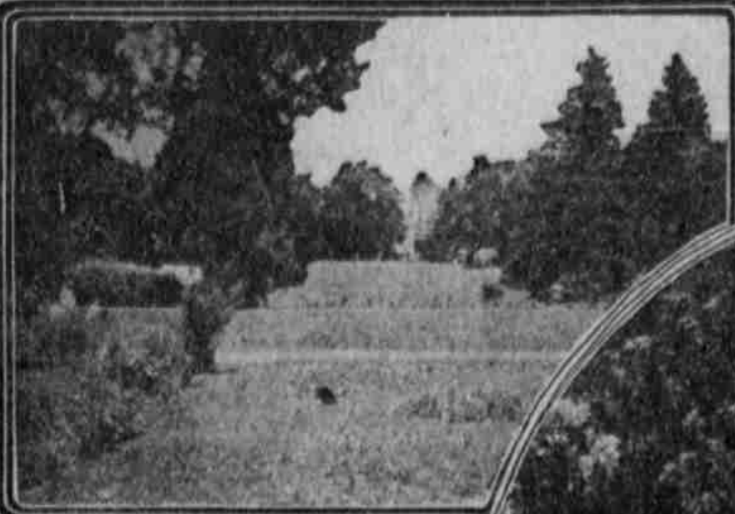


COLONIAL GARDENS IN OLD VIRGINIA



TERRACED LAWN GARDEN OF A VIRGINIA ESTATE

IN OLD VIRGINIA



MAGNOLIA PLANTED AT MOUNT VERNON BY LAFAYETTE

In the estimation of most people, in this country at least, who take an interest in the subject of home ornamentation by means of lawns and gardens there is nothing more attractive and appealing than a colonial garden. That this method of displaying nature's bounty appeals to people who have the means and facilities for indulging a taste for any sort of ornamental gardening is eloquently proven by the fact that a colonial garden has been a conspicuous feature at the White House for a number of years past. Mrs. Roosevelt had this garden laid out just south of the presidential mansion, and immediately underneath the windows of her private apartments, and Mrs. Taft was so impressed with its beauty when she became First Lady of the Land that she not only continued the garden but had it extended and improved.

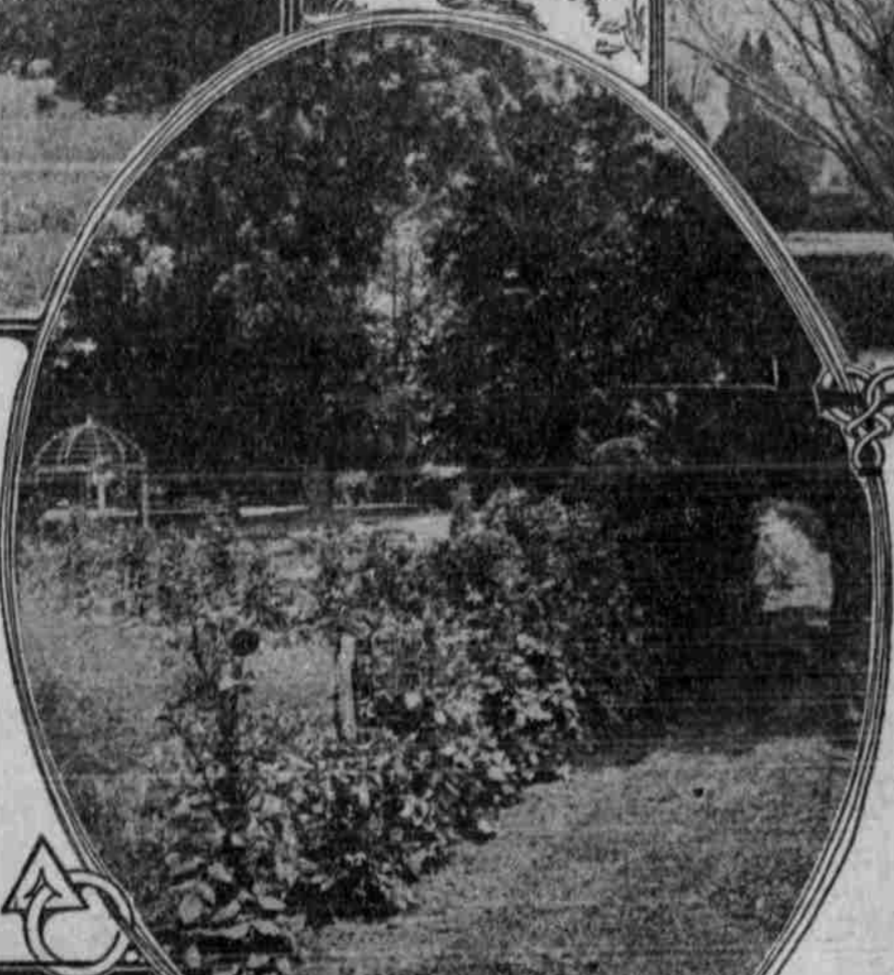
By a colonial garden is meant, it will be understood, the form of flower plot that was the approved and accepted fashion in the days of our great-grandfathers before the Revolutionary war. In many respects a colonial garden is not so very different from an equal area of flower beds of the average sort, inasmuch as most of the flowers that have place in a colonial garden are of the old-fashioned hardy sort. There are, however, some features of the lay-out of the flower beds that render the colonial garden distinctive, and particularly in this case with the neatly trimmed little hedges that serve as borders for the various flower beds and in many instances supply screens and boundary markers for the garden.

