

AFFLECK ON HEDGING

by Pam Puryear

The great star among Southern nurserymen was Thomas Affleck who was born in Scotland in 1812, and during the 1840s and '50s ran the famed Southern Nurseries of Natchez, Mississippi. He migrated to Texas in 1856, and re-established himself at "Glenblythe," his large plantation just north of Brenham.

In the 1830s and '40s there was a fashion for the improvement of Southern plantations with hedging. As timber for extensive "worm" fences was becoming scarcer, and they needed such constant replacement, living, flowering and/or thorny trees and shrubs were popular. As early as 1840, Bennet H. Barrow of "Highland" in West Feliciana hedged with Cherokee Rose (*Rosa laevigata*). It had been an early import from China via England into the American South, where it thrived; so much so that later settlers to Georgia and the Carolinas assumed it was native there and attributed it to the Indians. The very year Thomas Affleck moved to Natchez, the local editor wrote of local examples of Cherokee and Bois d'arc hedges, and further suggested the use of thorny honey locust, planted from seed. Evidently Affleck admired the local usage because he wrote on the subject in DeBow's Review in 1848. His later catalog offers pyracantha as well. In 1860, Affleck gave specific directions on how such a hedge should be set.

Another convention of the era was to throw up a ban like a ha-ha and plant *R. multiflora*, the Japanese Rose, atop it. Mary Austin Holley described this feature of her brother Henry Austin's plantation "Bolivar" near Columbus, Texas, in 1835. Another Barrow plantation in Feliciana was

named "Rosebank," perhaps commemorating a similar rose hedge planting there.

[If SGHS member have any other examples in mind, or know more of the sources of this fashion, please communicate them to Miss Pam Puryear, 708 Holland, Navasota, TX, 77868, or call (409) 825-3320. The summer issue of Magnolia will feature a lengthy article on Thomas Affleck and his Southern Nurseries.]

A Nurseryman Evaluates Southern Gardens of the 1850s

by *George R. Stritikus*, Extension Horticulturist, Auburn University and
Melanie Johns, Plant Taxonomist, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Up to this point, we have had to rely on a few specific gardening journals and introduction dates to guide us in selecting appropriate plants when reconstructing a period garden. This proves doubly difficult in gardens between the Civil War and WWI. From looking at old nursery catalogs, they appear to have had all the things we have. We have not really been able to describe with any degree of certainty what a "typical" garden of the period contained.

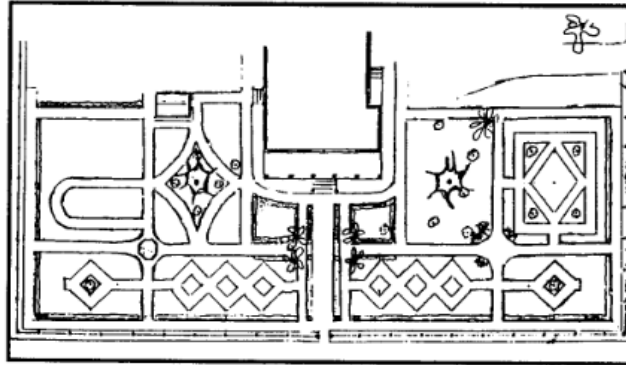
While researching an antebellum monthly agricultural magazine that was published in Montgomery, I came across a letter to the editor of a Natchez newspaper. It proved to be exactly the kind of source document we need to evaluate what plant materials were common, or popular.

The writer was Thomas Affleck. Harvey Cotton, now Director of the Huntsville Botanical Garden, had delivered an address on this very man at the second annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society in Natchez, Mississippi, in

1984. He was a noteworthy Scottish nurseryman who had a nursery in a small town 6 miles from Natchez, Mississippi, named Washington. He later moved his business to Texas and was noteworthy there as well.

It is found in the "American Cotton Planter," Volume 3, 1855, pages 381- 4;

although it was originally for the Natchez Daily Courier and is dated October 24, 1854. The occasion for the correspondence appears to be renewed interest in city beautification and the poor decisions made in the past by the city council. The following is a transcription.



The Battle-Friedman Garden as designed and installed by Lord Ashberton's Gardener in spring of 1843, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

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Southern Gardens of the 1850s... continued from page 1



[From the *Natchez* (Miss.) *Daily Courier*, Oct. 23, 1854]
Washington, Adams County, Miss., October 24, 1854.

Editor Natchez Courier

Dear Sir: -

In common with your many readers, I have had much pleasure in perusing the very interesting and valuable articles on "Fruit-growing in the South" by Rusticus. The information they contain was just of the kind we most needed.

As your "City of the Bluffs" seems to have become greatly alive to improvement, of late years, and many neat and home-like houses have been erected in and around the city, a few hints on planting ornamental trees and shrubs, with short descriptions of some of the less common and rarer sorts, may be apropos and useful.

We lack *variety*, as a general thing, in this class of trees and plants. In a climate in which a greater number of rare and extremely beautiful evergreens are perfectly hardy, than in any other I know of, unless perhaps the Isle of Wight, off the south coast of England - and doubtful if even there - we confine ourselves to some half-dozen kinds. Nothing can be more beautiful than the Laurier Amandier, (*Cerarsus Caroliniensis*) (sic), Cape Jessamine, Arbor Vitae, some of the Viburnums, Pittosporums, Euonymus, and

Myrtles; yet, there is a sameness in our lawns and door-yards, from the general and almost exclusive use of these, that might readily be relieved by the addition of some of the many others which are equally, and in some instances, more beautiful.

