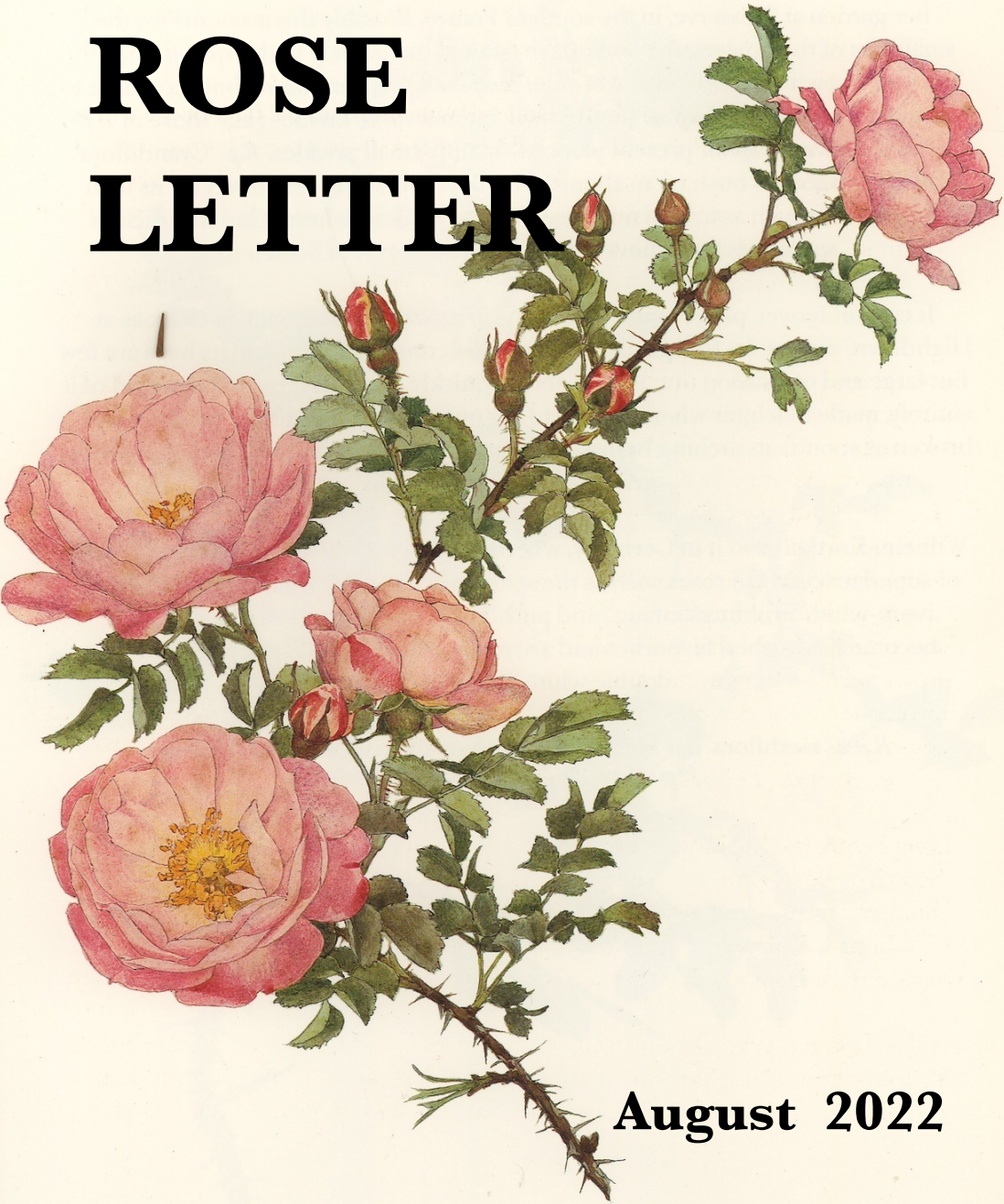
ROSE LETTER



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Rosa pimpinellifolia Andrewsii

ROSE LETTER

The Heritage Roses Group

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Damask rose at Jacksonville, OR cemetery

OREGON PIONEER CEMETERY ROSES

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Although some readers might think an article on cemetery roses is an irrelevant or dead topic, my intention in writing about them is threefold. In discussing them, I hope that others will work to care for and preserve them, not just for posterity but for biodiversity. I am also hopeful that other rosarians will visit some of these cemeteries to determine the names of those roses I have been uncertain of and to identify those I have been unable to. And if a certain rose is no longer in commerce nor in private and public gardens, perhaps cuttings from such a rose can re-establish it in the horticultural world.

Since 2013 I have made almost yearly trips to verdant Oregon in late May exploring pioneer cemeteries in search of heritage roses. My one hiatus was the 2019-2021 COVID years. While I have investigated 52 such burial grounds from Ashland to Portland, those in the Salem and Portland areas deserve their own article; here I will focus on those cemeteries along the Interstate 5 corridor in or near Ashland, Roseberg, Eugene, Corvallis, and McMinnville. About three-fifths of the pioneer cemeteries I investigated, however, grew no roses or only quite modern ones. (Perhaps those graveyards deserve their own list to prevent other OGR searchers from going on a wild goose chase.)

Near Ashland sits the town of Talent, partly destroyed by the 2020 Almeda wildfire. Slightly south off Wagner Creek Road sits **Stearns Cemetery** founded in 1857. According to its own current website photos, the cemetery was not touched by the fire. Only a few old roses are found there: 'Mme Cecile Brunner', a pink Bourbon that seems a cross between 'Coupe d'Hebe' and 'Zepherine Drouhin', and two or three others I could not identify.


Bourbon rose at Stearns

A few miles west of Ashland in the historic town of Jacksonville,


Carmenetta

adjacent to **St. Andrews Church**, one can visit a small graveyard with more roses than graves. I have visited this little cemetery three times; it has not always been cared for well, a few of the roses barely alive and some mislabeled, some not at all. At the same time, a visitor can find the 'Apothecary's Rose', 'Carmenetta', 'Charles Lefebvre', 'General Washington', 'Kathleen', 'Mme d'Arblay'?,'Mme Ernst Calvat', 'Narcisse de Salvandy'?, a hybrid Rugosa, two Albas, two or three Noisettes, and a few Gallicas and hybrid Gallicas or hybrid Chinas. It is certainly worth a visit and a study. But for the Damask rose near its entrance, the **Jacksonville Cemetery** was starved of roses.

About six miles west of Jacksonville, along Highway 238, near

the hamlet of Ruch, rests an 1862 cemetery known as **Logtown Cemetery**. The only rose to be found here is 'Harison's Yellow'. In 1853, Maryum Bowen McKee had brought a 'Harison's Yellow' across the plains and mountains from Missouri. In 1855, when she and her husband moved to Logtown, she planted that rose at the front gate to their log house. The remains of their cabin and the rose can be viewed nearly directly across from the cemetery at Longnecker Road. In 1959 the Applegate Valley Garden Club planted sixty 'Harison's Yellows' along the front of the cemetery. It was a way to preserve the local history of that rose.

