

The Lost Azaleas of Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

By Caroline Howell—Charleston, South Carolina

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens draws thousands of visitors every year, especially during the springtime, because of the vibrantly colored azaleas in bloom. The azalea is a beautiful plant that has deep roots not only in the South but also at Magnolia.

As the historical researcher at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, I was recently charged by our executive director, Tom Johnson, to investigate the history of azaleas at Magnolia. I have researched many things during my time as researcher; however, this was the first time I have researched the history of plants. While researching, I came across Reverend John Grimke Drayton's Garden Journal dating from 1879. It was in the 1840s that Reverend Drayton, wanting to create an earthly paradise for his Philadelphian wife, Julia, planted azalea clippings he'd received from friends at his plantation, Magnolia-on-the-Ashley, marking the first time the azalea was planted outside of a greenhouse in North America. This handwritten journal lists alphabetically all the azaleas he had in the gardens at Magnolia, along with a few notes.

Additional research yielded a transcribed version of Rev. Drayton's garden journal located deep in the Magnolia archives. This transcription was done in 1949 by B.Y. Morrison. Using the Morrison transcription and Rev. Drayton's actual journal, I have been able to compile the following list of Magnolia's 1879 azaleas (see table). The dates that accompany some refer to the year they were introduced and come from the list compiled by B.Y. Morrison in 1949. Morrison used Rev. Drayton's Journal to create his

list. [The spellings and gaps in names shown are as given in the Drayton journal, as transcribed by Morrison, Ed.]

After over 130 years, a large majority of these azalea varieties are no longer around. In an effort to preserve the entire history of Magnolia including its agricultural history, I ask that if you or anyone you know have any of these "lost" azalea varieties please contact me at research@magnoliaplantation.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

References

Drayton, Rev. John Grimke. List of Azaleas in 1879 Garden Journal. Charleston, SC: Magnolia Plantation and Gardens Archives.

Morrison, B.Y. 1949. Original Azalea Varieties at Magnolia Gardens. Charleston, SC: Magnolia Plantation and Gardens Archives.

Caroline Howell is the historical researcher at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, in addition to being a guide in the award-winning "From Slavery to Freedom" tour. Howell is a 12th generation Carolinian and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. As a graduate of the College of Charleston with a degree in Historic Preservation, being able to uncover the history of every aspect of Magnolia is perfect—from researching the history of plants in the gardens to researching the ancestors of the Drayton family.

