

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Editor*

Robbinsdale, Minn.

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CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted upon.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 per year, and all checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership. Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

Back bulletins of the Society will be charged for at the rate of 25c per copy and \$1.00 for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No bulletins available prior to No. 13.

VISITING PEONY PLANTINGS

Boston is fortunate in having several growers of peonies located in its vicinity. Many of the finest peonies in existence were born within sight of the State House dome.

In accordance with a suggestion from our President, I have visited six of these growers and have talked with five of them. I visited Mr. H. F. Chase, Andover, Mass.; Shaylor & Allison, Auburndale, Mass.; Mr. Wm. B. Parker, Wilmington, Mass.; Mr. T. F. Donahue, Newton Lower Falls, Mass.; Mr. Geo. N. Smith, Wellesley Hills, Mass.; and the Cherry Hill Nursery, West Newbury, Mass. Everywhere I was received with the utmost courtesy, cheerfully given all the information I asked for and left each and all of these nurseries with regret that I could not stay longer.

I was particularly interested in the methods of culture and fertilization. Cleanliness and continuous cultivation before, during and after blooming time is the hard and fast rule with all. Weeds and peonies are not a good combination. For fertilizers, the opinion was general that bonemeal, wood ashes and sheep manure are the best. The only time cow manure can be used with safety is before the plants are placed, that is, when the ground is being prepared. The bonemeal is used shortly after the plants are done blooming, the wood ashes and sheep manure in the Spring. Mr. Stranger, of the Cherry Hill Nursery, is strong for the liberal use of wood ashes on account of its lime content. He also urges the importance of dusting the roots with lime when they are planted. One grower uses hen manure with most excellent results, but this is not recommended to the general gardener as, if it is not very carefully used, more harm than good will result.

If properly prepared the soil for a new peony bed should be full of humus. This will last as long as the peony is allowed to grow in the nursery, but in the general garden, where the plants are allowed to grow for from six to ten years, it is a problem to put humus into the soil without disturbing the plants. One grower suggested the advisability of using peat moss. This can be used liberally and easily dug into the soil. Some brands of this great peat moss might have a tendency to sour the soil but this could be corrected by the use of lime. A mixture of rye and buckwheat

makes a fine green manure to plow under before the peonies are planted, but is rather troublesome to handle when planted between rows of growing peonies.

None of the growers I visited used any spray material. The largest nursery did not need to spray as I saw very few blasted buds and no wilted stems there. However, at one or two places, I did see blasted buds, and if spraying will cure this trouble it would be well worth while. All of the growers were skeptical as to whether spraying is the cure for blasted buds, however. One idea was that blasted buds were a sign of starvation and by starvation was meant the lack of fertilizers actually getting to the roots. To be of any value to the roots the fertilizer must be washed into the soil and not allowed to lie inert on the top of the soil. During a dry season this must be done artificially.

Mr. Stranger, of the Cherry Hill Nursery, offered a suggestion that came as a surprise to me. He said that his firm has come to the conclusion that the best and strongest plants are obtained from five, six and seven year clumps. Even with the greater waste he considers this a paying proposition. Other growers divide at three years.

The general opinion regarding diseased plants seemed to be that the dump rather than the hospital is the best place for them. Cleaning, disinfecting and planting in new ground will cure some diseased plants but the results are too uncertain to justify all the trouble involved. Better throw the diseased plant away and buy a new one.

I could get no advice on a preventative for rose bugs. None of the growers had ever been bothered with these pests so could suggest no remedy. I have found that doing away with roses helps a lot. This is not a cure-all, however, so I am now trying copperas. My garden has been practically clear of these pests this year but I am not sure whether my efforts or the season caused this. Occasionally the season is such that the peonies are pretty well gone before the rose bugs show up.

I have seen it stated, somewhere, that many growers consider that the placing of peonies in cold storage improves the blooms. None of the growers I visited believe this to be true. They all think cold storage a necessary evil.

One grower had his peonies numbered while the others had tags with the names on them. Free-hand lettering on zinc labels was

the ordinary method. These labels were fastened to stiff wire stakes. In a nursery I know of nothing more important than the continual checking of varieties. To my mind, there is no excuse for an incorrect label on a variety that is in bloom, where the label is plainly misplaced. For the benefit of those concerned I must say that I did not see more than four rows incorrectly marked and all were the cheaper varieties.

Supports were not generally used but I did see some plants in all of the nurseries where the blooms were held up by wire supports. All that I saw looked like home-made affairs but I may have been mistaken in this. While a nursery may get along without supports for the heavy blooms, the general gardener cannot.

I saw peonies planted in light, medium and heavy soil and all were growing strongly and I did not notice any marked difference in the size of plant or color of the blooms. However, the dust mulch was very much in evidence everywhere. Big, husky plants with beautifully colored blooms at all nurseries.

In my travels I saw hundreds of varieties, named and unnamed. There may be weak growers amongst the peonies but, if they are, the nurseries I visited do not stock them. Long stems and big blooms were general. Seedlings were numerous, some mediocre and some gorgeous. As I took in all the beauties of the new varieties I could not help thinking what an advantage the present day gardener has over his father in planting his peony garden. It is useless to tell me that the old varieties are as beautiful as the new ones. My trip proved to me conclusively that the newer varieties are more beautiful, more fragrant and more desirable in every way.