Between Grants Pass and Roseberg, Canyonville boasts the enormous Seven Feathers Casino, a rest stop, and two cemeteries, side by side, to the right of the casino complex as one faces it. Both are large; the first one displays only modern roses; the other , an old **Masonic** graveyard, exhibits several old roses, one 'Marie Leonida' (*R. bracteata plena*), a red-purple hybrid Bourbon, and a few others, including a 'Dr. Huey', which may have been an understock. Across Interstate 5, on the west side, behind Forest Glen Senior Residence, **Canyonville Pioneer Cemetery** sits on a hill whose road and path upward from behind the senior residence are completely overgrown with poison oak. In sandals and walking shorts, after a short climb, I turned back. An attire of boots, pants, and gloves (and perhaps a machete) would be needed to view it.


Canyonville Pioneer Cemetery

North of Roseberg three cemeteries modestly announce their locations. **Melrose Cemetery**, also called French Settlement Cemetery, revealed but one wild rose, *Rosa canina* beside the tombstone of James Bateman who died in 1838. He must have been re-interred, for the cemetery was established in 1854.

Wilbur Cemetery Rose

Manetti

Perhaps ten miles farther north, parallel to the freeway, is situated the small **Wilbur Cemetery** in which grows a solitary rose bush of white, semi-double flowers with pale yellow stamens and straight pickles. The ovate buds show a blush pink with short sepals margined with glands. Its lanceolate leaflets suggest a China rose. Though it seems a rather erect bush, the longest cane about three feet long, it has clearly been cut down. It endures between two Simmons family gravestones.

About six miles farther north outside of Oakland, the large **Cedar Hill Cemetery** is home to a tall, semi-double climber over Martha J. Beckley's grave. The mottled pink flowers with huge white centers and large boss of yellow stamens tell me that it's 'Manetti'. In the Russell plot a round wire cage surrounds a low rose that obviously had been mown down. Blackspot on semi-glossy leaflets and no blooms make it hard to identify. Across the dirt road dividing the cemetery was a rosebush without buds and not in bloom that appears to be a China. It grows on the grave of Henry B. Mabie (1871-1940) and his wife.


Jacques Cartier at Eugene Masonic

At least nine pioneer cemeteries in and near Eugene support old roses. The first I ever visited, seven years ago and once since then, is **Eugene Masonic Cemetery** (1859), replete with about 500 family plots, old roses, and tall, unkempt grass and weeds. Here one can find 'Mme Legras de St Germain', 'Jacques Cartier', 'Ghislaine de Feligonde'*, 'Gruss an Aachen'*, 'Alba Semi-plena'*, Celeste'*, 'Mme Caroline Testout', 'Zepherine Druhin'*, a Gallica or two, and quite a few others. (Those with an asterick were introduced to the cemetery in 1997 or later.)

Mulkey Cemetery , established in 1850, is located on a hill in southwest Eugene. Several climbers and ramblers are found there: 'Mme Cecile Brunner', two 'Mme Alfred Carrieres', 'Excelsa', a Multiflora rambler, as well as three 'Mme Legras de St Germains', three or four *R. nutkana*, two Spinosissimas, a Damask, and other roses. It is definitely worth a visit.


Papa Gontier

In the **Eugene Pioneer Cemetery**, founded in 1873 and located on the edge of the University of Oregon campus, the visitor can view on its spacious grounds'Mme Alfred Carriere', 'Manetti', 'Mlle Cecile Brunner', 'De la

Grifferaie', 'Alba Odorata', 'Joasine Hanet', 'Mary Washington', two of 'Papa Gontier', at least two Noisettes, at least seventeen 'Mme Caroline Testout', several modern roses such as ''Helen Traubel', 'President Herbert Hoover', 'Red Radiance', several mosses, and several others not clearly identified.

Overlooking a freeway, **Laurel Grove Cemetery** of 1878, while seemingly on the eastern edge of Eugene is actually situated on a steep hill in Springfield on the western side of Interstate 5. The largest rosebush here is 'Marie Leonida' (*R. bracteata plena*), its shiney chartreuse foliage and very pointed buds telltale marks of the plant. A maroon-red gallica—very possibley 'Hippolyte'—grows here also as do two early Hybrid Teas that appear to be 'Mrs Arthur Robert Waddell'. and a 'Zepherine Drouhin-like Bourbon. A few others grow there as well.


Mrs A.R. Waddell

Southwest of Eugene, perhaps a 200 yards below Kings Estate Winery, rests a rectangular plot of gravestones, surrounded by rose plants and trees, known as **Lorane Pioneer Cemetery.** The gate is hedged on either side by a thicket of towering wild rose plants, quite probably *R. nutkana*. Inside the cemetery, but at the borders are several other roses, one a *R. nutkana*, another what appears to be a Hybrid Perpetual, but not in bloom when I saw it. The first time I visited this cemetery—an unexpected discovery—in 2013, an enormous Bourbon in full bloom covered and surrounded a dead tree stump. The large, pink roses, circular with a button eye on arching stems bending with the weight of the many flowers I determined to be 'Charles Lawson'. When I returned in 2014, eager to show my mate Albert the beauty of that rose, it was gone. It had been cut to the ground. Because of the dead

tree stump, I was able to locate where it had grown, so on my hands and knees I crawled along the ground until I found two or three rose stubs—no taller than three inches—in the grass. With Albert's pocketknife, we carefully cut a circle around each rose stub and then assiduously dug into the soil with the short blade until we had two rose seedlings with rootlets attached. I walked uphill to the winery restaurant, soaked several paper towels, brought them outside, and bundled the rose stems together, and placed them into a cooler in the trunk of the car. Today, one 'Charles Lawson' grows along my driveway and another grows at the top of my hillside garden.

Also south of Eugene, **Cresswell Pioneer Cemetery** displays only two roses among other flowering plants, and again those are *R. nutkana.* It was founded in 1851.

Another graveyard I have visited twice is **Luper Pioneer Cemetery** (1857), about six or eight miles north from the western side of Eugene. There one must park the vehicle and walk a half mile. Along the way, *R. canina* and *R. nutkana* grow along the edges of the dirt road, often among a tangle of other greenery and in a few places within the burial site. Only one other kind of rose grows here, a crimson Hybrid China, that is, a form of Gallica, which may be "Red Runaround", commonly found in pioneer settings. In fact, there were three at Luper.


Luper Cemetery rose

The rose was not 'Hippolyte', whose sepals above the buds are much shorter, contains more purple and grows on erect stems, whereas "Red Runaround" grows on spindly, arching stems. However, this plant exhibited both. Nor is it 'Assemblage des Beautés' whose flowers are quite similar but whose sepals are much shorter and leaves more leathery. Color of 'Assembalge' is more pink than those at Luper. Incidentally, eighteen members of the 1853 Lost Wagon Train are buried in Luper.


Harison's Yellow

Northwest of Eugene and three miles southwest of Cheshire sits **Franklin Pioneer Cemetery**, a later graveyard of 1897. Here I viewed three *R. x harisonii* ('Harison's Yellow'), several *Rosas canina* and *nutkana*, and one ailing Hybrid Tea I couldn't identify.

While I visited several burial grounds looking for old roses in the Corvallis region, only three yielded some interest. Northwest of Corvallis, **Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery**, dated to 1849, somewhat hidden in a small woods surrounding its open space, revealed only two roses, both *R. eglantine.* The strong scent of apples in its foliage made it easy to identify.

More exciting is the 1850 **Sandridge Pioneer Cemetery** a few miles southeast of Lebanon. Obvious were two 'Apothecary Roses', a tall 'Mme Caroline Testout', and a mound of 'Charles Lawson'.

