

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS

1512 Gorman Street Raleigh, NC 27606 U. S. A. (919)834-2591
Charles A. Walker, Jr., Acting Editor

Volume 7, Number 1

January, 1993

FOSTER ROSE PARENTS

We received a great deal of response to our appeal for rose foster parents in the last issue. So much so that there are more parents than roses at present. To all those who responded so enthusiastically, thank you for your willingness to provide good homes.

We have had several responses from the northern half of the country but the roses needing homes at present are tender types such as Teas, Chinas, and Noisettes. If you live in a state with colder winters and know of specific roses in your area which need to be preserved, please contact us. We will put you in touch with someone who will be willing to help out. Keep in mind that the best time to work toward preserving an old rose is as soon as you find it. Don't wait until it disappears.

CHANGE OF DATES FOR NATCHEZ

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to the unavailability of hotel rooms during April, we have changed the dates of our Annual Meeting and Conference to **May 6-8, 1993** with an optional workshop on May 9. See pages 6-7 for details and a registration blank. Please feel free to copy these pages and share them with others who may wish to attend. The southern half of the country has a large number of people interested in old roses and their preservation and we expect the Natchez conference to be well attended since it is relatively close at hand. We hope to see you there. Registration deadline is April 23, 1993.

HRF

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEW MEMBERS

Taking up the challenge of Weej Broderson and Phillip Robinson, **Stephen C. Scanniello**, curator of the Cranford Rose Garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn New York, has signed up five new members, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden itself. Thanks, Stephen!

1993 Annual Meeting in Natchez.....	6
Registration Form.....	7
Rose Foster Parents	1
Old Rose Networking.....	2
From the Mail.....	4
Devoniensis: A New Discovery.....	2
1991 Conference Journal.....	5
Rose Reminiscences.....	5
Purposes, Membership, Backissues.....	8

HRF

© 1993
The Heritage Rose Foundation
All Rights Reserved

OLD ROSE NETWORKING

Christine Helms

Lithia Springs, Georgia

What a difference one telephone call can make. After several depressing rides around the area, widening my circle each time, I had concluded that if there were any unfound old roses, they had been buried in asphalt or had perished after being assaulted first by two years of drought followed by this year's torrential rains. I consoled myself by thinking that I would concentrate on the roses we had found and learn to take cuttings, and at least I would not have to combat poison ivy.

Then Pam Parrish called, saying Charles Walker had mentioned my being interested in old roses, and would I be interested in seeing her finds. That certainly brightened my outlook. Neither the chance of being smothered in poison ivy nor my lack of a sense of direction could stop me, and off I went into the great unknown - the Other Side of Atlanta.

Pam lives as far east of Atlanta as I do west, but her directions are the type I can follow: cross a cement bridge, look for a white farmhouse on a hill with a barn below. And I think she mentioned goats (which were the decisive factor). We had talked about looking at her roses, then checking out one of the cemeteries where she had found several treasures. I did not get beyond her garden.

Roses must sense her presence and stick a sign up saying, "Over here!" She has found roses at abandoned houses, inhabited houses, cemeteries, along the road, and even where road crews have sprayed. In addition, her cuttings live, so she does not have to con her husband into digging up the entire bush. The fence around her garden not only keeps the Shelties (which she raises) out, but also defines the garden area and gives a backdrop for the climbers she has found. She uses raised beds and is effectively mixing perennials and annuals among the roses. Even unfinished, her garden expresses her love for roses and her creativity in displaying them. I couldn't take in all the roses, so I hope to visit again when some others are in bloom.

Fortunately, she takes pictures of her finds. Peter Harkness, Gregg Lowery, Stephen Scanniello, Mike Shoup, and Charles Walker, were able to identify several as probably being 'Masquerade', 'Silver Moon', 'Aloha', and 'Climbing American Beauty'.

After looking at the roses in bloom and her pictures of previous bloomers, my eyes were as big as saucers and I am so thankful that Pam lives within driving distance. I am claiming godmother status to these foundlings.

