

# ROSE LETTER

Heritage Roses Group



February 2013

*Paula Squire  
February 2013*

# ROSE LETTER

of

## The Heritage Roses Group

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**Champneys' Pink Cluster**

## **AMERICA'S FIRST ROSE BREEDERS**

**Darrell g.h. Schramm**

The beginnings of rose breeding in the colonies of the New World, which would become the United States, coincided with the beginnings of rose growing rage in France. **John Champneys** (1743-1820), a native son of South Carolina, lived on a ten-acre estate south of Charleston where he kept a nursery and private park of flowering plants. Sometime between 1800 but before 1814 he developed a rose that was a cross of *Rosa moschata*, the Musk Rose, and 'Old Blush', the famous china rose that became a parent to many repeat-blooming roses. The rose was named 'Champneys' Pink Cluster'.

The son of nurseryman William Prince reported that same information, adding that John Champneys gave his father two containers, each growing six plants taken as cuttings from this original rose. Another story has it that the florist Philippe Noisette of Charleston had provided Champneys with both the musk rose and 'Old Blush' so that Champneys in turn presented Noisette with the new roses. Of course both stories could be true. **Philippe Noisette** raised a seedling from the original rose and in 1814 sent it to his brother Louis, a nurseryman in France.

This second rose, a seedling of 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', was called 'Blush Noisette', introduced to the French public in 1817. Fragrant and remontant, the noisette class was born. Other noisettes and tea-noisettes that have stemmed from these first two American roses are

‘Aimee Vibert’, ‘Alister Stella Gray’, ‘Bougainville’, ‘Bouquet Tout Fait’, ‘Cloth of Gold’, ‘Felleberg’, ‘Lemarque’, ‘Marechal Niel’, ‘Narrow Water’, and ‘Princesse de Nassau’. These roses quickly became popular, most of which are still available today, two hundred years later.

**John Fraser**, a botanist-explorer and nurseryman originally from Scotland, set up his nursery a few miles from John Champneys’ rice plantation. About the same time as ‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster’, a rose appeared with the name of ‘Fraser’s Pink Musk’. Some rosarians assume that Fraser developed this rose, while others speculate that Champneys may have produced it and named it for John Fraser. But apparently Fraser took it to Europe where, according to Robert Buist in 1839, it became known as “‘Fraserii’. ‘Blush Musk’, ‘Pink Musk’, all the same rose . . . much puffed in Europe, being the only one of colour in that group.” William Robert Prince also lists this rose in his 1846 nursery catalogue. William lists it as ‘Fraser’s’ in *The Rose Garden* of 1848.

About 1980 a rose discovered in South Carolina was believed to be ‘Fraser’s Pink Musk’. The plant grows seven or eight feet high, each cane ending in a cluster of small rosy-pink, scented flowers. According to the paltry records we have, it would be among the first three roses bred in our country.

The next two roses on record were bred by the **Landreth brothers, David and Cuthbert**, who had emigrated from Northumberland to Philadelphia. David had arrived first and opened his nursery in 1786; Cuthbert joined him in 1796. Initially, David had worked as head gardener for the wealthy Robert Morris, one of the primary financiers of the Revolutionary War and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Like Henry Prat of Lemon Hill and Robert Buist, the Landreth Brothers also featured a prominent horticultural garden. In 1824 they introduced a noisette rose, ‘Landreth’s Carmine’ and around the same time a hybrid china named ‘Washington’. Although Robert Buist mentions ‘Landreth’s Carmine’ in his 1844 *Rose Manual*, these two roses may not have lasted much more than a generation, given that William R. Prince did not list them in his 1846 catalogue of more than 1600 roses. But the Landreths were in tune with the times; both china and noisette roses were the vogue among breeders and the public alike.

Around 1830 on his family estate in then-rural Manhattan, a quiet lawyer, **George Folliott Harison**, kept a greenhouse where he bred a fully double, darkly yellow rose that came to be called ‘Harison’s Yellow’. It was the first yellow rose developed in the United States. Propagated by William Prince, it was introduced in 1835. Another New York nurseryman, Thomas Hogg, also sold the rose, some of which a partner sent to England under the name of ‘Hogg’s Yellow’; hence, its other—less common—name. The rose became quickly popular and spread

through the developing nation. When it reached Texas, it became known as “The Yellow Rose of Texas.” ‘Harison’s Yellow’ has been found along the Oregon Trail and through California’s gold rush country. The rosarian Frances E. Lester found it growing in ghost towns and other deserted places there in the 1940s. Still available in some nurseries today, it is the third oldest surviving rose in the United States.



**Harison’s Yellow**

**Robert Buist** (1802-1880) was born in Scotland and arrived in Philadelphia in 1828. Quite soon with his partner Thomas Hibbert, he opened a seed, gardening, and florist business. In the meantime he wrote two books, *The American Florist Guide* and *Buist’s Family Kitchen Gardener*. With Hibbert, he published *The American Flower Garden Directory*. Their 1832 nursery catalogue included ‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster’, ‘Blush Noisette’, and Landreth’s “Washington’. When Hibbert died in 1837, he relocated to another part of the city and began concentrating on roses. While some of his stock came from the famous French rose breeder Jean-Pierre Vibert, most of it was imported from Mr. Hardy, head of the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris.

Buist bred several roses. Among them were two hybrid chinas, ‘Hibbertia’, named for his partner, and ‘Jacksonia’, probably named for the seventh president of the United States. Both appeared about 1830. Three noisettes were introduced around 1840: ‘Cora L. Barton’ and ‘Madam Byrne’, both seedlings from the long-lived and popular

‘Lamarque’, and ‘Lutea’ (also known as ‘Smithii’), a rose favored in the southern states but “too tender for the open air of Pennsylvania.” Robert Buist’s *The Rose Manual* included not only descriptions of roses popular at the time but also instruction on soil preparation, hybridization, and propagation. It remains an American classic on roses.