▼ Magnolia Plantation and Gardens 1879 List of Azaleas

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Admiration (1853) | Alba | Alba Fimbriata |
| Alexander II (1870) | Alice (1870) | Amoena (1852) |
| Apollo (1843) | Apollo (Buist's) | Apollon (1870) |
| Ardens (1845) | Arthur Waroque | Ascendens |
| Aurelia (1857) | Barclayana (1854) | Baron de Pret (1861) |
| Baron de Rothchild (1861) | Baron De Vriere (1857) | Baron Geo. De St. Genois (1872) |
| Baron Ozy (1868) | Baron Pyke (1863) | Beauty of Europe (Europa) (1855) |
| Beauty of Reigate (1853) | Bella | Belle Gantoise (1888) |
| Bernard Andreas (1858) | Bernard Andreas Alba (1868) | Bianca (1854) |
| Bijou de Leidberg (1864) | Bijou de Paris (1867) | Borsig (1864) |
| Bouquet de Roses (1861) | Bride (1858) | Broughtoni (1845) |
| Caeii | Cedo Nulli (1854) | Ceres (1868) |
| Charmer (1867) | Charles Encke (1861) | Charles Leirens (1872) |
| Clapham Beauty (1863) | Cleopatra (1853) | Cocarde d'Orange (1872) |
| Coccinea (1835) | Comte de Haynau (1858) | Contesse de Beaufort (1871) |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Contesse de Chambrai (1878) | Contesse de Newport | Contesse Euginia de Kerckhove (1872) |
| Conqueror (1863) | Copel | Coquette de Flandre (1853) |
| Coloris Novis (1865) | Columbia (1868) | Comtesse de Chembra (1878) |
| Comtesse de Flandre (1867) | Constance Van Kiersblick (1868) | Crispiflora Alba |
| Criterion (1853) | Cromaria | Danielsiana (1834) |
| Daphne (1871) | Decora | Delicate (1909) |
| Deutsche Perle (1878) | Diadem de Spa (1861) | Docteur Moore (1873) |
| Donna Maria (1857) | Duchess Adelaide de Nassau (1854) | Duc de Malakoff (1858) |
| Duc Adolph de Nassau (1854) | Duc de Nassau | Duke of Devonshire (1849) |
| Duke of Wellington (1844) | Elizabeth | Emperor |
| Emperor of Brazil (1876 & 1880) | Ernest Benary (1864) | Estandard de Flandre (1857) |
| Eugene Mazel (1865) | Exquisite (1844) | Exquisita Pallida (1850) |
| Exquisita Superba | Eveline (1867) | Extrania (1854) |
| Fascination | Ferdinand Kergulen | Fielder's White (1846) |
| Flag of Truce (1863) | Flambeau | Flower of the Day (1861) |
| Formosa van Houtti (1846) | Francois de Vos (1867) | Frost II |
| Georgiana | Germrath H. von Martin | Giant of _____ Battles |
| Gillinham II | Glory of Belgium (1857) | Glory of Sunningham (1854) |
| Grand Duchess of Barden (1860) | Grandis (1868) | Gross Furstin (1863) |
| Hercules (1863) | Hermine (1858) | Hirsute Superba |
| Hortense Verane (1861) | H. Van Aumale | Ignescens (1838) |
| Imbricata (1838) | Imperatrice De India (1876) | Imperatrice Des Indes (1878) |
| Indica | Indica Symmetry (1845) | Irma (1857) |
| Jean Van Volxen (1868) | Jean Vervane (1876) | Jean Verschaffelt (1868) |
| John Gould Veitch (1874) | Jule Van Loo (1868) | Juliana (1863) |
| Juliette (1870) | Kingsshornii (1860) | La Glorie (1868) |
| La Paix (1867) | La Supera (1867) | Lateritia (1832) |
| Lateritia Alba Superba (1853) | Leana | Liebig (1898) |
| Little Flanders | Little Bride | Loreley (1860) |
| Louis Napoleon (1854) | Louise Margottin (1860) | Lucomb's Majestic |
| McKensiana | Magnifica (1845) | Magnifica Alba Plena |
| Magniflora (1843) | Maitlandii | Marginata |
| Maria (1860) | Mdlle. Leonie Van Houtte (1856-57) | Mdlle. Marie Van Houtte |
| Marie Van Houtte (1870) | Mad. C. De Hamale (1865) | Mad. De Kervhove (1882) |
| Mad. Alex v. Hardy (1870) | Mad. Iris Lefebre (1870) | Mad. Marie Lefebre (1870) |
| Mad. Miellez (1853) | Mad. Michael (1863) | Mad. Alex van Langenhove (1870) |
| Mad. Camille van Landenhove (1870) | Madame Van der Cryssen (1867) | Madame Ambrose Vershaffelt (1861) |
| Madame Dominique Vervaene (1865) | Meteor (1868) | Mrs. Fry |
| Mrs. George Merritt (1874) | Murrayana (1846) | Narcissiflora (1860?) |
| Neptune (1846) | Nonpareil (1867) | Nova Coloros (1865) |
| Optima | Pallida | Pauline Mardner (1860) |
| Pelargoniaflora (1857) | Perryana (1846) | Phoenicea (1829) |
| Prestantissima | President Clayes (1858) | President De. De Ghellinck de Walle (1870) |
| President Van der Hencke (1865) | Pride of Dorking | Prince Albert (1853) |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Princess Charlotte (1863) | Princess Louise (1872) | Princess Mary of Cambridge |
| Princess Stephanie Clothilde (1867) | Professor Lemoin | Punctate Formosa |
| Punctulata (1865) | Punculata Variegata (1865) | Purpurea Pleno |
| Queen of Beauties | Queen of Double Stripes | Queen of Double White (1869) |
| Queen of Roses | Queen of Scarlets (1869) | Queen of Whites (1861) |
| Ramentacea (1846) | Raphael (1868) | Reine De Panaches (1859) |
| Reine des Pays-Bas (1865) | Reine de Roses (1863) | Reine des Beauties (1863) |
| Reine des Fleurs (1874) | Rhenania (1860) | Rhododendrides |
| Roi de Beaute (1864) | Roi de Hollande (1868) | Roi des Belges |
| Roi Leopold (1858) | Rosea Illustrata (1858) | Rosea Magna |
| Rubra Pleno (1836) | Schoene Mainzrin (1860) | Senateur Kesler |
| Sigisimund Rucker (1873) | Sir Charles Napier (1854) | Speciosissima (1829) |
| Splendadissima (1926?) | Souvenir de Maximilliam (1868) | Souvenir de Prince Albert (1863) |
| Stella (1867) | Thumsdel (1860) | Triomphe d'Exposition (1902) |
| Triumphans (1854) | Valeria (1876) | Variegata (1834) |
| Vesta (1843) | Virgin Queen | Vittata (1853-54) |
| Vittata Crispiflora (1865) | Vivenscens (1854) | Von Gertiana (1849) |
| Williams II | | |

ASA Financial Statement - December 31, 2016

Paul A. Beck, Treasurer

INCOME STATEMENT

Year 2016

INCOME

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Contributions, Donations & Gifts ¹ | \$9,279 |
| Dues Income (Life & Regular) | \$16,793 |
| Seed Exchange | \$681 |
| <i>The Azalean</i> Income | \$2,506 |
| Investment Income | \$1,142 |
| Other Income ² | \$5,774 |
| Total Income | \$36,175 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Grants | \$3,694 |
| Professional Fees | \$7,435 |
| Printing, publications, postage | \$10,472 |
| Other expenses ³ | \$5,452 |
| Total Expenses | \$27,053 |

INCOME – EXPENSES

\$9,122

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2016

ASSETS

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Checking | \$5,463 |
| Savings | \$16,375 |
| PayPal | \$397 |
| CDs | \$156,123 |
| ARF Stock Investments | \$24,733 |
| Total Assets | \$203,091 |

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Uncashed checks | \$45 |
| Credit Card Account | \$104 |
| Operating Fund | \$24,177 |
| General Endowment | \$80,383 |
| Research Fund | \$98,382 |
| Total Liabilities and Reserves | \$203,091 |

¹ Includes a \$5,000 donation received from 2016 Williamsburg convention.

² Includes \$2,524 in CD/bank account interest, \$3,000 in returned fees from IRS for group exemption application and a late \$250 payment from one chapter for the IRS application.

³ Includes \$2,190 chapter dues reimbursement and return of \$2,050 to the chapters for their contributions for the IRS application. Other miscellaneous expenses make up the rest.