

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PLANT SCIENCES IN ANTEBELLUM TENNESSEE

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**ABSTRACT**—A bibliography of 32 articles on botany from scholarly journals published in Tennessee prior to 1862 is given. These articles offer local floral lists, treat the history of crops, provide references to societies that were primarily concerned with applied botany, and describe an early nursery.

The purpose of this paper is to promote the use of literature that is virtually unknown but may have academic value that remains unexplored. Examination of scholarly journals published in Tennessee prior to 1862 (Corgan, 1977a) reveals 32 original articles on botany, pure and applied, with emphasis on plants that could be grown for sale. While now outdated, these articles may interest historically oriented people within the biological sciences as well as historians of science. They give local floral lists, treat the history of crops, provide references to societies that were primarily concerned with applied botany, and describe an early nursery.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ANONYMOUS. 1836. Mr. Minor's Nursery. *Tennessee Farmer*, 1:353-354. (This Clarksville business was one of Tennessee's first large-scale nurseries. For biographical data on Captain Minor and a history of the nursery, see Corgan, 1978a.)
- . 1839. Horticultural Society, Maury County. *The Southern Cultivator*, 1:9. (A horticultural group was active in Maury Co. by 1838.)
- . 1840a. Beets for cattle. *The Agriculturist*, 1:38. (Mangel Wurtzel beets, rutabagas, were grown near Nashville by 1838.)
- . 1840b. Ruta бага. *The Agriculturist*, 1:50. (This plant was believed to have good potential as a crop for use by livestock.)
- . 1840c. Ruta бага in East Tennessee. *The Agriculturist*, 1:76. (This plant was grown in Nashville by middle 1830s and was believed to be first in Tennessee.)
- . 1840d. Minor's Nursery. *The Agriculturist*, 1:148-149. (See Anonymous, 1836.)
- . 1841a. The sleep of plants. *University Magazine*, 1:70. (This is not a scientific article but is a poetic analogy between plant and animal behavior.)
- . 1841b. Agricultural observations. *The Agriculturist*, 2:217-219. (This is a report of a traveler who examined crops in middle Tennessee.)
- . 1843a. Constitution of the Nashville Horticultural Society. *The Agriculturist*, 4:96. (This was probably the first horticultural group in Davidson Co.)
- . 1843b. Minor's Nursery. *The Agriculturist*, 4:160. (See Anonymous, 1836.)
- . 1844a. Horticultural Society. *The Agriculturist*, 5:169. (The Nashville Society was believed to be defunct.)
- . 1844b. Horticultural exhibition. *The Agriculturist*, 5:189. (The Society reorganized and planned a show on 23 December 1844.)
- . 1845a. Minor's Nursery, near Clarksville. *The Agriculturist*, 6:47. (See Anonymous, 1836.)
- . 1845b. Horticultural exhibitions. *The Agriculturist*, 6:76. (This describes the general exhibit on 15 April 1845 with a special exhibit of flowers.)
- BLACKIE, G. S. 1860. Contributions to the medical flora of Nashville. *The Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, 19:193-213. (A lengthy floral list is given by an esteemed professor of the University of Nashville.)
- CLAYTON, D. 1841. The fig. *The Agriculturist*, 2:136. (Fig tree was successfully grown in Maury Co.)
- CURREY, R. O. 1843. Natural history. *Guardian*, 3:7. (General comments are given by the first person to teach a laboratory-based botany course in a college in Tennessee; see Corgan, 1980. For a biography of this prolific author of scientific reports, see Corgan, 1978b.)
- . 1853. *Gelsemium semipervidens*, or yellow jasmín of the South. *Southern Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences*, 1:29-41. (This article summarizes knowledge of this plant.)
- . 1855. Wonders of vegetation. *Southern Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences*, 3:183-192. (This article gives general comments on plants.)
- FANNING, T. 1840. Fruit trees. *The Agriculturist*, 1:23. (Author discusses the stock of Minor's Nursery; see Anonymous, 1836. For a discussion of T. Fanning's many contributions to the scientific culture of Tennessee, see Corgan, 1978a.)
- . 1841a. Agricultural excursion. *The Agriculturist*, 2:146-148. (Author provides observations on crops grown in the Central Basin of Tennessee. Article is similar to Anonymous, 1841b.)
- . 1841b. Agricultural excursion, no. 2. *The Agriculturist*, 2:225-227. (This gives more observations on crops in Tennessee.)
- . 1842a. Agricultural excursion, no. 3. *The Agriculturist*, 3:49-50. (This is similar to previous entries but primarily describes fields in Alabama.)
- . 1842b. Agricultural excursion, no. 4. *The Agriculturist*, 3:97-98. (This is similar to previous articles concerning Tennessee.)
- . 1842c. Notes on a short trip to Kentucky. *The Agriculturist*, 3:281-282. (This is similar to previous articles but emphasizes Christian Co., Kentucky.)

- . 1843a. Agricultural and Horticultural Museum. The Agriculturist, 4:2. (Article describes a museum established for science instruction at Elm Crag, an agricultural school in Davidson Co.)
- . 1843b. Fruit trees and shrubbery. The Agriculturist, 3:252. (This is more on Minor's Nursery; see Anonymous, 1836.)
- . 1850. The manner in which animals and plants become distributed over the earth. The Naturalist, 1:169-170. (Author argues that biogeographic patterns do not suggest the earth is > 6,000 years old.)
- GARRETT, L. 1842. The culture of cotton. The Agriculturist, 3:40. (Cotton was grown in middle Tennessee in 1802.)
- HOPKINS, B. S. 1857. Topography, etc., of Marion County, Tennessee. The Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, 12:91-101. (This is a lengthy floral list.)
- LOOMIS, I. N. 1846. Natural history. The Naturalist, 1:193-196. (Author discusses the science curriculum of Franklin College in Nashville. Botany was taught but not emphasized.)
- WILLIAMS, W. 1841. Roanoke corn. The Agriculturist, 2:11. (This crop was grown in Maury Co., Tennessee, before 1841.)

### CONCLUSIONS

Although very few libraries have full sets, early journals published in Tennessee are well known (Corgan, 1977a). Most articles in the bibliography appear in four major journals described at length in articles published in the 20th century (Corgan, 1976a, 1976b, 1976c, 1977b): *The Southern Cultivator* (1839-1840); *The Agriculturist* (1840-1845); *The Naturalist* (1850); *The Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery* (1851-1861). It should be noted that there were two Nashville-based journals named *The Naturalist*. The first, published in 1846, is extremely rare. Most issues of most journals in the bibliography are in the Tennessee State Library, Nashville. Any article given in the bibliography can be obtained by interlibrary loan.

### LITERATURE CITED

- CORGAN, J. X. 1976a. Science in *The Southern Cultivator*, 1839-1840. J. Tennessee Acad. