

The *Traveller*

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Spring, 2020

Elizabeth Bartram's Final Resting Place



Wright family cemetery, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Christopher Robinson, PhD
University of South Carolina Beaufort

The Bartram Trail Conference is dedicated primarily to maintaining the memory of William Bartram's explorations into the south in the 1760s and 1770s. Be that as it may, readers may be interested to learn more about William's twin sister Elizabeth, so I went in search of her final resting place.

Elizabeth was obviously born on the same day as William Bartram in 1739. This date is recorded in the family Bible as "the 9th day of the second month." This date is in the old Julian calendar, and with the shift to the Gregorian calendar in 1752, this date corresponds to April

20. In an unsigned family record, the author says of Elizabeth's upbringing in the Bartram household, "Here she was reared by her parents together with her brothers and sisters. She was reared in all the accomplishments of that day. Here she was enabled to view nature in all its beauty—Here she acquired a love for plants and flowers. Here she and her sisters assisted their mother in entertaining the many distinguished guests who came to pay their respects to the Botanist."

She lived with her parents until her marriage, "she then left her father's house to become Mistress of that of her husband." Elizabeth married William Wright, son of William Wright and Mary

Cartledge, on August 2, 1771; he died in 1794, and she remained a widow until her death on October 29, 1824. They had seven children.

Elizabeth moved with her husband to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and we know their farm was, "9 miles southwest of Lancaster and quite near to the famous Indian village." Most importantly for my search, the Wright family papers were donated to the Lancaster Historical Society and there one finds some family history on Elizabeth, her will, and the location of her burial.

As an adult, Elizabeth was very religious, even using an extra room in their house for services. As the family record reports, "the home of Elizabeth Wright was the stopping place of the early ministers as they made occasional tours through the then thinly settled country. On each of these occasions religious services were held in her house to the west end of the house to which the neighbors were invited. Her husband, before his death, built an addition to the west end of the house, the first floor of which was for many years used as a place of worship."

We are also told where Elizabeth was buried. In the family documents, we are told that she is buried in the "Family burying lot on the old farm." According to Rineer (1993), the Wright Family cemetery is on a farm behind a house off Walnut Hill Road in Lancaster.

William Worner (1942) visited the graveyard in 1935 and copied the inscriptions on all the tombstones that could be read during his time period. He writes that the graveyard seemed to receive no attention, but that there were ten headstones. At this time, Elizabeth's tombstone survived and could be read. It said, "Elizabeth, consort of William Wright. Died October 29, 1824. Aged 85 years

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William Bartram's Flat Rock



Hadrien Turner (l) and Dan Crescenza(r) of Oconee Rivers Land Trust at the Flat Rock.

Brad Sanders

William Bartram embarked upon his journey to the Creek Country in June, 1775. He entered the Lower Creek Trade Path somewhere near Harlem, Georgia, and travelled southwestward. Bartram and his companions camped at a place that he found worthy of mention and that has been a topic of speculation for many years. He wrote,

EARLY in the evening of the 27th we arrived at the Flatrock, where we lodged. This is a common rendezvous or camping place for traders and Indians. It is an expansive clean flat or horizontal rock, but a little above the surface of the ground, and near the banks of a delightful rivulet of excellent water which is one of the head branches of Great Ogeche: in the loose, rich soil verging round this rock, grew several very curious herbaceous plants, particularly one of singular elegance and beauty, which I take to be a species of *Ipomea* (*Ipomea, caule erecto, ramoso, tripedali, sol. radicalibus, pinnatifidis, liniaribus, humi-straits, florib. incarnatis intus maculis coccinaeis adperso.*) It grows erect, three feet high, with a strong stem, which is decorated with plumed or pinnatifid

liniar leaves, somewhat resembling those of the *Delphinium* or *Ipomea quamoclet*; from about one half its length upwards, it sends out on all-sides, ascendent branches which divide again and again; these terminate with large tubular or funnel formed flowers; their limbs equally divided into five segments; these beautiful flowers are of a perfect rose colour, elegantly be-



The circle indicates the location of Dancing Hill on Rocky Comfort Creek. However, is it pointing to the upper or lower path?

Joseph Purcell, *A Map of the Southern Indian District of North America*, 1775. Newberry Library.

sprinkled on the inside of their petals with crimson specks; the flowers are in great abundance and together with the branches and delicately fine cut leaves, compose a conical spike or compound pannicle. I saw a species of this plant, if not the very same, growing on the sea coast islands near St. Augustine. The blue flowered *Malva* and *Delphinium* were its associates about the Flat-rock.

THERE are extensive Cane brakes or Cane meadows spread abroad round about, which afford the most acceptable and nourishing food for cattle.

THIS evening two companies of Indian traders from Augusta arrived and encamped near us; and as they were bound to the Nation, we concluded to unite in company with them, they generously offering us their assistance, having many spare horses and others lightly loaded, several of ours by this time being jaded, this was a favorable opportunity of relief in case of necessity.

NEXT morning, as soon as the horses were packed and in readiness, we decamped and set forward together.

Francis Harper explored Warren County in the early 1940s and determined that a possible site for Bartram's Flat Rock was Lazenby's Flat Rock near Camak, to the northeast of Warrenton. Harper believed that upon decamping the Flat Rock, Bartram and the traders travelled westward,

passing south of Sparta and on to Rock Landing on the Oconee River. There was, indeed, a trail that followed part of that route, the Upper Creek Trading Path, also known as the Oakfuskee Trail, and there were several connecting trails between the upper and lower Creek paths. However, Bartram said that he and the traders entered the “great trading path from Augusta to the Creek nation,” which I take to mean the Lower Creek Trading Path, which was known as the Great Trading Path. In that part of Georgia the Great Trading Path is easy to follow for it was used as the boundary between Warren and Glascock counties, and between Hancock and Washington counties.

The Joseph Purcell map titled *A Map of the Southern Indian District of North America, 1775*, shows a site on the Great Trading Path at Rocky Comfort Creek named Dancing Hill, though it is not clear if the label is pointing to the upper or lower path. Bernard Romans’ map in the Clements Library titled *A map of West Florida and part of Et: Florida, Georgia part of So: Carolina* also shows a Dancing Hill, but that map has deteriorated to the

point of being useless for our purposes. Francis Harper included a drawing of the Romans map in *The Travels of William Bartram: Naturalist Edition* and attributed it to David Taitt.

So, we might look for Bartram’s Flat Rock somewhere along present-day County Line Road near Rocky Comfort Creek. Philip Juras told me about a rock outcrop that he discovered using Google Earth and that site is located in southern Warren County, just north of County Line Road and adjacent to Rocky Comfort Creek. Is this, indeed, the Flat Rock where William Bartram camped on the night of June 27, 1775? As with many things Bartram, we cannot say without a doubt that this is Bartram’s Flat Rock, but I have visited the site on two occasions and I believe that this outcrop is a good candidate to be called Bartram’s Flat Rock.

This property was a land grant to William Johnson for service in the Revolution. William and his brother, Willis, rode to Georgia in spring, 1792, and staked out their claims on Rocky Comfort Creek. William built a cabin and crib, made a crop of corn, then both brothers returned

to Virginia in Spring, 1793, to get their families. When William Johnson returned to Georgia he found that his house had been burned by Indians and they had taken his corn.

Johnson was a pious man and built a church on his property in the fork of Rocky Comfort Creek and Storm Branch, for the benefit of his neighbors. The church is long gone but the Old Johnson Family Cemetery remains on the property just east of the Flat Rock and accessible from Sandy Grove Road.

The land remained with Johnson descendants until 2017, when it was sold in separate parcels. The property with the flat rock was placed in a conservation easement with the Oconee Rivers Land Trust in 2017. This flat rock is an excellent example of a Piedmont granitic outcrop and is home to two rare plants that grow only on rock outcrops in northeast Georgia, Mat-forming Quillwort and Pool Sprite. As the property is privately owned, the public does not have access to the site, except with special permission or during field trips hosted by the Oconee Rivers Land Trust.

From the President

“Respected Friends”

Being elected as the President of the Bartram Trail Conference is a most humbling experience but one that I enthusiastically welcome. The Montgomery Conference was inspiring and a joy to attend. My thanks to all those responsible.

We held a Bartram Trail National Heritage Area workshop to determine where we are and where we are going. We learned a lot. We left the meeting with a plan. We have five questions to answer to determine our next steps and are in the process of answering those questions. We also need to collect our resources which means we need to document what already exists. We have added a database manager, Maiben Beard, who will help us get organized and connected.

