it



is the result of a hybridization as international as that which produced Noisette's human family. In 1811, a wealthy plantation owner of Charleston, John Champneys, made the first recorded cross of roses in America to create 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' from the European *Rosa moschata* (Shakespeare's musk rose) and the Chinese 'Old Blush'. Philippe Noisette recognized the value of

Champneys' rose, which combined the genes of its parents in such a way that it was genuinely remontant. Almost none of the familiar cold-hardy European roses bloomed for more than a single season and the heat-loving, repeat-blooming Chinese roses were a relatively new discovery, so successful crosses that showed the repeat-blooming trait were very exciting to horticulturists. Noisette was able to obtain some seeds from the new rose and from these he grew and selected his own variety, the 'Blush Noisette'. His brother Louis introduced the rose from his Paris nursery in 1817, and

Continued on Page 16 . . .



Rosa moschata, the European musk rose

"An Innocent Amusement": The Gardening of Annie Isabella Iredell

by John Sykes, Raleigh, North Carolina

In July 1806, Mrs. Hannah Iredell of Edenton, North Carolina, reported to her son, James, who was away at college, the progress of his sister's gardening efforts:

Annie is much occupied with a little flower Garden I have given her at the end of the study, she has laid it off herself and is very anxious to collect seeds & roots to make it [glay in the spring].¹

Anne (Annie) Isabella Iredell (1785-1816), the daughter of Judge James Iredell and his wife, Hannah Johnston, was an exceptional individual. An avid reader with a particular fondness of epic poetry, Annie's interests were no doubt stimulated by those of her well-educated parents. Her father, James Iredell (1751-1799), a distinguished state judge and former state attorney general, was appointed by President George Washington in 1790 to serve as an associate justice of the United

States Supreme Court. Her mother, Hannah Johnston Iredell (1748-1826), was from a very prominent family. Hannah Iredell was the daughter of the former Surveyor-General of North Carolina, niece of the second Royal Governor of the Colony of North Carolina, and sister of a former Governor of North Carolina. In addition to gardening, Annie was fond of music (she played the spinet and guitar) and dancing.

Hannah Iredell further described Annie's flower garden project:

She is not satisfied merely to sow & plant she will do it well. She therefore consults Millers Dictionary, indeed [she] studies it a little every day, it affords an innocent amusement to her mind, and induces her to make more exercise than she would otherwise.²

Annie was being guided by the standard reference work of gardening at the time. Philip

Miller (1691-1771), the curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, published his *Gardeners Dictionary* in 1731 and its immediate popularity in England and the American colonies caused eight subsequent editions to be published. (The last edition was published in 1768.)³



Eventually, Annie's garden work became all-

give yourself much trouble about them, if you do not readily meet with them. Mamma tells me the Aloe, a beautiful exotic shrub, was much cultivated in the greenhouses when she was in Philadelphia. What is very curious, the leaves of this plant will grow if they are taken off and

dried, and afterwards put in the ground. If I was not afraid of being unreasonable, I would ask you to try and get a few of these leaves, which, if you were to lay them in the shade a few days to dry, and then carefully put them up, might perhaps succeed. But I beg you again not to trouble yourself about these things, when they do not come in your way.

The flower-seeds that she desired were listed at the bottom of her letter: anemone, auricula, ranunculus, geranium, polyanthus, candy-tuft, and crocus.⁵

Annie lived in a modest



The James Iredell House. East Church Street, Edenton, NC. National Register of Historic Places. The large two-story addition with double porches was added in 1815-16. An older section is thought to date from ca. 1773. The house has been a state historic site since 1955. Photograph courtesy of Historic Sites Section, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

consuming because her mother apologized to James Iredell in July saying, "your Sister will write soon to day she is busy making paper bags for her roots." Annie reported the next week to her brother at Princeton that "I amuse myself with arranging a little Flower-garden, and one [of] the greatest pleasures it gives me is from the reflection that it is under your study-window and that you will enjoy its fragrance and beauty next summer." She closed her letter by adding, "I have become a great Florist, and shall be much obliged to you if you will collect me some Flower-seed among the ladies of your acquaintance."⁴ When her brother agreed to supply her with seeds, Annie wrote in August and informed him what she needed:

I [am] much obliged to you for your offer to procure me Flower-seed. I will subjoin the names of a few, which I cannot get here. I would have added the Carnation; but I believe it is not much cultivated in America and is difficult to procure them genuine. I should be obliged to you if you could bring me a few Tulip-roots, which are small, and do not occupy much room. But I do not wish you to