So with our shade trees. The perpetually recurring Pride of China tree, beautiful though it be, to the exclusion of the scores of magnificent trees, native and introduced, is, to say the least of it, in very bad taste. It is a filthy tree, too, about the yard, when compared with many others.

As a shade and ornamental tree, there is none will compare with our magnificent Water oak, and Live oak. The latter is more beautiful and permanent; the former is of somewhat more rapid growth.

Suppose that, instead of the China tree, your streets and pleasant Bluff promenade, had been lined and shaded with these oaks! By this time, you would have had ornamental trees such as few cities can boast of. The Mobilians were alive to the beauty of the Live oak as a shade tree for their streets and squares, and see the result now!

The Cork oak, (*Quercus suber*), the Holly-leaved¹ and the Cut-leaved Turkey oak² are all very beautiful, though yet somewhat rare. I have fine young trees of all of them.

The Imperial Paulownia, with its immense leaves and numberless spikes of blue bell-like blossoms, has been introduced some ten or a dozen years, and is quite an acquisition. It blooms here, abundantly, both

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spring and fall.

The Varnish tree (*Sterichua platynifolia*)³ (sic) is so called from its beautiful glossy bark, and large rich colored leaves, which seem all to have been recently coated with green varnish. It is, altogether, a pretty and desirable ornamental shade tree.

The Croton tree⁴, and Everblooming China⁵ are both pretty trees, though, in a severe winter, the ends of the branches are sometimes killed by the frost.

The *Acacia julibrissiflora*⁶, or flowering Acacia, though by no means rare, is yet too-showy, with its myriads of pink and yellow flowers, to be omitted in pleasure grounds, or even small yards.

Several of the Maples are native here, and form, as elsewhere, most beautiful trees. Perhaps the best of these is the Scarlet Maple, so showy in the spring with its bright scarlet blossoms. The ash-leaved Maple (*Negundo*) or Box Elder, cannot be excelled as a shade tree in any country, where it has room to grow and spread. Several of the European Maples do well here, and desirable trees.

The Chestnut is one of the many stately trees of the forest, and desirable not only as a lawn tree, but for its fruit. The large fruited Spanish is the finest⁷.

Our Great Southern Cypress (*Taxodium*) should never be omitted, where the soil is rich and moist. The chief cause of its rarity in lawns, etc., is the difficulty of transplanting young trees from the swamp, to the dry upland of our hills. With trees grown on dry land from seed, there is no such difficulty.

The graceful weeping willow, though so easily grow, is comparatively rare. The *curled-leaved* variety⁸ being quite as *weeping* in its habits as the other, is very curious. Each leaf is curled up like a cork-screw.

The Ginkgo (*Salisburia*)⁹ or Maiden-hair tree is pretty,

overlooked. They afford a fine shade, and come into bearing in eight or ten years.

We know of one gentleman in western Texas, who has some 15 or 20 varieties of this delicious nut, which he has succeeded in multiplying by grafting. Two years ago, he sent the writer a quantity of nuts from each of 8 or 10 of the finest of his selections. These were planted and have produced a fine lot of trees; the trees from each variety of nut show a wonderful family likeness, in foliage, habit of growth, & c; whilst there is a marked difference between the lots. They have been all twice transplanted, and root-pruned each time; thus in a great measure obviating the difficulty in transplanting when the trees are older.

The Mountain Ash, or *Rouan Tree*, dear to every Scotchman's boyish recollections, we have succeeded in acclimating. It is a beautiful tree.

The large-leaved Magnolia (*M. macrophylla*) from that same difficulty of transplanting from the woods, is quite rare in our gardens; where its magnificent foliage and immensely large and showy flowers fully entitle it to a first place. When grown from seed in the nursery-row, there is no difficulty in removing it.

Of evergreen shade trees, the *Magnolia grandiflora* stands first. Like its companion the *Holly*, it is not easily removed from the woods. When quite young this may be effected, by lifting with a ball of earth around the roots, in the spring, and cutting off the leaves, but leaving the leaf-stalks. They well deserve that every available means should be used to secure both – the Magnolia and the *Holly* (*Ilex opaca*) – whenever shade and ornament are

sought for. During the first three or four years from seed, their growth is quite slow; but afterwards they push up rapidly, and soon form handsome trees.

There is another *Holly*, a native to the South, and an evergreen, that is very generally overlooked. It is more commonly planted about Mobile than anywhere else. This is *Ilex Vomitaria* (sic). The growth is slender, leaves small and numerous, and in winter the plant is covered with bright scarlet berries.



Harper's Weekly, 1887. Illustration showing the street trees planted down Dexta Avenue.

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The double-flowering Peach is one of the most showy of trees, forming early in the spring, a mass of wreaths of rich and extremely double, rose-like blossoms.

Where there is room for a few large and wide-spreading trees, the Peccan (sic) should not be

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Of the various *Coniferae*, it is rare to find a plant in a lawn in all this region; unless perhaps, an occasional Long-leaved or Old-field Pine¹⁰ – both most noble and beautiful trees, and not planted one for a thousand that should be. There are many other Pines, from all parts of the world, now to be found in nurseries, and all

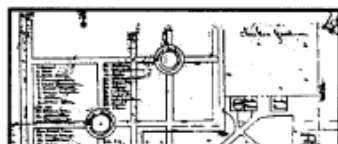
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desirable.