The Bartram Trail Conference seeks to establish AFFILIATE AGREEMENTS with collaborative groups/organizations who share our interests towards developing the Bartram Trail National Heritage

Area. We have an Affiliate Agreement Application available on our website. To date, we have seven affiliates including: North Carolina Bartram Society, Bartram Trail Society of Florida, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Bartram Garden Club, and Stetson University. If your organization is interested, please download the application from the BTC Affiliates page.

We are still discussing the location for the 2021 Bartram Trail Conference. Currently, Charleston, South Carolina is our

current choice.

There were so many wonderful presentations at the Conference but the one that inspired me the most was by Katie Jackson. She reminded us of the movement that started the Bartram Trail Conference in 1975 right there in Montgomery. The passion of Martha McInnis is alive and well at her Bartram Trail Conference legacy.

“Peace and love...” WB

Sam Carr

President, Bartram Trail Conference



Sam Carr (l) leading a paddle on Dunn’s Creek in Putnam County, Florida

Bartram Trail Conference 2019



The Museum of Alabama

Bartram enthusiasts from across America converged on the stately Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery for our biennial conference October 25–27. This site was particularly appropriate because it holds the Bartram Trail Conference archive in its collection.

Before the formal opening of the conference on Friday evening, fifty people convened in the afternoon to discuss plans for the creation of a Bartram Heritage Corridor, a regionally unified effort to mark Bartram’s path across the Southeast. This idea is not new. In fact, it dates back to the founding of the BTC and initial feasibility studies carried out by the BTC and the National Park Service in the early 1980s. Rather than attempting to follow a narrow path, the project envisions a 25-mile-wide corridor to link Bartram’s trail with national scenic trails, highways and waterways, heritage centers, etc. In addition to telling a nationally important story of historical and environmental value, the corridor could provide economic benefits to communities located along the “string of pearls” envisioned by the proj-

ect. The hope is to complete the planning and development of the corridor in time for 2023, the 250th anniversary of the start of Bartram’s sojourn in the South. For more information on progress to date, see Sam Carr’s article on page 3.

Friday evening’s festivities kicked off with an opening reception followed by the premiere of the newly-released Bartram documentary “Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram’s Travels.” The film explores how this 18th century naturalist and visionary continues to inspire the next wave of Southern environmentalism. Two “modern-day Bartrams” featured in the film, Janisse Ray and Philip Juras, joined producers Eric Breitenbach and

Dorinda Dallmeyer in discussing the film with the audience. Look for the film to be coming to a PBS affiliate near you soon. For photos of the documentary production process, see page 5.

Outgoing BTC president T.R. Henderson opened the conference on Saturday morning and Steve Murray, director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, warmly welcomed the conferees. Historian Kathryn Braund detailed Bartram’s travels through the Upper Creek Nation followed by Brad Sanders’ tour of Bartram sites in modern-day Alabama. Our Fothergill Research Fellows, Whitney Barlow Robles and Heather Gladfelter, offered two very distinct but



First edition of William Bartram’s Travels in the Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Rosa Hall gave a demonstration on Native American foodways and fashion.



Cannon from Fort Toulouse

engaging presentations. Dr. Robles focused on rattlesnakes as an object of fascination, dread, and myth for naturalists exploring the New World. Dr. Gladfelter led us through her plant genetics research aimed at developing a fungus-resistant *Franklinia* that would enable this plant found in Georgia's Altamaha River bottomlands to thrive once more in the South.

After lunch, in addition to Sam Carr's presentation on the National Trail/Corridor effort, Katie Lamar Jackson presented a talk on the significance of Alabamian Marth McInnis. Ms. McInnis was key not only to the work of the BTC in the 1970s but also to the subsequent development of the Alabama environmental movement. Then we had the pleasure of visiting the Museum itself. Of particular interest were display cases featuring the Archives' first-edition copy of the *Travels* alongside other historic documents relating to Bartram. Rosa Hall and Monica Newman treated us to samples of native foods Bartram would have enjoyed and also showed their handiwork in traditional weaving and basketmaking techniques. Docents led tours of the Museum's fascinating collections spanning thousands of years of Alabama history. The evening concluded with a beautifully illustrated presentation by Daniel Fate Brooks III on Robert Farman's plantation, a site described by Bartram in the *Travels*.

Sunday found attendees exploring Bartram sites on their own in southeastern Alabama as well as taking advantage of the many historic sites in Montgomery focusing on the legacy of slavery and the Civil Rights Movement.