In 1808 Caroline Neyle of Charleston, widow of Bartlee Smyth, married the viticulturist Nicholas Herbemont, a founding member of the South Carolina Agricultural Society. Whereas he was the first American to make wine in the French manner, **Caroline Herbemont** was the first known American woman to breed roses. An heiress, she brought to her marriage a huge city block estate in Columbia, South Carolina, where the couple lived at Laurel Park. There in the 1830s or earlier, she produced several of her own roses. One was ‘Herbemonti Grandiflora’, a seven foot high shrub with double, “deep rich pink flowers that bloomed in masses covering the entire plant,” its only flaw, apparently, being the short period of bloom—ten days. Evidently, according to Gideon R. Smith, a neighbor, it was a hybrid. Another of her roses, listed in William Robert Prince’s catalogue of 1846, was the noisette ‘Herbemont’s Caroline.’ Because her husband planted roses as well as grapes, figs, plums, and other fruit, a couple of authors assume that a third rose ‘Herbemont Musk Cluster’ was his creation; however, other sources, some nearer her lifetime, including one written a year after her death, attributes ‘Herbemont’s Cluster’ to her. In fact he clearly states she raised it from seed. The flowers were initially described as “double the size of the common white musk cluster, equally white, much more fragrant, . . . more prolific and a perpetual bloomer.” Buist lists this white musk in his *American Flower-Garden Directory* from the third edition, 1845, to the sixth edition, 1862. In 1853, one writer for the *Philadelphia Florist & Horticultural Journal* praised the excellence of this white, clustering musk. But Prince’s nursery in 1846 described the rose as “blush,” selling it for 37 cents. Parsons in 1860 described it as “blush white” and Peter Henderson in 1880 as “deep carmine, semi-double.” Was this pinkish form the same rose? According to her friend writing in the July 1837 issue of *The Magazine of Horticulture*, Caroline Herbemont had produced a few other roses as well. So perhaps the blush or carmine musk was a different musk-cluster? Or are we to take note of Buist’s sage words that “blush roses frequently bloom entirely white”—and vice versa?

‘Herbemont’s Musk Cluster’ must have been outstanding. Karl King of Kentucky writes that Samuel Feast used it as a co-parent with *Rosa setigera* for some of his roses. In 1984 Charles A. Walker, Jr., wrote of seeing a rose grown in the garden of a Mrs. Ruth Westwood of Newberry, a town about forty miles from Columbia, a rose that he

suspected might be ‘Herbemont Musk Cluster’. Mrs. Caroline  
Herbemont died in 1836.



**Mme Boll**

**Daniel Boll** of New York, a Swiss horticulturist, established his Midtown Nursery in 1837, the same year in which he introduced his hybrid perpetual ‘Belle Americaine’. The rose may have been named in reference to Elizabeth Monroe, wife of our fifth president; it was the name given her by the French when she intervened to prevent the Marquise de Lafayette from being guillotined. It is not clear whether or not ‘Belle

Americaine’ is the same rose as ‘Pretty American’, to which the French name translates; the latter is also ascribed to Boll but is described as a deep pink miniature. Boll also bred the hybrid perpetual ‘Mme Trudeau’ in 1850, the spinosissima hybrid ‘Souvenir de Henry Clay’ in 1854, and several others. According to *Gardener’s Monthly* of 1880, several of Boll’s roses were sold by various unscrupulous persons in France “who sent them out as their own.” The lovely old Portland rose ‘Comte de Chambord’, bred originally as ‘Mme Boll’, is apparently one of these roses. Like George Harison of ‘Harison’s Yellow’ fame, Daniel Boll is buried in Trinity Cemetery of Harlem, New York.

Between 1843 and 1850 **Joshua Pierce** of Washington D.C., introduced a series of setigera seedling roses. *R. setigera*, the Prairie Rose, is a North American species first catalogued in 1810, a deep pink rose of flexible canes, with a long flowering season, used first by Pierce, the Feast Brothers, and William Prince, then later by Michael Horvath. When Joshua Pierce first sowed seeds of *R. setigera*, he was surprised to find eleven or twelve varieties that were quite double and no two quite alike. While his ‘Eva Corinne’ of 1843, “the most delicate” of these, is said to be still in cultivation, it is not commercially available. Nor are the other eleven: not ‘Jane’, ‘Linnean Hill Beauty’, ‘Miss Gunnell’, ‘Mrs. Hovey’, ‘Mrs. Pierce’, ‘President’, ‘Pride of Washington’, ‘Ranunculifolia’, ‘Triumphant, nor ‘Virginia Lass’. At one time the Prince nursery carried

them all. Also called Michigan Roses, the setigera group, despite English scorn, was initially extolled as the great American rose.

**Samuel and John Feast** of Baltimore also experimented with *R. setigera* (or, *R. rubrafolia*, as it was called then), but more assiduously, more creatively, and more successfully than Pierce. Samuel Feast had been born in Yorkshire on October 23, 1796. He had emigrated to America in 1817, married an Ellen Cremer in 1820, and three years later decided to open a business in Baltimore. Between 1834 and 1837 he founded his nursery enterprise. In the meantime, his brother John, born in 1802, had arrived from England in 1823. But before he even filed to open his nursery, Samuel Feast had already been experimenting with rose breeding. A rose that he had raised from seed about 1829-30 flowered in 1832-33; this wee flower garnered news in 1837 when the entire plant, smaller than a hen's eggshell—under which it could fit—produced buckshot-sized roses. He named the rose 'Master Burke' after a child actor and violinist, Joseph Burke (1818-1902). In 1840 Feast discovered among his micro-miniatures of 'Master Burke' a sport, which he named 'Prince of Dwarf' [Dwarves?]. Unfortunately, that year he lost his 'Master Burke' plants.