This spring we plan to visit known rose sites and scout out unknown ones. Right now, we are eyeing our gardens, trying to squeeze out space for cuttings we've promised each other, future cuttings from the roses we look forward to finding, plus the roses we've ordered and found. Pam and her husband, Fred, are making plans to attend the Heritage Rose Foundation meeting in Natchez in May. Beware; I suggested that she bring all of her rose pictures for possible identification.

HREH.

Is It Renewal Time?

Check the date on your envelope to see when it's time to renew your membership. For your convenience, we enclose a conspicuous notice with your last issue of the newsletter, but early renewals save us lots of office time and are most welcome.

[illegible]

DEVONIENSIS: A NEW DISCOVERY

Charles A. Walker, Jr. Raleigh, North Carolina

For several years, heritage rose enthusiasts have been interested in finding the Tea rose 'Devoniensis', which was first introduced in 1838. Candidates for this rose have been found i

California and in South Carolina and have been compared with descriptions from the early literature, but no authenticated material of this rose has been available for plant-to-plant comparison. The rose sold as 'Climbing Devoniensis' for many years by a California nursery is actually the climbing sport of the Bourbon rose 'Souvenir de la Malmaison'.

In modern times the parentage of 'Devoniensis' was published in error for decades. Beginning in *Modern Roses 5* (1958) it was given as Elinthii × a yellow China. However, British nurseryman Henry Curtis (*Beauties of the Rose*; 1850-1853) stated that it was thought to be the offspring of the Yellow China resulting from artificial pollination by the Yellow Noisette Smithii, which had been growing nearby in the garden of its originator, Mr. George Foster of Oatland, near Devonport, Devon, England. Thus, the untraceable name "Elinthii" seems certain to be simply a misreading of a handwritten "Smithii", and this error was corrected in *Modern Roses 9*. The name 'Devoniensis' was probably chosen to commemorate either Devonport or the county of Devon, perhaps both.

Beauties of the Rose contains a hand-colored plate depicting an opening bud of 'Devoniensis' drawn by Henry Curtis. An open bloom is illustrated in *The Floricultural Cabinet* for September 1, 1841.

Descriptions of 'Devoniensis' in the old rose literature are very ambiguous, as are those of most old roses. Consider the following, quoted by Curtis from four British rose authorities of his day:

Rivers - Creamy white, tinted with rose.

Lane - Creamy white, buff centre, beautiful.

Wood - Straw color, buff centre, large, splendid.

Paul - Pale yellow, superb, very large and full.

To these, Curtis added his own description:

"Creamy white, centre changing to pale straw color, tinted with pink; petals thick and camellia-like; very large and powerfully scented."

Variability was noted on this side of the Atlantic as well. In 1847, "J. P. W." of Athens, Georgia, wrote the following to C. M. Hovey, editor of *The*

Magazine of Horticulture:

"...Please describe the 'Devoniensis' rose. I have a beautiful rose received as such, which, however, certainly does not answer the specifications of the catalogues. It is large and expanded; very beautiful in bud; of a pale creamy blush; rather deeper in the centre, just before full expansion, and exquisitely fragrant. Young wood pale green and dull red."

To which Hovey replied:

"The description of the Devoniensis answers to that fine rose, and is undoubtedly true; it is only beautiful when in bud, but its odor is remarkably exquisite."

However, five years *earlier*, Hovey himself had given this description of 'Devoniensis':

"...pale yellow with a deep reddish buff centre, the flower very double, and finely cupped; the foliage is handsome, and its habit of growth neat."

The careful reader will recognize that if both of these descriptions do indeed apply to 'Devoniensis', then it would be very difficult to distinguish 'Devoniensis' from other similarly colored Tea roses. Consequently, based only on such descriptions, it would be equally difficult to verify the true 'Devoniensis' (assuming it were discovered but not labeled as such). It is well known that, in general, the coloration of Tea roses varies from season to season and among different climatic zones. Thus, using descriptions to firmly establish the original identity of *any* nameless foundling Tea seems an impossible task.