Several Gallicas, Hybrid Chinas, and at least two Damasks grow there, though most of the Gallicas and three Hybrid Chinas were somewhat snuggling within yet poking through other shrubbery that had grown over or around the roses. Several other roses grow there, clearly old cultivars. I was quite thrilled with the

Apothecary's Rose

A Sandridge Damask

many old roses. My first visit to Sandridge occurred in 2015. In 2018 when I returned, I found a number of the grave plots had been sprayed to kill the weeds with an herbicide which had partly injured a few roses, but new growth showed on some of them. One side of the 'Caroline Testout' had been victim to the drift of the chemical spray and was severely injured. A Gallica or Hybrid China growing among vinca had been cut down with the vinca, but its suckering had saved it, showing new foot-high stems. The same is true for a Rugosa and one other old rose. Bewailing the possible loss of historic roses, I contacted the mayor of Lebanon who directed me to persons in charge of caring for the cemetery,. They were concerned enough to promise to prevent any further damage to the roses and asked that I contact them on my next visit, saying they would like more information about the roses. Unfortunately, COVID interfered, so I

have not been back to that graveyard.

The other productive cemetery was **Hilltop,** also known as Cemetery Hill and Independence Pioneer Cemetery, founded in 1849.

Hilltop's La France?

Among the many gravestones this necropolis disclosed about two dozen Hybrid Teas of the more modern ilk , one a low yellow flower. Clearly a quite early one, a large, pink rose with scrolled edges appeared to be 'La France'. Two 'Mme Caroline Testouts'; one large plant of profuse, very double roses of magenta-red with pink reverse against dark, shiny foliage, suggestive of a modern rose; one very similar to the Tea 'Mme Antoine Rebe'; and three narrow plants of *R. nutkana*, which had squeezed through cracks of a family stone were thriving in the cemetery. Another huge *R. nutkana*, perhaps ten feet high, had climbed into a tree at the side of the entrance road to the grounds. But most intriguing was a purple Bourbon I frustratingly couldn't name.

Finally, though I visited several cemeteries in and near McMinnville, none revealed old roses but one on a rise, just outside the small town of Lafayette, namely **Lafayette Pioneer** of 1850. That most popular old Hybrid Tea 'Mme Caroline Testout' appears twice here. I also found a Hybrid China growing lavishly through a boxwood bush, its flat, full roses much like 'Jacques Cartier', except for the color —bright magenta or purplish pink, usually lighter in the center where a button tucks in the inner petals—and the long, slender branching stems. Just as exciting a find was a lonely Bourbon or Hybrid Bourbon

standing over a gravestone flat on the ground of someone who had died May 16, 1866. I couldn't discern the name. Somewhat bushy yet somewhat sprawling, the bush held many dark violet-crimson roses that offered a light, soft scent. Here and there a few of the red petals were barely touched with a fleck of white. I thought it to be 'Zieguenerknabe' i.e., 'Gypsy Boy'.

Lafayette's Gypsy Boy?

I was reluctant to end my exploration, but on my homeward way, I stopped again in Eugene, this time to attend the Eugene Heritage Rose Group celebration. Among the many historic roses on exhibit there was also a table of several unidentified roses. Though in a more civilized setting, it seems I had come full circle. As I looked around me at the crowd, many a decade or two younger than I, I felt hopeful that heritage rose lovers would not surrender to rosalian amnesia.

Sappho did **NOT** call the rose The Queen of Flowers. It was Achilles Tatius who did so in his tale *Leucippe and Clitaphon,* 1st or 2nd century.

Historic Roses of Washington

Margaret Nelson, oldrosen@gmail.com

In 2008 I became curious to know which roses were in Washington during pioneer and earlier times, due to visiting Hudson's Bay replica forts at Fort Vancouver, Vancouver, WA and Fort Nisqually (this replica is in Point Defiance, Tacoma, WA) and learning that the Hudson's Bay Company employees brought roses here.

Thanks to Susan Draine sharing some Internet historic rose sites, I learned about the "Mission Rose", possibly 'Quatre Saisons' planted at some forts. Today's Fort Nisqually has a *R. pisocarpa* planted next to the clerk's house and a Moss rose planted near their vegetable patch, but these are roses planted there in modern times.

I set about checking with libraries, historical societies, other local rose societies and valued local rosarians to try to find out what roses are documented as being here before the white settlers arrived (these in the UW libraries), any that could be documented as brought here ("Mrs. Denny's eglantine"), and which roses were observed at old homesteads by our own rosarians. The following list is the result. Please contact me with other roses that should be added to this list.

Old Rose Project--Washington Pioneer Roses

Compiled by Margaret Nelson, May 2008

With apologies, what Margaret Nelson had organized into neat columns, I have typed into a different format; unfortunately I could not accommodate her computer program to my own without disaster. What follows, then, are the names of the rose, its type & date if known, the location found, and the source of the information.-Editor

"Scotch Rose" white, dbl; spino? Tacoma J. Dexter

Albertine	Hwich, 1921	PNW	A. Belovich
Alfred de Dalmas	M, 1855	Brought 1840-50s	ORS
American Beauty	HP, 1875	Auburn	J. Dexter
American Beauty Cl	Hwich, 1909	Auburn	J. Dexter
American Pillar	Hwich, 1902	Auburn	J. Dexter
American Pillar	Hwich,1902	PNW all over	A. Belovich
Belle de Crecy	HGal, 1829	Maple Valley	J. Burton
Belle Isis	HGal, 1845	Auburn	J. Dexter
Charles Lawson	B, 1853	Snohomish area	J. McElhose
Comtesse de Murinais	M, 1843	Maple Valley	J. Burton
Dr. W. van Fleet	LCl, 1910	Auburn Valley	J. Dexter
Dorothy Perkins	Hwich, 1901	Snohomish area	J. McElhose
Duchesse de Brabant	T, 1857	Auburn	J. Dexter
Felicite Parmentier	A, >1836	Brought 1840-50s	ORS
Fortune's Double Yellow	MiscOGR,1845	OR Trail	J. Inada
Frau Karl Druschki	HP, 1901	Auburn train station	J. Dexter
Gloire de France	HGal, 1928	Auburn	J. Dexter
Gloire de France	HGal, 1928	Mt Vernon Valley	A. Belovich
Goldfinch	R, 1907	Maple Valley	J. Burton
Harison's Yellow	HFt, c. 1824	Auburn	J. Dexter
Harison's Yellow	HFt, c. 1824	OE Trail	J Inada
Hermosa	HCh, >1837	Auburn	J. Dexter
Hermosa	HCh, >1837	Brought 1840-50s	ORS
Louis Gimard	M, 1877	Brought 1840-50s	ORS
Louise Odier	B, 1851	Brought 1840-50s	ORS
Mme Alfred Carriere	N, 1879	WA late 1800s	ORS
Mme Alfred Carriere	N, 1879	Maple Valley	J. Burton
Mme Plantier	A, 1835	Kent	J. Dexter
Marie Pavie	Pol, 1888	Auburn	J. Dexter
"Mission Rose"	D, ?	OR Trail	S. Draine
Paul Ricault	C, 1845	Auburn	J. Dexter
Paul Ricault	C, 1845	Brought 1840-50s	ORS CG
R. centifolia muscova	M,1696	Brought 1840-50s	ORS CG
R. rugosa 'Alba'	Sp, 1811	Auburn	J. Dexter
R. arvensis	Sp	Maple Valley	J. Burton
R. canina	Sp, >1737	PNW, rootstock?	A. Belovich
R. centifolia variegata	('Village Maid')	C, 1845	Auburn J. Dexter
R. eglanteria	Sp, >1551	Mrs Denney via OR Trail	S. Draine
R. gymnocarpa	Sp, 1893	Native to Seattle	UW libraries
R.nutkana	Sp, >1876	Auburn	J. Dexter
R. nutkana	Sp, >1876	Native to Seattle	UW libraries
R. pisocarpa	Sp,>1876	Native to Seattle	UW libraries