The Spruces are the most prized of this family in Europe, although so common, that they are planted by the thousand to serve as screens to lawns and gardens, and to plantations of other less hardy trees. The Norway Spruce, (*Abies excelsa*,) (sic)¹¹ the most common, is also the most beautiful. In fact, I know of no tree that equals it in gorgeous and impressive beauty. Some ten years ago, I imported a lot of fine plants of this and other Spruces; and, as in every other attempt to import young evergreens either from the North or Europe, I saved but a very small percentage. Of those saved were two Norway Spruces. For five years they did not make a growth of more than an inch a year! After that they shot up rapidly, and are now beautiful, healthy plants, eight or ten feet in height. Since then I have been more successful in habituating young plants to the climate, and have fine young trees



of several species of Spruce.

The Cedars

The Junipers, headed by our own native, the so-called Red Cedar, (*J. virginiana*) are indispensable. In the "Red Cedar" there is a great diversity of foliage and habit of growth; some being open and loose in habit, others upright

and compact. The latter I have always selected from the seed-bed. They should have room to grow, and be allowed to sweep the ground with their branches; not pruned up into the likeness of a gigantic broom!

The Swedish Juniper¹² is very upright in growth and with fine and delicate, silvery foliage, and altogether a pretty plant.

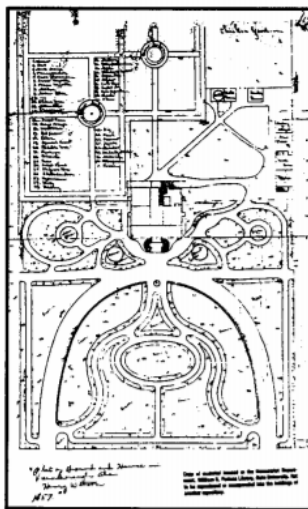
The Arbo Vita is well known - that is, the Chinese, (*orientalis*), the sort common here. And to form a pretty screen hedge, I know of nothing more beautiful; requiring to be kept nicely clipped, and the seed cones picked off so soon as large enough - otherwise the foliage becomes brown.

The American Arbor Vitae, (*Thuja occidentalis*,) is still a more desirable plant; bearing the shears equally well, retaining its color better, and the foliage giving out a sweet odor when crushed. The *Thuja plicata* is a wavy-foliaged, pendulous kind, also pretty.

It was long before I succeeded with the Yews. The English Yew is now perfectly healthy and grows vigorously. Its close, dark green foliage renders it very desirable, and especially in the cemetery, where from time immemorial it has been considered the most

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The only extant landscape design for Henry Watson, 1857, in Greensboro, Alabama.



bearing. *Cedrus deodara*, the Great Indian Cedar is the most splendid tree of this family; perfectly hardy here, and of very rapid growth; rare, however. The Cedars of Lebanon is also hardy, but of much slower growth.

Two new evergreen Conifers, *Cryptomeria Japonica* and *Cunninghamii* (sic) *Sinensis* - the former from Japan, the latter from China - I look upon as great acquisitions. Both are at home in our climate; requiring, however, like all of these resinous evergreens, a light sandy, but rich soil; and are most graceful and beautiful, yet curious ornaments to the lawn or door-yard.

Another of these, the great Chili Pine, (*Arancaria imbricata*), has not succeeded so well; though I have now a few young seedlings that seem to feel themselves at home.

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The Cedars are very beautiful. And, by the way, what we know as the Red Cedar, is a Juniper, bearing a small purple berry; the Cedars are con-

picked off so soon as large enough - otherwise the foliage becomes brown.

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And so with the Tree Boxes - the neatest and prettiest of evergreen trees; always fresh and pleasant to look on. They grow better here than even their native climate; as does, also, the Dwarf Box, for edgings.

The *Euonymus*, evergreen and variegated, are both very ornamental. The evergreen is often misnamed Tree Box. They are very hardy and grow rapidly.

There are several of the *Viburnum* which are handsome evergreens. *V. Lucidum* (sic)¹³ has rich dark foliage and showy white flowers, and makes a large plant. *V. laurus-tinus* (sic)¹⁴, or Laurustinus is one of the very richest of our flowering evergreens; blooming, too, so very early in the spring, or in the winter rather, as to be very desirable.

The Laurels are all beautiful. But, like many of our finest plants - because not named in Northern books on gardening; and because Downing expresses his regret, at the same time that he gives expression to his admiration of the plants, that they are "too aristocratic in their nature to thrive on, our Republican!"¹⁵ - the whole tribe has been overlooked. The *Laurus nobilis*, the Portugal, the English, and the Carolinian laurels¹⁶, are perfectly hardy - the three first after *habitation* to the climate - and are rich and very beautiful evergreens. I have splendid plants of all, and especially of the English - (*Cerasus lauro-cerasus*.)

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The *Photynias* (sic), or Japan Hawthorns, are like Laurels, as yet somewhat rare in our gardens and lawns. There is a superb plant of the smooth-leaved Photynia (*P. glauca*)¹⁷ in Mr. Profilet's garden behind the Episcopal church in the city of Natchez, which has been for many years an object of admiration, and especially when covered with its myriads of snow-white blossoms. It is, I should judge, some twenty-five feet tall, affording a fine shade. The Holly-leaved, (*P. serrulata*) is yet more beautiful. I do not know of a richer evergreen. The small-leaved is also very pretty.

The Pittosporums, both evergreen and variegated, are well known and favorite plants. They bear the shears well.

Olea fragrans, the Fragrant Olive, is an (sic) universal favorite with the ladies, and most deservedly so.

There are several of the Privets which form beautiful ornamental evergreen trees. The handsome

*Old Salem Hosts
Landscape Restoration
Conference in
October 1997*



evergreen, so generally admired, on the top of the mound, between the house of our friend Mr. Andrew Brown and the river, is the *Chinese Privet*¹⁸. It is at all times a beautiful plant, but especially when covered with its racemes of white flowers. The Evergreen, the Myrtle-leaved, and the Box-leaved¹⁹, though commonly used for hedging, may be readily trained into very pretty smallish trees.

