

VOLUME IX

SPRING 1991

Number 4

EARLY VICTORIAN PLANT SOURCES

BY PAMELA A. PURYEAR

When a woman married in the Victorian Age and went to a new home she often took her prepared household linens, her wedding givts, and quite often a piece of the rose or fruit tree her mother had planted when she married. It is easy to picture these bits and pieces wrapped in old burlap or planted in an old coffee or biscuit tin occupying an honored place in the wagon bearing the family to a new life on the frontier. China roses, especially, rooted easily and other sorts often sucker to provide new plants.

Besides family heirlooms such as these, even early residents might mail order from nurseries in the older sections of the United States. Lists or catalogues of seeds and plants appeared rather early in our national history. It did my heart good to know that both Washington and Jefferson were catapholics, the former patronizing the famous Bartram's in Philadelphia. As far as Texans were concerned, to old southeast USA was where they looked for mail order nurseries since most had come from there. For instance, F. A. Quinette, 34 Cardonelet St., New Orleans, advertised in the Galveston paper in the spring of 1870. He sold all sorts of fruit trees and shrubs, "all home grown", and he vowed that "all orders sent will be properly attended to." His rival, John M Nelson, at Metairie Bridge, advertised his Magnolia Nursery with "plants suitable for a Southern climate."

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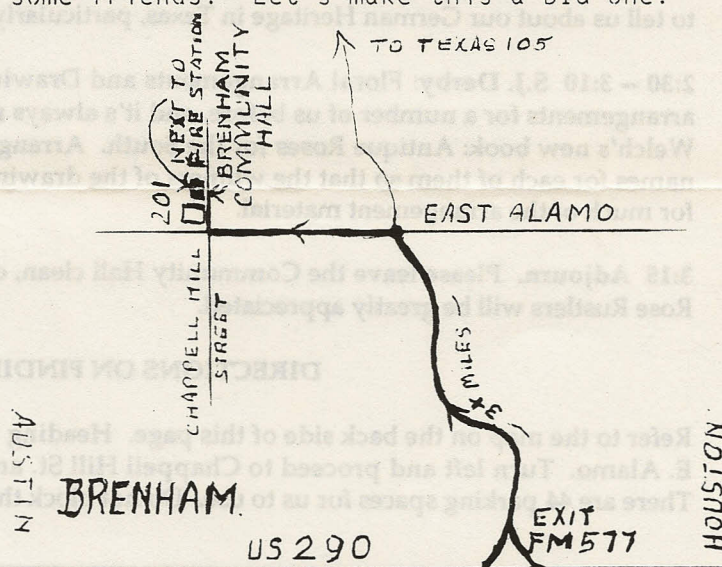
1991 SYMPOSIUM

TO BE IN BRENHAM APRIL 13TH

On the back of this page, page 2, will be found the details of our 1991 SYMPOSIUM. Below is the map directing you to the Brenham Community Hall, where it will be held.

Remember to bring your rooted cuttings, plain oldcuttings, potted roses and anything you care to trade. Also bring cut stems of blooms for our rose display! Vases will be ready for you to use. We hope to be open soon after 8 a.m.

Read page 2 carefully and don't forget to bring your lunch! Drinks will be free. In fact, the whole symposium is FREE. Bring some friends! Let's make this a BIG one!



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1991 SYMPOSIUM

The Texas Rose Rustlers will hold their 1991 Symposium in Brenham, Texas, on April 13th (Saturday) in the Community Hall at 201 Chappell Hill St. The bluebonnets in the Brenham/Independence area should be at their peak and on this same day the Antique Rose Emporium will be having an Open House with free refreshments, while the town of Independence will be celebrating Founder's Day. We will be ending the symposium at about 3:15 PM in plenty of time for you to enjoy all of these other activities. The symposium is free. You are encouraged to bring cut blooms for exhibition before the symposium begins at 10:00 AM.

AGENDA

8:45 -- 9:45 Entries accepted for bloom exhibition. Silver bud vases and tables provided. There will be no competition, the blooms are for the appreciation and learning experience of all members. Rare varieties are especially important for those of us that have never seen the variety before. Be sure and keep blooms fresh in water from your garden to the meeting. In the interest of time please fill-out a slip of paper the size of an index card naming the variety, class, and the person who grew the rose and place it under the vase. Let's make this a super exhibition with a big selection of blooms -- everybody must bring blooms to make it successful!