In the case of many of the older gardens all or a portion of these hedges are formed of the richly tinted and sweet scented box. Indeed it is the presence of this shrub which is likely to distinguish a genuine colonial garden from the newer sort of floral setting. For be it known the box is very difficult to transplant successfully—some say impossible—and it is of very slow growth. So much so, indeed, that a handsome hedge of box is more likely than not to represent the fruits of a century or more of care and attention. Withal the box will grow fairly well if left to itself and only given time, but the watchful care of a gardener is required if it is desired to restrict it to certain limits, as, for instance, the borders of flower beds.

In the days preceding and following the Revolution there were colonial gardens in all the thirteen original states, but the finest of these were located in Virginia. Nor was this to be wondered at, for the Old Dominion was at that time the seat of the most notable country seats in the new world. History tells of the magnificent estates maintained by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and other prominent Virginians of that period, but there were dozens of other wealthy landed proprietors who, though perhaps not nationally as prominent, lived in the same baronial style on their expansive plantations and had the slave labor that contributed so much to the development of such estates. A colonial garden was not only an inevitable adjunct of a Virginia estate in those days of lavish living, but it was in many instances the special pride and hobby of the lord or mistress of the manor house.

Now, strange to say, a surprising number of these old colonial gardens retain to this day much of their old-time splendor. We say surprising, because it must be remembered that when the devastating tide of our great Civil war swept over Virginia it played havoc with many an ancestral estate and it would be too much to expect that the gardens should not suffer as did the mansions. Furthermore, many of the old Virginia families have been in greatly reduced circumstances since the war and have not had the means to maintain the old gardens in the manner that their ancestors did. That in spite of these conditions the colonial gardens in the state known as "The Mother of Presidents" retain so much of their beauty and fascination is a tribute to the advantages of this form of gardening.

There are some formal gardens in old Virginia, but for the most part the gardens are what are known as informal, or suggestive of nature's own arrangement rather than masterpieces of the fancy gardener's ingenuity. Only in rare instances do we see the box or other hedge shrubs trimmed and fashioned into fantastic shapes to



AN OLD-FASHIONED GARDEN IN VIRGINIA



TERRACED GARDEN IN THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

counterfeit walls, arches and even miniature castles such as is common in the famous formal gardens of England and which has latterly been copied in some of the newer estates of our multimillionaires in the vicinity of New York, in New England and elsewhere. Whereas this form of horticultural sculpture is lacking the Virginia gardens are embellished by many an artistic touch. For instance, the grassy or flower-banked terraces which can be rendered so effective have been introduced whenever the character of the site seemed to render it advisable, and fountains, stone garden seats, etc., are to be found just as in the gardens laid out in more precise fashion. The gardens of the Old Dominion also disclose a wide variety of pergolas, arbors and summer houses. Some of these are of rustic construction and almost all of them are unpretentious in character compared with the ornamental buildings to be found in twentieth century gardens where money has flowed like water, but for quiet repose and the charm of sylvan solitude and as trying places for those who desire to exchange confidences in a sympathetic though secluded environment it is doubtful if there is in the entire country anything to compare with these vine-covered nooks.

Perhaps the ideal time to visit an old Virginia garden is in the spring or early summer when the prim box hedges have tips on every branch, giving them a new coat of soft green and imparting the touch of feathers when the hand is passed over the soft surface. Rose time is bound to be a favorite season because roses were ever one of the most cherished charges of the old-time gardeners in this favored clime, and here one may find in all their glory a number of beautiful varieties, such as the Nelly Custis, which will not be encountered elsewhere unless they have been transplanted from Virginia soil. But in reality it is injustice to praise the rose season above other intervals in the prolonged blossom time. The chief ambition of the owner of a colonial garden in the Old Dominion has ever been to so select and arrange the flowers that the garden will be a continual mass of bloom from the advent of the magnolia, the snowball and the lilac in the early spring until after the passing of the Virginia creepers, the jessamines, the passion vines and the hardy chrysanthemums of the waning season.