Sombreuil	LCl, 1880	WA late 1800s	ORS
Stanwell Perpetual	HSpn, >1836	Maple Valley	J. Burton
Turner's Crimson Rambler	HMult, 1893	Auburn	J. Dexter
(TCR)"Engineer's Rose"	HMult, 1893	RR stations in PNW	A. Belovich
Veilchenblau	HMult, 1909	Snohomish area	J. McElhose
Vick's Caprice	HP, 1892	Auburn	J. Dexter

Sources: Anne Belovich, Janet Burton, Judy Dexter, Janet Inada (Rogue Valley Roses), Jackie McElhose (Antique Rose Farm, Snohomish), Internet via Susan Draine, UW Libraries & Olympia Rose Society (ORS)

SUGGESTION for YOUR LOCAL GROUP

Consider a plant or a book exchange for your group. This could occur as a "green potluck." Members bring extra plants from their garden or propagations to share at meetings. Or the exchange could occur at a picnic or party as a variation to a meeting. You might also, either separately or at the same time, bring books on roses, other plants or on gardening to share as well.

Such an occasion can be a way to draw people together, to impell members to propagate as a way of sharing, and an entertaining way to share knowledge.

But rather than doing this at each get-together, plan the plant or book exhange perhaps twice a year or not more often than every other meeting or gathering. Let it be an occasion to look forward to.

Anne Belovich and 'Turner's Crimson Rambler'

Margaret Nelson

Anne told me she wanted to get a reproduction of a 1908 painting of a rose called "The Crimson Rambler" by American painter Philip Leslie Hale. The painting depicts a young woman (identified as Rose Zeffler) with a red sash and big hat festooned with flowers, sitting on the railing of a white wooden porch. She shares the porch with a bush of 'Turner's Crimson Rambler', aka 'Engineer's Rose'. Ironically, HelpMeFind.com says this is a pillar rose, not a rambler, but it was very popular at the end of the 19th century. If you would like to see the painting, go to: https://www.pafa.org/museum/collection/item/crimson-rambler.

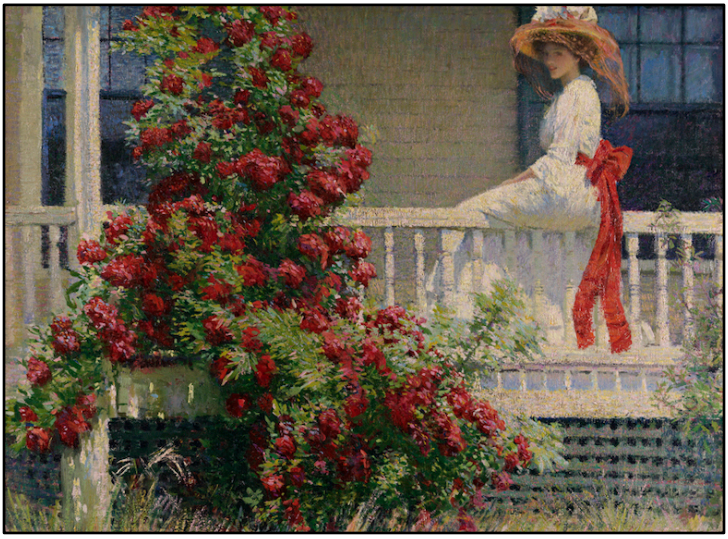
I had asked Anne if she knew any old roses dating from the 1800s in Washington State. She told me that this was a rose that the railroads planted at "every" station in the golden days of railroads, as the rose was very popular and trendy then; she had seen remnant plants scattered around the PNW. I immediately began to look carefully when driving past railroad stations outside of Tacoma and Seattle but regrettably never saw the rose. Time had already changed the landscapes. However, there is a chance that you might spot a rose that escaped landscaping "improvements," like a specimen at an old house on private property in Federal Way, far from any past or present railroad, which Heritage Roses Northwest members spotted on a field excursion, so you may too!

This rose was first seen in Japan before 1840 where it grew around the port of Nagasaki; it could be much older. The Japanese name translates to "Cherry Rose", the Chinese name to "Ten Sisters". In the late 1800s, Mr. R. Smith, who may have been a Professor of Engineering in Tokyo or a navy mechanic on a steamboat, sent a plant of the rose to a Scottish horticulturalist, Mr. Jenner, who named it the "Engineer Rose". He then gave one to a nurseryman, Mr. Gilbert who

exhibited it in 1890 and won an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Gilbert sold his nursery stock to Mr. Arthur Turner of Windsor who renamed it 'Turner's Crimson Rambler' and began to sell it in 1893.

Rather than a rambler, this is a Hybrid Multiflora that grows to 10 feet high. The rose has very hairy stipules at the base of the leaf. Flowers are scentless and a bright crimson red, a color that had not been available in Europe before then, and the plant flowers over a long period. It blooms on old wood. This rose does not do well in hot, dry Florida or hot places in California but prefers open, airy spaces in cooler, wetter areas. They were planted at railroad stations, including in Washington, according to Anne, perhaps because of the name "Engineers Rose", which they may have thought was a rose that did well at railroad stations? According to an article by Patricia Routley found on HelpMeFind.com and the source of all this information about 'Turner's Crimson Rambler', there is nothing delicate or tender about this rose. She lives in Western Australia and in 2008 wrote "These days my rose gets no water at all over summer." This rose is a survivor!

If you happen to find another plant of 'Turner's Crimson Rambler' think of Anne.



OF SHRUBS, TREES, AND OTHER NASTY COMPANIONS

Dario Marsh

If you are a chef or a seasoned cook, you know enough not to group certain foods together. You know, for instance, not to store bananas or sweet potatoes in the refrigerator. Situated among other foods in too cool a place, the bananas will blacken and not become sweet; the sweet potatoes will acquire odd flavors and a hard center. You also know enough to keep apples and bananas apart on the kitchen counter (or wherever you store them) because the ethylene produced by apples will speed up the ripening of all the bananas at once.

Much the same idea and precaution is true of roses. We often read or hear suggestions for companion plants, but we rarely, if ever, are informed of plants **not** to pair with roses. And indeed some plants should not be set side by side or grouped together.

What follows is a brief cautionary instruction of what NOT to grow with or near your roses.

Do not choose azaleas, gardenias, and rhododendrons as companion plants for roses. They require high acid levels in their soil and nutrients. Roses prefer some acidity, ideally a ph between 6.0 and 6.5, though slightly higher, edging toward neutral (to 6.9) or somewhat more acidic (to 5.5) is generally tolerable. But if your azaleas, camellias, gardenias, or rhododendrons are growing in 4.0 to 5.0 ph soil (ideal for them), you will damage your roses.