Happily, a resolution to this problem in the case of 'Devoniensis' may be in the offing. Last November I received a telephone call from Mrs. Katie Middleton Bell of Durham, North Carolina. She has a climbing rose which has been passed down in her family for many years bearing the name "Devonianthus", undoubtedly an inadvertent transformation of the name 'Devoniensis'. After reading about the Foundation in a newspaper article, she called to get some assistance in preserving her creamy pink-shaded family heirloom. It had not been growing well in recent years and

she was afraid of losing it. Here is its history as she recalls it.

"Devonianthus" was grown in the family of her grandfather, George Washington Middleton, who had built a home near Warsaw in Duplin County, North Carolina, during the period 1851-1855. One of George's sons, Fred George Middleton (1859-1925), went as a young man to Florida to work and brought this rose back with him. Mrs. Bell said that he went to Florida only once and that this was before he married. Thus, the date that this rose came into the Middleton family can be established as prior to 1884, the year Fred married Sally Mosely Thompson.

The long canes of "Devonianthus" filled a trellis on the right hand side of the Middleton house for many years until the house burned, in 1933. Luckily, the rose survived the fire and Mrs. Bell's father, Henry Moore Middleton, moved it to his new home. Mrs. Bell remembers that one day her father took several cuttings from the rose and set them out to root. At his side was his granddaughter Barbara, Mrs. Bell's daughter, who also remembers the incident. This would have been about 1943, when Barbara was six years old. Enough of the cuttings rooted successfully that Mr. Middleton was able to give each of his four children a plant.

Sadly, the original "Devonianthus" is now gone. Of Mr. Middleton's four plants, only Mrs. Bell's still exists. Mrs. Bell provided budwood from this last survivor in late November and I mailed it to Lakeland, Florida, to Malcolm Manners, who agreed to help preserve it by propagating it. As of this writing, the buds appear to have taken well and are growing out. Malcolm will also compare it with "Tradd Street Yellow", a 'Climbing Devoniensis' candidate discovered by Ruth Knopf in Charleston several years ago and which he has growing on a trellis in the rose garden on the Florida Southern College campus. Within the next two years or so, the necessary comparisons will have been made and we will let you know the results.

In going to Florida, this rose is completing a circle which it began over a century ago, so it seems appropriate that it is being propagated there

once again. I like to think that "Devonianthus" returned home for a while to gather strength before it goes on bringing enjoyment to new generations of Middleton family and friends.



FROM THE MAIL

Malcolm Manners writes to inform us of the organization of **The Central Florida Heritage Rose Society**, whose first meeting will be held on Sunday, February 14, 1993, at 2:30 p.m. in the Citrus Building on the campus of **Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida**. We encourage all Foundation members in Florida to join this new organization and support its work.

We are saddened to learn of the sudden death on January 3rd of **Dean McLaren Ross**, noted rose nurseryman and author of **Willunga, South Australia**. Dean was a strong proponent of the roses and was keenly interested in the Foundation's work. He will be greatly missed.

The Bermuda Rose Society has invited the well-known British rose author **Hazel Le Rougetel** to speak at its meeting on Friday, March 5, 1993. Next fall, Hazel will be the keynote speaker at the **International Heritage Rose Conference in Adelaide, Australia**. We are pleased to have Hazel as a Charter Member of the Foundation.

David C. Cooper, 109 Cochran Rd Apt 3, Lexington KY 40502, is searching for a new source of 'Mrs. Miniver', an old Hybrid Tea which his grandmother had since 1944 but which was recently lost.

Lee De Camp, 222½ N. Maple St., Eaton OH 45320, is searching for 'Pinocchio', a Floribunda from the 1940s which seems to be commercially unavailable now in the U. S.

**THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION
SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE**

Natchez Eola Hotel
Natchez, Mississippi
May 6-8, 1993

General. The conference is open to the public and registration will be filled on a first-come basis. **Advance registration is required; deadline April 23, 1993.** Partial registration is available for those who cannot attend the entire conference.