However, he had already begun seeding *R. setigera*. 'Anne Maria', 'King of the Prairies', [Mme] Caradori Allen', 'Pallida', 'Perpetual Pink', and 'Superba' were some of the results. At the same time, around 1843, he had also developed the musk 'Nevea' and three Ayrshire hybrids, 'Feast's New White', 'Feast's Pink', and 'Feast's Purple'. But none of these were as strong and exciting, as enduring and popular as 'Queen of the Prairies' and 'Baltimore Belle'.



**Baltimore Belle**



‘Queen of the Prairies’ (also known as ‘Beauty of the Prairies’ and ‘Feast’s No. 1’) was the first of his seedlings and considered by many to be his best. Crossed with a gallica, this rose can cover whole walls or fences with its twenty feet of double, deep rose blossoms bearing a white stripe in the center of most petals. The blooming period of these clustering flowers begins after most once-blooming roses are spent. Their main flaw is hanging onto the stems after turning from pink to white to brown. Worldwide, ‘Queen of the Prairies’ is still available from three nurseries.



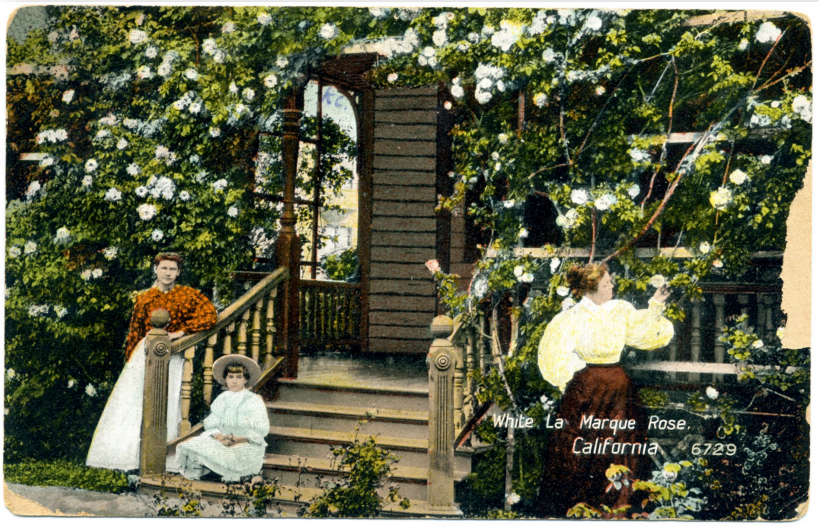
**Queen of the Prairies**



‘Baltimore Belle’, a *R. setigera* crossed with a noisette, is pale pink, fading to white. Sometimes a dark petal calls attention to this very double rose with a button eye center. It does well on pillars. Depending on climate and soil, it may bloom again in autumn. This lovely old rose is widely distributed and sold. As to its name, one story claims it was named for a young girl, Hannah, who was responsible for reforming her alcoholic father and thereafter accompanied him on temperance lectures. Another claims it was named for Betsy Patterson (1785-1879), the rejected wife of Napoleon’s brother Jerome; but she was not at all fond of Baltimore. Quite likely, being a Baltimore bred rose, it was named for its own beauty.

Samuel Feast died in 1868. John Feast, one of the founders of the Maryland Horticultural Society, died ten years later. The Feast nursery then became a part of Baltimore’s Harlem district.

William Robert Prince, already mentioned several times, stocked nearly all the roses so far mentioned. And he himself bred a few roses as well: ‘Prince’s Gracilis’ and ‘Seraphine’, both hybrid setigera, and three noisettes, ‘Prince’s Pearl Color’, ‘Prince’s Superb White’, and ‘Prince’s Coral’, none of which have survived the tests and tantrums of time. However, it is remarkable that six of our oldest roses still endure and grace certain American gardens—‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster’, ‘Blush Noisette’, ‘Harison’s Yellow’, ‘Queen of the Prairies’, ‘Baltimore Belle’, and ‘Mme Boll’. What American would not be proud to grow at least one of these roses in the garden?



## ROSE POSTCARDS

**Jill Perry**

My husband started collecting postcards long before he met me. He was interested in lighthouses and local history, and collected historic postcards of West Coast lighthouses and Santa Cruz County. As hobbies go, collecting old postcards is fairly inexpensive and doesn't take up much space. There are lots of them available, too. Back in the early 1900s, postcards were the equivalent of text messages today. And people who received them, kept them. You can collect postcards of almost anything—places, humor, celebrities, plants, Santa Claus, you name it.

Around 1993, the local postcard club started having a local sales event where dealers from central California come with boxes full of cards and other paper memorabilia to sell, so I accompanied my husband to it. Since by that time I was interested in roses, I bought a dozen or so, mostly for about a quarter each. Over time I got more selective. A lot of the cheap ones have a generic rose painting, with something like "Greetings" or "Happy Birthday" written in glitter. Better ones have photos of specific roses, or houses covered in roses, or real artwork (Catherine Klein is the preferred artist).

I now have several hundred rose postcards, and I've learned some interesting things about the postcard business as a result. The same

original black and white photograph may show up on postcards by several different publishers. Since they were colored before printing, the rose may be different colors by different publishers. While looking through my collection in preparing this article, I noticed another pair where the same roses were colored yellow in one and pink in the other. The photo had been cropped differently, so I hadn't noticed before that they were the same photo. I have three postcards of a rose tree where the backgrounds are all different. One is the original photograph with natural coloring. One has the same foreground and a simpler background and brighter flowers, and in the third everything but the rose tree has been replaced to make it look like it's in a well kept garden. They even added a very fake looking shadow to match that of the other plants. The locations of photos in postcards are also suspect. I have several pairs of the same photos where one says "Roses in California," and the other says "Roses in Portland, Oregon."