10:00 -- 12:00 Laurie & Gordon Smart: New Zealand Heritage Roses Slide Program. Last Fall Laurie and Gordon attended the International Heritage Rose Conference in New Zealand and toured over three dozen gardens. Laurie is president of the Dallas Historical Rose Society and originally comes from "Down Under". They captured many of the wonderful sights on slides and have graciously agreed to come down to Brenham to share them with us. There will be a short break around 10:55.

12:00 -- 1:30 Lunch, Conversation, and Viewing the Bloom Exhibition. Bring your lunch and join the rest of us to eat as a group. Tables will be set up and coffee, ice, and cups will be provided.

1:30 -- 2:00 Nancy Brownlee: "Garden Writing as a Sideline". Nancy is the garden columnist for the Ft. Worth Star Telegram and will bring to us the lighter side of writing a garden column and various articles for publication.

2:00 -- 2:30 Pam Puryear: "Texas Germans -- Their Gardens and Their Roses". Our perennial humorist joins us once again to tell us about our German Heritage in Texas, particularly the New Brunfels area of central Texas.

2:30 -- 3:10 S.J. Derby: Floral Arrangements and Drawing for Prizes. S.J. has displayed her talents in old garden rose arrangements for a number of us before, and it's always most delightful. She prepared the chapter on this subject in Bill Welch's new book: *Antique Roses for the South*. Arrangements will be assembled in your view and then we will draw names for each of them so that the winners of the drawing can take them home. The cut blooms on exhibit will be used for much of the arrangement material.

3:15 Adjourn. Please leave the Community Hall clean, orderly, and with all chairs and tables stored away....help by all Rose Rustlers will be greatly appreciated.

DIRECTIONS ON FINDING THE COMMUNITY HALL

Refer to the map on the back side of this page. Heading west on 290, exit north onto FM577, and proceed 3 or 4 miles to E. Alamo. Turn left and proceed to Chappell Hill St. and turn right and the hall will be there next to the Fire Station. There are 44 parking spaces for us to use. Do not block the entrance to the Fire Station!

Please bring cut blooms from all your favorite old or rare varieties of roses -- we need them for the bloom exhibition and at the end of the day for the floral arrangement program! The longer the stem, the better (for the arrangements).

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One has doubts about Mr. R. Ronna who set up a nursery on Commerce St., San Antonio, in 1868, with "adapted plants" ordered "direct from France"! Another nurseryman was Sidney Scudder, who presided at Avenue O & 37th St., Galveston, in 1870, who sold, among other things, rhodendrons that were "thoroughly acclimated."

Seeds were available all year but mail order plant material was shipped bare rooted in the winter and early spring. Texans often received these sort of packages via steamship that were regular packets to Galveston, goods being transhipped to landings and towns on Texas bays and rivers. I recall one such order of fruit trees to the James F. Perry plantation, "Peach Point", via Galveston and then to Crosby's Landing. Plantation wagons picked up the goods for the final few miles. Quite often anyone heading in the right direction would bring parcels and mail. The name of the closest town was all the address needed since people were fewer then and usually well known to one another.

Other than heirloom plants fraught to the new home and mail order possibilities, nursery stock was probably picked up en route. Early settlers knew nursery stock was difficult to come by, and were often warned by the emigrant guides to bring all gardening tools, seeds and plant stock they would need. As many families came to Texas via New Orleans and Galveston after 1838, New Orleans was the obvious last chance to get plant stock, etc. New Orleans was both an old and a cosmopolitan city with a history of civilized living. Ads in the local papers certainly reflect a long history of gardening. Local nurseries were selling hybrid dahlias and crown imperials as early as 1827, imported directly from Europe by ships that delivered the goods to city warves. One Frenchman in the business section of town was the agent for William Prince & Co., Flushing, NY, the semi-legendary rose specialist of our early national period. This would seem to indicate that any rose that was imported to America by the famous English and French rose breeders was available in New Orleans very quickly.

Seeds of all sorts were available much as they are today - from local grocers, hardware and feed stores. David Landreth Seed Company in Philadelphia, was probably the leading seed supplier for Texas - or, at least, was advertised by name. Spring planting time

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'Prairie Rose'

saw much fanfare in local papers as seeds were touted. In 1870, Adolph Flake, at 166 Market, Galveston, sold "family groceries", offered Landreth's seeds, "garden, field and flower." Elemendorf & Co. and Norton & Deutz, both on Main Plaza, San Antonio, had "Landreth's Garden Seeds always on hand" in 1867, as did L. Huth & Son on Market St., San Antonio.

