



MAGNOLIA

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

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

v. 5, no. 1 (Summer, 1988)

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Harriet H. Jansma, Vice-President
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SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
Old Salem, Inc.
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Dear Members:

Once again our annual meeting has proven to be a highlight of my year. We were welcomed into the oldest and loveliest homes in Nashville and treated to some of the most scholarly talks on garden history heard since the Society's beginning. Particularly worthy of note was our host Ben Page's paper on the career of Bryant Fleming.

Talking with those who attended the meeting, I was impressed that so many of our members have published works in the fields of historical horticulture and historic landscapes and gardens. I for one would like to know just who has published what.

It has occurred to me that by making a list of our publications we might better share our common interests and stimulate even more research. I am therefore asking each of you to provide us with a bibliography of your works that have been published, and talks that are available in written form, on the subjects of interest to our Society. I intend to print a bibliography of the publications of our membership and to distribute it to all of you. Our secretary, Flora Ann Bynum, says that such a list would be useful as a first mailing to every new member.

I am happy to announce that Peggy Newcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, has consented to chair our publications committee. Peggy, a published author, brings enthusiasm and expertise to the job as we strive to expand our publishing activities. Harriet Jansma, our new Vice-President, has agreed to continue to edit Magnolia. This is no small undertaking; I urge you to support Harriet by contributing articles, news, and inquiries.

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REMARKS OF DR. ED GIVHAN, OUR NEW PRESIDENT, continued:

The idea of a group united by a common interest in Southern gardens has always excited me. I hope to provide leadership that will make the Society meaningful to each of you. Please share your ideas with me.

Sincerely yours,
Ed Givhan
6912 Taylor Road
Montgomery Alabama 36117

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT BETHABARA AT SITE OF 1759 VEGETABLE GARDEN
by Flora Ann Bynum, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

An archaeological excavation project has been underway this spring at the site of the Upland Garden or Vegetable Garden at Bethabara, the original Moravian settlement in North Carolina. Bethabara today is within the boundaries of Winston-Salem and is operated by the city as Historic Bethabara Park.

John W. Clauser, Jr., archaeologist with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, has conducted the dig, which began the first of March. He has concluded his field work and prepared a written report with maps and drawings. Mr. Clauser's mission was to determine the original fence lines of the garden and the paths and layout of beds so that these could be reconstructed. Historic Bethabara Park and the Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County plan to reconstruct the fences, paths and beds to give a conception of this large community garden to aid in better interpretation of the site. Because maintenance is not available, the beds will not be planted, but the original layout of the garden will be apparent.

Bethabara was begun in November, 1753, by a group of Moravian settlers from Pennsylvania, and was operated under a communal system until the inhabitants moved in 1772 to Salem, about six miles southeast. Salem is restored today as Old Salem, and was built by the Moravians as their permanent settlement in North Carolina.

Christian Gottlieb Reuter, surveyor for the Moravians, drew two plans for the community gardens of Bethabara, one for the Upland Garden or Vegetable Garden, dated May 1, 1759, and another for the Medical Garden, dated June 23, 1761. These two plans, showing beds laid out in the ancient geometric style of gardening, are thought to be the earliest drawn garden plans with complete plant lists in America.

[Flora Ann Bynum is writing a book about Moravian horticulture which will be published by the University of North Carolina Press. Her publications were listed in Magnolia, v. 4, no. 3 (Winter, 1988). For further information, write to the Society's office at Old Salem.]

MY MOTHER'S GARDEN

by Jo Nichols Evans

(Mrs. U. B. Evans, Haphazard Plantation, Inc.,
Route 1, Box 102, Ferriday, Louisiana 71334)

[A biographical note at the end of this memoir was provided by our Board Member in Mississippi, Glenn Haltom, who obtained permission from Mrs. Evans to reproduce it. It was first printed in a small illustrated booklet, which may still be available from the author. As the text will reveal, the garden described was located in Bardwell, Kentucky, near Paducah.]

My Mother moved into a new house in 1886 and soon started a garden and orchard of ten acres. The front yard was planted with Kentucky Blue Grass.

My Mother's garden had a beautiful fence around that part of the garden where the flowers grew. It had a base of three red bricks with a white paling fence on top. This joined a wire fence that enclosed the orchard.

In the spring when you entered the flower garden through the front gate, on the right side a large bed of Lilies of the Valley filled the air with fragrance.

A long concrete walk reached from the front gate to the front steps. In the center it divided and formed a flower bed. During the summer this bed was filled with red geraniums. These were kept in a pit during the winter along with other plants.

On the right side of the front steps were two tubs. One was planted with a gardenia and the other with an oleander. Little did my mother realize that the oleander leaves were poisonous. These plants had to be kept in the house during the winter.

On the left side of the steps was a bed of English Ivy. As a child, my job was to cut the ivy leaves and wire them to toothpicks that were stuck into wet moss that filled wire wreaths. Berries or blooming flowers from the flower pit were stuck into the center of the ivy leaves. These wire wreaths were used again and again for funerals and Memorial Day. No one ever thought of buying flowers for special occasions.

A brick walk led from the wide front steps to the side steps. This walk was laid about two feet from the house. No shrubbery was ever planted next to the house because of the danger of rotting the lattice work.

About ten feet from the front gate was a large weeping mulberry [sic] tree which served as my playhouse. Close by was a sweet gum tree. I soon learned to use the sap for chewing gum. My mother had a problem getting the gum off my teeth.

There was a bed about two feet wide along the base of the front and side fence. Mother planted spring flowering shrubs such as flowering quince, different varieties of spirea, pink and red weigela,

deutia [sic] and forsythia. Narcissus bulbs were planted at the front of the shrubbery. For summer color, bunches of tiger lilies and perennials that my mother grew from seed were planted through-out the bed. Near the corner of the garden there was an old lilac bush that spread its fragrance through-out the area. Close by was a bed of double pink hyacinths that bloomed at the same time.