The Japan Plum - *Eriobotrya (Meapilus) Japonica* (sic)²⁰ - whether as a mere ornamental evergreen, for which it is second to few others, or for the fragrance of its flowers, or delicious fruit, is deserving of infinitely more attention than it has received. It has hitherto been somewhat scarce, and what few there were budded on quince. I have now large, healthy and handsome trees, *seedlings grown here*, many of which are now full of blossoms. The Japan Plum has ripened its fruit repeatedly in this country; and a very delicious fruit it is. It is now abundant in the markets of New Orleans in April.

The *Gardenias* - Cape Jessamine is the most common - are of course indispensable. The dwarf kind (*G. radicans*) is a lovely little plant. Fortune's new Chinese (*G. Fortunei*) was lauded so highly that I feared a disappointment. But it proved to be all he represented —the foliage larger and richer, and the blossoms fully double the size and more perfect in form; and though fragrant, not so oppressively so as the old sort.

But I have already extended my notes to such a length, that I must now be brief.

I find I have omitted a very beautiful ornamental plant, which forms a small tree - a great favorite of the ladies - the Venetian Sumac, Fringe or Mat tree²¹; the blossoms appearing in numerous and delicately colored, haze-like spikes. It is not evergreen, but a

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Old Salem Hosts Landscape Restoration Conference in October 1997

by Darrell Spencer, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The field of historic landscape restoration remains as diverse today as historical properties themselves. As we attempt to remove or reveal successive layers of change in the historic landscape we are faced with a perplexing array of issues such as historical significance, current site use and public access, interpretive intent, budgets and maintenance. "Expanding and Redefining the Vision," the topic of the eleventh Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes conference (see calendar) will address these complex and often confusing concerns. The conference speakers, including SGHS members Kent Brinkley, Rudy Favretti, Catherine Howett,

Allan Brown, Valencia Libby and others, will draw from their wide-ranging experiences with historic landscapes of the South to explore the meaning of landscape "restoration" from a variety of perspectives. The conference will examine proven strategies for implementing such restorations. ♦

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The Deutzias, Crape Myrtles, double-flowering Pomegranates, Forsythias, Honeysuckles, Lilacs, Snowballs, Syringas, (or Mock Orange)²², Ivy²³, Brooms, with a host of other beautiful plants, I must leave for another opportunity to describe.

As to transplanting shade trees, ornamental plants, and especially evergreens - bear in mind, that a thing that is worth doing at all, is worth doing well, and act up to it. Let the ground be properly prepared. If the entire lawn was well manured and thoroughly trench-plowed, and garden or door-yards well and deeply dug, so much the better. When this cannot be done. Let large be dug, but not too deep if in a stiff retentive clay. For evergreen, provide a supply of rich, black, leaf-soil from the woods, and of well-rotted manure; for deciduous trees, any good and not too rank manure will do.

If your shade trees are to be procured from fields or woods, select those only which grow *in the open* - not from dense woods or thickets. Spare no pains in

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the taking up all of the roots that can be saved, and especially the small fibrous ones; covering them with wet moss or gunny bags, or old carpets, etc., to keep them from being dried by the air or sun. When the tree is a handsome or valuable one, it should be lifted with a sufficient mass of earth to insure its safety. Trees or shrubs which have been prepared the year before for removal, as is done in all the good nurseries, can be transplanted with infinitely less risk than those from the fields or woods. I have large specimens of English Laurel, Euonymus, Cedars, Junipers, Spruces, Japan Plums, Hollies (sic), Magnolias, etc., which have been repeatedly root-pruned, so that a very moderate sized ball of earth would contain all of the roots necessary to the well-being of the plant.

Transplanting should be done, now, as early as possible. November, February, and March, I deem the best seasons here. Plant no deeper than the tree grew

naturally. Mix the manure with the best of the soil that came out of the hole; when the manure is rank and coarse, best put in the larger portion near the surface. Finish with a few buckets of water, and stake the tree or plant firmly, that it may not be shaken with the wind.

In removing large trees, thin out the top somewhat, and shorten the branches; but never trim the tree to a bare pole, or anything approaching to it. For although in some instances trees thus treated may live, they will be exceptions to the rule. In transplanting Live oaks, I prefer clipping off a portion of the leaves, first shortening the branches. I have a very handsome lot of these, now five to six feet high, which have been twice transplanted and root-pruned, so that they may now be removed with entire safety.

In conclusion, let me advise those who have places to improve, to secure good sized plants, if such can be had that can safely transplanted. A pleasing effect is thus produced, and at once, which would otherwise require long years of waiting for. †

Footnotes:

¹ Hortus III recognizes the Holly oak as *Quercus ilex*, a native of the Mediterranean region. The exact identity of this plant is not certain. There are several oaks that have a holly-leaved form...

² The Turkey oak is now known as *Quercus laevis*. Hortus III recognizes no forms of Turkey oak, as the cut-leaved one he refers to.

³ *Sterculia platanifolia* was reassigned and is now *Firmiana simplex*.

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¹⁶ The exact identity of these three forms of Laurel is not certain. Hortus III recognizes three forms: one with very narrow, willow-like leaves, one with golden leaves, and one with leaves that have a wavy margin.

¹⁷ Now *Photinia glabra*, Japanese photinia.

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⁸ *Salix babylonica* 'Crispa' or sometimes called 'Annularis', introduced 1730 (Dirr). The more commonly seen *Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa' was not introduced until 1923 (Dirr).