Now a word about the Boston Show. In spite of the fact that the season was a little late for some of those who wanted to exhibit, there were thousands of blooms displayed. I may be wrong, but I think that many more amateurs exhibited this year than last. The blooms exhibited by the amateurs were equally as good as those of the growers. From what I heard from the amateurs the mystery of growing exhibition blooms is a thing of the past and the fear of exhibiting inferior blooms is rapidly disappearing. The knowledge seems to be general that all that is needed are good healthy plants, well taken care of and properly fertilized and the amateur is in as good a position to show as the experienced grower.

W. C. OTIS,
Woburn, Mass.

BEGINNINGS OF AN EXHIBITION GARDEN

Mrs. Sanger and I are undertaking the development of an exhibition peony garden in the suburbs of Richmond, Virginia, because of our own genuine enthusiasm for this flower and because we hope to contribute something to its popularity and its culture in this community, which is regarded as the gateway to the south.

For a number of years we gave attention to floral culture as a hobby with no special emphasis upon the peony. The dozen peony clumps which we had won so much admiration that we decided to venture further with this favorite flower. Finally, two years ago a larger planting was begun, and after two years there were seventy-five well-chosen varieties doing well in the garden. By next season the total collection will number approximately one hundred and twenty-five varieties.

Careful notes are taken on each clump each year, covering both growth and florescence, including date and quality of bloom, etc. Careful notes are also made on tillage, fertilization, watering, depth of planting and related items. In time this data should have considerable significance to those who wish to grow peonies in this section of the south.

It was assumed at the beginning that because the Chinese peony originated in cooler latitudes than ours that it would be advisable to plant the roots with the eyes quite near the surface, but covered from the action of the sun in order to give the full benefit of any freezing during the winter, and it seems that this assumption has thus far been justified, although it is too early to report finally in regard to this point. The control clumps for the exhibition garden which were planted deeper have not done so well as those planted quite near the surface with the soil raked up over them to give protection against the sun.

Last year a large number of persons visited the garden when the peonies were in bloom and also saw the cut flowers in our residence. In time when the plants are larger the invitation to visit the garden in the blooming season will be more widely circulated.

Any one wishing to have a certain peony tested under such conditions as are here named or any one willing to contribute suggestions for this experiment will find us, I think, ready to cooperate fully; in fact it will be a pleasure to hear from other growers.

Last spring at blooming time Mr. Lee R. Bonnewitz, Van Wert, Ohio, paid us a visit, and it is through his expert advice and encouragement that we are at this time extending our planting, planning a larger garden than originally conceived.

WILLIAM T. SANGER,
Richmond, Virginia.

NAMING PEONIES

My excuse for this note is the Secretary's request, in BULLETIN 31, for communications from members, and my text is Mr. Auten's paragraph, in the same BULLETIN, on the naming of peonies. He suggests new names to four syllables. It seems to me much more important, from the peony's lover standpoint, to confine the new names within the limits of good taste and let the syllables take care of themselves. As I look over the catalogues, I am convinced that a number of people are far more skillful in producing fine peonies than in choosing suitable names for them.

For example, "Ball O' Cotton"—what a name! The abbreviation is not in good taste; in form, it is displeasing; but, also, it suggests an inferior flower. I do not know the variety—the name has repelled me, as, doubtless, it has others—yet it's recent rating would indicate that it is something fine. Why spoil it with a name that suggests the dead whiteness and the coarseness of a ball of cotton? Suppose some happy grower were to originate LeCygne today and name it "White Cabbage"! Would that further its popularity?

"Bunch of Perfume" is another name that has always seemed to me in bad taste; and "Sops of Wine" is simply awful—offensive to eye and ear! How *could* any one apply that ugly name to a lovely peony? I don't suppose the Society can do anything except possibly by moral suasion—advising the originators not to use names in future that are offensive to the average person. It ought to do that much.

I suppose it is natural that originators should like to name their productions after friends and relatives, but they should be cautioned—some that we have are far from euphonious. How fine if all these personal names could be as musical as "Myrtle Gentry"! There's a name that any peony might be proud to own.

CHARLES E. GIBSON,
Boston, Mass.

REPORT OF THE SIOUX FALLS, S. D., PEONY SHOW, JUNE 21ST AND 22ND, 1927

It was with a feeling of some apprehension that I made a trip to Sioux Falls, S. D., to attend and judge the 6th Annual Peony Exhibition of the Sioux Falls Peony Society, which was held in McKennan Park, June 21st and 22nd. When I learned that the Exhibition Committee had decided to utilize tents, I was reminded of a similar experience when the American Peony Society held their show in Cleveland some years ago, and must confess to some misgivings as to the success of the experiment. It worked, and it worked fine. Weather was ideal during the two days of the show. Showers during the night previous to the opening refreshed everything and cooled the atmosphere to a pleasing degree.

The growing of peonies in Sioux Falls is becoming more marked each year. It was my pleasure to judge the shows held there during the past two years and a marked improvement was noted in the number of exhibitors and the improved quality of bloom displayed. The show was splendidly staged and attracted throngs of interested spectators.

Newspaper publicity was freely given, resulting in a great deal of public support that will mean much for the peony in that section of the country. The *Argus Leader*, one of the outstanding newspapers in South Dakota, last year investigated a home garden contest that was continued this year, and I understand is to be a permanent annual feature. The many beautiful and well-kept gardens are a credit to any city and the *Argus Leader* is to be congratulated in this splendid work that means so much for the civic betterment and beautification of the city. There is real garden enthusiasm displayed in this contest and had we space, would like to go into detail and describe the arrangement covering some of the many beautiful gardens visited.