My mother was very generous with her plants except with her hyacinths. Rather than share them she always said, "the bulbs were too deep to dig".

Peonies were not planted in a bed, but were spotted through the garden and treated as small shrubs.

Mother was very proud of having a crepe myrtle. However, it froze to the ground every winter and grew about three feet every summer. It had small pink blossoms.

Closer to the house was a big arborvitae. Due to not having red spiders the leaves were always a dark green. This bush was a beautiful sight when covered with snow and filled with red birds.

Looking from the front steps toward the gate about twenty feet from the walk was a tremendous black gum tree that gave glorious fall color.

My father hung a big swing between this tree and a post. Everyone could sit here and enjoy the garden. Halfway between the tree and the front gate and five feet from the walk were several plants of Yucca Filamentosa, sometimes known as desert candles.

Side Yard

There was an entrance from the family room into the side yard where we ate such things as cold watermelon. We grew our own melons and often put one in a pillowcase tied with a rope and lowered it into a brick cistern that was always full of cold water.

This area was shaded by an old hickory tree under which we had a wire cage filled with squirrels. One day while I was feeding the squirrels, one bit me through the finger. My father never killed the little animals. He trapped them and took them to the woods and turned them loose.

The children and grandchildren often played in this area. A path led to a gate in the side yard. Just outside was an iron hitching rail where visiting horses were tied. There was also a water trough that was filled from a well inside the yard.

All of this area was shaded by a tremendous buckeye tree where people came to get buckeyes because they believed the buckeyes protected them from rheumatism.

Back Yard

A large rose bed separated the backyard from the side yard. The back yard was a "swept yard" and a working area.

A cherry tree was planted at the east entrance to the back yard and many mornings when the cherries were ripe I would climb up and eat the cherries for breakfast. I would then have dew poisoning. My mother would find a poke berry bush, dig the large root, wash it clean, and rub it on my hands. The poisoning was immediately cured.

The family wash was done under an old peach tree using lye soap. Later the water was poured on the tree and around it to kill the borers.

In the far corner of this yard was a huge barrell [sic] filled with water and fresh manure. This water was poured on the rose bed as fertilizer.

My father smoked a pipe and grew his own tobacco. Tobacco was hung in bunches to the rafters in the barn. When cured, the leaves were stripped and the stems were added to water to use on the roses. No one ever thought of buying fertilizer or spray material.

I well remember the Paul Neyron roses with their large blossoms and tall straight stems that my mother rooted.

A path led from the kitchen door to a smoke house that was filled with a year's supply of meat--smoked ham, sausage, bacon. One shelf was reserved for home-made lye soap.

Another house that opened into the backyard was filled with wood and coal along with sacks of hickory nuts and walnuts. Every afternoon when my father came home from his office, he cracked a bowl of nuts to eat at night as we sat around the fire.

North Yard

A path led from the cherry tree into the north yard where my mother had a bed of "Mountain Phlox" and I had a bed of wild flowers that I collected when walking in the woods with Father. My father always insisted that these flowers were planted by God for everyone to enjoy and not destroy.

Orchard

There was no fence between the flower garden and the orchard. However, a path led through an arbor into the orchard. The arbor was planted with purple Clematis Jackmani on one side and an old red rambler rose on the other. This made a beautiful combination as they bloomed at the same time.

A wire fence joined the paling fence that was around the yard. This separated the orchard from the public road. Next to the wire fence was a berry garden planted with strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries. My job every morning was to gather the strawberries. Any that were not used were sent to the neighbors.

The blackberries were my mother's favorite. She used them to can make [sic] jam and jelly. She always put up enough to divide with family and friends. She had a very famous recipe for jam cake.

At the head of the berry bed was a long narrow bed filled with gooseberry, rhubarb, sage, and other herbs and seasonings. My job was to pick the sage leaves, spread them out in the sun to dry and later store them for winter seasoning.

Pies were made from the goose berries and rhubarb. Red pepper was planted annually. When ripe it was strung on heavy string and hung in the kitchen to dry.

Next to the berries were many varieties of peaches, apples and plums. One variety of peach that matured last was the Indian. They had red leaves and red fruit. They were pickled. The other varieties were made into preserves, canned, and dried. These were put up in quantities so mother could divide them.

Apples were used to make jelly and apple butter. Special varieties of the apples were stored in a "fruit room" upstairs in our home where the temperature was never too cold.

A double row of wire was strung from one end of the garden to the other. This was hung with grapes. My job was to gather the grapes to make juice. The juice was heated, bottled and sealed with sealing wax to keep the juice from fermenting. My mother put up enough of this juice to give churches in town to use for communion services.

At least a dozen pear trees of different varieties were next to the grapes. Some of the pears were canned, some were wrapped individually and put on shelves in the fruit room. Mother had a fruit closet where she put all of her jellies, jams and canned fruit. This closet had a beautiful etched glass door that opened into the dining room.

I am thankful that I grew up in an era when people were taught to be self sustaining. Making money was not the "top priority". My father took time from his law practice to teach me the love of wild flowers and little animals. Mother taught me to love garden plants and many necessities. For instance, she raised turkeys and chickens. How well I remember the large pans of cornbread filled with black pepper to feed the young turkeys.

I am glad that I lived a part of my life in Bardwell, Kentucky, a community where everyone was friendly and helped each other.

In the later part of my life that was filled with lectures and writing, I always tried to teach the love of flowers and how to grow them. No matter how large or how small your area is, you can make it a spot of beauty. Remember if you make a better mouse trap, the world makes a beaten path to your door.

A garden without friends is no garden at all.