There are several themes in old rose postcards. One is specific roses that are identified and often numbered as collections of postcards. Another theme is "Roses blooming in midwinter in California," a ploy either to make easterners jealous, or to get them to move here. Rose-covered cottages are another theme (often overlapping with the previous theme). Again, it's obvious they played with the original photo. Some have children peeking out windows or playing in front of the cottage, while others of the same cottage have no people, or only some of the people, and in a different window, or wearing hats in one postcard, but

not another. ‘Gold of Ophir’ was a popular subject, and often does bloom here in midwinter. I have postcards of free-standing mounds of it, and plants grown onto porches, pergolas and into trees. There are also old postcards that were advertisements for rose nurseries and for public and private rose gardens. Some of the gardens were many acres and I’d never heard of them. I looked up Lambert Gardens. They are now an apartment complex in Portland, Oregon. What a sad loss that must have been. Fort Rose Garden in Southsea, England is still there. The Busch Sunken Gardens in Pasadena, CA, are remembered only by the suburban street names. There are still flower beds adjacent to the Victorian conservatory at Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, but I can’t tell if they still contain roses.

Some roses from my collection can be seen here:

<http://members.cruzio.com/~perry/postcards.html>

If you are interested in having a collection of rose postcards, you can start by searching for them on eBay. Copy the pictures of the ones you like to a folder on your computer, and start learning the terms about types of postcards (linen, realphoto, etc.), companies that published them, artists, condition, etc. Then, when a postcard show is near you, or you see a box of old postcards in an antique store, you’ll know something of the value of them, and which you’d like to have.

You can decorate with them. My husband made color Xerox prints of some of his local historical postcards, then framed them to decorate our living room. I’ve since replaced most of those with rose prints. They aren’t from postcards, but were found at a postcard show. Two are long, narrow embossed prints of roses. I recognized the artist’s signature on them—C. Klein—and snapped them up at a good price from a dealer who didn’t recognize the signature.

**ROSE LETTER INDEX:** I have recently completed an eclectic index of *Rose Letter* issues from 1978 to 2011. Not every article has been included, only those whose content pursues a topic substantially. For instance, an article that merely mentions roses favored or grown in one’s private garden is not included; an article that discusses a particular hybridist, garden, rose or class of rose is. While I have compiled this index for my own research and reference use, I offer to send an e-mail copy to anyone who requests one. Contact me at [schrammd@earthlink.net](mailto:schrammd@earthlink.net). ---The Editor

## THE SCOTS ROSE

Julie Matlin

And blest is he who tir'd with his  
    affairs,  
For from all noise, all vain applause,  
    prepares  
to go, and underneath some silent  
    shade  
Which neither cares nor anxious  
    thoughts invade,  
Does for a while, himself alone  
    posses;  
Changing the town for Rural  
    happiness.  
... to cool streams retire, to aged

    Groves retire,  
and th' unmixed pleasures of the fields desire.  
(Rene Rapin, 1621-1687, *Hortorm libri quattuor*)



**STANWELL PERPETUAL**

“Want to get away?” This popular slogan for enticing the stressed-out 21<sup>st</sup> Century spirit to fly off to a relaxing location has changed little since Rene Rapin, Jesuit priest and garden poet, penned his lament some 330+ years ago. Whether living in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the ability to get away from it all has always been important. If you were royalty, landed, or important 18<sup>th</sup> Century nobility the idea of getting away meant escaping the frustration of the city for the peace of the country. Here imagination could be free and a country manor in some grand, architectural style could be created. Of course, a grand garden would also be designed to set it all off. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century English landscape garden, or the Natural Movement in garden design in England would give royalty and the nobility a chance to express themselves in a grand style. When it came to creating massive country estates, there were few limits, and today, Britain's National Trust and tourist trade helps support these architectural treasures and garden landscapes.

Although English royalty and the nobility had been erecting country estates for centuries, the inception of the Naturalistic Gardening Style really took hold around 1740 with the introduction of the Natural Movement in garden design in England. If you had been growing flowers, roses and shrubs close to your castle, they were now banished to the back forty.

Henry Horn was the premier landscape designer of the 18<sup>th</sup>

Century. He was known for his creation of lakes, hanging gardens, underground grottoes, Classical temples, and the planting of indigenous trees, all allowed to grow naturally. Sheep and cows could be seen grazing close to the house. This was a natural landscape in all its park-like glory, gardening as an extension of Nature. But what an incredible illusion; all highly contrived, but of course designed to look as if Nature had triumphed and man was held to the details. The Naturalistic Garden Movement is today considered to be the greatest art form the English have ever produced. It laid the foundation for public parks in England and the USA, and introduced the concept of Man's oneness with Nature. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Victorians would reintroduce the flower and rose garden, and their own highly contrived style of gardening. However, well-known and influential garden writers like William Robinson would advocate the use of hardy plants around the Naturalistic gardens, the woodlands, in hedgerows and in gardens. His gardening voice would influence garden designs from Europe to the USA through the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

“... to cool streams retire, to aged Groves retire...”: Where were the roses? Were they completely removed to the extreme edges of the large manor houses? NO! Enter an English native known to have grown all over Europe, especially England and Scotland: *R. pimpinellifolia*/'*R. spinosissima*' or the Scots Rose:

Amongst the modern additions to the ornaments of our gardens, the varieties of Double Scotch Roses stand deservedly very high in estimation; their beauty is undisputed, and as they come into flower full three weeks before the general collection of garden roses. The earliest varieties open before the end of May, and the succession of blossoms is kept up 'til near the end of June, they thus protract the period of our enjoyment of his delightful genus... they are almost exclusively the produce of our own country... only three which can by any possibility be supposed to have originated outside of Great Britain. The Scotch Rose has been, and still is called the Burnet Rose; it is the *R. spinosissima* of the English authors of authority who have written on the genus; they have united the *R. pimpinellifolia* and the *R. spinosissima* of Linnaeus, treating them as the same species, and not even separating them as the same species.