Classes were provided for the home grounds contest which was held in connection with the peony show. Briefly they were as follows:

- Class A, called for the best home grounds.
- Class B, the best kept and most attractive home grounds among the employees of the Hormel Packing Co.
- Class C, the most artistically arranged and attractive city lot. fifty foot or less.
- Class D, 1—Amateur, one quarter block or less.
2—Same as above but older than one year.

Class E, Amateur grounds of more than one quarter block, improved for one year, also older than one year.

Class F, Professional,—any grounds landscaped or arranged by a professional landscape artist.

Class F brought out some very splendid entries as did most of the other classes. The superb home and delightfully arranged plantings of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perkins carried off first honors. The natural surroundings enhanced by a most judicious selection of color combinations, carefully and artistically arranged, presented a panoramic view not soon forgotten. The home, a magnificent structure, designed by one of the most prominent architects of South Dakota, showed unusual skill, and the glorious setting and view obtained from the living room was superb. Peonies were freely planted in the lovely perennial borders, combined with iris, daisies and many choice and most desirable perennials and shrubs afforded a continued source of delight to the eye. This was truly a home beautiful. Other lovely homes vied for honors in this class and made a most impressive showing. There were a number of splendid yards and gardens in the various classes but space forbids further comment.

The quality of peony bloom shown at the exhibition was of high degree and great credit is due Mrs. B. M. Getty, the competent Secretary of the Society, and her able assistants in staging the show. An artistic fountain and rock garden was one of the first things that attracted attention upon entering the main exhibition tent. Peonies in profusion of color were to be seen on every side, and what splendid specimens they were. The Wahoo Lodge Gardens had a splendid exhibit on display. Mr. G. B. Tuthill, owner of these delightful gardens, did not compete in any class as their exhibit was purely professional. Many of the very new and rare varieties were observed in their collection. The quality of bloom displayed was exceptionally fine. Here again cold storage of bloom proved very satisfactory.

Edward Auten, Jr., of Princeville, Ill., sent a fine lot of seedlings for display only. The Brand Peony Farms of Faribault, Minn., sent some fine bloom for exhibition. Mr. John W. Mundt who won the medal of the American Peony Society had a splendid display of peonies. Other large exhibits were staged by Charles McCaffree, C. R. Bond, V. L. Peterson and Dr. John Donahoe.

It was estimated that nearly 10,000 people attended the show during the two days it was open to the public. No charge was

made for admission. After the show, distribution of bloom was made to the various hospitals and public institutions throughout the city.

Sarah Bernhardt exhibited by John W. Mundt, won the distinction of being the best flower in the show. It was a splendid specimen and was much admired during the entire exhibition. The largest bloom at the show proved to be Mons. Jules Elie, also exhibited by Mr. Mundt.

Over one hundred exhibitors were entered. Not only peonies were displayed but waxy pink, white and yellow of waterlilies, roses from a rose bush one hundred years old; a blue jar filled with sunny Iceland poppies; delphiniums in profusion; baskets of pyrethrum; flaming oriental poppies; brilliant scarlet cactus; the velvet charm of pansies and the aristocratic straightness of gladioli, offered ample opportunity for flower lovers to view their favorites. Many prizes were offered ranging from peony roots, silver vases, concrete bird bath, rose trellis, Chalet type Martin house, shrubbery, etc., to cash prizes. The Municipal Band rendered a most enjoyable concert, all numbers being dedicated to flower lovers.

I have no doubt but that next year will find a still larger exhibition of peonies in Sioux Falls, as enthusiasm is running high and the real worth of the peony is being fully appreciated.

W. F. CHRISTMAN

REPORT OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK PEONY SHOW, ST. PAUL, MINN., JUNE 29TH AND 30TH, 1927

The annual exhibition of peonies held at the First National Bank, St. Paul, Minn., each year is attracting more and more attention, and a greater number of exhibitors compete. The show is purely an amateur exhibition but a few commercial growers are privileged to exhibit. Were it not for the quantity of bloom displayed, it would be hard to tell where the line was drawn between the professional and amateur growers, so fine is the quality of bloom displayed.

Mr. C. W. Bunn, an amateur grower of White Bear Lake, Minn., has always been one of the outstanding exhibitors at these shows, in fact wherever he exhibits, his display attracts unusual attention due to the high standard of bloom represented. In his collection were Milton Hill, Martha Bulloch, Therese, Walter Faxon, Solange, Le Cygne and many other high grade peonies at their best. Mr. Bunn is a firm believer in the thorough preparation of soil well in

advance of peony planting, and the results he has attained are convincing evidence that his theory is correct. Generally speaking, the blooms shown of Walter Faxon are not large. This did not prove true in Mr. Bunn's display. He was an outstanding winner in the class calling for the best collection of peonies and also won the distinction of having the finest peony on display with the variety Milton Hill.

Mr. L. W. Lindgren, 1787 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, Minn., won the sweepstake prize having the largest number of points in the various classes. In the amateur collection, next to Mr. Bunn, we found Mr. Lindgren having the highest grade bloom on display in the various classes. LeCygne, Longfellow, Reine Hortense, Souv. de Louis Bigot, Kelway's Glorious and Isani Gidui were the prize winners in their respective classes.

Warren Hoff, R. C. Schneider, F. L. Howes, J. P. Hauer, R. H. Relf, A. T. McBride were also consistent winners in the advanced amateur class.

In the novice amateur class Mrs. B. E. Clark of St. Paul carried off the sweepstake prize. Her display was very fine and LeCygne, Mons. Jules Elie, Sarah Bernhardt, Karl Rosefield, Francis Willard and Festiva Maxima were prize winners in their respective classes.