[A family could travel by buggy to Paducah and back in a day from Bardwell, Kentucky, where Jo Nichols grew up. Her father was John Mahlon Nichols; her mother was Joanna Fore Nichols. She had three brothers and three sisters. (continued--)]

(Jo Nichols Evans, continued--)

After the death of her father, Jo Nichols went with her mother to live in Decatur, Alabama. She met Mr. U. B. Evans in Alexandria, Louisiana, where she worked as his secretary in an electrical contracting business. Her sister purchased Haphazard Plantation and gave it to Jo.

Jo Nichols Evans was voted Woman Horticulturist of the United States in 1956.

CALENDAR

October 14-16, 1988: Board of Southern Garden History Society will meet in Charleston, South Carolina. Send any suggestions or proposals to the Secretary at our office in Old Salem.

May 11-13, 1989: Annual meeting of Southern Garden History Society, in Savannah, Georgia. Mary Helen Ray (SGHS member and co-author with Robert P. Nicholls of The Traveler's Guide to American Gardens-- see notice below) is planning this meeting for us now.

October 5-7, 1989: Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes, Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108.

NEW SGHS BOARD ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING IN NASHVILLE

In order to achieve the broadest possible geographical representation on our Board of Directors, the SGHS Board, meeting in Nashville on May 20, 1988, decided, in keeping with our by-laws, to nominate three new members, and to count the three officers of the Society as separate from the twelve members allowed. The new members, approved by the Society at its annual meeting at Belmont College on May 21, are:

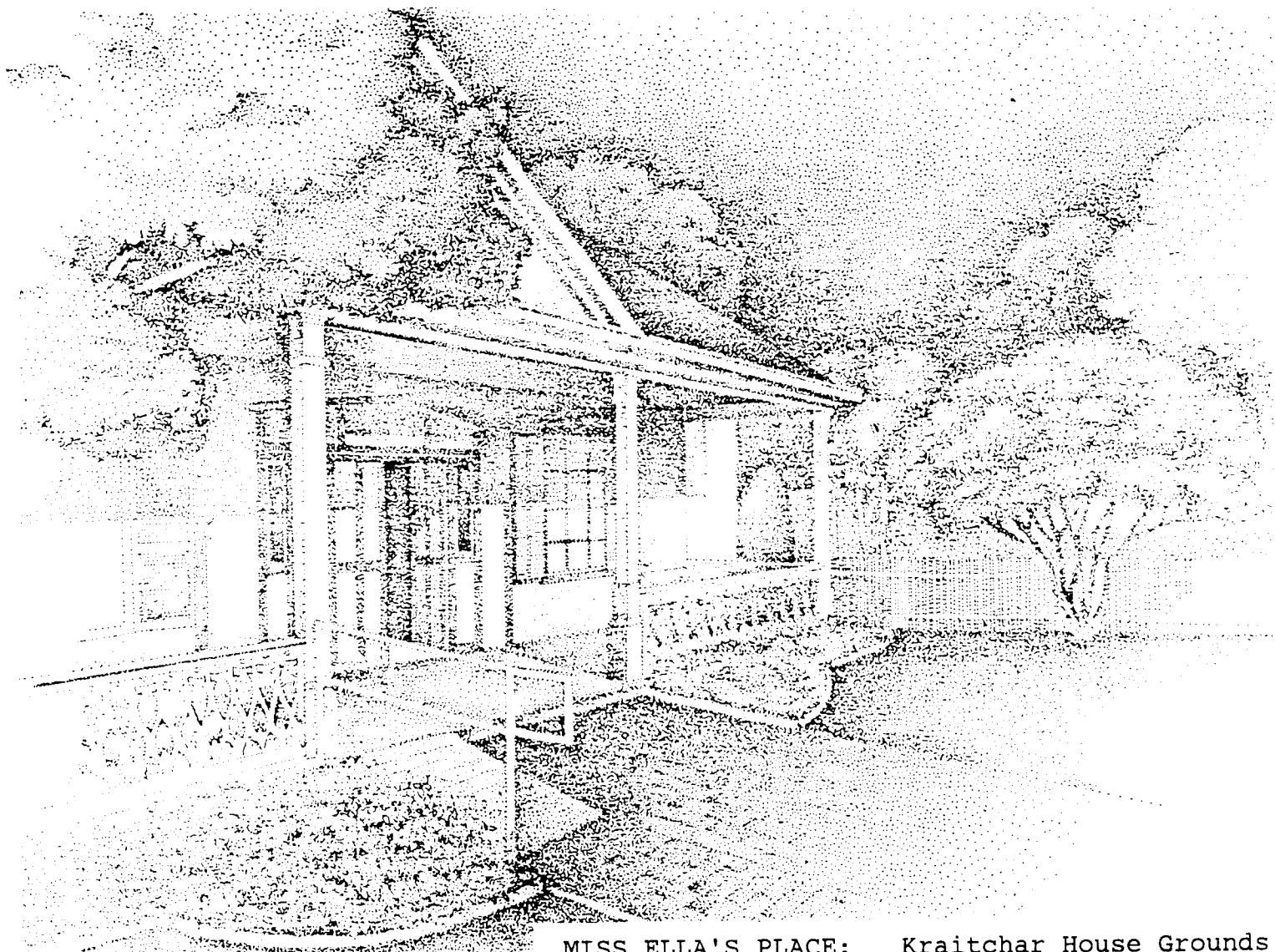
Dr. William C. Welch of College Station, Texas;
M. Edward Shull of Catonsville, Maryland; and
Shingo Woodward (Mrs. Truman Woodward, Jr.) of New Orleans, LA

In addition, Mr. John Flowers of Charlotte, North Carolina, past President of SGHS, was nominated and elected to serve an additional term on the Board.

