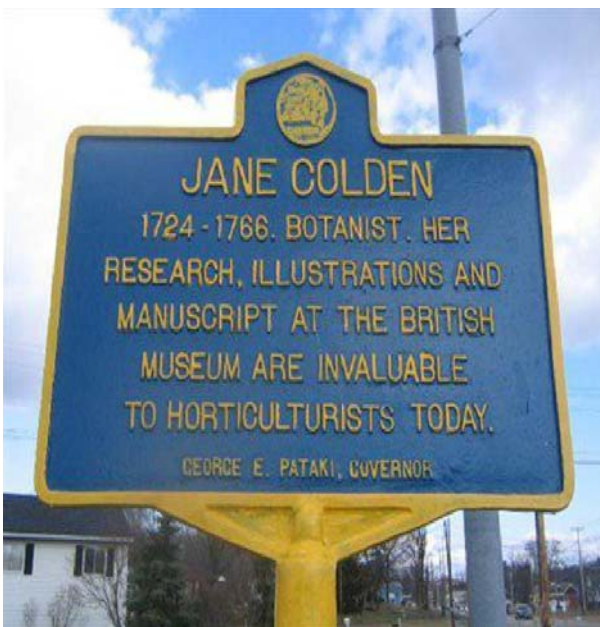




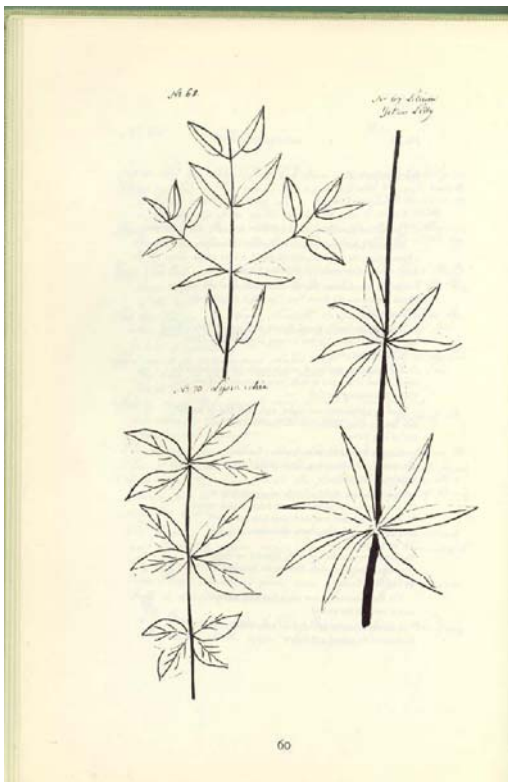
History of Lawn and Garden

As we look at this month's theme of lawn and garden, we think of the many women before us profiled in our book: *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Historical women have identified plants, advanced gardening and led the way to the beautification of our country. This month we profile Martha Daniell Logan, Jane Colden, Catherine Furbish, and Lady Bird Johnson.

A native of South **Carolina**, **Martha Daniell Logan**, a teacher and a horticulturist, began writing a column in 1751, "Gardener's Kalendar," in which she discussed herbs, vegetables, flowers, gardens, and orchards. Just think about how early in our country's history that was! Her column was published in the South Carolina Almanack for forty years. She also corresponded with a botanist in Pennsylvania on the subjects of seeds and plants.



Almost concurrently with Logan, **Jane Colden** (later Farquhar) prepared a catalog of over 300 local species of flora and exchanged specimens and seeds with several colonial and European botanists. Considered the first woman botanist in the U.S., by 1757, Colden, under the tutelage of her father, Cadwallader Colden, a New York



botanist and government leader, mastered the Linnaean classification system. Jane Colden also wrote a paper for a publication by the Edinburgh (Scotland) Philosophical Society.

Colden's father systematically removed obstacles in the way of her study of botany and he imported a library of books from England for her use. She took ink impressions of leaves and learned to sketch living plants. She is best known for her identification and description of the gardenia; she was the first to identify this flowering plant. Jane Colden was considered a 'phenomenon' for several years and she was referred to as "perhaps the only lady that makes a profession of the Linnaean system." Sadly for what else she might have contributed to our general knowledge of botany at this early time in our country's history, her botanical work ceased after her marriage in 1759.