Avoid planting among your roses such companions as lambs ears (*Stachys byzantina*), hen-and-chicks (*Sempervivium*), ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum*), and stonecrop (*Sedum*). These plants require low water. The amount of water required by many roses would eventually rot and kill those plants. Ice plant is invasive, regardless, and one I would not recommend for a garden, especially in California where it is not indigenous..

On the other hand, growing wild portulaca, also called Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) with your roses will create, like tree roots, a competition for both nutrients and water. And if grown too closely to roses, Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*), though fairly drought tolerant, will send a

Mexican sage invading rose 'Duc de Cambridge' in foreground

roadmap of roots toward the watered roses and become invasive as well as competitive for space.

Certain plants are particularly attractive to some kinds of harmful insects. Columbine (*Aquilegia*), marigolds, and annual verbena (*Verbena* x hybrida) attract spider mites. You do not want to invite these miniscule creatures to your rose party. If you cannot live without one or more of these, planting these three flowers a good distance from your roses may keep the spider mites distracted from the queen of flowers. If you enjoy verbena, and/or you wish to use it as groundcover—and I do—grow the perennial types among your roses; the selection is large.

Finally, avoid using a privet hedge or planting a privet tree in a garden containing roses. Granted, the privet (both *Ligustrum ovalifolium* and *L. vulgare*) bears clusters of attractive creamy or white flowers in spring and summer that later become black, inedible berries, but it will hamper the growth of any roses planted within eight or ten feet of it. The roots of the privet live fairly close to the surface and, being greedy and rapacious, will steal beneath the roots of rose plants, sucking up most of their water. Several years ago I wondered why several of my rose plants in the vicinity of a privet tree hadn't enlarged much beyond their initial spurt of growth. They looked healthy, but seemed reluctant to grow and to produce as they should. Deciding to move one of the roses, I had just begun to dig when the blade of my shovel promptly struck a root as thick as my wrist. Gradually uncovering and following the root, I found it to be growing under two other rose bushes as well. Determined to remove the tree, I discovered more roots under other roses nearby.

Needless to say, once the privet tree was cut down and the root system dug out—an exhausting task—I encountered a whole new garden bed where today the roses proudly show off their beauty.

And the same tale is true for cape honeysuckle (*Tecoma capensis).* Though it requires little water, it will suck up the water meant for your roses, which will soon be wilting. In addition, where any branch or wand touches the ground, it may root.

Moral: Pay attention to the companions your roses run around with. Some of them are not nice.

CREDITS

Pages 2-5, 6 rt, 7-12, 19, 28, 29. 32 rt, 33 lft: Darrell Schramm
Pages 6 lft, 31: Elaine Sedlack
Page 17: painting by Philip Leslie Hale
Page 21: Les Johnson
Page 25: 1770 copy of lost 1666 original by Sir Peter Lely
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Page 34 rt: Mary McMurtrie

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To renew or become a Heritage Roses Group member with a subscription to the *Rose Letter*, four issues a year, send $20 for the print format or $10 for the online format to

Clay Jennings, Membership Chair, 22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010, or contact him at e.c.jennings@gmail.com

I include the following previously printed article by past board member Bill Grant because authors of two different books on roses published last year call the species by its old name wichuriana *despite the more correct term given in the* International Code of Botanical Nomenclature *of 2006. The use of the old term, incorrectly determined at the outset, suggests to me the authors, like several other rosarian writers, have not stayed abreast of the latest research and knowledge, or simply wish to adhere to the old way..*

ROSA WICHURANA
Bill Grant

Some of you will immediately say that the author has misspelled the name of this great species rose. Hold on for a moment.

My essay is part confession, part argument, and part history.

When I was first interested in species roses about forty years ago, I believed everything I read about them. At one point I had thirty-six species roses in my collection. Who was I to contradict the experts? But over the years I learned that even some of them can be wrong, or at least uninformed.

As I wrote about these roses, I always had trouble spelling *R.*

wichuraiana because I never got the letter **a** in the right place. So many times I had to look up the right spelling that I grew angry with my memory and the rose.

However, about six years ago I was having a talk with the director of the University of California at Santa Cruz Arboretum (which has the largest collection of Australian species in the world outside Australia). He was reading an article I had submitted for the arboretum journal.

"The spelling seems to me to be wrong." He looked up the man after whom it was named and said, "According to the rules of nomenclature the spelling should be 'wichurana'."

My first reaction was this: I should now be able to spell it every time without help!

Dr. Wichura, a German botanist, had visited China about 1860 and was given the honor of having the plant named for him.

Thereafter the trail grows dark. We know that Linnaeus, the founder of the modern taxonomy, did not always follow his own rules. Just look up *R.cinnamomea* to see what a mess he made of that rose. But the rule is this: once a plant is named, it stays with that name throughout eternity.

I didn't know that when I started researching Wichura's rose. After asking many people in the know, I decided that I would go to Kew, where there are some of the best taxonomists in the world. And what did I find?

I presented my question in this fashion: if a person with the name Wichura had a plant named for him, what would the species name be? The answer came back, loud and clear for me, *wichurana.*

You can imagine my excitement that my friend was right. We had been assured by the mother temple of taxonomy that the spelling had been wrong for years.

Sometime when you are looking for a challenge, look up the rules about naming plants. If you can figure out if a person's name ends in a vowel or a consonant, how the plant's (it will be in Latin) name should be spelled – let me know! I have failed that exam many times.

So I now have felt emboldened to inform the world that the spelling was wrong all along. I wrote several articles for different

journals broadcasting the information. It was not long before I got complaints.

Peter Beales, a dear friend, wrote to say that such changes are terrible, making the naming of plants in such a revisionist fashion unacceptable.

Brent Dickerson came down even harder on me. He cited the constant changes in the spelling of chrysanthemums as an example of the chaos that would result in changing the rules.

Charles Quest-Ritson, another English friend, deplored my invasion in an area where I did not belong.

While working on *Botanica's Roses,* I used the "new" spelling in all my entries. Gordon Cheers, my editor at Random House, changed them to the "old" spelling. He said I did not have any authority behind my change.

Red-faced but still sticking by my guns, I wrote more articles where I spelled the species my way.

The turning point occurred at the Huntington Botanical Garden in Los Angeles ~~five~~ years ago. Beales was honored as one of the great rosarians of the century. Before the talk, we embraced and said kind words to one another. In his talk, however, he bemoaned the changing of names of plants much less the spelling. My friends, who were sitting near to me and aware of my challenge to the old names, started to chuckle, looking at me. And Peter looked right at me as he spoke these words.

However, and the *however* is a big word, two years later and in his most recent wonderful book, he has spelled the rose my way! And Quest-Ritson in his book on climbing roses did the same. And now Peter Schneider in the guide used worldwide about the availability of roses, does the same.

What are we to think? Well, I thought for a time I had gained my page in rose history. It was brief.