Hannah Johnston Iredell (1748-1826). Painted November 1823 by John Crawley. Portrait owned by the James Iredell Association. Photograph courtesy of Historic Sites Section, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

two-story frame house on Church Street in Edenton, North Carolina. The house was altered by a large federal addition shortly before her death in 1816. The Iredell family sold the property in 1870 and the house passed through several owners. In 1948, the Edenton Tea Party Chapter

of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution purchased the property. The James Iredell house is now operated as a state historic site by the Department of Cultural Resources in cooperation with the James Iredell Association and Historic Edenton, Inc.

There are no surviving vestiges of Annie's garden or conclusive information on its size and location at the Iredell House lot. An appropriate interpretation of Annie Iredell's gardening endeavors based on these references is planned for the future ♣

1. Hannah Iredell to James Iredell, July 19, 1806, Private Collections, Charles E. Johnson Papers, PC 67, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC; hereinafter cited as Johnson Papers, PC 67.
2. Hannah Iredell to James Iredell, July 19, 1806, Johnson Papers, PC67.



3. Joan Perry Dutton, *Plants of Colonial Williamsburg*, (Williamsburg: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1990), 172. Philip Miller, *The Gardeners Dictionary*, (London: printed by the author, 1754; Germany: J.

Cramer, 1969), v-xvi.

4. Hannah Iredell to James Iredell, July 19, 1806, Johnson Papers, PC 67. Anne Isabella Iredell to James Iredell, July 26, 1806, Johnson Papers, PC 67.

5. Anne Isabella Iredell to James Iredell, August 27, 1806, Johnson Papers. Flora Ann Bynum, garden historian, has suggested possible identification of the requested items. Tulips, anemones, auriculas (*Primula auricula*), ranunculus (buttercups), crocus, and geranium were all grown in early gardens. The annual species of candytuft was much earlier than the perennial (*Iberis sempervirens*) common today. Flora Ann Bynum to the author, July 9, 1992, in the author's possession.

Book Reviews

A Life Among the Texas Flora, Ferdinand Lindheimer's Letters to George Englemann, translated by Minetta Altgelt Goyne. Texas A&M University Press, 1991. 235 pp. \$44.50, hardcover.

Members who are planning a trip to the SGHS annual meeting in Texas next spring may wish to prepare for their tour of one of the best-known wildflower regions in the country by reading a good book about the area over the winter. It is *A Life Among the Texas Flora, Ferdinand Lindheimer's Letters to George Englemann*, translated by Minetta Altgelt Goyne and published last year by Texas A & M University Press.

Known as the "Father of Texas Botany," Ferdinand Lindheimer traveled in south-central Texas between 1841, the date of the first letter, and 1847, the probable date of the last letter in the collection. He collected hundreds of plants and shipped them to scientists and collectors, most often to Englemann.

A medical doctor who settled in St. Louis in the 1830s and ran a sort of botanical clearing-house for the plants of the American west, Englemann traveled extensively and also encouraged other collectors to venture into the

unknown western lands. He classified certain difficult plant groups himself and forwarded specimens to Asa Gray at Harvard University and to others in Germany. Along this path many plants of the trans-Mississippi west were introduced first to science and then to the nursery trade. We will surely see some of them in the Texas gardens we visit and others along the roadsides we travel during the meeting in April.

Ms. Goyne, who grew up speaking, reading, and writing German in New Braunfels, Texas, where Lindheimer finally settled, was ideally prepared to be his translator. Her family was well acquainted with the Lindheimer family. Her own was a family of plant lovers and she was often taken on informal nature walks as a child. She has long had an interest in the history of German settlement and culture in Texas, and is the author of a book on that subject, *Lone Star and Double Eagle*. Now retired from the faculty of the University of Texas at Arlington, she is a freelance writer and translator.

Minetta Altgelt Goyne has brought Lindheimer to life in all his enthusiasm and desperation and eccentricity. Given that he wrote words on top of other words, the task was no mean feat; it occupied her for the better part of a decade. Let her introduce you to the Texas flora in his words. His words are colorful; hers clear — an ideal match ♣

-by Harriet Jansma, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Book Reviews Continued

Landscaping with Antique Roses. By Liz Druitt and G. Michael Shoup. Newtown, CT: The Taunton Press, 1992. 240 pp. \$34.95.