(*Double-Scotch Roses*, Joseph Sabine, 1822)

[Indeed, recent DNA testing has shown that *R. spinosissima* and *R. pimpinellifolia* are very much one and the same rose.--The Editor]

The “Scotch Roses” or, more correctly “Scots Rose,” hardy native roses to England, provided beauty on the wild banks that could be

created with them when used in the natural landscape. In winter months, the closely growing shrubs covered with bronze prickles and dark maroon hips put on a pleasing display, a sort of one-upmanship over typical shrub roses.

The original “Scots Rose” is a bristly, wild dwarf rose, compact and bushy, low growing in its wild state, suckering, mostly found in the north of England and Scotland. It endures extreme cold and wind, and thrives in poor soil conditions. Gardeners have loved it for its ability to set bunches of seed that could/can be used for propagation; many varieties are unknown today because it has been so profusely propagated over the last several centuries. This unique group of roses provides the gardener today with a wealth of hybrids and forms to choose from. Here is a group of extremely garden-worthy shrubs that have been developed by crossing and re-crossing the wild Scots Rose (aka Scots Briar or Burnet Rose) with a sundry of rose types.

**Rosa spinosissima var. ochroleuca**



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**Rosa spinosissima var. altaica**



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*Julie Matlin is a master gardener and consulting rosarian who lives in northern California. She can be contacted at [juliematlin@yahoo.com](mailto:juliematlin@yahoo.com). The drawings on the previous page are by Alfred Parsons, found in The Genus Rosa by Ellen Willmot, 1910.*

## ROSA SEMPERFLORENS

from *The Botanical Magazine*, vol 1, edited by William Curtis, 1794.

We are induced to consider the rose here represented [*see facing page*] as one of the most desirable plants in point of ornament ever introduced to this country; its flowers, large in proportion to the plant, are semi-double, and the great richness of colour unite a most delightful fragrance; they blossom during the whole of the year, more sparingly indeed in the winter months; the shrub itself is more hardy than most greenhouse plants, and will grow in so small a compass of earth that it may be reared almost in a coffee cup; is kept with the least possible trouble, and propagated without difficulty by cuttings or suckers.

For this invaluable acquisition, our country [*England*] is indebted to the late Gilbert Slater, Esq. of Knots-Green, near Laytonstone, whose untimely death every person must deplore who is a friend to improvements in ornamental gardening: in procuring the rarer plants from abroad, more particularly from the East-Indies, Mr. Slater was indefatigable, nor was he less anxious to have them in the greatest perfection this country will admit; to gain this point there was no contrivance that ingenuity could suggest, no labour, no expence [*sic*] withheld; such exertions must soon have insured him the first collection of the plants of India: it is now about three years since he obtained this rose from China; as he readily imparted his most valuable acquisitions to those who were most likely to increase them, this plant soon became conspicuous in the collections of the principal Nurserymen near town, and in the course of a few years will, no doubt, decorate the window of every amateur.

The largest plants we have seen have not exceeded three feet, it may no doubt be trained to a much greater height; a variety of it much more robust, having usually several flowers on a footstalk, of a pale red colour, and semi-double also, has more lately been introduced.





***Rosa semperflorens***  
***Rosa chinensis semperflorens***  
**Slater's Crimson China**  
**Painted by Redoute as**  
***Rosa Indica cruenta***



**La Reine**

## **A GORGEOUS CHAOS: A HYBRID PERPETUAL HISTORY**

**Darrell g.h. Schramm**

During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Howard J. Tenner, resident of Glastonbury, Connecticut, and member of the Old Rose Committee of the American Rose Society, grew what was likely the largest collection of hybrid perpetual roses in the United States. By 1951 he had been growing them for over twenty years. That year he wrote an article in the *American Rose Annual*, listing and describing 128 of his hybrid perpetuals, extolling their virtues as they were “gradually passing out of existence.” While Tenner’s subtle lament may have been somewhat premature, and the popular glory of these roses indeed has passed, many are still grown and sold today.

The hybrid perpetual class of roses, a bridge between the old and the modern rose, enjoyed the height of its popularity for about sixty years. It is the hybrid perpetual that inspired the first public rose shows, both in England and in France. Would we have rose exhibits today if

hybrid perpetuals had not cascaded into the Western World of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? During this period, 1840-1900, at least 4000 varieties were introduced.

Monsieur Laffay was the original pioneer into the new world of hybrid perpetuals. In 1830 he bred a rose about which we know nothing but its indicative name: 'Hybride Remontant a Bois Lisse'. Three years later, Modeste Guerin grew his repeat-blooming, low-growing rose, a seedling derived from the hybrid china 'Malton', and named it 'Gloire de Guerin'. The next year Verdier put out 'Perpetuelle de Neuilly'. In 1835, Vibert, Thierry, Meillez, Plantier, and Jean Sisley each introduced a hybrid perpetual, but we know little about them.