The amount of care necessary to keep a Virginia garden in proper condition would be likely to surprise a resident of a more northerly state not familiar from experience with the rapidity with which things grow in this favored clime. Even the box hedges—perhaps two hundred years old—must be trimmed back every year if they are to be kept less than shoulder high so that they will not prevent visitors to the garden from obtaining general views of the labyrinth of greenery. The average colonial garden which has been maintained in anything approaching its old-time glory has a greenhouse attached in which plants may be given a favorable start early in the spring and later transplanted to the flower beds. Many of the old gardens also have in one corner of the plot a tiny ornamental building used as a seed house and tool house, whereas in not a few of these ancient floral domains the time-honored sun dial has been made the central object in the garden and the flower beds have been arranged around it as a pivot.

At many of the estates in Virginia, particularly those which were the homes of men of na-

tional prominence, it was the custom a hundred years ago or more to invite distinguished guests to plant trees, shrubs or flowers as mementoes of their visits. We see the fruits of this custom in the historic plantings which have been perpetuated at Mount Vernon—the trees planted by Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson and the rose bush planted and named for his mother by Gen. George Washington. It is the outgrowth of this same custom which has prompted many of our presidents and distinguished foreign visitors to plant trees in the White House grounds at Washington. Attached to the flower garden proper on many an old Virginia estate is a series of terraced beds which were used in the old days, if not at present, for growing small fruits and vegetables for the use of the household. In many instances these kitchen gardens were screened with box and the gravel walks were neatly bordered with the same rich-hued shrub so that the general effect was almost as pleasing as that of the posy beds themselves.

Not the least of the factors that go to make up the beauty of a colonial garden in Virginia is found in the stately old trees that in most every instance surround or overshadow the space allotted to flowers—the limbs trimmed to a sufficient height from the ground to allow the entrance of plenty of sunshine. Such trees are, alike to the box, only to be attained as the heritage of time and consequently they are lacking in many a newly established garden upon which money has been expended without stint. All the summer houses, the trellis, etc., which one sees in these old Virginia gardens are of frame construction, the wood usually being painted white, and the garden walls which on some estates supplement the hedges are of brick. The gardens were established too long ago to admit of the introduction of the concrete products of the latter-day garden. Almost without exception, however, garden structures are so heavily vine clad that the material of their construction makes very little difference in appearance. Outside the strictly tropical vegetation there are few flowers or trailing vines that will not grow luxuriantly in the kindly Virginia climate and this fact accounts for the variety of vegetation in the old gardens.

Paris Siege Bread

A collector of curiosities in Boston shows with pride a piece of bread that was baked in Paris during the siege. Of course, it is now harder than a brick, and looks unpalatable. Emile Bergerat, the son-in-law of Gautier, is writing his memoirs—and the first volume "Souvenirs d'un Enfant de Paris Les Années de Bohème," has just been published. Recollecting events of the siege he has much to say about the bread.

"I think some persons must have kept theirs, for 15 years afterward I saw pieces of bread in a glass case. I was stupefied for two reasons. In the first place, in the severest days and after January 15, there was for each month only a mouse's ration, 300 grams. This was utter starvation. The Parisian, as is well known, is a great bread eater; he can deprive himself of anything else, but ordinarily he must have at least his 450 grams."

Bergerat, in the second place, does not believe that the substance could survive the armistice. Chemistry could do nothing with it. Berthelot assured Gautier that he ate the bread without understanding it.

"This bread was Dantesque and not to be analyzed. If I had been Jules Favre at Fortifiers, I should have simply thrown a biscuit on the table in front of Bismarck and said: 'Smell it. The city is yours.'"

No one knew what this bread was made of, says the Bakers Weekly, or if anybody knew he did not dare to tell the secret. The animal kingdom supplied material after the vegetable was exhausted, and the mineral succeeded the animal. In the bakery once kept by Bergerat's father a blacksmith forged bread. Buyers broke their teeth on nails. The report was circulated that bones from the catacombs were at last used.

A SIMPLE SYSTEM.

"How did Brown come to be so highly esteemed as a weather prophet?"
"By his optimism. When there is a drought he keeps predicting rain, and when it's raining he says it is going to clear off."