It seems hard to pick up a magazine lately and not find an article about old garden roses. Nor has the topic escaped the attention of such television programs as "The Victory Garden." Though interest is widespread, such articles and programs reveal that Texans have been especially energetic in bringing new life to old roses. Southern Garden History Society members are, of course, familiar with the research on the subject by Texas horticulturist Bill Welch, a SGHS board member. His findings, moreover, have now been incorporated into two excellent books. This Texas affection for old roses has also led to the opening of the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, Texas - today one of the nation's best-known sources for such plants.

Experience at the Antique Rose Emporium, in turn, inspired horticulturist Liz Druitt and owner Mike Shoup to co-author *Landscaping with Antique Roses*. The result reveals both Shoup's photographic skills and Druitt's prose talents, as well as the extensive knowledge they share regarding old garden roses. The first word in their title, however, is more than window dressing. Theirs is indeed a book not only about antique roses but also about the potentialities of roses in an overall landscape design. The emphasis is on the rose as an entire plant as opposed to focusing merely on the flower - a logical decision the authors would argue, given the nature of heritage roses vis a vis modern hybrid teas.

The book, therefore, begins with a discussion on the elements of landscape design and an examination of how various old roses fit into different landscape niches. We are presented with an array of applications for old roses (of course, no single rose variety will serve every purpose), including use in hedges and borders, complimenting water features, and serving as container plants. The authors' basic thesis is that antique roses are thus extensively useful, as well as beautiful, plants. By and large, moreover, they have proven to be hearty survivors which are relatively easy to grow.

Thankfully, Druitt and Shoup not only tell us



how to use old roses, but they also offer an array of suggestions on how to acquire and nurture them. Texas - a state well known for rustling of the livestock variety - s now

a center for "rustling" roses as well. Texas "rose rustlers," who have adopted an "always ask first" (where possible) philosophy, have helped to propagate, and ultimately identify, a number of roses by taking cuttings from old plants. This book shows us how we can do the same. New rose bushes of course can also be obtained by the use of layering techniques, as well as from such nurseries as the Antique Rose Emporium. An antique rose, like any plant, does require some attention, so the authors also offer a range of suggestions regarding such matters as soil preparation, planting, pruning, watering, fertilizing, and protection from the elements. Above all, they stress the importance of good soil, healthy young rose bushes, and a regimen of regular observation of the plant.

Readers will also appreciate this book's "Encyclopedia of Selected Old Garden Roses," which encompasses a "Rose Use Chart" listing eighty varieties of roses. The chart provides information on such matters as frequency of bloom, garden form, size, and fragrance. The "Encyclopedia" also offers a brief history of the rose, an examination of antique rose classes (China, Noisette, Bourbon, etc.), and detailed descriptions of each of the different varieties selected by the authors. Accompanying photographs of the various roses capture both the flower and the overall form of the plant.

Landscaping with Antique Roses is an unabashedly biased book. Druitt and Shoup clearly love heirloom roses, and they want their readers both to share that affection in the abstract and to get out there and actually grow antique roses themselves. To that end they offer a book that is informative, instructive, well-written, nicely-illustrated, and frequently humorous. Easy to use, especially because of cross-referencing within the "Encyclopedia," it is a book that many *Magnolia* readers will want to add to their libraries. It is also a reminder of what is in store for those who attend the April 16th-18th, 1993 meeting of the Southern Garden History Society: we'll be in the heart of Texas "rose rustler" country and the Antique Rose Emporium will be a tour site on our agenda. Don't miss either the book or the meeting *

-By Kenneth McFarland, Stagville Center

Rosewell Hall Offers Insight on Early Virginia Landscape

All who have been privileged to visit the ruins of Rosewell Hall in Gloucester County, Virginia agree that the experience is remarkable. For a look at work currently underway at Rosewell (c. 1725) readers are encouraged to see "Renaissance at Rosewell," the cover story in the July/August issue of *Historic Preservation News*, a publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Southern Garden History Society members will be especially interested in the comments on the Rosewell landscape offered by Dr. William Kelso, Monticello's director of archaeology. Kelso, who will prepare the landscape component of the overall Rosewell



master plan, believes that the gardens and grounds of this grand Page family home may have been the equal in majesty to the mansion house itself. Though study is just beginning on this element of Rosewell's history, it is even now possible to imagine the awe-inspiring perspective it may once have offered from the York River, as well as from the three-story house itself back to the water. Together with such locations as Crowfield in South Carolina, Rosewell offers an opportunity to study the historic landscape in ways that will both expand our understanding of the colonial past and at the same time encourage new methodologies for preserving what remains of several of early America's most notable home sites *