Other winners in this class were Mrs. Asa H. McMullen, H. E. Olson and C. F. Lindberg, and a few others I do not recall.

In the best table exhibited by Professional growers Wm. Anderson, of North St. Paul, Minn., won first honors with Riverview Gardens, St. Paul a close second and J. V. Edlund, White Bear, Minn., third.

Mr. G. S. Wilson who has charge of these annual peony and gladiolus shows deserves great praise for the able and efficient manner in which the shows are conducted and the various classes arranged. The spacious lobby of the bank is filled to overflowing with wonderful bloom as a result of his activity, and competition, while keen, is conducted in a most satisfactory manner. Cash prizes are given in the way of orders permitting the winner to purchase any variety they choose from any grower to the amount of their winnings and the First National Bank pays the bill. In this manner peonies of the better class are constantly making their appearance and it is hard to find a more discriminating lot of buyers than the amateurs represented at this show.

This annual exhibition attracts throngs of people and is carried for a two-day period, including evenings.

In this brief report we cannot do justice to the exhibition, which must be seen to be fully appreciated.

W. F. CHRISTMAN

IMPRESSIONS OF THE WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, SHOW BY A MINNEAPOLIS GROWER

The Peony Show staged by the Manitoba Horticultural and Forestry Association and the Winnipeg Garden Club, with Mr. C. A. Midwinter as manager, was held July 5th and 6th in Breen's Automobile Show Rooms.

It seems the people of Winnipeg only got interested and began the planting of peonies five years ago. Their first show was a few blooms in a store window. This season their show was surely life-size and really fine; a credit to any locality.

Peonies grow well there in Red River Valley soil. Their flowers were large, perfect, with good color and lots of them.

Mr. Hirst set up a fine artistic display covering fifty feet, and the Heck Nursery put up a large educational display of probably two hundred varieties, with names on each in plain print.

The people there are enthusiastic and a fine bunch to meet. Twenty classes were provided and cash prizes given in each class. The writer acted as judge.

A. B. FRANKLIN,
Minneapolis, Minn.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF MR. WARD WELSH

Probably no one is better known in the peony world than was our esteemed friend and co-worker, Ward Welsh. For twenty-five years he has devoted his entire time to peonies—many side lines were tried at times, thinking to fit some other product in with the peony, and only in the last year of his life had he commenced to plant poppies.

Mr. Welsh was an untiring worker and his soul desire seemed to be to produce something better than any existing variety of peony, and the fruits of his labors were partly consummated in that wonderful variety, John M. Good. Visitors to the eighty acres the past June were startled at the wonderful creations which he was testing for the last season before giving them to the peony world.

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CHARLES WARD WELSH, 1864–1927

One of his remarks as he lay in the hospital, "I would like to have lived ten years longer. There are some things I had started that I should like to have finished," but it was not to be and someone else must "carry on" for him. He worked with the new peonies because he loved them and the pride with which he talked to the new children of his life can never be forgotten by those who had the pleasure of knowing him and seeing him as he was. No length was too great to go for a friend, and the vacancy left by his untimely call will never be filled by a person who loved his work, who loved God's great out of doors better than he.

Officers of the Society had only a short acquaintance with him, but long or short, you would have found him the squarest man possible to meet, and one who would never be a part to any deal that was not open and above board.

JOHN M. GOOD.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. WELSH

One of the enduring satisfactions of the commercial Peony and Iris business is the opportunity it gives to form friendships with splendid men and women. Many of the associations I have formed in my short experience I value most highly, but none more than the friendship of Ward Welsh, of Springfield, Ohio. I received a telegram Monday telling me that Mr. Welsh died Sunday afternoon, and since returning from the funeral service Wednesday, it seems to me entirely fitting to forget the commercial side of our bulletin this week, and pay a short tribute to one of my best and most valued friends—Ward Welsh.

Ward Welsh was the senior member of the firm, The Good & Welsh Peony Farms, of Springfield, Ohio. He did not pose as an authority on salesmanship but his ability as a grower and judge of good peonies was on a par with, if not superior, to any man in the entire peony commercial field. Truly the Peony Society and the peony trade in general lost a most valuable man in his passing.

And what a friend he was. Someone has said, "A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature," and the author must have had Ward in mind when he framed that thought. I have never met a kinder or more sincere man. His happy disposition was always in evidence. How enjoyable he made the personally conducted visits to his vast peony fields. To go through the fields with him was to learn to appreciate and love the beautiful flowers

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on every hand. His seedling beds were heaven to him. Each planting, nurtured by tender care from seed, contained many newcomers of merit, and I am confident that if the Peony Society's Seedling Committee had seen the new peony, Dr. J. H. Neeley, growing in the seedling beds last June on the day it was my pleasure to study its many good qualities with my friend Ward, they would not only have given it an award of merit, but I am sure they would have considered giving it a special medal for a new peony of outstanding merit. More will be heard from this particular peony as well as other seedlings from this same peony bed. I can recall only a few of them, Judge Snook, John M. Good, Jr., and Mrs. Ward Welsh and what a fitting thing it is that these fine peonies will always carry the memory of my friend Ward with them. They will always stand as an achievement of that lover of flowers and all nature, that one whose friendship I have always cherished, and one whom I cannot forget but will always remember as one of the kindest and sincerest of men. Of his early life I know little. Mr. Bonnewitz tells me that he had his early training under John M. Good, Sr., whom he has always said was the best informed Peony man the world has ever known. I can only add that he had a fine successor in Ward Welsh, and we know that arrangements will be made for some of his associates to carry on the work these splendid men have so ably started.