⁹ *Salisburya adiantifolia* has been reassigned and is now *Ginkgo biloba*.

¹⁰ This sentence can be read as one plant with two different common names, or two separate plants. Longleaf pine is *Pinus palustris*. The identity of the second one is uncertain. L.H. Batley identifies the Old Field Pine as *Pinus taeda*, the Loblolly pine.

¹¹ The Norway spruce is not *Aibes*, but *Picea aibes*. This group was pulled out of the *Aibes* group, which are the Firs, and put in a genus all their own.

¹² This plant, *Juniperus suecica*, is now thought to be a form of Common juniper, *J. communis* var. *fastigiata*.

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¹⁷ Now *Photinia glabra*, Japanese photinia.

¹⁸ This plant appears to be what is now *Ligustrum lucidum*, the Waxleaf ligustrum, which is evergreen in Alabama. Further north the extreme cold will cause it to lose all its leaves. Hortus III says that the real Chinese Privet, *L. sinense* is deciduous.

¹⁹ The identity of these three forms is uncertain.

²⁰ *Eriobotrya japonica*, the Loquat.

²¹ The exact identity is not known. Because he calls it a Fringe tree, it can be *Chionanibus virginicus*, Grancy greybeard, but you could not describe the flowers as hazy spikes. This description could apply to the lilac-chaste tree, *Vitex agnus-castus*.

²² *Philadelphus*. The native is *P. inodorus* and has no fragrance. *P. coronarius*, which looks very much like the native, is strongly scented.

²³ Probably the Scotch broom, *Cytisus scoparius*.

THOMAS AFFLECK
TEXAS' INNOVATIVE NURSERYMAN AND GARDEN WRITER

by William C. Welch and Pamela A. Puryear

Thomas Affleck was the most widely-read garden and farm writer in Texas and the South before the Civil War. Had Thomas O'Hara wanted to know about improvements at Tara, he would have studied Affleck's Southern Rural Almanac & Plantation & Garden Calendar. Had wife Ellen O'Hara wished to know what sorts of kitchen garden seed to plant, or how she should lay out her flower gardens and shrubbery, she would have consulted Affleck too. Besides his own books, Affleck had articles in other publications and newspapers; his output was tremendous. But writing was but one facet of this innovative and energetic man. He ran several plantations, operated a full service nursery, and experimented with all aspects of agriculture and stock raising.

Affleck first settled in Texas north of Brenham in Washington County in the late 1850s. He had previously scouted this area twice before moving his nursery, which was then located outside Natchez, Mississippi. He named the 3400 acre tract he bought on credit "Glenblythe."

"Glenblythe" was situated in "a very beautiful and elevated prairie valley" and had a six bedroom "Commodious" plantation house with dining room, parlour, 2 halls, dressing and bathrooms, kitchen, laundry, storeroom, pantry, cellar, two 50-foot galleries and dependencies that included a smokehouse, carriage house, granary, stable, and other outbuildings. In 1858 wife Anna wrote that fruits and flowers were "surprisingly plentiful and the country very pleasing." (Cole, The Texas Career of Thomas Affleck, p. 58) Two miles north of the house was the working part of the plantation: overseer's house, combination church and hospital, storehouse, 20 houses for the hands, a sawmill, flour mill, corn mill, cotton gin and press and planing mill. Nearby was a blacksmith shop, sugar mill, foreman's house, cooper's shop and carriage house. Because of Affleck's reliance on many slaves to operate this self-sufficient plantation, the freeing of his work force in 1865 ended many of these diversified projects.

Personally, Thomas Affleck was "rather stern in appearance, but kind in heart," as an elderly lady acquaintance once recalled. Handsome as a young man, he made a distinguished older man with a full beard. "He gained the immediate attention and usually the confidence of his contemporaries." His greatest talent was

AT
AFFLECK'S CENTRAL NURSERIES,
NEAR BRENHAM,
WASHINGTON CO. TEXAS.
AND
SOUTHERN NURSERIES,
Washington, Adams County, Miss.
There will be good stocks of
TREES AND PLANTS
FOR SALE,
Fall and Winter of 1858-60.
SEE PAGE 11 OF THIS ALMANAC FOR CATALOGUES.
AT THE
CENTRAL NURSERIES, TEXAS,
PURE AND UNADULTERATED
MUSTANG WINE
Can be supplied bottled or in barrels. It forms a pleasant and wholesome table drink, and as a TONIC for patients recovering from prostrating fevers, and for females who may have been long in delicate health, it is unequalled. It has also been found a very certain remedy in many cases of chronic diarrhoea.
Price, per barrel, \$50; per case of six dozen bottles, \$5.
AT
Affleck's Lumber and Flouring Mills.
NEAR THE CENTRAL NURSERIES,
WASHINGTON COUNTY, TEXAS.
May be purchased
LUMBER OF ALL KINDS,
AS WANTED:
Of Cedar, Ash, Oak, &c.,
DRESSED IN THE BEST MANNER.
As Flooring and Ceiling, Dressed, Tongued and Grooved,
DOORS, WINDOWS, BLINDS, MOULDINGS, &c.
SHINGLES OF CEDAR OR OF OAK, &c.
SEE ADVERTISEMENT WITHIN

Title page of Affleck's Catalogue

Personally, Thomas Affleck was "rather stern in appearance, but kind in heart," as an elderly lady acquaintance once recalled. Handsome as a young man, he made a distinguished older man with a full beard. "He gained the immediate attention and usually the confidence of his contemporaries." His greatest talent was his lucid and pleasing prose style, which was ideally suited to his readers. He had a first rate, innovative intelligence, disciplined energy and (usually) good intentions. His sometimes sharp business practices were his only flaw, and these simply arose from a chronic lack of resources with which to realize his enthusiasms. The man himself recognized that his shameless selling of himself and his nursery products in all that he wrote could give rise to criticism. He defended this failing in an 1858 newspaper article by saying "Everyone is liable to error; and those specially who feel and write enthusiastically on any subject must occasionally deceive themselves."