Over one hundred years later, we find another botanist. **Catherine Furbish** was studying local plants by the time she was twelve and spent the next thirty-five years collecting, classifying and recording the flora of Maine. It is interesting to note that her father, like Colden's, was instrumental in her interest in botany. She was also intrigued by a series of lectures she attended that were given by a Harvard professor of botany. She founded (in 1895), and later served as president of, the Josselyn Botanical Society in Maine. Although she was an amateur, contemporary professional botanists recognized the quality of her work. She is regarded as one of the best of the dedicated amateurs upon whom scientific advances depended in the nineteenth century.

Furbish published several articles in the *American Naturalist* and she occasionally lectured to interested groups. She donated her large folio volumes to Bowdoin College; her dried plant collection was given to the New England Botanical Club. The dried plant collection is now housed in the club's headquarters at Harvard University. Two of her discoveries, including (*Pedicularis furbishiae* – the Furbish Lousewort) were named for her. The citation that accompanied that naming of the *Aster condifolius* L. var. *Furbishiae* (blue wood aster) reads "distinguished artist-botanist . . . who, through her undaunted pluck and faithful brush, has done more than any other to make known the





wonderful flora of the 'Garden of Maine.' ”

Finally we wish to highlight the remarkable contributions of **Lady Bird Johnson**. Although she was not a botanist, Johnson, the most politically active First Lady since Eleanor Roosevelt, worked to beautify America. Johnson was a significant force in helping to ensure passage of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965. The act limited the number of billboards on major roadways. Johnson also became well known for encouraging everyone to plant wildflowers. One of her books was titled *Wildflowers Across America*, which she wrote with co-author Carlton Lees.

Johnson may also be described as an environmentalist; she was an active worker on innumerable projects. In Washington, she enlisted the aid of friends to plant thousands of tulips and daffodils. Now, almost fifty years later these flowers still bloom and beautify our nation's Capital. In 1999, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt presented Lady Bird Johnson with the Native Plant Conservation Initiative Lifetime Achievement Award. At that time he said, “Mrs. Johnson has been a ‘shadow Secretary of the Interior’ for much of her life.”

Johnson was the honorary chairman of the LBJ Memorial Grove on the Potomac in Washington, D. C. She also chaired the Town Lake Beautification Project, a community effort to create a hike and bike trail and to plant flowering trees along the Colorado River in Austin, Texas. She became a member of the National Park Service's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments in 1969 and served on the council for many years. In 1969, Johnson founded the Texas Highway Beautification Awards, and for the next twenty years, she hosted the annual

awards ceremonies and presented her personal checks to the winners. Additionally, she was a trustee of the American Conservation Association.

On her 70th birthday in 1982, Mrs. Johnson founded the National Wildflower Research Center, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the preservation and re-establishment of native plants in natural and planned landscapes. She donated 60 acres of land and a sum of money to establish the Center. It serves as a clearinghouse of information for people all over the country. She realized her long-held dream in 1995 when the Center moved into its new and larger facility. In December, 1997, the Center was renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in honor of Johnson's 85th birthday. Lady Bird Johnson was chairman of the Wildflower Center's board of directors until her death.

We salute these women whose passion and interests in plants and nature have benefitted us all. Do they inspire YOU to go out and beautify your neighborhood?



Charlotte S. Waisman, PhD, co-author of *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* (HarperCollins), is a national champion and advocate for women as a professor and keynote speaker. As an executive coach, Waisman coauthored *50 Activities for Developing Leaders* and *The Leadership Training Activity Book*. She is a principal with a consulting company specializing in leadership and workforce excellence initiatives.

Jill S. Tietjen, PE, co-author of *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* (HarperCollins), is an author, speaker and electrical engineer. Her other books include the *Setting the Record Straight* series. Tietjen is a top historian on scientific and technical women. She is President/CEO of *Technically Speaking*, a consulting company that specializes in improving career opportunities for women in technology.

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