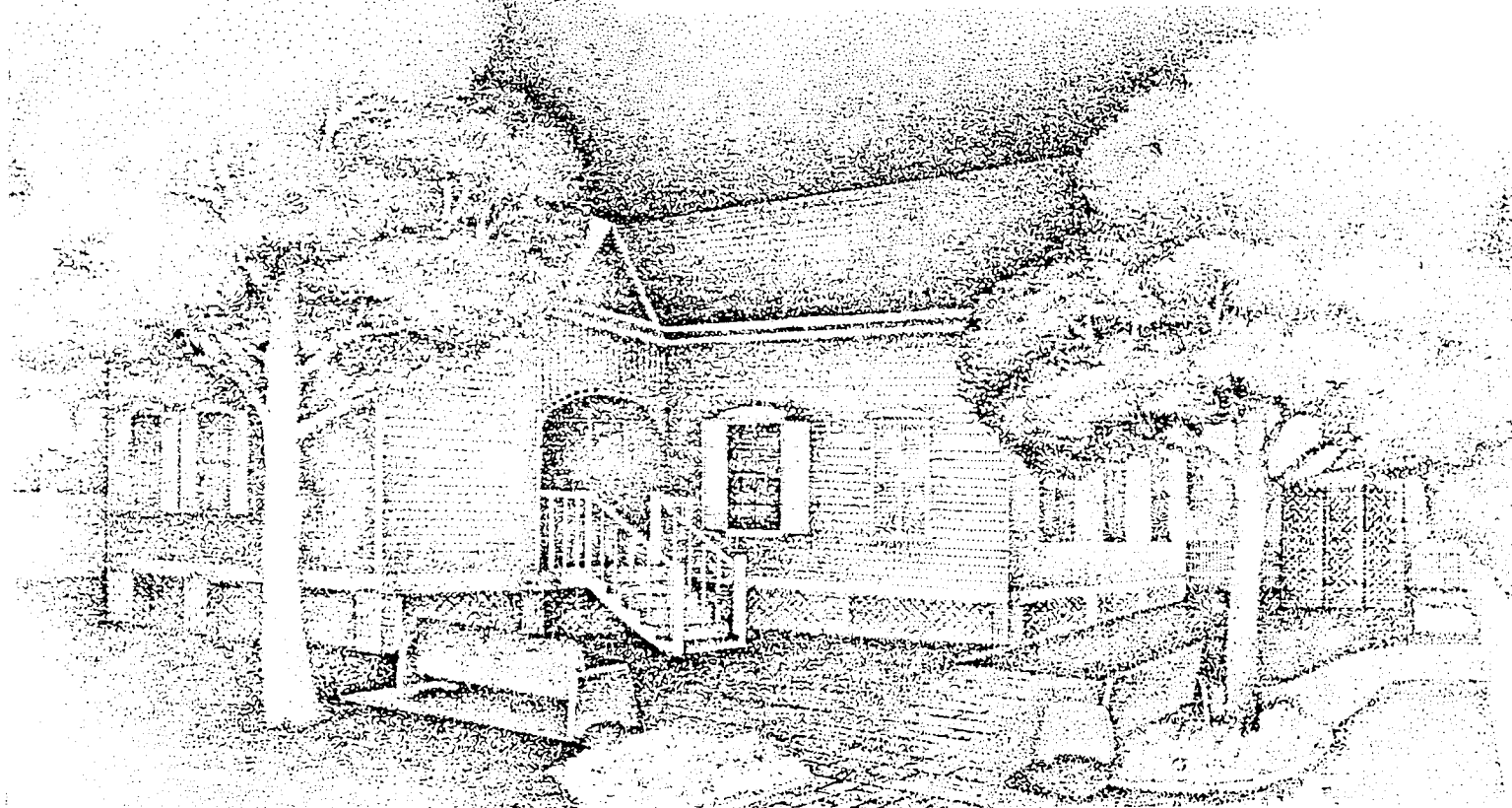
New officers are listed on the first page of this issue, and other board members continue to serve.

IN PRINT

Edited by Mary Helen Ray (a member of the Society) and Robert P. Nicholls, The Traveler's Guide to American Gardens, revised edition, has been published this year by the University of North Carolina Press. It is available in cloth cover for \$22.50 and in paper cover for \$9.95 through local bookstores, or from the Univ. of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.



MISS ELLA'S PLACE: Kraitchar House Grounds,
Caldwell, Burleson County, Texas (sketches)
above: front entrance below: backyard patio



MISS ELLA'S PLACE: RESTORING THE COMMON LANDSCAPE OF TEXAS

by Nancy J. Volkman, Associate Professor of Landscape
Architecture, Texas A & M University

To many people landscape preservation and restoration involves only masterpieces of design, great and famous works by noted designers. These projects, though, make up a fraction of the designed landscapes which have existed. Most were works by common people who attempted to follow fashionable design styles, but did so in very homey and idiosyncratic ways. These designs are often very important in illustrating local, particularly ethnic, patterns and in suggesting to the contemporary viewer the overall character which a town may have had in the past.

One such common landscape currently being restored in Texas is the Kraitchar House grounds in Caldwell, the County Seat of Burleson County. Caldwell is located on former savannah lands in central Texas about seventy miles east of Austin. The town is in many ways typical of county seats in the state: its focal point is the courthouse in the middle of town, surrounded by a square with shops on its outer perimeter. As a center of government Caldwell drew people from a wide area and was for this reason also an important market center into the 1960's. Some of the most impressive homes in the town were those built by merchants with shops near the courthouse.

Thomas Kraitchar, Sr., was one such prosperous merchant. He owned a store on the square and in 1891 built a house on Buck Street as a wedding gift to his son and partner, Thomas Kraitchar, Jr. The home which he had constructed is a white painted frame Victorian cottage style residence of two stories. Its dark green trim is in a simple carpenter gothic scroll pattern. In plan the house has a central hallway with two rooms to each side. Stairs lead from the hall to the second floor where there is a two-room attic. A large porch stretches across the front elevation. At the rear is the kitchen, which was probably an addition, but an early one.