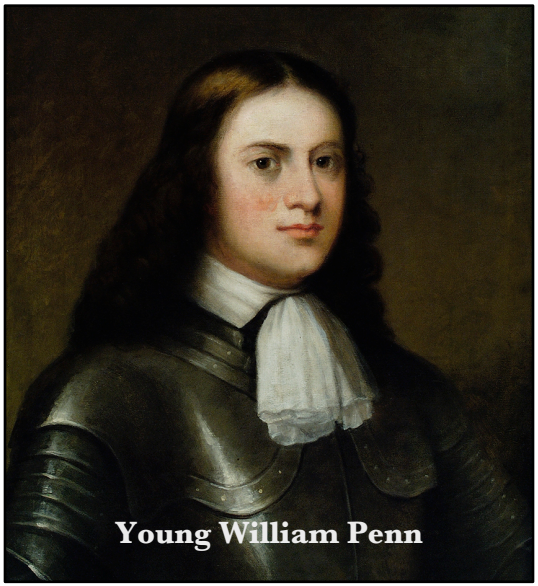
The final word puts me in the dunce's chair. A Japanese botanist who has worked on this rose and its origins states that the mistake was made much earlier. The rose should have been given the name *Rosa luciae*. I won't bore you with all the taxonomic details, but that was the name given to the species first and then lost somehow.

Consult that great rosarian Jack Harkness, who said this years ago: the two roses are the same. And the luciae takes preference. So I was wrong all the time! Serves me right for my arrogance.

*

CURIOUS ROSE FACTS

- In 1996 an excavation in Hundborg, Denmark found 81 carbonized rose seeds in the soil layers of a Viking pit house dated between 800 and 1200 CE.
- In 1601 rose-loving King Christian IV of Denmark had a cannon cast, decorated with inscribed roses complete with leaves and stems.
- Between the year of the California Gold Rush (1849) and the onset of the 20th century, 1,200 known varieties of roses were brought to California.
- Francis E. Lester of Monterey County was the first rose lover and nurseryman to uncover or discover in Gold Rush Country many lost and abandoned roses of the Forty-niners. He began his search for these lost roses in 1931. Today, many of them grow in public and private gardens.
- 'Bizar', AKA 'Bizarre de Lens', is the hybrid of a rose and an apple, *R. arvensis* x *malus,* discovered in 2001 at the Louis Lens nursery in Belgium. The flowers are cherry pink, occasionally white, with nine to sixteen ruffled petals, richly fragrant. They grow in small clusters of five or so. Closed buds are round with foliaceous sepals. The somewhat crinkled leaves show a dull sheen of green.
- Rose diseases are not a problem in Iceland.
- With the exception of rose rosette virus, most viruses are not lethal to roses—though some can weaken plants.
- Most viruses are transmitted during propagation by grafting, seldom by insects or pruning tools.


Young William Penn

A SHORT ROSE HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Pennsylvania: Former president and long-time editor of the *American Rose Annual,* Horace McFarland, lived there throughout his rose career. He was among great historical figures. More than three centuries have passed since Pennsylvania became a welcome home to roses. Today the educated public does not associate William Penn (1644-1718) with roses. Yes, this historical figure is rightly remembered as the founder of Pennsylvania. Penn's father had loaned King Charles II a considerable sum but died before the debt was repaid. Fortunately, in 1681 the king settled the debt in part by granting a large area of land in the colonies to William Penn who immediately saw it as a respite and home for himself and other Quakers who were enduring religious persecution. Although he was unable to leave at the same time as others who sailed to the new land, he did draft a charter for the settlement, an essentially democratic system comprised of freedom of religion, fair trial by jury, free elections of representatives, a separation of powers, and freedom from unjust imprisonment. These ideas would surface later in the American Constitution.

Penn named his province Sylvania (Latin for woods or forest), but Charles II altered it to Pennsylvania. Penn was able to arrive the following year, and from 1682 to 1684 he worked on designs for the city he called Philadelphia, which was soon laid out, then began to construct his own estate on the Delaware River. By 1686, his gardener—one of two—was tending his fruit trees and roses. Whether the roses were native species or domesticated or both is unclear. Exploring the interior,

he made friends of local Native Americans, eventually purchasing from them additional land.

Hearing of continued persecution of his Quaker brothers, he returned to England on their behalf, but was accused of treason by the new king William III. He was, however, acquitted. A Quaker named Gabriel Thomas wrote to Penn in 1698 while the latter was in England, giving an account of what others were growing in or near Philadelphia: among other plants, "Fruits, Herbs, and Flowers; [such] as Roses, Tulips, July-Flowers, Sun-Flowers . . . Carnations, and many more." Penn's taste for gardening, as well as the somewhat later influx of Pennsylvania Dutch (who were essentially German), made Pennsylvania the north's gardening state, even as Maryland and Virginia became the gardening states of the South.

In 1699 Penn returned to the colonies, bringing with him eighteen different rose bushes. While we do not know the varieties, lists from catalogues of the time allow for informed guesses. These sources include Gerard's *Herbal* of 1597, Parkinson's *Paradisi* of 1629, and James Sutherland's Edinburgh catalogue of 1683.

Maiden's Blush

Rose de Mai

Among those roses quite likely were the following, all of which are still in commerce today: 'Apothecary's Rose' (*Rosa gallica officinalis*), 'Autumn Damask', 'Maiden's Blush', 'The Musk Rose' (*R. moschata*), 'York & Lancaster',

'Conditorum' ('The Hungarian Rose'), 'Rosa Mundi', 'Great Double White' ('Alba Maxima'), 'Alba Semi-plena', 'Francofurtana', *Rosa majalis* (*R. cinnamomea* aka 'Rose de Mai'), 'Burgundica' ('Burgundian Rose') and 'Common Moss', my favorite Moss rose. Some of these would later be listed by McMahon.

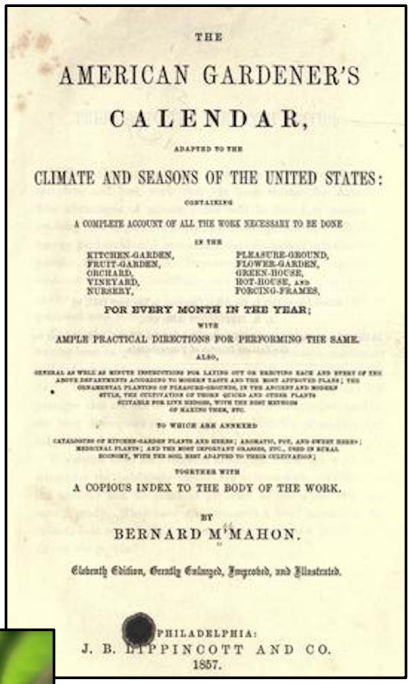
In 1701 Penn felt compelled to return to England because his financial advisor had defrauded him of so much money that he spent the next ten years in court. He nearly lost Pennsylvania because of the deceit. In 1712 he had a stroke that left him a speechless invalid. Penn died in 1718.

Incidentally, George and Martha Washington lived in a house once owned by Penn at 6th and Market Streets in Philadelphia during our first President's last six years or so in office.

About sixty years later, David Landreth (1752-1828) from Northumberland arrived in the City of Brotherly Love. In 1784 he established the first American seed company. During his lifetime, he introduced the white potato, garden tomatoes, and the Mexican zinnia to the young nation. (His son would be the first to develop the steam-engine tractor for plowing.) And though Landreth did not focus on roses, he did find a few flower petals in his hair. In 1824 he produced a Noisette rose named 'Landreth's Carmine'. Around the same time he introduced a China rose called 'Washington', tentatively following Penn's footsteps. But his greatest enthusiasm remained for the dispersal of seeds, while also selling camellias, rhododendrons, and both native and foreign trees. His son, David Jr., added more flowering shrubs to the nursery, including many roses. In addition, he opened a branch nursery in Charleston, which closed in 1862 with the onset of the Civil War.