Affleck's agricultural writing had many themes. One project was wine-making, especially with our native Mustang grapes. In 1857 he planted forty acres as a vineyard, encouraged by the fine wine his manager had made the previous year. In 1858, Affleck hoped to make 100 barrels of Mustang wine and sell them for \$50.00 each. He advertised in his own 1860 Almanac: "Pure and Unadulterated Mustang Wine can be supplied... It forms a pleasant and wholesome table drink, and as a Tonic for patients recovering from prostrating fevers, and

for females who may have been long in delicate health, it is unequalled."

Roses were another specialty. In Mississippi in 1851, he advertised 162 sorts, and in Texas in 1860, he referred to his "splendid collection." He wrote long, very readable newspaper articles especially for his lady customers to recommend the best of each class. Affleck often bragged that if European rose breeders released a new cultivar one year, he would have it flowering in his nursery the next. One of his favorites was the Cherokee rose (*Rosa laevigata*) which he recommended for hedging [see Magnolia, Spring 1991]. In the days before barbed wire (introduced in 1880), such a hedge properly planted and maintained cost a fraction of what a wall or heavy, permanent board fence would have. Evidently his advice was followed because A.S. Johnston's "China Grove" plantation in Brazoria County boasted a Cherokee hedge, which outlasted even the outbuildings on the site, and was commented on fifty years later.

Just before and after his move to Glenblythe, Affleck determined that Texas was going to have apples despite the lack of winter chilling time the trees required. In 1860, the Almanac admitted, "But this is quite far

on the site, and was commented on fifty years later.

Just before and after his move to Glenblythe, Affleck determined that Texas was going to have apples despite the lack of winter chilling time the trees required. In 1860, the Almanac admitted, "But this is quite far enough South for the apple. Still we hope to succeed in growing an abundance of fruits." It is characteristic that though Affleck was in financial difficulties, before moving to Texas he ordered 70,000 apple seedlings. His own 10,000 had burned on a wharf at Natchez awaiting shipment to Texas.

In garden design, Affleck followed the landscape tradition which decreed the mixed shrubbery of various textures near the house. Grassy enclosed yards were usually scythed (lawn mowers became popular in the 1870s), planted with flowering trees and shrubs along with a few flowers. Victorian ladies were expected to take their exercise walking in these shrubberies. Affleck recommended "a pleasant variety, though one kind...should prevail in one place: so that every turn of the walk may present something new.... Roses in one place, perennials like phlox and dahlia, or bright annuals in another, perhaps verbena, or geraniums in another." One of the Allen brothers had such a shrubbery in 1840s Houston.

Affleck came to America from Scotland as a young man of 20 after studying agriculture at the University of Edinburgh. In Cincinnati, Ohio about 1838 he established a truck farm and planted his cottage home as a show place of flowers and trailing vines. It is characteristic that he failed to make a living at truck farming.

A close observer of- and loser in- the great mulberry speculation, he learned about agricultural "crazes" which he tried to duplicate, with disastrous results, for the rest of his life.

His first writings appear in The Western Farmer and Gardener in Cincinnati about 1840 and he soon became editor of that publication. Losing his first family in an epidemic, he remarried a widow he met at a Fair in Mississippi in 1842. Because her plantations were in that area, he moved there and founded the famous Southern Nurseries just outside Natchez.

This nursery was a great success, though its profits could not begin to subsidize Affleck's vast projects. A wave of improvement in the 1840s and Affleck's acclimated stock and huge selections which eliminated chancy orders from Northern sources are two reasons for its popularity. His first catalogue carried 230 pears, 177 apples, 63 peaches, 16 cherries, 15 figs, 13 plums, 11 nectarines, etc.

By the mid 1850s Affleck was near bankruptcy. The approaching threat of war plus the fact that two-thirds of his business came from Texas influenced the move to that state.

The aftermath of the war in the 1860s put an end to most of Affleck's projects. He tried to pick up the pieces and create "The New South" but his plans for immigration of a new Scots work force to replace hired former slaves collapsed. He turned to marketing a carbolic acid used as a sheep dip, and had been working on this business when caught in a storm returning home. He died at Glenblythe of pneumonia April 30, 1868, at the age of 56.

Despite the down side of his sharp business practices, Affleck's contributions to Southern agriculture and stock raising were tremendous. His gardening advice could be followed with few qualifications today, as he was so far in advance of his time. Modern Texans could well, as his obituary said, agree that Thomas Affleck was

Despite the down side of his sharp business practices, Affleck's contributions to Southern agriculture and stock raising were tremendous. His gardening advice could be followed with few qualifications today, as he was so far in advance of his time. Modern Texans could well, as his obituary said, agree that Thomas Affleck was a "benefactor" to his adopted state.

Addenda: Thomas Affleck's papers, including all his writings, are held by the Louisiana State University Archives. His biography for this period is Fred C. Cole's 1942 dissertation The Texas Career of Thomas Affleck. The authors wish to thank Mrs. John Jacobs for her assistance. In 1986 the New Year's Creek Settler's Association reprinted the 1860 Almanac as a Sesquicentennial project and marked the site of Glenblythe, near New Gay Hill.