How we, who make annual pilgrimages to that "Mad River Valley Farm," will miss Ward as we tread those familiar paths, viewing and studying his favorites. It seems but yesterday when in the seedling bed on the hill he said, "Lee, do you know, one could not even think an evil thought among these beauties," and again that same day on the porch of the tenant house, when looking out over the valley below with its mass of color, he commented, "Lee, this is surely a second 'Heaven in June.' " We know he is just away to enjoy the first Heaven for which his life of loving, kindly service fitted him.

" I cannot say, and I will not say
That he is dead. He is just away;
With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand,
He has wandered into an unknown land,
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be, since he lingers there."

—Riley.

LEE A. SHIMER, *Van Wert, Ohio.*

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We cannot refrain from adding a few words to the splendid tributes to Ward Welsh whom it was my pleasure to know personally but a few months. Mr. Welsh possessed that rare, charming personality that magnetically attracted a host of friends; a voice appealing and convincing in its simplicity; twinkling eyes that betrayed the jovial, good nature of the man. It is indeed a rare pleasure to meet one with such attributes as Mr. Welsh possessed. His great fondness for his chosen flower, the peony, is not to be wondered at, as he had vast fields of them to admire and hundreds of varieties from which to make selections. His ability as a peony expert was unquestioned.

He was a willing worker for the Society and as a Director and member of the Seedling Committee, his extensive knowledge of the peony stood him well in hand. He was intensely interested in the production of new and valuable varieties, and during blooming season spent considerable time with his seedlings. At the Annual Peony Show held in Peoria last June, he was present with many of his new seedlings, some of which will find their way into commerce in the near future, I am sure, as they possessed great charm.

Those who have been associated with him in business for many years have nothing but words of praise for his affable manner, sound judgment, keen foresight and unquestioned integrity. He was a man of high ideals, and these ideals were installed in his fellow workers. His arguments were sound, and convincing proof of his wide knowledge of the peony and his wise counsel will be greatly missed in the deliberations of the Directors of the Society.

His untimely end brings to a close a life well spent, and removes from our midst one of our most valued members, but in passing he has left a valued memory, indelibly impressed upon our mind, that will be cherished as long as we are privileged to remain here. He left us with the hope that he might be permitted to live a while longer to finish some work he had in progress, but the grim reaper removed his hopes and aspirations which will doubtless be carried on to a successful culmination by those who have charge of the work he left unfinished.

We have been fortunate in securing a splendid likeness of Mr. Welsh and have had it reproduced in this issue, knowing that his many friends in the Society would greatly appreciate it.

W. F. CHRISTMAN.



FREDERICK A. GOODRICH, 1859-1927

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK A. GOODRICH

Frederick A. Goodrich, who for several years has been an outstanding patron in the peony world, died in Chicago on July 28, following a paralytic stroke and was buried in Bellefontaine cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri, July 30. Flowers were a hobby with Mr. Goodrich as well as a business, and being a man of means, he devoted much of his time to attending the various flower shows throughout the country and in studying the plantings of the different commercial growers. Thus, he acquired a broad acquaintance among those interested in horticultural work and was loved and admired by all. It was while en route from the Peony Show at Duluth, Minnesota, to Baldwinsville, New York, that his last illness occurred.

In the passing of Mr. Goodrich, the American Peony Society in particular and the horticultural world in general, lost a most enthusiastic patron. He was especially fond of the peony, and so great was his faith in the future of this flower that he had invested many thousands of dollars during the past few years in the rare and higher rated varieties. These were planted on his beautiful Indian Spring Farm, near Baldwinsville, New York, and later became the property of Indian Spring Farms, Inc., a corporation of which he was the largest stock holder and Chairman of the Board of Directors at the time of his death. Besides his horticultural interests in Baldwinsville, he also owned the controlling stock in the San Fernando Nursery Co., San Fernando, California.

Frederick Augustus Goodrich was born at Pleasant Farm, Missouri, April 13, 1859, the son of Isaac M. and Rebecca (Burlingame) Goodrich. He was educated in the public schools of Missouri and was fitted for a business career by training in the Mound City Commercial College from which he was graduated in 1881. He also graduated from Valparaiso Normal College in 1883. He began his business career with Charles Himrod & Co., pig iron merchants, Chicago, first as bookkeeper and later as salesman. The business of F. A. Goodrich & Co., iron and steel, of which he was Vice-President and Treasurer, was organized at Detroit and later moved to St. Louis in 1902 when it became the F. A. Goodrich Iron & Steel Co., dealing in pig iron, steel and coke. This Company was also the St. Louis representatives of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Co.

After leaving the steel business he became engaged in the lumber interests, organizing the Consolidated Saw Mills Co. of St. Louis, of which organization he was President at the time of his death. Mr. Goodrich also had extensive lumber interests in Louisiana and Florida and was also actively interested in the real estate business at Burbank, California.

Mr. Goodrich's legal residence was Winter Haven, Florida, but he also had a winter home at Burbank, California, where he spent a portion of his time. Surviving are his wife, who was Miss Louise A. Silk, of Detroit, a sister, Mrs. Edith R. Beckner, of Corpus Christi, Texas, and a brother, Walter S. Goodrich, of Carthage, Mo.

HARRY F. LITTLE.

FARGO, N. D., PEONY SHOW

The fourth annual Fargo Peony Show was held on June 29th and 30th in the lobby of the Merchant's National Bank under the auspices of the Fargo Garden Society.