*Rosewell Hall, Gloucester County, Virginia
Photos by Ken McFarland*

Azaleas in the Antebellum Landscape

Research by Alabama state editor George Stritikus has uncovered an article on azaleas which will be of interest to many *Magnolia* readers. This piece appeared in the May 1859 issue of the *American Cotton Planter*, a publication based in Montgomery, Alabama. It was prepared by Robert Nelson, the magazine's horticultural editor. A Georgia nurseryman, Nelson had introduced himself to readers several months earlier as a man with decades of horticultural experience in both Europe and America. He had worked for eleven years in the South.

Given Nelson's stated experience and by virtue of his having been chosen to serve as an editor for this magazine, his thoughts on the use of the *Azalea indica*, or "Chinese Honeysuckle," in the antebellum southern landscape seems especially noteworthy. This portion of Nelson's "horticultural" section for the May, 1859 edition is thus reprinted in its entirety, though for reasons of space his earlier (January, 1859) biographical "Salutatory" has been excluded. (See *Magnolia*, Spring 1992, regarding research materials available from George Stritikus.)

Chinese Honeysuckle, (*Azalea indica*)

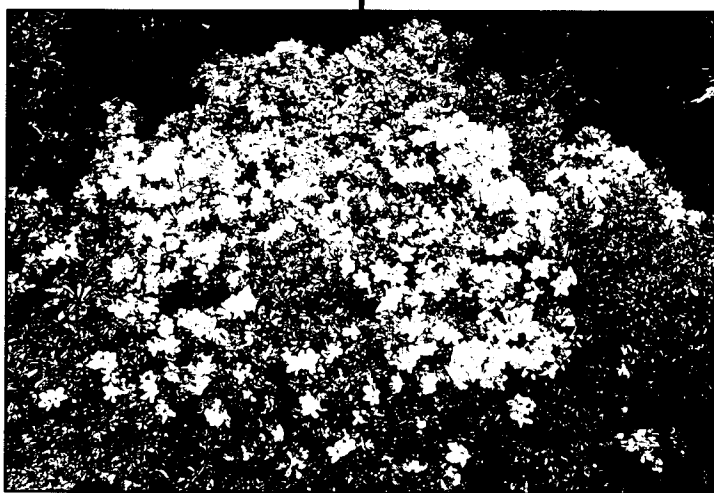
"It is surprising, indeed, that this magnificent shrub - the beauty and glory of the Northern greenhouses in early spring - is hardly ever to be met with in the South. True, a few specimens in pots may now and then (though seldom) be seen, in a very poor condition. But why keep them in pots? Turn them out of doors,



into the open ground; give them but one-tenth of the attention which you bestow on the plant, while in a pot, and you will have the most beautiful blooming shrub in your garden, during March and April, that your eyes ever beheld.

"Greenhouses and pots are, at best, a necessary evil in the North, where horticulturists are compelled to resort to them to protect their tender or half-hardy favorites against the severe cold. But let us not imitate this with plants which will stand our climate.

"A few things, however, must be observed when growing the *Azalea indica* in the garden:



White Indian Azalea (*A. indica*)

like our common honeysuckles of our woods, they are plants that love to grow in the shade of large trees, especially on soil where leaves, moss, sand, rotten wood, and all sorts of vegetable matter has collected for years. Every amateur can easily procure such a mixture. Dig a hole, at least two feet wide and eighteen inches

deep, and fill it with such soil, as mentioned above; should there be but a small proportion of sand in it, add more sand, so that it will form one-fourth or at least one-sixth of the soil. In this soil plant your Azaleas; if a little shaded by large trees or buildings so much the better. Do not plant it deeply, it is its nature to let its roots ramble in the surface. This is all you have to do, until the sun gets very hot and scorching, when it will need mulching of some litter or withered weeds, and some protection against the sun. This can easily be given by placing three stakes, six or eight feet high, in a triangle, tying them together at the top, forming a kind of pyramid. Plant some climbers, as Morning Glory, Cypress Vine, or others at the foot of the stakes. This will prove an ornament to the garden, while the Azalea will feel very comfortable in the shade.