THE ROSES OF THOMAS AFFLECK

by Pam Puryear

In 1856 Thomas Affleck wrote a lively and informative series of articles for a Louisiana newspaper, the Picayune, on recommended rose varieties for the South, the same year that he scouted and began to move his nursery stock to his new plantation "Glenblythe."

An example of Affleck's Scottish, hard-nosed realism can be seen in the following quotation from the articles:

"There are new varieties constantly being produced. But the fact that they are new amounts to nothing if they are not, at the same time, distinct and beautiful; and add something in habit, color, form, etc., that may be really desirable, to those we already have.

I have a large number now under trial, in addition to those enumerated. It requires more than one season, however, to prove a new rose, and determine whether it is suited to the climate or no. Many of the finest do not produce really fine blooms until the plants have attained a season or two's growth and become completely established; and none of them bloom well unless in deep rich soil, and annually manured and tended.

It is difficult to describe the color of many of these roses in words. For instance, "crimson, tinted with lilac" may be employed to describe and that truly the color of two roses, which are, however, really

unusually marked and intense.

It is difficult to describe the color of many of these roses in words. For instance, "crimson, tinted with lilac," may be employed to describe, and that truly, the color of two roses, which are, however, really unlike each other in color. And no words can describe the brilliancy of color of Giant of Battles, or the singular beauty of Pius IX, or the clear warmth of color of Marquise Bocella, or the delicate stripes and veins in the petals of Mme Campbell d'Islay.

Then there are the roses which bloom in the highest perfection in the spring and summer but in the fall lack clearness of color, perfect form, &c., whilst another nearly resembling it blooms in the fall in the highest perfection, but in the spring is not particularly attractive. And for this it is that a very considerable variety is required in order to have roses in perfection at all seasons."

Affleck's suggested roses are listed below, with Affleck's own comments in quotation marks. He seems to have been well aware of, if not influenced by Rivers and Paul's writings, as he seems to follow the same order in his varietal descriptions. The numbers written in ink or faint pencil below the names probably referred to his foreign catalog numbers, as one lists the price in shillings. (Mr. Charles Walker says that the numbers are not from William Paul's Cheshunt.)

Of the BOURBONS, Affleck stated that they were "best adapted of all to the extreme South." He admired them for continuing in flower "from frost to frost again," their few, light-colored thorns, smooth and glossy branches, leathery leaves, thick "satin" or "burnished" petals which endure the summer heat and of course their hardy luxuriant growth.

Chaillot- large clusters of rose-colored blooms.

Enfant d'Ajaccio- very noisette-looking, fragrant, brilliant, scarlet shaded crimson, best used as a pillar.

Gerbe de Rose- (also a hybrid) rich foliage, color bright rose edged and shaded with white.

Glorie de France/Monthly Cabbage- light rose, abundant "fine old variety."

Glorie de Guillotiere- large light rose.

11 Hermosa- "still one of the best," very double & perfect, delicate rose color, "nearly always in bloom."

23 La Quintinie- deep crimson-purple, slender habit, large fine shape, "new."

12 Leweson Gower- deep rose, very large and double, equal to Souvenir de la Malmaison.

13 Madame Desprez- Robust, rosy-lilac, clusters of cupped blooms.

14 Madame Nerard- blush color, fragrant.

21 Souvenir de la Malmaison- magnificent pale flesh tinted fawn, immense size. "How I envy the grower who first saw that plant bloom, the seed of which he had sown, feeling that such a gen was his!"

Below on the newspaper clipping are other numbers and names:

- 3 Bouquet de Flore
- 16 Oscar le Clerc
- 18 Truinces de Charpeneur (?)
- 26 Acidalie- [put out by Pousseau, 1837, described as blush, often white, fragrant.- ED]
- 27 Aurore de Guide
[Remainder too faint. -ED.]

Of the CHINA roses and their hybrids, Affleck recommended that they be severely pruned as they bloom on new wood, and that they be pegged down for a better show. Those he picked in 1856 were:

- 44 Abbe Maillard- very showy, rich deep crimson.
- 42 Agrippina or Cramoise Superiure- a constant bloomer and strong grower of rich brilliant crimson, large and cupped with a white stripe down the center of the petal. Good for hedge or fence.
- 44 Clara Sylvain- pure white, large [said to be synonymous with Lady Warrender -ED].
- 45 Eugene Beaurnhais- globular, bright amaranth.
- 46 Fabvier- semi-double, showy scarlet.
- 47 Green Pose- "very curious."
- 51 Indica Superba- "somewhat resembles the old Indica or Daisy rose so common here but is a great improvement on it." Rose paling to the center, very double, early bloomer.
- 48 Mrs Bosanquet- vigorous, pale flesh.
- 49 Nemesis- very dark, velvety crimson.
- 50 Prince Charles- globular, cupped brilliant carmine.

Others listed below were:

- 53 Madame Breon
- 54 President d'Olbecque
- 55 Archduke Charles

Of the hybrid Chinas, Affleck listed:

- 356 Jenny- deep rosy-lilac. "profuse."
- 357 La Fontaine- brilliant crimson, robust.
- 351 Descartes- purplish-rose color, fine form
- 353 George IV- darkest crimson, "black rose" hardy, vigorous and free blooming.

"TEA-SCENTED-- The Tea roses are the greatest favorites of all with the ladies. Their extreme, but delicate, beauty, and rich, delicious fragrance, place them above all others, and especially in the South, where they flourish so well. They bloom more perfectly than any other roses in the autumn. The severe cold of the winter of 1856 was almost too much for young plants of this class that were unprotected. I lost the greater part

they flourish so well. They bloom more perfectly than any other roses in the autumn. The severe cold of the winter of 1856 was almost too much for young plants of this class that were unprotected. I lost the greater part of my stock of young plants. They were in the most perfect and full bloom two days before Christmas; and being in that growing state, the severe freeze of the following night destroyed the young, and greatly injured the old plants." [Dates, when known, added by author.]