The large number of entries and the fine quality of bloom was clearly in evidence this year. The bloom to be awarded the prize as the best specimen in the show was the old, yet excellent, variety, Asa Gray.

Other prize winners were Therese, Avalanche, Mons. Jules Elie, Karl Rosefield, Mons. Martin Cahuzac and Nellie.

Others which attracted attention were Albert Crousse, Elwood Pleas and Richard Carvel. Some of the older varieties which ranked quite as high as some newer ones were Baroness Schroeder, Marie Lemoine and Reine Hortense.

The sweepstakes prize was awarded to Miss Margaret Kosko who displayed an excellent quality of bloom.

Dr. H. C. Cooper, of Abercrombie, N. D., a capable authority on peonies, acted as judge.

From the result of this show it is clearly evident that a keen interest in peonies is to be found among people in this part of the country, and the number of high class varieties is rapidly increasing. North Dakota has an ideal climate and soil for producing fine peonies.

ROLLIN S. MOORE,
Fargo, N. D.

REPORTS OF THE BOSTON SHOW

The annual peony show sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society was held June 18th and 19th, 1927.

The largest exhibit was that of T. C. Thurlow's Sons, Inc., of West Newbury, Mass., whose exhibit occupied a third of the main exhibition hall. Their exhibit was artistically arranged in the form of a garden, enclosed by high cedars. There was a circular, central bed and four other beds in which flowers were grouped in distinct shades. The effect was very artistic and pleasing.



A SMALL SECTION OF THE BOSTON SHOW

In their large collection displayed the following dark reds showed up unusually well: W. F. Turner, Cherry Hill, Stanley and Adolphe Rosseau. In the whites Mme. Coste, James Kelway, Princess Irene, Kelway's Glorious, Boule de Nieve and Mme. Emile Lemoine. Other varieties of merit were Pride of Essex, Reine Hortense, Walter Faxon, Adelaide, Lady Alexandra Duff and Vernon. T. C. Thurlow's Sons, Inc., won the medal of the American Peony Society as sweepstakes prize.

T. F. Donahue, of Newton Lower Falls, Mass., was also in the winning classes. Some of the finest specimens were the varieties Jubilee, Tomatbako, Henri Potiu, a very large, nice pink Jap, Sarah Bernhardt, Clemenceau, James Kelway, La Perle, Kelway's Queen, President Wilson, Tokio, Wiesbaden, Candeur, Walter Faxon and La Lorraine.

In the 8.5 class Mr. Donahue won Second with the following outstanding: La France, Jubilee, Kelway's Queen, Mrs. Edward Harding, President Wilson, Philippe Rivoire, Avalanche, Phyllis Kelway and La Perle.

In the Japanese class Mr. Donahue was first and Mr. A. H. Fewkes, of Newton Highlands, Mass., second. The competition in this class was very keen. In the first prize collection were to be found Tomatbako, Henri Potiu, Kelway's White Lady, Fuyajo, Kukenu, Jishi and Soshi.

Mr. Wilton B. Fay, of West Medford, Mass., won first for the finest specimen bloom. He had some fine specimens of Therese, Festiva Maxima and Mme. Jules Dessert. His collection was not large but of a very high order, the blooms displayed being exceptionally choice.

Miss Marion Roby Case, of Hillcrest Gardens, Weston, Mass., won first honors with 20 varieties double and second with a specimen bloom.

Mr. A. H. Fewkes, of Newton Highland, Mass., displayed some grand blooms among which were Jeanne Gaudichau, Kelway's Glorious, Mme. Emile Lemoine, Betty Blossom, Le Cygne, Avalanche, and La Rosiere. He secured first prizes for six double white and six varieties of light pink, and second for six single Japanese. Mr. Fewkes has been identified with the American Peony Society since its inception and for many years acted as Secretary. He has also been President, and Vice President of the Society for some years and at the last Directors meeting was appointed Honorary Vice President for life. The existence of the Society is due to the keen foresight and love for the peony possessed by Mr. Fewkes and a few other pioneers, who had a vision of what might be achieved with the modern peony.

C. E. Gibson, of West Newton, Mass., had some excellent flowers and secured first and second prizes for six pink on long stems. Among the best blooms displayed were to be found the following varieties: Belle Mauve, Aureolin, Therese, Pride of Langport, Alma and Laura Dessert.

Frank H. Allison, of Auburndale, Mass., received a silver medal for a collection of seedlings originated by the late E. J. Shaylor. The best of these were Rose Shaylor, Luella Shaylor, Wilton Lockwood, Georgiana Shaylor and Minnie Shaylor.

At the rose show a week later Mr. T. F. Donahue received a gold medal for a collection of peonies and perennials arranged for effect. The perennials used were blue and purple Canterbury bells, Valeriana (garden heliotrope), Larkspur in variety with a background of evergreens and cedars. Peonies displayed were Solange at their best, La Fee, another good one, Lorch, a nice, late white, Mrs. A. M. Brand, shown for the first time in the east, in perfect form as it usually appears. Maud L. Richardson, Inspecteur Lavergne, a nice red, of good form, Mme. Edourd Doriat, and Jeannot made up the top of the display, the bottom consisted of pinks in variety and golden evening primrose with blue centurias.

Mr. Parker displayed some E. G. Hills that were wonderful and a number of fine Japs.—Jefferies Crimson the outstanding one shown.