The great rosarian and breeder William Paul lists a number of other now obscure roses among the first hybrid perpetuals, naming 'Rose du Roi' of 1812 as the first, though it was not so labeled then. (The name *hybrid perpetual* or "Rose Perpetuelles remontantes" seems to have been first used by J.L.A. Loisleleur in 1844.) Some of those other early hybrid perpetuals that Paul named were 'Antinous', 'Belle Faber', 'Bernard', 'D'Esquermes', 'Duc d' Enghien', 'Josephine Antoinette', 'La Mienne', and 'Requien'.

It was Laffay, however, who came into his own in 1837 when he produced the hybrid perpetuals 'Prince Albert' and 'Princesse Helene', the first undoubtedly named for the Prince of Saxony, not yet Queen Victoria's consort; the second named for the wife of the eldest son of King Louis Philippe. The two roses were still listed in William Prince's 1846 catalogue (Mistakenly Ethelyn Keays stated that 'Princesse Helene' was no longer available two years later, but William Paul listed it in 1848.) Using mostly the hybrid bourbons/chinas 'Athalin' (Jacques, 1830), 'Celine' and 'Gloire de Rosomanes' (both Vibert, 1825), by 1842 Laffay had developed 'Comte de Paris', 'Mme Laffay', 'Louis Bonaparte', 'Duchesse de Sutherland', 'Miss Eliot' ('Mrs. Elliot'), 'Comtesse Duchatel', and 'Dr. Marx'. In all, between 1837 and 1845, various breeders produced 71 different hybrid perpetuals, 33 of which were by Laffay. In 1843, Laffay's triumph appeared, the rose 'La Reine'.

'La Reine', with its lovely damask scent, set a standard and became known as a type. Vigorous, hardy, with somewhat flexible canes, rounded leaflets, and fragrant cupped blooms whose colors ranged from delicate to strong pink, the traits of this type can be found in 'Anna de Diesbach', for example, 'Mrs. John Laing', and 'Ulrich Brunner fil'. Unlike most of the later types of hybrid perpetuals, these tend to sucker. The year of 'La Reine' (1843) is the year the French officially recognized *hybrides remontants* as a new class of rose.

Another rose to become famous was produced during this period by Desprez, in 1842, a rose he named 'Baronne Prevost' in honor of the

sister of his friend, a dahlia breeder. This plant with its incredible old rose scent produces blooms almost continuously in my garden, with only a small rest between spring and autumn. ‘Caroline de Sansal’ and ‘Duchesse de Sutherland’ are of this type, known for their longevity.



**Baronne Prevost**

But what made hybrid perpetuals different from other classes of roses? Initially most of them were Portland (damask perpetual) roses hybridized with hybrid chinas, Bourbons, and hybrid Bourbons. The breeding lines, however, were not always given. In the end, this classification of roses became more and more complex, incorporating nearly any cultivated rose that had preceded it—a “glorious chaos” of ancestry, as Francis Parkman put it in 1866. The French were quick to discern different types or branches of family within these roses. But as a whole, the term *perpetual* did not and does not fit. Few of the hybrid perpetuals were actually so—clearly a complacent wish or an advertising ploy. The French more accurately called them *remontant*, meaning that they give a recurrent bloom, but some do not do even that.

Generally, hybrid perpetuals are known for their large, fragrant flowers on sturdy stems well suited for exhibition, prefiguring the hybrid teas. They are very vigorous, very hardy, very tall, most growing easily six to eight feet. Their long canes can be pegged to the ground or to another but lower plant so that more flowers are produced. The leaves are less shiny than those of the hybrid teas and somewhat coarse in texture. Prickles usually extend to the ground (‘Paul Neryon’ and a few others are exceptions). All rose colors exist in this family, though white and yellow are not common (‘Frau Karl Druschhki’, ‘Louise Crette’, ‘Mme Albert Barbier’, and ‘Symphony’ fall into the white or yellowish group). To do their best, most of them require generous intakes of water and nutrients.

In 1846 appeared ‘Geant des Batailles’, “the red prickled rose,” a deep but brilliant red rose. And though the name means “giant of battles,” the bloom is not particularly large. This type produces somewhat smaller flower than other types but is the most dependably recurrent in bloom. Unfortunately, it is prone to mildew. ‘Empereur du Maroc’ and ‘Abbe Bramere’ are part of this branch of the family.

'Jules Margottin', a seedling of 'La Reine', shows itself carmine or cerise in color, its petals "perfectly imbricated." The canes are quite sturdy and upright. Others of this type are 'Clio', 'Magna Charta', 'Mme Gabriel Luizet', and 'Heinrich Schultheis'. The latter two are less vigorous, but 'Mme Gabriel Luizet', though rarely recurrent, is an elegant and prolific bloomer.

Perhaps no other hybrid perpetual has the renown of 'General Jacqueminot'. Named for a commander in Napoleon's army, General Jacqueminot at the surrender of Waterloo directed his men to break their swords rather than hand them over to the triumphant Duke of Wellington. Retiring from the military, the General founded a silk factory and a brewery in Paris. This strong, red rose is bushy, floriferous, flexible of cane, fragrant, often flowering in clusters. The members of this branch of the family far outnumber all others. Among them we find 'Abel Carriere', 'Baron de l'Ain', 'Eugene Furst', 'Fisher Holmes', 'Monsieur Boncenne', 'Prince Camille de Rohan', and 'Roger Lambelin'. The colors range from light red to dark—almost black—maroon. Perhaps none is as dark as 'Prince Camille de Rohan'. Unfortunately, they are reluctant to give much of themselves in autumn.