"Two of the most brilliant varieties I ever had were the two old, well-known kinds, *A. phoenicea* and *A. Hibbertia purpurea*; but in fact all the *Azalea indica* will thrive well in this latitude by the above treatment" ♦

In Print

Nature Perfected: Gardens through History - William Howard Adams' book (356 pp.) can be obtained for \$49.95 from bookstores or by calling Abbeville Press in New York at (800) 227-7210.

The Private Gardens of Charleston - Wyrick and Company has recently published Louisa Cameron's *The Private Gardens of Charleston*. The volume presents a richly-detailed view of twenty-four of the city's most superb private gardens in color photographs and essays. The book is available for \$39.95 either from bookstores or Wyrick and Company, 12 Exchange St., Charleston, SC 29401. (803) 722-0881.

Keeping Eden: A History of Gardening in America. Bulfinch Press (Little, Brown, Inc.), Boston, 1992. 262 pp. \$50.00. Contains chapters by garden historians, many familiar to SGHS members, including Catherine Howett, William Howard Adams, Tovah Martin, and the late Elisabeth Woodburn.

Veteran Superintendent Retires from Dumbarton Oaks

by Dean Norton, director of horticulture, Mount Vernon

At Arlington National Cemetery one can expect a changing of the guard 2920 times a year. At nearby Dumbarton Oaks this happens a little less frequently, try once every forty years.

In 1952, Donald Edward Smith left his home in Bar Harbor, Maine, where he was working in the private gardens of renowned landscape architect Beatrix Farrand, for a two year commitment at one of the country's premier gardens and Ms. Farrand's crowning design achievement, Dumbarton Oaks. Obviously his commitment was extended. Smith, a graduate in horticulture from the University of Maine, stayed on as assistant superintendent of grounds until 1973 when he was promoted to superintendent. Smith has spent a lifetime in horticulture, working "from the ground up" in commercial greenhouses in Maine while still in school. His stewardship of Dumbarton Oaks ends next month when, after forty years of dedicated



Members in the News

The July/August issue of *Fine Gardening* contains an article by SGHS member **Peter Hatch**, director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello entitled "The First American Gardener" which concerns Jefferson's gardens at his Virginia home.

Members interested in the current state of historical gardening research at Monticello will find an article by Elizabeth Pomeroy in the Fall 1992 issue of *Pacific Horticulture* on **John Fitzpatrick** and "The Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants."

The July/August issue of *Historic Preservation* (the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation) contains a lengthy article on Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's retreat home near Lynchburg, Virginia. Jane Brown Gillette's article, which is beautifully illustrated with photographs by Bruce Katz, includes mention of Jefferson's ideal vision of the landscape as explicated by SGHS member **C. Allan Brown**.

And *Southern Accents* June 1992 issue has an article on SGHS members **Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan** and their recent garden restoration activities +

service, Smith will retire. Never having lost touch with his roots nor his distinct northeastern accent, Smith will return to his home in Maine where he has vacationed every summer during his tenure here in the South. His knowledge, skill, and easy manner will be missed by all of us in the Washington area and throughout the gardening community, and we wish him all the best.

It is hard to imagine a "new guard" at Dumbarton Oaks, but the difficult choice of filling Don's shoes had to be made. After a lengthy selection process, a candidate was finally chosen who is quite familiar to all Southern Garden History Society members. On July 1st, Philip S. Page joined the staff for a three month transitional overlap with Smith. Page likewise comes from a long gardening tradition, having grown up with his father's florist business in Charlottesville, Virginia. He received his horticulture degree in 1980 from Sandhills Community College in North

Continued on Page 15...

Monticello Weathers Summer Departures

By Peter Hatch, director of gardens and grounds
Monticello

Monticello lost two of its most prominent horticultural figures this summer.

An original sugar maple on the edge of the West Lawn was blown down in a violent wind storm on July 24th. The storm, an isolated downdraft accompanied by nearly four inches of rain, blew down thirty-four trees at Monticello, including seventeen fruit trees, a handsome red buckeye on the East Lawn, and a large Norway maple near the house.