W. F. CHRISTMAN.

The Peony Show season in Boston was ushered in with an exhibit by the Cherry Hill Nurseries at the Rhododendron and Iris Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The Lemoine Wittmanniana hybrids, Avant Garde, Le Printemps and Maifleuri were massed against a background of cedar and were very effective with their delicate colorings and golden centers. Single peonies used in this way are much more decorative than are the doubles and this display attracted the flower lovers as these varieties are seldom seen and not as well known as the Chinensis section. Another corner of interest was the displays of tree peonies by Miss Case and Mr. T. F. Donahue. Some fifteen or twenty varieties were shown in their rich and distinctive shades. There is a widespread call for this class of peonies, but I do not know of any nursery in the country which offers them in named varieties.

The Peony Show was really two shows. The first on June 18th and 19th was the official show, but, owing to the lateness of the season, the next week scheduled for the Rose Show was really another Peony affair for the greater part of the space was taken by the latter flower. The main hall was occupied by large displays for

decorative effect and was like a large garden or rather a series of gardens, as the groups of cedars gave vistas of blooms seldom equalled by any shows of hardy flowers.

The first prize and Silver Medal was won by Cherry Hill Nurseries with a garden arranged around a large central group covering about 300 square feet. The entire display, occupying a third of the entire hall, was given the American Peony Society's Silver Medal as a sweepstakes prize. Cherry Hill also won the first prize for the best collection of varieties rating 8.5 or over. Mr. T. F. Donahue was awarded second in this class as well as in the previous class. In the other class Miss Marion R. Case, of Weston, won first with twenty varieties one flower of each with Cherry Hill second, and the latter first in the class of ten varieties with Mrs. C. S. Houghton second. Both of these ladies are amateur growers. Amateur in this instance is a technical term for they showed some fine blooms proving them experts in growing peonies. Among other amateur growers who won prizes were Messrs. C. E. Gibson, Wilton B. Fay and Orvil W. Smith showing in the classes for six blooms and the best specimen bloom.

Mr. Donahue was first in Japanese peonies with some extra fine specimens and Mr. A. H. Fewkes was first in the open classes for six varieties of white and light pink, and Cherry Hill in deep pink and red. In the class for seedlings Cherry Hill Nurseries were awarded a Silver Medal and Mr. Donahue a Bronze Medal. These medals were awarded to the entire group rather than to individual varieties. Mr. F. B. Allison was awarded a Bronze Medal for a Shaylor seedling, I am sorry to say that I cannot recall its name.

There did not seem to be any outstanding varieties as is sometimes the case. Many were in very good form and the honors were even. At the second show I saw in Mr. Donahue's collection a bloom of Madame Edouard Doriat, considered, I believe, the best of Doriat's introductions. It showed good possibilities but it is hard for a "late white" to beat such varieties as Enchanteresse and Galathee.

Our veteran exhibitor Mr. George N. Smith made fine displays at both shows and was awarded a medal, and a newer enthusiast Mr. W. B. Parke, who won the President's cup two years ago for six blooms of Marie Lemoine, showed some fine displays.

W. H. THURLOW.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

It is proposed in this department to provide an opportunity for all growers to register the names of their new varieties which are being put in the market. The Society takes no responsibility as to the quality of the varieties registered here. A system by which new varieties can be officially rated and approved by the Society has been established and it is hoped that the difficulties inherent in dealing with the peony can be overcome.

Mr. T. F. Donahue, of Newton Lower Falls, Mass., desires to register the two peonies described briefly below :

Commander Byrd. (Donahue, 1927.) Double white, vigorous, tall.

Chestnut Hill. (Donahue, 1927.) Ivory white, cup shaped double, vigorous and free bloomer, foliage similar to Mrs. A. M. Brand. Stiff stems, midseason to late.

Dr. J. H. Neeley, of Paulding, Ohio, is registering the following seedling :

Gloriana. (J. H. Neeley, 1918.) Seedling of Mrs. John Smith Fogg. Midseason, full rose type, large to very large. Color a deep violaceous pink fading to soft hydrangea pink when fully opened. Guard petals heavy and cupped. Center full.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

There are many things a good gardener must do to have his garden attractive and interesting. One of these duties is to see that his flowers and plants are properly and correctly labeled. It is intensely interesting and instructive to pass through a well kept garden where unfamiliar varieties of flowers and plants may be found plainly labeled.

Several very satisfactory markers are on the market. I have just received a very practical one from Mrs. Lloyd Anderson, of Naugatuck, Conn. She will be glad to furnish you with a sample, if interested, I am sure. This is one of a number I have seen that prove very satisfactory.

It is not clear to many of our members that DUES ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE. Please keep this in mind, as we are approaching the beginning of another year and 1928 dues should be paid soon.

The Commercial Peony and Iris Growers Association held their second annual meeting December 12th and 13th at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

In the near future we will have a report from Mr. Battey on the progress of the test garden at Urbana, Ill., where single and Japanese peonies will be studied and interesting data compiled, which will be available to our members. These test gardens, under proper supervision, will be of great value, and proper supervision has been provided to insure success of the venture. We will have some interesting information relative to the Urbana test garden in the near future.

We had hoped that there would be a more generous response to our plea for plants for the Arlington garden. A few generous contributions were tendered and we are hopeful that enough contributions will be made during the fall of 1928 to make this one of the most complete plantings in the country. Situated as it is, within close proximity to the nation's capitol, we should have several hundred varieties growing in this test garden. They will be given the best of care and will have supervision that will insure their best development.

In the recent death of Mr. F. A. Goodrich, of Baldwinsville, N. Y., and Mr. Ward Welsh, of Springfield, Ohio, the American Peony Society has lost two of its most ardent supporters and enthusiasts.