It was Bernard M'Mahon, also McMahon, (1775-1816) who disseminated awareness of a broad selection of roses. When he arrived in Pennsylvania in 1796, he was appalled at the limited and poor gardening practices and trade. In 1802-03 he started a seed business, opening a nursery and botanic garden in 1808. He was one of two nurserymen (Landreth was the other) chosen by President Thomas Jefferson to grow seeds and roots from the Lewis & Clark Expedition. He was also the first person to publish a seed list in America.

Most significantly, however, he authored in 1806 the *American Gardener's Calendar,* which in fifty years went through several editions. In addition to gardening advice, the Calendar also provided a catalogue of plants available in America at that time—not that he grew them all. His inventory of roses includes about 36 varieties and species, among them *Rosa canina*, 'Small Maiden's Blush', 'The Bishop' (my favorite Centifolia hybrid), 'Rosa Mundi', 'de Meaux', the single and the double Yellow Austrian, some Chinas and several Spinosissimas, all still on



THE

AMERICAN GARDENER'S

CALENDAR,

ADAPTED TO THE

CLIMATE AND SEASONS OF THE UNITED STATES:

CONTAINING

A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF ALL THE WORK NECESSARY TO BE DONE

IN THE

KITCHEN-GARDEN, FRUIT-GARDEN, ORCHARD, VINEYARD, NURSERY, PLEASURE-GROUND, FLOWER-GARDEN, GREEN-HOUSE, HOT-HOUSE, AND FORCING-FRAMES,

FOR EVERY MONTH IN THE YEAR;

WITH

AMPLE PRACTICAL DIRECTIONS FOR PERFORMING THE SAME.

ALSO,

GENERAL AS WELL AS MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAYING OUT OR IMPROVING EACH AND EVERY OF THE ABOVE DEPARTMENTS ACCORDING TO MODERN TASTE AND THE MOST APPROVED PLANS; THE ORNAMENTAL PLANTING OF PLEASURE-GROUNDS, IN THE ANCIENT AND MODERN STYLE, THE CULTIVATION OF THOSE QUICKS AND OTHER PLANTS SUITABLE FOR LIVE HEDGES, WITH THE BEST METHODS OF MAKING THEM, ETC.

TO WHICH ARE ANNEXED

CATALOGUES OF KITCHEN-GARDEN PLANTS AND HERBS; AROMATIC, POT, AND SWEET HERBS; MEDICINAL PLANTS; AND THE MOST IMPORTANT GRASSES, ETC., USED IN RURAL ECONOMY, WITH THE SOIL BEST ADAPTED TO THEIR CULTIVATION;

TOGETHER WITH

A COPIOUS INDEX TO THE BODY OF THE WORK.

BY

BERNARD M'MAHON.

Eleventh Edition, Greatly Enlarged, Improved, and Illustrated.

PHILADELPHIA:
J. B. LIPPINCOTT AND CO.
1857.

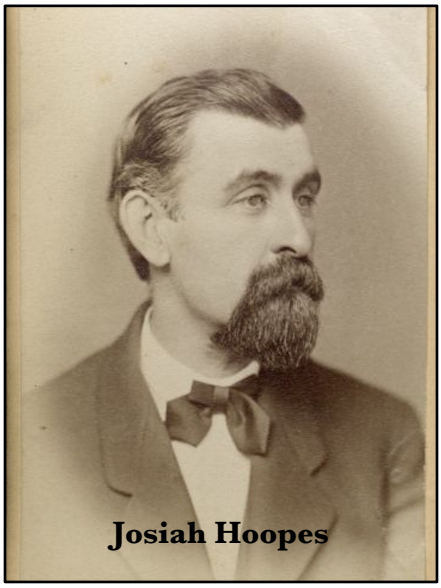
The Bishop

the market today. This list affords us of some idea of what other roses Jefferson may have grown at Monticello beyond the six or seven usually named which he had ordered from William Prince in 1791.

Not in Philadelphia but in Morrisville, PA, Mahlon Moon (1814-1887), as a fourth generation nurseryman, set up his nursery in 1849. Fruit trees and ornamental trees were his initial interests, but by 1874 he was offering 44 Hybrid Perpetual rose varieties, six Bourbons, twelve Noisettes, twelve Tea roses, a half dozen Chinas, and the two prairie roses 'Baltimore Belle' and 'Prairie Queen'. All were popular roses of

Le Pactole

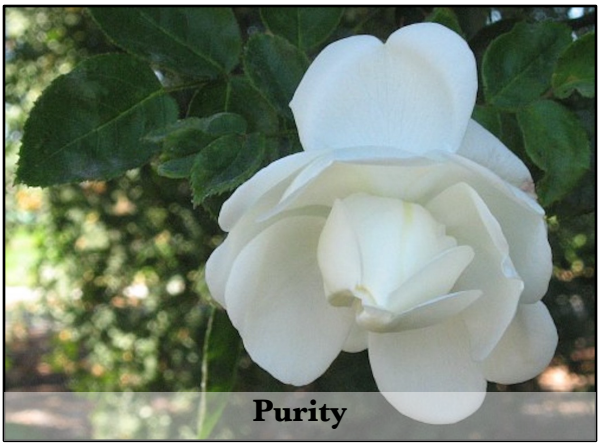
the time, many of them still in commerce, among them 'Anna de Diesbach', 'Caroline de Sansal', 'General Jacqueminot', 'Jules Margottin,' 'La Reine', 'Mme Plantier' (my favorite Alba hybrid), 'Monsieur Boncenne', 'Hermosa' (Luther Burbank's preferred rose for cross-breeding), 'Mrs. Bosanquet', 'Souvenir de la Malmaison', 'Isabella Sprunt', 'Le Pactole' (my favorite Tea rose), 'Safrano', 'Agrippina', and 'Triomphe de Luxembourg'. He sold his roses in pots for 40-75 cents each, $5.00 per dozen. When he retired, his son Samuel took over the enterprise.



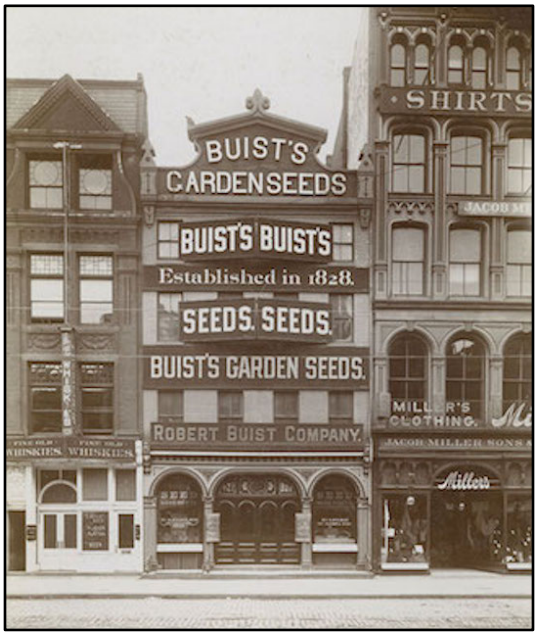
Josiah Hoopes

Josiah Hoopes (1832-1904), whose ancestors arrived with William Penn and who, like Penn, was a Quaker, established his tree nursery in West Chester, PA. It eventually became one of the largest arboreal nurseries in the country. The nursery began on one acre but at 800 acres became one of the largest in the state, its name changing several times over the years: Hoopes Brothers &

Thomas, Cherry Hill Nursery, Maple Avenue Nursery, *et al.* By 1855 Hoopes was selling other plants as well, such as dahlias, verbenas, and roses. Later, the Hoopes gardener Jimmy Farrell hybridized and produced three original roses which the nursery introduced: the pink rambler 'Columbia' in 1903; 'Christine Wright', a rambler in the palest of pinks, in 1909; and 'Purity', a fine white rambler some time before 1913. All three, of the same parentage—a *Rosa wichurana* seedling crossed with 'Mme Caroline Testout'—are still in commerce.