Our next conference in 2021 will be organized by incoming BTC President Sam Carr, with location and dates to be decided. Stay tuned!

“Cultivating the Wild”



Producer Eric Breitenbach welcomes the standing room only audience to the film premiere at Daytona State College, January 29, 2020.



Scott Auerbach filming artist Philip Juras as he paints a prescribed burn at the Moody Forest Natural Area, near Baxley, Georgia.



Cameraman Cameron Kirschner launches a drone to film aerial footage over the Altamaha Delta. Scott Auerbach, Director of Photography, at left.



Filming Drew Lanham on Main Beach, Little St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Book Review

André Michaux in North America: Journals and Letters, 1785–1797

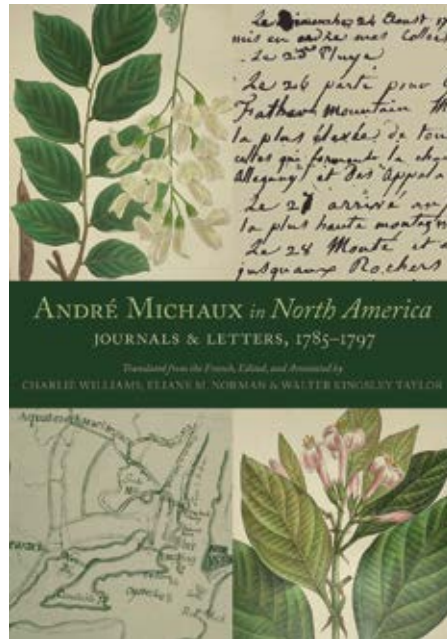
University of Alabama Press
ISBN: 978-0-8173-2030-0
7 x 10, 608 pages

The triumvirate of Charlie Williams, Eliane M. Norman, and Walter Kingsley Taylor have brought the French botanist, André Michaux (March 8, 1746—October 11, 1802) to life again.

From the first paragraph of the fine Foreword penned by James E. McClellan III, readers will eagerly dive into the sumptuous years of Michaux's expeditions in North America. Sumptuous, not because of riches and finery, but because of the botanical wealth of the land he explored more than two centuries ago.

Long anticipated, the editors have delved deeply into extant letters Michaux wrote and that were written to him as well as his surviving notebooks and journal. Carefully translating each word, plotting the dates of his various routes, including diary entries from people he visited, painstakingly matching the plants noted by Michaux with the corresponding modern name, carefully tracing the personality of the man whose driving passions were plants and respectability.

André Michaux was the eldest son of André and Marie-Charlotte Barbe Michaux. The elder Michaux managed a farm at Satory on the royal domain in the park of Versailles. André and his younger brother attended school where André studied the classics and languages. His education lasted fewer than four years because the boys' father assumed his sons would one day take over the farm. At age 23, André Michaux married Anne-Cecile Claye who was from a wealthy family. After Anne-Cecile died in 1770, probably from complications of childbirth, André was saturated with heartache. His fascination and curiosity about



botany healed his heart and set him on his life's desire—not wealth, but to be accepted and respected for his hard work and to bring prominence to France. Who could have guessed that years later, another upheaval, the French Revolution, would change the future for Michaux and France?

André Michaux traveled in a time of uncertainty. He adapted to each situation that did not go as planned, his notebooks recount his adaptability and his extreme attention to botany. He digs up trees, he collects seeds, he wrote letters, he arrives back at the Charleston garden and the next day sows the seeds, he logs the miles traveled for most days, he remarks about good places to stay, he packs shipments to France. Literally he only refrained from his tasks when fever or another illness struck and then not for long.

Because the book is so well researched and the routes of his explorations so well defined, it would be possible to follow his tracks to see what he saw. But if one is not so inclined, settle with this book and travel with André Michaux as he roamed through a country lightly settled; understand his relationship with native guides and with other people from all walks of life; experience the obstacles

of many rainy days, freezes, floods, lack of food, often trepidation about the unfamiliar surroundings; even a slight glimpse into the trials of being the single parent of a recalcitrant teenaged boy.

Readers will appreciate the history unfolding around Michaux as the United States began to grow as the intrepid, enthusiastic, self-sufficient, and determined French botanist tirelessly worked to discover familiar plants but more so those species that had not yet been described. This is a book to savor, to read slowly and with careful attention to the excellent notes. Keep several bookmarks handy. In the end, Michaux, the man for the ages, as named by Charles Kuralt, will come alive again.