Mr. Goodrich was interested in a number of enterprises but always found time to attend the annual peony shows and all the large peony plantings throughout the country. The Indian Springs Farms, of Baldwinsville, N. Y., of which he was owner, is known to every peony lover in the country. These farms overlooking the beautiful Seneca River attract many thousands during the year. A gorgeous array of tulips usher in the blooming season, followed by acres of iris, peonies, gladiolus, phlox and lilies in their season of bloom, affording a continued source of delight. It was in this atmosphere of beauty that Mr. Goodrich spent his declining years. I think of all his flowers, the peony occupied his deepest attention and respect. Mr. Goodrich traveled a great deal, and it was on one of these peony pilgrimages that he was subjected to a paralytic stroke from which he did not recover.

In the passing of Charles Ward Welsh on September 25th, 1927, the peony world lost one of its staunchest supporters and one whose knowledge of the peony is not surpassed. In Mr. Welsh the highest

type of personality was exemplified. To know him was to have a lasting admiration of his good qualities. The writer's last visit with him was at the American Peony Society's exhibition at Peoria, Ill., last June, and what a delightful visit we had. His acquaintanceship will always be highly cherished and the privilege of knowing him personally will always remain a most pleasant memory. Rarely one comes in contact with as congenial a personality as Mr. Welsh possessed. His pleasing smile was highly contagious and one could not be in his company long without feeling that you were enjoying a rare privilege. He was a man of high ideals and a great flower lover. I think the peony was one of his pets and the propagation and production of new varieties one of his hobbies. He was an authority on the peony and at the time of his death one of the Directors of the American Peony Society.

Mr. Welsh was sixty-three years old and for several years past had devoted a great deal of time to the peony. He was President of the Good & Welsh Peony Farms, Inc., of Springfield O., Vice-President of the Good & Reese Co., of Springfield, and in addition to the above was President of the Indian Spring Farm, Inc., of Baldwinsville, N. Y. He is survived by his wife, a brother and sister, all of Springfield, Ohio. Jaundice was the cause of death.

A brief history of Mr. Welsh and Mr. Goodrich appears in this issue.

We have a very interesting article from Mr. W. C. Otis, "A Partial Analysis of the 1925 Symposium," which will appear in the next bulletin. His article in this issue relating his visit to several peony plantings is interesting indeed and you will find his comments on varieties voted upon in the last symposium of equal interest. We hope a large number of members will answer his challenge and write us fully their views covering the subject. Items of interest from our members are greatly appreciated. The bulletin is issued exclusively for the interest of our members, and the exchange of ideas and experiences will be helpful to all. If you have any criticism to offer, don't hesitate to write me fully.

The last year has brought in a number of new members with but very few resignations to date. I want to take this opportunity to thank every member for their co-operation, and am hopeful that the coming year will be one of the best in our history. The Peony Manual will soon be ready for the printer and will be ready for distribution to our members shortly after the first of the year. From

a brief résumé I have received of this manual, it will be a very valuable treatise on the peony and one that every member will be glad to possess.

Notice of the Annual Meeting appears in this issue. There will be a meeting of the Directors at the same time. January 25th and 26th, 1928, are the dates.

A communication addressed to Mrs. Harry A. Watts, Hedrick, Ia., has been returned to this office. Any member knowing Mrs. Watts present address will confer a favor by advising this office.

We are advised by Dr. Paul E. Allen, of Cherokee, Ia., also by Lee Bacigalupo, of Memphis, Tenn., that they are not commercial growers. Through error their names are listed in heavy type on the the membership list indicating that they are. This will be corrected on future lists.

In the next bulletin we expect to print a complete, revised membership list and any corrections to be made in your address as it appears on the wrapper of this bulletin, should be reported to the Secretary at once. We want this list to be as correct as it is possible to have it. Some of our members have changed their address and this office has not been notified. Failure to get bulletins and communications from this office results.

We predict 1928 will be one of our most successful years, and with your help, this will be assured.

W. F. CHRISTMAN,
Secretary.

NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the American Peony Society will be held in New York City, New York, in the Woolworth Building, 233 Broadway, January 25, 1928, at 10 o'clock A. M. Immediately following the Board of Directors will hold their annual meeting, holding over until January 26, if necessary. These meetings will be held in the Directors room of the Merchants Association of New York. Every member who can is urged to be present at the annual meeting.

BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At an annual meeting of the Board of Directors held in the Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City, N. Y., January 15th, 1927, the following nominations were made for Directors for the years 1928, 1929 and 1930:

Prof. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.

W. F. Christman, Robbinsdale, Minn.

Ward Welsh, Springfield, O.

Mr. Welsh having died since the above action it has become necessary for the Board of Directors to elect some one in his stead.

Section 3, Article 3, of revised by-laws reads as follows:

“The Directors to be elected at each meeting shall be Active Members nominated by the Board and their names shall be published in the Society’s bulletin or on printed notices from the Secretary to each member in good standing at least sixty days before the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made by any ten Active Members in writing to the Secretary at any time before November 1st, and the Secretary will publish them in the Society’s bulletin at least thirty days before the annual meeting, or by notice above referred to.”

Detach and return portion below at once —↓

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Sec’y.*,
Robbinsdale, Minn.

Dear Sir:

I hereby endorse the nominations made by the Directors as indicated by the Ballot and as published in the bulletin showing report of Directors’ meeting. I am further willing that the Directors elect a substitute in place of the late Mr. Ward Welsh.

.....
Name of member

.....
Address