Airport Shuttle. Ground shuttle to Natchez from the airports at Jackson, MS, and Baton Rouge, LA, takes about 2 hours and costs about \$110-\$150 per vehicle, each way. We will try to arrange pooled rides for those arriving by air Thursday, May 6, before 3 p.m. Send us your flight arrival and departure information.

Lodging. Natchez Eola Hotel is offering conference participants a discount, provided you mention the **Heritage Rose Foundation** when you make reservations. Discounted nightly rate: \$60 single or double, \$65 triple; plus 10% tax. For reservations call 800-888-9140. For additional information on lodging, restaurants, and other tours, call 800-647-6724 and request the brochure entitled *Historic Natchez on the Mississippi*.

Thursday, May 6

6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Registration & reception (light hors d'oeuvres). Natchez Eola. Dinner on your own.

Friday, May 7

8:45 a.m. Board buses at Natchez Eola for tour of **Natchez City Cemetery**

11:30 Bus to Melrose (1845)

12:30 Box lunch; tour **Melrose**; former residence and working farm of prosperous cotton planter John T. McMurran

1:30 Bus to **Elgin** (ca. 1792-1855); private; 25 acres of informal landscaping

2:30 Bus to **Elms Court** (ca. 1835-1840); private; terraced garden; excavated pit used in 1850s to produce gas for lighting the house

3:15 Bus to **Monmouth** (ca. 1818); tour house & grounds; home of John A. Quitman, early Mississippi governor

4:15 Bus to **Longwood** (1860-1861); tour large octagonal house remaining in America
5:00 Return to Natchez Eola. Dinner on your own. "An Evening with Richard Rodgers" performed by New York opera group. Tickets (\$10). Contact Pilgrimage Tours, (800)647-6742.

Saturday, May 8

9:00 **Susan Haltom** - "The Roses of Thomas Affleck: Past and Future"

10:00 **Richard Westmacott** - "Decorated Yards of African Americans in the South"

11:15 Lunch on your own. Free time to explore the Historic District.

2:00 **Ruth Knopf** and **Liz Druitt** - "The Borough House: Rose Rustling in South Carolina, 1940s Style"

3:00 **Annual Membership Meeting**

4:00 Free time

7:00 **Banquet and Panel Discussion**

9:00 **Development Meeting**

Sunday, May 9

9:00 Rose mapping workshop. **Natchez City Cemetery**

OUR SPEAKERS

Susan Haltom, garden educator and lecturer, with a special interest in the lessons we can learn from garden history, lives in Jackson, Mississippi, where she grows old roses, natives, and other tough plants.

Richard Westmacott, Professor in the School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia at Athens, has written *The African American Gardens and Yards in the Rural South*, based on his extensive research into an important but long-neglected subject.

Ruth Knopf, avid rose sleuth devoted to the preservation of old southern Teas, Chinas, and Noisettes and their histories, lives on Sullivan's Island near Charleston, South Carolina.

Liz Druitt, co-author with Mike Shoup of *Landscaping with Antique Roses*, resides at Peaceable Kingdom School in Washington, Texas, where she teaches organic cottage gardening and headquarters her garden design business, Creative Plots.

THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Natchez, Mississippi, May 6-9, 1993

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (Please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP _____ PHONE (____) _____

If this registration is for more than one person, please list each person's name, address, and choices separately. For your convenience, all registration fees, membership dues, Journal purchases, etc. may be included in the same check.

FULL

PARTIAL

FULL REGISTRATION. (See Note below.)

I am registering for the entire Conference.

(\$80.00 per person; includes all activities, Thursday, May 6 through Saturday, May 8; does not include Sunday workshop).

\$ _____

PARTIAL REGISTRATION. (See Note below.)

I cannot attend the full conference and am registering only for:
(These four events are included in full registration.)