Purity



But it was Robert Buist (1802-1880) who is the most noteworthy of rosarians from early Pennsylvania. He had arrived from Scotland in 1828 and by the next year had opened his store Buist's Garden Seeds. With Thomas Hibbert in 1830, he bought Bernard McMahon's old nursery and named the firm Hibbert & Buist. In 1831 he boarded ship for England to visit nurseries, then in 1832 for France where he met Alexander Hardy of Luxembourg Gardens in Paris. There he was especially excited about the Damask rose 'Mme Hardy'. From then on, he began importing roses from the continent, most of them from Mr. Hardy, though some from the exceptional and

prolific breeder Jean-Pierre Vibert.

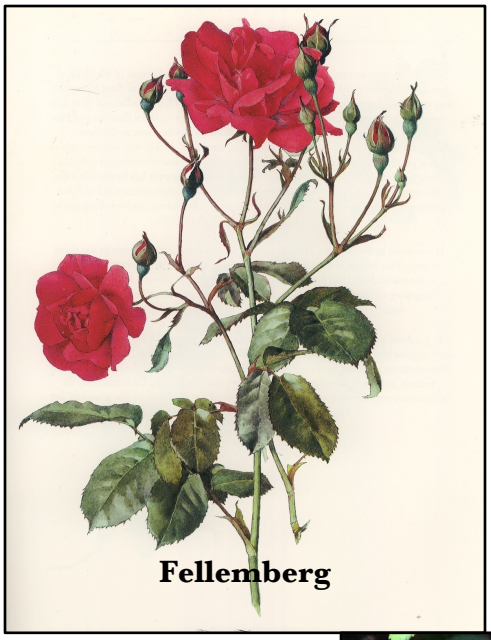
In 1830 Philadelphia had been home to fewer than 100 rose bushes, but by 1845 rose culture had mushroomed to boast at least 35- to 40,000 plants. In between those years Robert Buist co-authored with Hibbert *The American Flower Garden Directory* of 1832—which went through six editions. Buist also bred five long-since-vanished roses, one of them a China named 'Hibbertia'. When Thomas Hibbert died in 1837, Buist moved his growing enterprise, renaming it Buist's City Nursery & Greenhouses. He would move twice more.

In 1844 he published *The Rose Manual*, America's first book on rose culture and now an American classic. During those years he also bred three new Noisettes and nine new China roses, roses much in vogue at the time.

By 1845, Buist's rose collection became the largest in the country, but Charles Hovey of Boston would soon surpass him. Such was Buist's reputation that when A. J. Downing, father of American landscape architecture, began editing the magazine *The Horticulturist*, it was Buist to whom he turned for advice.

Though his *The Rose Manual* calls all white roses Albas, calls the Centifolia the Provins Rose rather than the Provence or Provincialis, names some roses Noisettes which are not, and does not give 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' its due as America's first cultivated rose, this classic book abounds in guidance and good advice still relevant today for growing roses. And while many of the roses are long vanished, he describes in some detail about 530 different rose varieties. Some of those still available today are 'Adelaide d'Orleans', "of a pale rosy blush . . . in large clusters, booming later" than other June roses; the white and the yellow


Champneys' Pink Cluster


Fellemberg

Lady Banks; the variable, large-petaled Tea 'Bon Silene', "of a bright rose, changing to cherry red"; 'Rose du Roi' a perpetual bloomer, "the gem of the day"; the strongly scented 'Eugene Beauharnais'; the Noisette 'Fellemberg', which "has no equal for brilliancy of colour"; 'The Garland', a climber with clusters of 75-100 flowers, "a pagoda of snow"; 'Hippolyte', a highly fragrant Gallica; the Damask 'Leda' "white edged with pink"; the Damask 'Mme Hardy', "triumphant" and "an abundant bloomer"; 'Princesse de Nassau', a Noisette "of a yellowish-white color"; and the old-rose scented 'Stanwell Perpetual', "blooming profusely and constantly the whole summer." Further editions followed, Buist updating his lists with new roses each time.

When Robert Buist died in 1880, his son Robert Jr., who had worked with him, inherited the nursery, operating it and


Hippolyte

becoming a millionaire until his death in 1910. The final name change of the Robert Buist company was, appropriately, Rosedale.

During Buist's lifetime, Alfred Fellenberg Conard began in partnership with Charles Dingee a small retail nursery of assorted plants in West Grove, PA, in 1862. They named it Dingee & Conard. By 1867, they added roses and launched the selling of rose stock by mail. Dingee left to form his own company in 1892, so Conard joined with W.S. Morris Jones and changed the name to Conard & Jones. In 1897 the firm began to specialize in roses. The following year Robert Pyle, who would later become president of the American Rose Society, joined the company, and when Conard died in 1906, Pyle bought control of the business. It became the most important rose company in Pennsylvania. Perhaps the largest feather in its cap was inserted in 1945, when it released Meilland's world-famous rose 'Peace'. Eventually, the company became Star Roses and Plants, still a distributor for the French firm Meilland International. In 2015, Star Roses & Plants was purchased by the Chicago-based Ball Horticulture Company, a family-owned corporation, breeding, producing, and distributing wholesale both esculent and ornamental plants through businesses in twenty countries, none of them strictly devoted to the rose.

Meanwhile, Mother Nature through all these years has continued in Pennsylvania to grow her own, the wild roses *Rosa canina*, *R. palustris*, and *R. setigera.*


Rosa canina


Rosa palustris

HERITAGE ROSE GROUPS

San Diego Group
Becky Yianilos
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760-822-8812; bekizoo@aol.com

South Bay Group
San Jose & Santa Cruz area
Jill Perry
829 32nd Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062
oldtearoses@gmail.com

Central Coast Group
Jill Perry (same as above: South Bay)

Yolo, Yuba & Beyond Group
Sacramento, Davis, Folsom areas
Anita Clevenger; anitac@surewest.net

Bidwell Heritage Rose Group
Butte, Glenn & Tehema Counties, CA
Julie Matlin, 341 West Lincoln
Chico, CA 95926; 530-893-5418
Sherri Berglund, 2578 County Rd.
Willows CA 95988;
rsericea@yahoo.com

North Central Coast
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Alice Flores, P.O. Box 601
Albion, CA 95410; aflores@mcn.org

San Juan Bautista HRG
San Benito Co., CA
Loryn Ross: Loryn000@aol.com
http://sjbheritageroses.weebly.com

Gold Coast Group
(L.A, Ventura, Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo counties)
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Heritage Roses Northwest
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Margaret Nelson
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Old Dominion Group
Virginia & Adjacent Area
Connie Hilker
335 Hartwood Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22406; c.hilker@comcast.net

Mme Bergeret by Francois Boucher,1766