Thomas Kraitchar, Sr., was one of the earliest Bohemian settlers in Burleson County, having moved there from elsewhere in Texas in the 1880's. His store in Caldwell, Thomas Kraitchar & Son, was also opened at that time. In 1891 the son, Thomas, Jr., married Mary Kocourek. Thomas and Mary had six children, of whom four lived to maturity. The eldest of these, Ella, inherited the house after the death of her parents, and continued to live in it alone until 1972. Following Ella's move to a nursing home, the house was unoccupied but was maintained by family members.

In 1982 the Burleson County Historical Society purchased the house from the Kraitchar heirs for use as a headquarters. From 1982 to 1984 the restoration of the house was completed under the direction of David Woodcock, restoration architect and Head of the Architecture Department at Texas A & M University. In 1987, Catherine Alford, President of the Historical Society, contacted me to discuss the restoration of the grounds. Because funds were limited, the restoration plan was completed by the class in preservation of the historic landscape at Texas A & M, an interdisciplinary class made up of students from the

fields of landscape architecture, horticulture, and urban and regional planning.

The design intent of the Burleson County Historical Society was to restore the grounds as it looked during most of Ella Kraitchar's ownership of the house. Miss Ella, as she is still fondly called, had simple landscape taste which emphasized the functional character of her home grounds. In many ways her taste was more a reflection of common design styles of the late nineteenth century rather than those of the twentieth century.

No photographs or plans of the grounds were found, but from interviews with family friends, the class learned that the front area of the house was a simple lawn with a few shade trees. The only shrub was a single specimen at the southeast corner. The most heavily planted area of the site was along the western property line, formerly seventy-five feet west of the present line. There Miss Ella had a rectangular bed running the full depth of the site and planted with vegetables, herbs and flowers. Between the street and these beds were a line of simple unpainted wooden trellises for sweet peas and grape vines. The rear yard, used as an outdoor service court, had a wooden wash house, a carriage house, and dog pens. The primary vegetation there was the invasive Hackberry (Celtis laevigata), with one specimen growing against the house and others near the rear property line, and several specimen Crape Myrtles (Lagerstroemia indica).

Later in life Miss Ella did follow one modern garden design trend by installing a paved patio near her rear porch. Its material and form are unknown, but Agricultural Extension Service landscape photographs of the 1920's and 1930's show most patios in this region as simple rectilinear concrete slabs, and this is probably the type used at the Kraitchar house.

Because the original lot was so much wider than the existing site, with twice as much frontage along Buck Street, the designers of the restoration plan were challenged to recreate the character of the original with substantially less space. Another significant challenge, as in all restorations which must adapt to modern use, was to accommodate the contemporary needs of the Burleson County Historical Society members, who wished to use the rear yard for service events and receptions. Since it was known that Miss Ella had a patio, this element was reintroduced into the site without destroying the restoration concept. It was located in what most likely had been its original location, the "L" of the house. It was designed to be made of brick or of concrete with a brick edge, in harmony with paving installed during the house restoration. Because access to this area was important, paths were added to the rear yard. This was a major change, since there is no evidence of earlier paths there. To minimize their visual impact, they were kept to the sides of the yard and are of brick laid in sand.

Every effort was made to use plants that had grown in Miss Ella's garden or in some other garden in Caldwell more than fifty years ago. Crape Myrtle, the city tree of Caldwell, known to have been planted extensively at Kraitchar House, were reintroduced. The class proposed

that three Crape Myrtles be planted on the adjoining bank property to suggest visually that this land had once been part of the Kraitchar property. Salvia greggi was planted in beds at the base of the front porch where it had formerly been. The linear beds along the west fence were recreated at a smaller scale using herbaceous materials popular in the early part of the century. Miss Ella's trellises were reestablished in the west side yard, but were planted with old roses rather than sweet peas or grapes in an effort to reduce maintenance. The most controversial design decision was to retain a Hackberry in the back near the wash shed. In Texas, the Hackberry is considered to be a "weed tree," not suitable in a designed landscape. The class was able to persuade Historical Society members that a significant aspect of Miss Ella's yard was the haphazard arrangement of naturalized plants, and that this should be reflected in the restoration plan.

The Burleson County Historical Society is executing the restoration plan in phases, beginning with the front yard. When completed, the Kraitchar House grounds will be a reinterpretation of a nineteenth-century landscape aesthetic which Ella Kraitchar perpetuated into the twentieth century. It will also be a physical representation of the simple and cost-efficient tastes of the Bohemian settlers who contributed greatly to the development of central Texas.

U. S. CONSTITUTION COMMEMORATED WITH LIVING PLANTS IN LOUISIANA

The Plant a Living Legacy program of Louisiana, sponsored by the United States Constitution Bicentennial Commission, began in 1987 to encourage Louisiana communities to use plants to commemorate the signing of the Constitution in 1787. The state's chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects has offered assistance to communities needing professional expertise in planning and implementing their projects.

Among the types of projects suggested for community improvement were restoring blighted areas, preserving natural scenery, development of new parklands, adoption of a neglected neighborhood open space for planting and future care, refurbishing plantings around a public building, planting street trees, and creating a children's garden or a historic garden. Schoolyard planting and cemetery restoration were also encouraged.

Mindful that Louisiana's oldest trees were young saplings when the Constitution was signed two centuries ago, the Plant a Living Legacy program hopes that present-day residents of the state will commemorate the past by providing for the future of their state.

[This news provided by D. G. Abbey, ASLA, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University, through our State Editor, Dana Martin Currier]

VIRGINIA REPORT (from Dean Norton, Mount Vernon Horticulturist)

The Virginia editors apologize for not contributing to this issue, but look forward to submitting a report next time by Nickolas Lucchetti, archaeologist with the James River Institute for Archaeology, on the Bacon's Castle Project.