Thursday evening - reception (\$7.00 per person)

\$ _____

Friday - Tours of plantations and gardens, including admissions and box lunch (\$50.00 per person)

\$ _____

Saturday - Speakers & meetings, including evening banquet. (\$40.00 per person)

\$ _____

Saturday banquet only. (\$20.00 per person)

\$ _____

SUNDAY WORKSHOP AT NATCHEZ CITY CEMETERY.

(\$10.00 per person)

\$ _____

\$ _____

Total enclosed:

\$ _____

\$ _____

Make checks payable to: The Heritage Rose Foundation, 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606, telephone (919)834-2591.

NOTE: Advance registration is required for all events. Bus tours require a minimum of 20 per bus.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE: I will need a ride to and from Baton Rouge or Jackson to Natchez.

Arrival: Thursday, May 6, time: _____ airline: _____ flight: _____ airport: _____

Departure: Date: _____ time: _____ airline: _____ flight: _____ airport: _____

IF YOU ARE TRAVELING BY CAR PLEASE NOTE: On my way to/from Natchez I can pick up/drop off a fellow participant at the Baton Rouge _____ Jackson _____ airport. Yes _____ No _____

SUNDAY WORKSHOP: If needed, I can provide carpool transportation on Sunday to Natchez City Cemetery (approx. 2 mi. from Natchez Eola Hotel) for _____ additional people.

CONFIRMATION: For a written confirmation of my registration, I enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope _____.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 23, 1993

The Heritage Rose Foundation was established as a non-profit corporation in November, 1986, with the following purposes:

- To collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture, with particular emphasis on those varieties which are not known to be in commerce. For purposes of this corporation, heritage roses shall consist of those types, classes, and varieties of roses which originated in the nineteenth century or earlier, and those varieties which are deemed by the Board of Trustees of this corporation to have historic, educational, or genetic value.
- To establish one or more gardens wherein heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
- To conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage roses, to include but not be restricted to their history, identification, genetics and breeding, propagation, diseases and pests, and suitability for landscape use.
- To publish and disseminate information about heritage roses as well as the results of research conducted or contracted by the corporation. Such information shall include characteristics of certain classes and varieties, methods of propagation and culture, and similar topics consistent with the purposes of the corporation.
- To establish and maintain a library of books, periodicals, research papers, manuscripts, catalogs, and other items to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses.
- To conduct seminars, meetings, forums, panels, lectures, tours, exhibits, and other appropriate means to foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation.

Membership in the Foundation is open to any individual or organization who is in sympathy with its purposes and goals. The Foundation is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions to it are tax-deductible.

<u>ANNUAL DUES:</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Bermuda, Canada, Mexico</u>	<u>Other Countries</u>	
Organization	\$25	\$25	\$25	*** SPECIAL NOTE ***
Individual	\$10	\$12	\$15	For your convenience,
Family	\$12	\$14	\$17	two-year memberships
Senior (over 65)	\$ 8	\$10	\$13	are available at
Student (under 21)	\$ 8	\$10	\$13	double these rates.

NOTE: Members outside the U. S. should pay with a bank draft or personal check payable in U. S. funds and drawn on a U. S. bank. Make all checks payable to The Heritage Rose Foundation and mail to 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606, U. S. A.

Members will receive a quarterly newsletter, *Heritage Rose Foundation News*, published in January, April, July, and October. Overseas newsletters will be sent via air mail.

BACKISSUES are available for \$2.00 each (overseas members add \$1.00 per issue for postage). Volume 1 (1987) has three issues, later volumes have four.

INQUIRIES to the Foundation: Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to expedite your reply. Persons wishing to mention the Foundation in newspapers, magazines, or other news media are requested to contact the Foundation prior to such coverage.

In keeping with the Foundation's purposes, *Heritage Rose Foundation News* will emphasize heritage rose preservation and closely related topics such as propagation and identification studies. If you have articles, notes, ideas, or questions on these topics, please submit them. Manuscripts may be typed or handwritten but should be double spaced, with wide margins on all sides. Articles of a scholarly or scientific nature will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee prior to publication.