By the late 1850's times were prosperous enough for a few enterprising souls to open nurseries in the State. In 1856, Johann Joseph Locke bought two ten-acre tracts from Prince Solms-Braunfels on Comal Creek (where the New Braunfels Smokehouse now has its ice plant). Locke (pronounced "Lo-Key") expanded over the years until the nursery stretched from the creek to the base of Balcones Encarpment, and to Walnut Street. Very early the Lockes realized that a catalogue of their stock was the only way to reach isolated farmers. So Comal Springs Nursery was one of the first in the state with a catalogue. The 1906 catalogue of their stock is today lovingly preserved by one of the Locke family members. Johann Joseph Locke's son who helped his father establish the nursery was named Otto and his picture adorns the front of the 1906 catalogue. The catalogue also features the shrubs and fruit trees that the Lockes themselves had bred. In 1926, Otto Jr. moved to the "new" nursery on the San Antonio Highway and the old site was sold in 1963. It is hard to credit only half a century as having seen the growth of so many interesting trees planted at that move. Today, Otto Jr. and wife, Etelka, despite

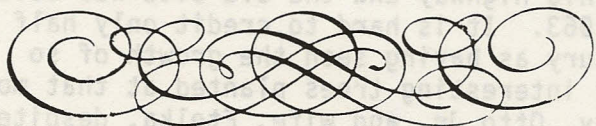
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failing health, continue their business that seems more like an institution!

Running a very close second in the "oldest" race is the nursery founded just north of Victoria by Gilbert Onderdonk, at a town named Nursery, TX. Onderdonk was Hudson River Dutch but came to Texas for his health as a young man. In 1856, he married and settled in Mission Valley, TX, where he began both his nursery and a horse raising operation. After the interval of the Civil War (when he was captured and held in New Orleans 8 months) he returned to his businesses. His first catalogue was printed in 1872. Onderdonk was especially interested in native trees and in varieties of fruit trees tolerant of the hot southwest. After a stint with the USDA in Washington, D.C., he again returned home. In 1883, he moved part of his operations to the railroad, which became the township of Nursery, TX. Onderdonk died there in 1920.

Third among the early nurserymen in Texas is William Watson. Watson arrived at the end of the railroad, then at Brenham, in the summer of 1859. He brought his wife and two babies and only a quarter in his pocket. He worked during days as a carpenter and grafted fruit trees at night until he could purchase a nice piece of property on the southeast side of Brenham. It was here, after the Civil War, he created Rosedale. It is said he built a fine 2½ story Italianate Villa Bracketed mansion with his own hands at night by the light of a lantern. He raised his sons to work in nursery business, and also took in many young apprentices who went on to later horticultural fame themselves. Watson died in 1897, but his two sons continued the nursery until the mid 1920's. William Yates, a former apprentice-helper, more or less succeeded with High View Nursery, adjoining Watson's. His catalogue of about 1906 lists 42 Tea roses, of which 3 are still in commerce. Yates son and two daughters are still living, and the son, now living in LaGrange, volunteered to show the Rustlers the locations where he helped his father plant roses in Brenham in his youth. This was done a few years ago but little was remaining of the planting sites.



1991 CALENDAR

MARK YOURS

JUNE 16 SUNDAY. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING TO BE ANNOUNCED
AUGUST 17 SATURDAY. A GATHERING AT THE HL&P ENERGY INFORMATION CENTER, 6700 WEST LOOP SOUTH (LOOP 610 @ BELLAIRE) (AIR CONDITIONED)
OCTOBER 19 SATURDAY. ANNUAL ROSE RUSTLE PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED

SUGGESTION BOX OPEN

The committee is requesting suggestions as to where you would like to have the 1991 Fall Rose Rustle. We know many of you know of spots it would be fun to investigate and would welcome the opportunity to check them for good "Rustling". Also, we need to know from whom permission must be obtained. We prefer a location that can be covered and the majority of participants return home in one day.

Please contact either Jackie Fischer or Marion Brandes (phone numbers on front page or drop them a note in the mail).

TRADERS' CORNER



TO SWAP - 'Ballerina', HMsK, pink, single, large clusters, to about 4 ft. recently put in container for transplant as no room for vigorous plant. Call or write to Marti King (see phone & address bottom of page 1).

TO SWAP - Several "7 Sisters" rose plants in containers. From old farm between Saratoga & Votaw. Contact Barbara Holiday, Box 218, Thicket, TX 77374 or phone after 5 p.m. to 475-2489 Pasadena, and leave message. This is the old pink '7 Sisters' thorny, spring bloomer. & very vigorous.