We have this short report on an in-state challenge that will interest members of SGHS: Mount Vernon Estate, home of George Washington, has challenged Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, to a softball game. The challenge was accepted by Peter Hatch, Director of Monticello Grounds and Gardens, fierce competitor and all-round sports enthusiast. The game between the Muffins of Monticello (as we at Mount Vernon have dubbed them) and the Mount Vernon Marauders will occur at Mount Vernon on August 17. History tells us that Thomas Jefferson introduced wine to Virginia, but further research reveals that it was George Washington who said, "I will serve no wine until the muffins are cooked." The final score will be reported in the next issue, unless Monticello wins.

AUTUMN ISSUE

We will be glad to consider publishing your article on any aspect of Southern garden or landscape history. Send it by November 1, 1988 to Peggy Newcomb, Associate Editor, at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Or contact your state editor (see fall 1987 issue for names and addresses). Send us also your news of events, meetings, and publications on topics of interest to our members.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION of the GARDEN at BACON'S CASTLE,
SURRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

by Nicholas M. Lucchetti, Director,
James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc.

Bacon's Castle, located in Surry County, across the James River from Jamestown, is considered by Chesapeake architectural historians to be the only surviving seventeenth-century dwelling in Virginia. Unlike the typical seventeenth-century Virginia house of clapboards framed around wood posts set into the ground, the Castle is a two-and-one-half story brick structure with porch and stair towers. The house was built by Arthur Allen I; use of dendrochronology has suggested a date of 1665 for its construction. (The nineteenth-century name "Bacon's Castle" is derived from the 1676 rebellion in Virginia led by Nathaniel Bacon, whose troops occupied the Allen plantation for three months.) The house and grounds were acquired in 1973 by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, which initiated a program of stabilization, research, and interpretation.

As part of a continuing preservation plan at Bacon's Castle, the APVA commissioned an archaeological survey in 1983 of an area which was indicated by documents to be a 1.5-acre garden dating from the mid-nineteenth century. The survey revealed the presence of buried elements of an earlier garden, such as planting beds and walks. Based on these results, the Garden Club of Virginia funded a two and one-half year excavation of the entire garden. The work was conducted initially by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology and later assumed by the James River Institute for Archaeology, Incorporated. The garden project was guided by a select committee headed by archaeologists William M. Kelso and Ivor Noel Hume.

more--

The survey in 1983 and initial testing in 1984 showed that the garden was covered by a homogeneous layer of fill which likely accumulated from the wind-blown soil of the surrounding cultivated fields. Since this layer contained no artifacts or stratigraphy, it was carefully removed by a machine, exposing a virtually intact garden plan that was nearly 340 feet long and 195 feet wide.

The garden was oriented to a central walk of white sand, twelve feet wide, which ran due north-south. The walk was flanked on each side by two columns of planting beds. The six lower beds, which appeared as large dark rectangles of brown loam, measured approximately 98 feet long by 74 feet wide and were separated from each other by white sand crosswalks eight feet in width. The two northernmost planting beds were twenty and eighty feet wide. The landscape consultant to the project, Rudy Favretti, has suggested that these may be starting beds, a thesis that is supported by the presence of brick and mortar scatter along the north edge of the beds, probably the debris of a dismantled forcing wall. Surrounding the eight planting beds was a perimeter walk ten feet wide of white sand, which in turn was surrounded by a parallel border bed six feet wide.

Test holes excavated in the planting beds showed that the garden had been raised on the colonial surface. The planting beds were created by mounding about two feet of sandy loam, and the walks were then fashioned by cutting trenches through the mounded loam and filling them with packed white sand. The test holes also uncovered concentrations of artifacts beneath the walks and planting beds. Wine bottle glass and ceramics from these concentrations indicate that the garden was constructed circa 1680-1690.

In addition, the remains of at least four structures were discovered immediately outside the border bed, each at the end of a crosswalk. The largest was a brick-lined foundation, twenty by thirty-two feet, which had been partitioned into two rooms. Stratigraphic evidence implies that it was built at the same time as the garden; its role as a garden building was strengthened by the scores of bell jar fragments that were found in the garden just outside the foundation. Most of the other three structures had been severely robbed of brick, leaving only patterns of back-filled trench to decipher. However, at least two of the structures appear to be three-sided and open to the garden, with a bench against the back wall opposite the garden. The footprint of the most intact of these structures closely resembles exhedras depicted in illustrations of medieval English gardens.

The six large planting beds seemingly were used for vegetables and herbs, while the border bed was planted with ornamentals or hedge. There was no indication of holes for orchards, vineyards, mazes, or anything other than utilitarian plantings in the large beds. Although these beds continued to be used until the 1880's, the starting beds and border bed were abandoned about 1800. The project will continue to try to determine the plants that were used in the various areas of the garden, especially by use of phytolith analysis (examination of the soil for the remains of specific species).

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOUTHERN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY held its fall meeting October 14-15 in Charleston, South Carolina. Attending were Dr. Edgar G. Givhan of Montgomery, Alabama, president; Flora Ann Bynum of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, secretary-treasurer; Catherine Howett of Athens, Georgia, immediate past president; and board members Anne Carr of Atlanta, Georgia; Hugh G. Dargan of Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina; Florence Griffin of Atlanta; Peter J. Hatch of Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia; M. Edward Shull of Catonsville, Maryland; Shingo Woodward of New Orleans, Louisiana; and Dr. William C. Welch of College Station, Texas.

Mary Helen Ray of Savannah, Georgia, reviewed for the board the proposed plans for the seventh annual meeting of the Society, to be held in Savannah the weekend of May 12-14, 1989. Prospective locations for the 1990 annual meeting were reviewed. Other items of business discussed at length by the board were a potential archives site and permanent headquarters for the Society. Various ideas for publishing projects were also reviewed.

Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan served as hosts to the board for the meeting. They entertained the group for cocktails in the courtyard garden of their home, and took board members on a walking tour of a number of gardens in the Charleston historic district. Several of these gardens had been designed and installed by the Dargans, who are landscape architects.

IN PRINT

SGHS has received a copy of Antique Flowers, a Guide to Using Old Fashioned Species in Contemporary Gardens, by Katherine Whiteside, published recently by Villard Books, New York. The foreword was written by John Fitzpatrick, Director of the Center for Historic Plants at Monticello, and a member of SGHS. Our Society is listed in the book among "Societies and Educational Organizations."

Those who seek information about visiting Hope Plantation, subject of an article in this issue of Magnolia, will find it in "Back in Time at Historic Hope" in The State magazine, June, 1988. Or write to Hope Plantation, P.O. Box 610, Windsor, N.C. 27983; or call (919)794-3140.

Plants and Gardens News, the membership bulletin of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, informed its readers in the summer issue this year that the Southern Garden History Society is not just for Southerners, and lists our basic dues and address; and the "Perquimans Weekly" of Hertford, a small town in northeastern North Carolina, carried a brief article on the Society in September, mentioned this bulletin, and provided membership information.

CALENDAR

May 12-14, 1989: Annual meeting of SGHS, in Savannah, Georgia.

October 5-7, 1989: Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes, Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108.

RECREATING A FEDERAL PERIOD GARDEN IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

by James C. Jordan, Hope Plantation Administrator

Perhaps the most daunting task for a historic site is recreating a garden with little extant information about the plants that were grown in it, when even its exact location is unknown. When a landscape has been destroyed and a structure of substantial value is restored, some decision must be made about its setting. At Hope Plantation, recreation of a landscape setting was greatly needed, but more than 150 years of neglect and abuse -- including plowing right around the house -- had left restorers nothing to work with. The efforts of Historic Hope Foundation to interpret the grounds of Hope Plantation, the home of North Carolina Governor David Stone (1770-1818) have involved archaeological research, examination of available written sources, and analysis of other plantations in its area.

The Hope Mansion, an elegant Palladian style structure, was completed in 1803; it was the center of the large plantation of a prosperous gentleman planter. Located in Bertie County, North Carolina, the Stone home was built facing the old colonial road that ran from the port city of Edenton to the prosperous town of Halifax. The colonial road, a much-traveled route, provided David Stone's father, Zedichia Stone, a good location to establish a tavern.

David Stone himself was a successful planter; he raised sheep and hogs and grew wheat and corn for the markets in Norfolk and Petersburg. But little was known about the design of the grounds of Hope Plantation during his life and afterward. After Stone's death in 1818, the plantation had several owners; the property had long been neglected when a committee of Bertie County citizens concerned about its survival bought it in 1966 and began the task of restoring it. Farming activity right around the old house had allowed only two trees to survive, a black walnut and an American elm, and provided no sense of the appearance of the setting of the house at the time of David Stone's residence there. One outbuilding which had been used to store meat did remain, but otherwise no information about the farm activities on the land.

With the assistance of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, the archaeologist Gary Stone was hired to discover any artifacts or evidence that might provide information about the original kitchen garden. The dig proved successful in locating a detached kitchen with two bake ovens, and in identifying Zedichia Stone's house. Adjacent to the kitchen, the archaeologist found remains of post holes indicating a fenced area behind the kitchen. A kitchen garden was established in the area that had been fenced. Lack of funds then prevented a more extensive archaeological investigation of the property, which would in any case have left many questions, since only twenty-five acres remained of the original three thousand.

Dr. Turner Bond Sutton, a professor of botany at North Carolina State University and a native of Bertie County, provided research into garden books of the period and into other lands and gardens in the area around Hope Plantation. Because so few ornamental plantings remained at Hope, Dr. Sutton advised planting at Hope the trees and shrubs found at other

plantations in the Roanoke-Chowan area, using a naturalistic arrangement following the English style of landscaping popular in the early 19th century. Over the following decade, and continuing today, shrubs and trees have been planted following the natural contours of the land and relating to the house as the focal point.

After this decision had been made, Governor Stone's library of nearly fifteen hundred volumes was examined; it contained twelve volumes on gardening and farming, confirming the Governor's strong interest in them and also providing insight into the sorts of plantings and practices that he might have favored.

Among them were A Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees by William Forsyth, published in Philadelphia in 1802, the first book devoted wholly to fruit culture published in the United States. This book was edited by William Cobbett, who supplied an introductory chapter and notes adapting the original English edition to American readers. It included plain directions for planting, pruning, and harvesting fruits.

Another title owned by Stone was Elements of Agricultural Chemistry by Humphry Davy, published in 1813, the first serious attempt to apply chemistry to agriculture. It remained a standard work until it was displaced by Justus von Liebig's publication on the subject a generation later.

Stone's library also included popular gardening books such as On Planting and Rural Ornament (1803), Bernard McMahon's The American Gardener's Calendar (1806), and John Gardiner and David Hepburn's The American Gardener (1804), in which David Stone was listed as a subscriber. Governor Stone also owned other books on scientific farming, including Essays and Notes on Husbandry and Rural Affairs by John Beale Bordely (1799). The list of farming and gardening books in Stone's possession attests to the exchange of ideas between American and English farmers and gardeners before and after the American Revolution. Such exchange seems to have been constant especially in these fields of study in two countries where gentleman farmers valued information about their enterprises. Like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, David Stone seemed to value the latest information on developments in agriculture. By studying his books, we can make more informed decisions about the practices that Stone might have used on his plantation. (A collection of the titles owned by Stone is now a part of the library at Hope.)