Other remarkable hybrid perpetuals deserve to be mentioned: 'Triomphe de l'Exposition', a crimson purple rose whose name refers to the World's Fair of 1855 in Paris, devoted to the arts, agriculture, and industry, attended by over five million people; 'Paul Neryon', considered the world's largest flower until 'Peace' was developed, a rose named for a medical student who lost his life at age 23 tending to the wounded and the sick during the Siege of Paris. Others to be recognized are 'Anna Scharsach', 'Comtesse Cecile de Chabillant', 'Dr. Andry', 'Duc de Bragance', 'Duke of Edinburgh', 'Mme Cordier', 'Monsieur de Morand', 'Souvenir du Dr. Jamain', and 'Reine des Violettes'. These last nine can be seen in my garden, all re-blooming roses. 'Reine des Violettes', which Tenner claimed in 1951 is not recurrent, blooms repeatedly in my garden. The difference may be between Connecticut and California and the fact that my rose grows in partial shade. It is as sumptuous of perfume as it is of bloom; in fact, in the year of 2011-12, she bloomed constantly, deep into winter.

I have named some of the best hybrid perpetual roses. But many others are stingy of bloom after late spring, or exude little or no scent, or



**Fisher Holmes**

both. Far too many were put on the market apparently only for marketing purposes, not for quality. The firm of Louis Leveque is an example; it introduced at least 175 roses from 1864 to 1904, mostly hybrid perpetuals, most of which did not last long; only six hybrid perpetuals of eight extant roses survive today—just barely. And in the eight years from 1872 to 1879, Verdier put out an average of ten hybrid perpetuals a year. Where are they now?

With the renewed appreciation of the tea rose in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the new appreciation of the emerging hybrid tea, the hybrid perpetual's popularity began to decline. A few were still bred at the start of and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century: 'George Arends', 'Hugh Dickson', and 'Mme Cordier' were among those in the first decade, 'Heinrich Munch' and 'Candeur Lyonnaise' in the next, 'Ferdinand Pichard', 'Henry Nevard', and 'Arrillaga' in the 1920s, 'Symphony' in 1935, and a scattering of others, mostly from Eastern Europe where rigorous, hardy roses are a necessity. But the star sat low on the horizon. Nonetheless, it did not set. In 2006 Vintage Gardens listed about 165 hybrid perpetuals, though not all were available from them; by 2012, the nursery listed 195, all available. Each time I step outside in spring, summer, or fall and gaze at my hybrid perpetual roses in bloom, the star rises again. The show still goes on.



**Madame Cordier**

## **French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden**

### **Laura King**

The French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden is a new repository of old roses that had been cultivated on the French Prairie in the Willamette Valley of Oregon prior to 1910. Northwest Rose Historians (NWRH) received a request to help with this project, so we are providing twenty-three roses with historic ties to the French Prairie community. This spring the garden will be planted next to the replica of a 1910 farmhouse on the campus of Antique Powerland Museum Association in Brooks, Oregon. NWRH has raised \$1,500.00 for the project so far. Brooks Historical Society will use a portion of the donation to acquire photographs of rose hybridizer Fr. Schoener. Fr. Schoener lived in Brooks between 1911-1915. He became internationally known as *Padre of the Roses* for his prolific rose hybridization. Only two roses from his vast collection are still known today. Both of these roses will be planted in the garden, and a historical record of his work in Oregon will be available at Brooks Historical Society's Depot Museum. To become involved with the French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden, please contact us at [nwrosehistorians.com](http://nwrosehistorians.com).

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## GERGELY MÁRK

### Hungarian Rose Breeder (1923-2012)

Gergely Márk passed away in November 2012. His work spanned over fifty years, during which time he bred over 800 Hungarian rose varieties. His work is a worthy continuation of Hungarian rose breeding traditions, as represented by Mihály (Michael) M. Horváth, Rudolf Geschwind and the Mühle brothers.

After graduating from the University of Agricultural Sciences of Budapest in 1950, Gergely Márk worked at the Horticultural Research Institute of Budapest where he established one of the largest rose gardens in Europe of those times. After his retirement in 1981, he continued his work almost entirely from his own resources in his own garden, the Garden of Hungarian Roses, located in Törökbálint, near Budapest. His roses received international recognition on several occasions; to mention but two, his hybrid tea rose 'Budatétény' won the gold medal at the "Internationale Gartenausstellung" (IGA) in Hamburg in 1963, and 'Saint Elizabeth of Hungary' won a gold medal in Rome in 2000.

Breeding more than 80% on open ground, Mark bred his roses to withstand extreme Hungarian weather conditions. 'Saint Elizabeth of Hungary' typifies such roses, and can be found today in Japan, Canada, the U.S. as well as Europe. In 2012 not only were several hundred of his varieties successfully propagated on new grounds, but also several German private gardens acquired some of his roses with the express purpose of preserving them.

He also wrote several books, including *The Rose* in 1962 and *Book of Hungarian Roses*. "I strive to make the world more beautiful with my roses," he said. "To the joy of people." --from a longer obituary by Eva Kigyossy-Schmidt



**St. Elizabeth of Hungary**



## ROSE RUSTLE EVENT IN A GARDEN

Alice Flores

When Miriam Wilkins reached an age in the upper eighties, she began to look for a way to preserve her garden, or at least parts of her rose collection. Some of her friends in the HRG spent time trying to find a suitable public site where roses could be planted and assured of some permanency. We found nothing. It was much more difficult than we realized to get a commitment of land and water to house a display garden of any sort, and so her idea never saw fruition.

When Miriam did pass on, HRG held an event that enabled Miriam's colleagues to visit her garden for a final time, buy some of the potted roses, dig up some of the species, and take bundles of cuttings from the rest. In this way, a small part of her precious garden was saved, to blossom again in other locations. The original garden, already overgrown from her inability to maintain its ambitious sprawl, continues to "go wild." It is obvious that any new owner of the valuable property will one day remove most or all of the huge, thorny plants, and all that will be left will be our memories.