THREE MORE ROSES FOR THE UPPER GULF COAST

THE WINTER ISSUE OF '90 CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY CONRAD TIPS SUGGESTING THREE ROSES FOR THE UPPER GULF COAST, 'GABRIELLE PRIVAT', 'JEAN BACH SISLEY', AND 'KRONPRINCESSIN VIKTORIA'. HE NOW HAS THREE MORE FOR US TO CONSIDER.

CLOTH-OF-GOLD (or 'Chromatella, as one prefers) is a Noisette, of course, and Noisettes come in two sizes: Large and Larger. Just how large 'Cloth-of-Gold' will eventually get is yet to be seen, but after a tediously slow start, it's building nicely. This means that one must place the thing carefully; in fact, one had best decide in the first place to have it or not; after all, there are many Noisettes and this parent of Maréchal Niel, as I believe, offers certain problems. According to 19th Century authorities, it is difficult of culture - hardly my experience - and rather shy of bloom, True. Perhaps it needs time to make a sufficiency of mature wood? The foliage is exceptionally handsome and clean, the blooms large and full, a subtle blend of buff, ochre, gold, and creamy yellow, with orange shadings in cool weather. Luscious! They haven't quite the suave elegance of form of Maréchal Niel, but what does? Nor has it the sparkling clarity of color. Such is life. My plant came from Heritage Rose Gardens and is thoroughly satisfactory, as everything I've ever had from that source has been. Note: a little shelter from the westering sun is helpful - the color bleaches something awful!

"THE MARÉCHAL" presents another set of difficulties, finding a vigorous, disease-free form amongst them. The jungle drums say that Mike Shoup may have - let us pray! - but in the meantime, has anyone tried Logee's strain? This firm, 90-odd years old and still in the hands of the founder's descendants, specializes in exotics, perennials, and tender rarities of all kinds, including roses for pot culture. The catalogue - tremendously informative and very well illustrated - costs \$3.00, which is not nothing, I agree, but worth every cent. As for culture, 'Maréchal Niel' grows here like a tropical weed and is no more bothered by heat, floods, bugs, and blights than any other rose and less than most. Noisettes are the tough guys of Southern gardens. Like 'Cloth-of-Gold', it may be slow to start and the blooms should be protected from the afternoon sun. The Combined Rose List for 1990 records six American nurseries as sources for "The Maréchal", and Logee's makes seven; 19 nurseries abroad are listed, which suggests no lack of forms available to the curious gardener, but who has a really superior form? Logee's Greenhouses, 141 North Street, Danielson, CT 06239.

SOPHIE'S PERPETUAL, Peter Beales tells us in Classic Roses, "is a superb shrub or small climber." News to me. My plant hardly grew at all, defoliated every 15 minutes, spotted, died back, declined to bloom, and, in general, resisted every effort I made to bring it along. When at last I dug it up - the spectacle of its misery was unendurable to a tender heart - I found it had no root system to speak of! A mystery. Perhaps it was a weak plant, perhaps it hated our tiresome climate, perhaps it hated ME! Death rather than those hands, that face! People often say that Sophie's Perpetual is very like that old and beautiful china, 'Archduke Charles', which is true; so why not grow the "Archduke"? It thrives hereabouts, as do all the Chinas, it's just a matter of finding a good form. They exist. I've seen two, the first by way of vrooms from the garden of one of our members; the second, a photograph sent me by a friend in the North who found an exceptional plant in (I think) New Jersey. 'Sophie's Perpetual, by the way, is not so old. The late Humphrey Brooke found it in his garden and restored it to commerce in 1960. Since then it has been identified as 'Dresden China', an E. Paul creation of the mid 1920's.

Editor's note: The above rose is classified as a China and should grow well here. If you care to try you can order them from Greenmantle Nursery, 3010 Ettersburg Road, Garberville, CA 95440 or Heritage Rose Gardens, 16831 Mitchell Creek Dr., Ft. Bragg, CA 95437. Sold under name of 'Sophie's Perpetual'. Wholesale from Ron & Myrna Jorgenson in Scurry, TX. They're Rustlers, too. No shipping.

DR. BASYE ROSE RESEARCH FUND

Rustlers will be interested to know that Dr. Robert Basye, of Caldwell, TX, the hybridizer of Basye's Purple Rose, and many others, has stimulated the establishment of an endowed Chair in Genetics by initiating the Robert Basye Endowed Rose Research Fund at Texas A & M. Generous gifts of \$200,000 plus an additional \$50,000 for operating funds has initiated the research project.

A rose breeder has not as yet been chosen to fill the position. The objective will be improvement in disease resistance, hardiness and thornlessness. Rustlers would no doubt like to see fragrance included in lieu of so much hardiness, perhaps. A gene pool was to be established beginning January 1991. It will include all the wild roses obtainable as well as a number of types produced by the use of colchicine. As the program moves on perhaps some of our members may wish to help locate new species not yet in the pool, or valuable variations of species already in the pool.