In addition to the archaeological evidence and the literary clues, Hope Plantation examined plans from other plantations in the area in order to create a kitchen garden as it might have existed at Hope. John Flowers of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History [a past president of Southern Garden History Society] recommended examination of the 1769 garden at Hays Plantation in Edenton, North Carolina, for the garden layout and plantings as they were shown on the map of Edenton made by Claude Joseph Sauthier, Governor Tryon's gardener and map maker. The Hay Plantation gardens were drawn in geometric squares popular in French gardens and frequently seen in eastern North Carolina gardens in the eighteenth century. John Flowers recommended that the

plots at Hope be laid out in the manner preferred in many early nineteenth-century gardens, with the flowers in the center plots and kitchen vegetables planted in the outside plots.

Once the pieces of historical research had provided a coherent plan for the kitchen garden, implementing it was a pleasant task. Vegetables and flowering plants were chosen from recommendations in American Gardener and planted by the caretaker for the property with the help of Bertie County community service workers. The orchard, planted before the garden was begun, needed some realignment in order to balance with the rest of the garden and to demonstrate the tight symmetry of the garden plots. Once planted, the garden not only looked beautiful but also reflected nineteenth-century domestic needs and purposes. (It would have been a garden in which even flowering plants had medicinal uses.)

Many questions about the gardens of Hope Plantation remain, but on-going research and a future archaeological dig should provide still more information about the appearance of this garden and the practices that this wealthy planter in eastern North Carolina used to maintain his property.

NEW MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES AVAILABLE

The new brochure for members of Southern Garden History Society outlines the history, purposes, and goals of the Society; lists the categories of membership and their dues; provides names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the members of the board; and includes a membership form to be sent by anyone wishing to join.

If you wish to have a supply of these brochures to give to prospective members, drop a card to the Society secretary at the headquarters address: Southern Garden History Society, Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108.

Several members have given memberships in SGHS to their friends as gifts. One member who has given memberships says that it is a good way to honor someone for a particular accomplishment or for volunteer work, and also a good solution to the problem of choosing a gift for the hard-to-buy-a-gift-for friend. The Society secretary will write a letter to the recipient of a gift membership to indicate the donor.

In addition to some three hundred members in our region, we have a number of members who live outside the South, from New York to California, and even outside the United States. We are pleased to share our interests with any likeminded person, and hope that our present members will make good use of the new brochure to let others know about SGHS.

GAME REPORT In a hot battle on August 17 (temperature 104F at Mt. Vernon), the Mount Vernon Marauders defeated the Monticello Muffins in softball by a score of 23-15. Monticello warned after a cookout that the Muffins will rise again!

GLEANNING FROM MANY FIELDS -- a report from Cinder Stanton of the staff
at Monticello

At what conference can you make a straw hat, turn a furrow behind a pair of oxen, swing your partner in a nineteenth-century country dance, and play baseball according to the rules of 1858? I did all that and more at the 1988 Annual Conference of the Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM). Last June over two hundred participants -- from sites as widespread in time and space as Plimoth Plantation, the Ontario Agricultural Museum, Old Cienega Village in Santa Fe, and Grove Farm on Kauai -- converged on Long Island for five days and almost fifty sessions.

The theme this year -- "Gleaning from Many Fields" -- encouraged "looking beyond our accustomed resources for the information, skills, and support needed to make agriculture, living history, and outdoor museums flourish." Sessions explored ways to benefit from the resources of the academic community, the world of computers, and helpful organizations like the American Association for State and Local History's Common Agenda for history museums and the Early American Industries Association. Lively discussion was generated by the always controversial topics of first person interpretation, how to portray historical change over time, and the impact on museums of special events and volunteer staff. And then there are those sessions beloved of longtime ALHFAM members that provide detailed information on the evolution of the ploughshare or the adoption of artificial fertilizer.

For me, the spirit of ALHFAM is best expressed in the meetings of its various committees: Seeds and Plants, Farm Machinery, Livestock, Historic Clothing, and, new this year, Foodways. As one participant said, "The free flow of information among its members is what ALHFAM is all about." Bob Becker of Cornell, chairman of the Seeds Committee, handed out a list of resource material on historic field crops, ornamentals, and fruits and vegetables. The committee's future plans include preparation of a source list of historic seeds and plants and of bibliographies of heirloom varieties and historic garden practice (Bob particularly needs volunteers to compile the bibliographies for fruit and field crops). In the longer term the committee hopes to develop a set of standards for authenticating historic varieties, in other words, virtually a history of those varieties -- certainly a task for the dauntless.

The computer age has inspired a new enthusiasm for data sharing, and every session generated resolutions to provide information to a central recordkeeper. Sitting in the Livestock Committee meeting, I found myself inspired to volunteer Monticello's computer to keep track of all historic breeds (from Pilgrim geese to Ossibaw hogs) now residing at North American museums.

Monticello will be hosting Southeastern Regional ALHFAM in February, and the next annual meeting is in June 1989 at Conner Prairie in Noblesville, Indiana. All those interested in becoming an ALHFAM member (at a reasonable \$8 per year) and receiving its newsletter can write to ALHFAM, Box 2727, Duxbury, MA 02331.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Notices for 1987-1988 dues were mailed to members in February; a second notice was sent in May, and a third in August. The secretary-treasurer reports 27 members who have still not responded. A fourth notice will be mailed to these in November; if no response is received in one month, these members will be dropped. If you do not receive a notice in November, you are paid up for this year.

WINTER ISSUE

We will be glad to consider publishing your article on any aspect of Southern garden or landscape history. Send it by February 1, 1989 to Peggy Newcomb, Associate Editor, at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Or contact your state editor (see fall 1987 issue for names and addresses). Send us also your news of events, meetings, and publications on topics of interest to our members.

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