WHO'S WHO AND WHY

STIMSON NEW WAR SECRETARY



Henry Lewis Stimson, the new secretary of war, is a progressive Republican of the Roosevelt stripe and has been considered as Roosevelt's right hand man in politics. Stimson is forty-three. He comes of a Knickerbocker family and was born in New York September 21, 1867. At Yale he was a member of Psi Upsilon and Skull of Bones. After he graduated from Yale in '88 he went to Harvard and received his master's degree in '89 and his law school diploma in '90. In 1893 he became a member of the law firm of which Elihu Root was a member, and in 1906 President Roosevelt took him from a lucrative private practice to make him United States district attorney for the southern district of New York. During the three years that followed Stimson distinguished himself in the prosecutions of the sugar trust, Charles W. Morse and railroad rebaters.

Last fall Roosevelt nominated him for governor of New York and Stimson and the colonel stumped the state, going down to defeat in the Democratic landslide, after a spectacular campaign.

In person, Stimson is tall, slender and impressive. He has dark hair and wears a small mustache. His diction is precise and his delivery much like that of an attorney reading a brief in court.

When Mr. Dickinson, the retiring secretary, took the war portfolio, he gave up the position of general solicitor for the Illinois Central Railway system and a salary of \$35,000 a year to enter the cabinet. He was born in Columbus, Miss., in 1851 and studied at the University of Nashville, Columbia college, Leipzig university and in Paris. He was counsel for the Alaskan Boundary Commission in 1907 and 1908. From 1895 to 1897 he was assistant attorney general of the United States. For some years he has made Chicago his home and in politics is a Democrat.

THE ORIGINAL INSURGENT

Representative Henry Allen Cooper of Racine, Wis., is declared entitled to the distinction of being the first insurgent in congress. Mr. Cooper was an insurgent before the word "insurgent" came into use. He has been in congress 16 years, and he has been an insurgent 16 years.

Before the "stalwarts" in Wisconsin had Robert Marion La Follette to trouble them, Henry A. Cooper of the First Wisconsin district was inclined to mope up the program of the regulars. He was elected first to the Fifty-third congress. Once or twice an effort was made to defeat him for the nomination, and after that they tried to defeat him at the election, but he has been returned to each succeeding congress.

When Cooper went to congress for his first term he was placed upon the committee on Pacific railroads. The Pacific railroad funding bill was before the committee, and the young man from Racine proceeded to raise a row, which was an innovation for that committee on that particular hill. He was "sent for" a number of times, and some of the big lobbyists for the railroad labored with him to get him to "see the light," but Cooper refused to see it. He fought the claim of the railroad and spoiled the program. At the next session he was removed from the committee as a punishment for his impudence.

At the opening of the session of congress in 1907 the Democrats under the leadership of DeArmond, of Missouri, made the first assault upon the rules giving the speaker such great power, and Cooper was the only Republican who joined with the Democrats.



IS NOW PULLMAN PRESIDENT



Robert Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln, presented his resignation as president of the Pullman Sleeping Car company the other day, and John Sumner Runnells, vice-president and general counsel of the company, was elected president.

Mr. Lincoln, who is retiring from active office on account of ill health, has been president of the car company since George M. Pullman died in 1897. He is now 68 years old, and has been away from his office on account of poor health much of the time for several months. Mr. Runnells meanwhile has administered the office duties.

Mr. Runnells has been general counsel of the \$120,000,000 Pullman company since 1887, and has been vice-president since 1905. He was born in Effingham, N. H., July 30, 1844, graduated from Amherst college in 1865, and after studying law at Dever, N. H., removed to Iowa and became private secretary to the governor of the United States district attorney for Iowa.

CARNEGIE GETS GOLD MEDAL

What he called his greatest mark of honor was received the other day by Andrew Carnegie, when 21 American republics bestowed upon him a gold medal bearing on one side the words "Benefactor of Humanity," and on the other "The American Republics to Andrew Carnegie." It was the first time in history that such a tribute from so many nations had been paid to an individual, and the scene, which took place at Washington, was highly impressive.

Senor de Zamacona, the Mexican ambassador, made the presentation speech. Secretary of State Knox presided and President Taft spoke in eulogy of the gifts which Mr. Carnegie has made for the cause of peace on this hemisphere and throughout the world. Members of the diplomatic corps and men high in official life filled the hall of the Pan-American Union building, where the ceremonies were held and for the erection of which Mr. Carnegie gave \$1,000,000.

In accepting the medal Mr. Carnegie told of his deep feelings on being informed last autumn of the honor conferred upon him by the Pan-American conference at Buenos Ayres, when 160,000,000 people, forming 21 sovereign nations, through their representatives voted to bestow upon him this signal honor. The great steel master was visibly moved by a powerful sense of this remarkable evidence of appreciation.