Several more of my old rose friends and colleagues are being warned by their creaking knees and aching backs that they will soon be unable to keep up with the elaborate and time-consuming gardens they have created. I've already pared my own collection to the truly rare, those that are unavailable elsewhere, and those that I simply love. My old friend Jim, in Southern California, has opened his garden for people to "rustle" for cuttings and to carry off entire plants that he is hoping will find a good home. It is a sad truth that most gardens don't long outlive their creator, and it is this knowledge that has led Joyce Demits to partner with me to find a way to disseminate and preserve her own vast and eclectic collection of roses—50 years' worth. To that end, we are planning an interesting event that no avid rose collector will want to miss.

And so, come June, the **North Coast chapter of HRG will host a two-part rose seminar in Ft. Bragg, CA**, in the garden of Joyce Demits. The seminar will provide attendees the chance to "rustle" from Joyce's collection, with the intent of preserving and passing on some of her rare and interesting cultivars. She is eager to see her roses grown in public and private gardens wherever possible. Participants will select cuttings, which later will be made available to participants. The seminar will also provide background information about the roses and workshops in cutting propagation. .

Since it is generally agreed that cuttings of roses taken in the fall have a higher rate of rooting success, this seminar will occur in two segments—in June and in October. The first will take place when the garden is in full bloom, on **June 8** starting at **10:30 a.m.** At this time participants will view, enjoy, take notes on, and select their roses. Part Two, when participants will actually acquire their cuttings, will be held in October, date yet to be determined.

While entry is free, participants must register for the event. There will be an exciting raffle, so bring a few dollars for tickets. Also bring your own lunch, bring a folding chair, and wear sturdy shoes.

For directions, more information, and registration, email Alice Flores at [aflores@mcn.org](mailto:aflores@mcn.org).

Dedicated rosarians might also wish to attend another Mendocino County event the next day. Rosalia is an annual gathering at the Red Rose Ridge garden of Pamela and Michael Temple, near Willits. Tour this wonderful garden of over a thousand roses on June 9. This year Rosalia is planned as a benefit for Haiti, with music and food as part of the event.

## A FEW PETALS FROM HERE & THERE

### For those new to old garden roses

⌘ Old Garden Roses (also called Heritage, Heirloom, or Antique Roses) are those designated by the American Rose Society as types or classes of roses in existence prior to 1867, date of the first officially acknowledged hybrid tea, ‘La France’.

⌘ Given the above designation, a hybrid perpetual or a tea rose, for example, introduced after 1867 is still considered an Old Garden Rose, for the class was in existence before that date.

⌘ Classes of roses in existence before 1867: species (wild), gallicas, damasks, albas, centifolias, mosses, chinas, noisettes, bourbons, portlands, hybrid foetidas, spinosissimas, teas, and hybrid perpetuals.

⌘ Most of the oldest roses do not perform well when heavily fertilized.

⌘ Bourbons, chinas, hybrid perpetuals, and tea roses do respond to fertilizers.

⌘ Gallicas and centifolias (which include most moss roses) are susceptible to mildew. I have not found it to harm nor inhibit their growth, or health, however. If preferred, spray with E-rase, an organic jojoba oil mixture, or with the organic spray Serenade.

## Announcement

**March 30: ROSE TOUR;** on Saturday, at 10:00 a.m. Sacramento Historic City Cemetery will host an Early Roses Tour. 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, CA.

**April 20: OPEN GARDEN,** the annual special event of the Historic Rose Garden of the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery will occur on Saturday, April 20, from 9:30--2:00, featuring sales of hundreds of antique roses, booths with other rose items for sale, silent auction, perhaps a lecture, and free tours of one of the great heritage rose gardens of the world. 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, California.

## CALENDAR

February 2, 1:00 p.m. **Great Rosarians of the World 13**, Friends' Hall, The Huntington, San Marino, Calif. \$10.

March 30. 10:00 a.m. **Early Roses Tour**. Historic Rose Garden, Old Sacramento City Cemetery. 1000 Broadway. Free.

April 20, 10:00 a.m. **Annual Open Garden** Event. Historic Rose Garden, Old Sacramento City Cemetery. Free.

April 28, **RoseDango**, Chambersville, TX

June 8, 10:30 a.m. **Rose Rustle Seminar**. Ft. Bragg, CA. Free.

## SHORT BOOK LIST FOR OLD ROSE LOVERS

Buist, Robert	<i>The Rose Manual</i>	1844/1978
Cruse, Eleonore	<i>Roses: Old Roses &amp; Species Roses</i>	1998
Ellwanger, Henry B.	<i>The Rose</i>	1882/1914
Harkness, Peter	<i>Roses</i>	2005
Keays, Ethelyn Emery	<i>Old Roses</i>	1935/1978
Paul, Willaim	<i>The Rose Garden</i> (several editions)	1848-1903
Pemberton, Joseph	<i>Roses: Their History, Development, etc.</i>	1920
Rivers, Thomas	<i>The Rose Amateur's Guide</i>	1837-1854
Shepherd, Roy E.	<i>History of the Rose</i>	1954/1978
Steen, Nancy	<i>The Charm of Old Roses</i>	1966
Thomas, Graham	<i>Rose Book</i>	2004



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*Saturday, 2 February 2013,*  
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*Reception to follow*

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**Dr. Malcolm Manners** of Southern Florida College for his work promoting Old Garden Roses and educating gardeners on their use in the home garden, as well as his research on Rose Mosaic Virus

**Registration: \$10.00**

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*The Heritage Roses Group is a non-profit association formed in 1975 as a fellowship of old rose lovers. Members receive four issues of Rose Letter a year: February, May, August & November.*

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