- 70 Abricote- a bright rosy fawn ____ (?) delicate and beautiful.
- 90 Adam- very delicate rose color, large and splendid, 1838/1833 ?
- 71 Bougère- distinct large glossy bronzed rose color, robust, constant bloomer. 1832
- 73 Cassio- the full grown bud lovely, delicate rose color.
- 43 Cels- a rich growing blush, & a free bloomer. "Does not, however, always open well." Takes good culture and warm weather.
- 75 Devoniensis- "...nothing more perfect," vast flower, finely cupped creamy white tinted with rose. Does not bloom well on young plants. 1841/1858 [obviously not, as article 1856 !- ED.]
- 91 Goubault- robust free bloomer, bright rose finely cupped, buds perfect, fragrant. (resembles Bon Silène) 1843
- 77 Hardy- vivid rose color, large blooms.
- 79 Josephine Malton- creamy white, shaded fawn, large and striking.
- 80 Jaune Panaché- straw colored shaded rose, "pretty."
La Sylphide- very fragrant, rosy buff, turning creamy white, large bush [from the breeder Laffay- ED.]
- 81 Lyonnaise- pale flesh, large, free bloomer, half opened buds beautiful.
- 83 Princess Hélène- light rose "with a pretty & peculiar tinge of yellowish buff," globular, very desirable.
- 84 Princess Marie- dark flesh, large, fragrant, imperfect flowers.
- 85 Safrano- buds are bright apricot, open flowers fawn or saffron, lovely buds; robust and hardy, 1839.

-
- 87 Souvenir d'un Ami- delicate salmon, "curiously" shaded with rose, imbricated, vigorous, a free bloomer. 1846
 - 88 Triomphe de Luxembourg- "fine old variety" buff rose, large, 1836.
 - 94 Victoria Modesta- light rose shaded, very double, beautiful form.
 - 89 William Wallace- bright blush, vigorous, free blooming.

Below Affleck's listing in newspaper print, he also hand-wrote the following on his copy:

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- 96 Canary [dwarf yellow, 1852, Guillot pere- ED.]
- 97 Glorie de Dijon 1853
- 98 Julie Mansais [creamy white, sweet]
- 99 Madame (Melanie) Willermoz [creamy white, large, full, La Charme, 1845]
- 100 Maria
- 101 Niphetos [white with pale yellow, very beautiful, 1843/1844]
- 102 Souvenir d'un Ami 2nd [repeat of above]

At least five more notations are too faint to read in my copy; they are possibly in pencil.

"NOISETTES- The original of this class was a seedling produced near Charleston, SC, from the old musk rose fertilized with the common China, and is named after its original grower. It now includes some of the most magnificent roses we have. I have a very superior collection of them, being especial favorites. They bloom afresh after almost every shower, and bloom early and late in the season.

I have now before me, this 5th day of November, a bouquet of absolutely perfect blooms, all but one of this class, and on the day before last Christmas, they were in equal perfection. There are those pretty little gems Ainée Desprez and Donna Marie; Solfaterre and Chromatella- the first almost as deep and rich in color as the last; a cluster of Gerbe de Roses ("sheaf of roses"), and most admirably varied; it is classed with the Bourbons, by the way, though with much of the vigorous habits of the Noisettes, containing just a dozen of absolutely perfect blooms; Blanche de Lait (not, _____ however, "white as milk," but with a delicate blush tinge in the center as is its wont in the fall,); Angélique Clement in another vast cluster; Mrs. Siddons, whose buds are exquisitely beautiful; and Elinor Bouillard, in another prodigious mass of half-opened buds; but I forget that there is a limit even to the extent of your columns, Messers Editors."

- 121 Ainée Desprez- miniature, rose-colored, very double (the size of a half dollar), "richly striped a darker rose, in clusters.
- 122 Angélique Clement- dark rose, very double, in clusters.
- 123 Augusta- "a new American seedling," resembles Solfaterre, larger petals, in bright lemon, with Tea fragrance, a strong runner, rich foliage. [According to Ellwanger, this was Solfaterre !]
- 124 Blanche de Lait- pure white, large clusters.
- 127 Chromatella or Cloth of Gold- 'Magnificent," the bud a rich cream, large yellow bloom, must mature before good. 1843.
Donna Marie- a miniature Souvenir de la Malmaison: blush paling to flesh, cupped, "a little gem."
- 129 Elinor Bouillard (?)- light pink clusters.
- 130 Fellenburg- crimson clusters, very showy, use as pillar [sic Fellenburg, China]
- 142 Jeanne d'Arc- pure white, pillar, 1848.
- 133 Lacatans- found near Louisville, KY; pure white, a "magnolia rose," used under glass there, but can be planted outside at Natchez.
- 134 Lamarque- a well known rampant climber, superb white slightly straw colored flowers, fragrant, 1830.
- 135 Mrs. Siddons- clusters of fawn colored petals, tinted with rose, beautiful buds, very free blooming.

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- 135 Mrs. Siddons- clusters of fawn colored petals, tinted with rose, beautiful buds, very free blooming.
- 36 Orpherie- bright salmon clusters, "singular." 1844/1841
- 140 Solfaterre-- bright lemon, a "fine old rose."
- 143 Triomphe de la Ducher(e)- large, pale rose, "vast clusters."
- 141 Victorieuse- dwarf, pale bush.