Jefferson's vision for a domestic sugar industry based on sugar maple orchards was inspired by a botanical journey to New England in 1791. The



trip coincided with problems in Caribbean sugar importation as well as his personal contacts with abolitionist proponents of an American sugar economy. He said, "I have

never seen a reason why every farmer should not have a sugar orchard, as well as an apple orchard," and "what a blessing to substitute a sugar which requires only the labour of children, for that which it is said renders the slavery of the blacks necessary." Jefferson planted large quantities of sugar maple seeds in his Monticello nursery and young saplings purchased from the William Prince Nursery on Long Island. Although his sugar groves perished, the West Lawn sugar maple was considered one of the finest specimens of *Acer saccharum* in the country by the 1930s, "both in point of size and symmetry." Battered by ice and wind storms, hollow from age and decay, the original tree nonetheless exhibited remarkably vigorous new growth over the last twenty years.

We're also sorry about the departure of John T. Fitzpatrick, director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. John has been appointed director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation near Seattle, Washington, where he



Monticello's Original Sugar Maple
Photo by P.C. Newcomb

will continue his work in plant preservation.

We salute the contributions John has made to Monticello and garden history. Since arriving in 1986 he has developed the Center for Historic Plants into a unique preservation and educational venture. The stock beds and



John T. Fitzpatrick

display gardens at Tufton Farm contain nearly 400 species and varieties of plants. *Twinleaf*, the newsletter and seedlist of CHP, is distributed to over 30,000 people. The Garden Shop offers 270 kinds of plants and as many as 150 types of garden seed. In 1991, the Center sold approximately \$250,000 worth of plants, books, and seed.

Monticello seeds, bulbs, and plants now grow virtually everywhere Americans garden. But perhaps more importantly, John has made a significant contribution to the preservation of the biological diversity of our horticultural heritage.

Good luck, John, and we'll miss you ♣

Membership Dues

Membership dues notices were mailed to Society members in mid-July. These notices are for the year 1 May, 1992 through 30 April, 1993. New members who joined the society after January 1st were not billed. Members who have questions about their dues may write the Society headquarters ♣



Veteran Superintendent Retires

Continued from Page 13

Carolina and went on to become Old Salem's horticulturist for seven years. Page left Winston-Salem for Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1987 to become executive director of Reflection Riding Botanical Garden where he remained until his appointment at Dumbarton Oaks this summer. Page is taking advantage of this privileged opportunity of working with Smith, benefiting not only from his vast horticultural skills but also his wealth of knowledge about the garden's history.



Donald Smith

Personally, it is a bittersweet moment. I will miss Don tremendously but am excited for Phil and look forward to working with him in the future. In fact, Phil has already given me my first challenge. A week before he started at Dumbarton, he challenged the Mount Vernon Marauders softball team to a game. Life used to be so simple. Now we will not only have to cook the Monticello Muffins but also roast the Dumbarton Oaks Acorns ♣

Our New Zealand Member

John P. Adam of Auckland, New Zealand has been a member of SGHS since May, 1987, yet only recently have we learned more about our distant member. A letter and news bulletin sent from John in June revealed that he is chair of the Auckland Garden History Society, an organization with a membership approaching one hundred. The Auckland society is sponsoring lectures and tours, and studying the early public parks, private pleasure gardens, and nurseries of Auckland, which is New Zealand's largest city ♣

Legacy of a Botanist

Continued from Page 7

it was quickly picked up by both professional and amateur breeders to become the foundation of an entire class of roses known as Noisettes.

The surviving varieties of Noisette roses are



some of the finest luxuries available to gardeners in the South. Softly colored in pastels of yellow, pink, and cream, there are as many climbing types as bushes and the richly fragrant flowers could easily be

poeticized as smiling down from overhead. "Fair" they are indeed, but "modest" doesn't suit such vigorous plants or such a profusion of bloom.

They are also tough enough to take the heat of

the Southern summer and the vagaries of the Southern winter in zones 7 through 10, meeting the needs of a long and stressful growing season. 'Blush Noisette', once again commercially available, is still one of the best varieties of all.

If a man can be judged at all by what he has left behind, Philippe Noisette, botanist of Charleston, offers a fascinating and very human legacy. The records point to a complicated life lived in a complicated time, and we can only hope his anonymous friend was right that "Prouder than heroes who a laurel gain, One flower repaid thee for a rough campaign."



'Old Blush' Rose

Florence P. Griffin, *President*

Ben G. Page, Jr., *Vice-President*

Flora Ann Bynum, *Secretary-Treasurer*

William Lanier Hunt, *Honorary President*

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