By Gail Fishman

Elizabeth Bartram's Resting Place, *continued from page 1*

and nine months." When I traveled there, however, it was quite overgrown, and many of the graves were hard to read. To my disappointment, Elizabeth's tombstone seems to have faded with time and I could not find Elizabeth's actual grave.

References

- Rineer, A. H. (1993). *Churches and Cemeteries of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania: a complete guide*. Lancaster, PA: Lancaster County Historical Society.
- Worner, W. (1942). *Tombstone inscriptions from graveyards in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*. Lancaster, PA: Lancaster County Historical Society.

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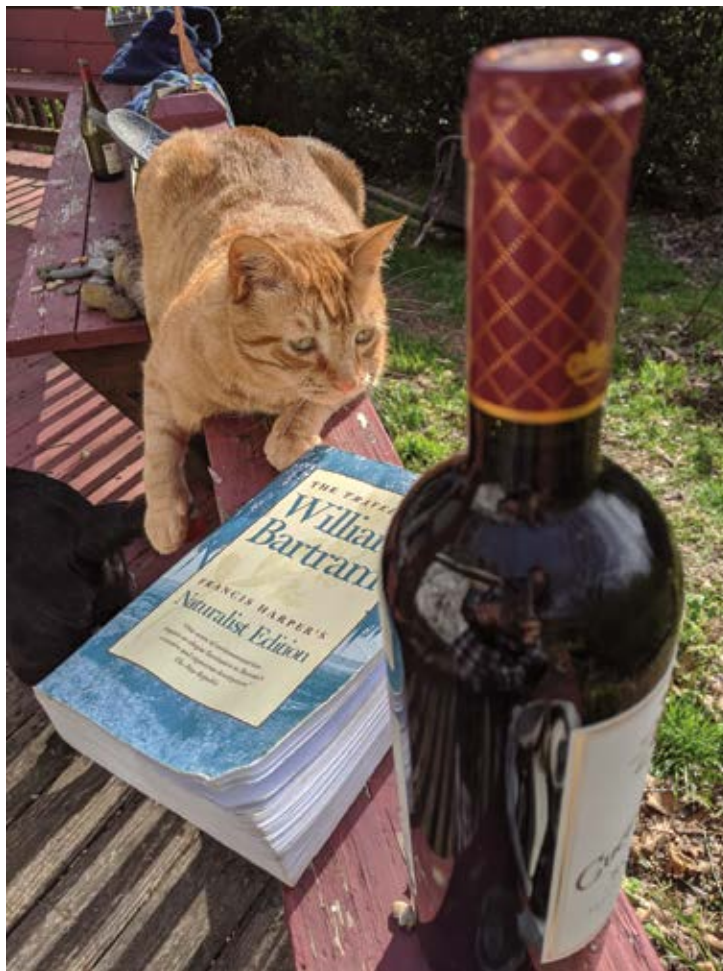
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Wine with Willie

At this time of year, William Bartram would be scouring the countryside for new plants and waxing eloquent about the landscapes unreeling before him. In contrast, many of us are remaining at home to avoid COVID-19 and missing out on experiencing some of Bartram's adventures.

Brent and Angela-Faye Martin have a suggested cure—"Wine with Willie." During the month of April, their company Alarka Expeditions hosted four ZOOM conferences for Bartram aficionados -- from their living room to yours. Brent reports that attendance at these virtual cocktail hours averaged 20 participants who were able to relax with a favorite beverage, connect across the miles, and discuss contributions Bartram made to natural history and more.

If you attended our 2015 Bartram Trail Conference in North Carolina, you may remember Brent's outstanding field excursion to the "Vale of Cowee." Alarka continues to offer a range of hiking, bird-watching, and paddling excursions in the Franklin, North Carolina area—all at appropriate distancing—as conditions permit. For more information, please see their website www.alarkaexpeditions.com.



Bartram Trail Conference Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Primary Areas of Interest in the Bartram Trail:(try to be specific about geographic locations and activities, i.e., specific Bartram sites, and whether or not you like to hike, read, garden, etc.)

Your dues support our newsletter, web site, Fothergill Fellowship Awards and other Bartram Trail Conference projects.

You may also join online at:

<https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/page-1655351>

All you need is a PayPal account!

Annual Member Dues
 Please check one.

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