Later, after the species collection is established, some of the famous old roses that have outstanding characteristics will be added to the pool. Improvement of roses through breeding has been Dr. Basye's chief concern for over fifty years and he is to be applauded for this move to establish his research at Texas A&M. He has given Mike Shoup the rights to introduce roses that he wishes to introduce into commerce, but thus far he has been too frugal with his many developments.

THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION

Established in 1986, the Texas Rose Rustlers were one of the first groups to join. The purposes of the Foundation are similar to ours - collect, preserve, study, record information and promote the old heritage roses. We continue our membership and we receive a quarterly newsletter from which we pass along rose information to you via this Old Texas Rose. In 1988 we hosted the annual convention of the Foundation in College Station. Individual memberships are \$12 per yr. (\$8 for over 65) and may be sent to The Heritage Rose Foundation, 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606.

ROSE RUSTLERS TO HAVE BOOTH AT LANDSCAPE FESTIVAL AT FARM & RANCH PAVILLION

The Rustlers were offered a booth at the Harris County Annual Landscape Festival held in the Farm & Ranch Pavillion next to the Extension Services Building in Bear Creek Park. UNFORTUNATELY the date of the event conflicts with the date we are having our Annual Symposium in Brenham! We have made many friends through our contacts at the Landscape Festival in the past and we do not want to forego this opportunity again.

WE ARE IN DESPARATE NEED OF SOMEONE TO VOLUNTEER TO SET UP AND SUPERVISE OUR TABLE-BOOTH WHO CANNOT ATTEND THE BRENHAM SYMPOSIUM ON APRIL 13th! You will be given the materials to display and to hand out and all instructions. It is truly a FUN day and you will see many people you will be likely to know, and more. Bring children if you wish for they have lots to see and do.

If you think you would be willing to do this please contact Jackie Fischer (see her phone number on page 1). You may even get a rose bush for the trouble! This may well be worth your time!



THE QUEEN OF WHITE GARDEN ROSES, MARIE GUILLOT.

The poem below was written by a friend of long ago who not only grew beautiful roses but also wrote numerous poems, some of which he gave me to use in rose newsletters some 25 years ago.

- Editor

BY KNACK OR BY SHACK

Not far beyond the railroad track

I saw a small unpainted shack;
It had no flower bed, no lawn,
The ancient fence was almost gone.

The soil was neither black nor red
Just sort of dusty gray instead;
The yard was much in disarray
And all around, in fact, that way.

And so I really was surprised
When suddenly I realized
That many roses added grace
Unto this humble dwelling place.

Some six or seven bushes there
Sent lovely fragrance in the air;
I counted blossoms by the score
A half a hundred, maybe more!

When later on I sat and mused
It left me puzzled and confused
At why it is, at great expense
I purchase plants and implements

And plan so long and strive so hard
To grow nice roses in my yard,
While here, across the railroad track
They bloom unheeded by a shack.

-- Jim L. Wilkerson
Fort Worth, Texas

LOCAL SUPPLIERS OF OGR'S

Most of us just "run up" to the Antique Rose Emporium when we want a rose to add to our collection. But there are local places in Houston that may be able to supply you readily without your driving so far. There is a new source that will have their shipment of the newest crop of roses from ARE this week. It is RICEVILLE GARDENS on South Gessner just south of West Belfort. Other nurseries are GATEWAY HARDWARE, on Telephone Road, also south of Belfort. They keep the best supply they can of OGR's year around. If you want a particular variety you may order it through them and, if they do not have it, they will get it from ARE and have it delivered with their next order at no extra cost to you. Also, BUCHANAN'S on Heights Blvd., 1½ blocks south of Washington Avenue, also keeps a small supply of OGR's from the Emporium year around. Of course you are aware of TEAS NURSERY, on Bellaire Blvd., that supplies all kinds of roses as long as they can get them. Rustler members have been working there on week ends helping people make their OGR selections.

In fact, we have a couple of members who are full or part time workers at TEAS and at RICEVILLE GARDENS! Frances Brandes is working full time at TEAS in the old roses and in everywhere else someone wishes to make purchases. Jackie Fischer is working part time three days a week at RICEVILLE where she manages the nursery while the owner leaves to take care of business or to see to landscape projects. Oh yes! And ALL SEASONS NURSERY in Friendswood has a selection of OGR's, 205 N. Friendswood Dr.

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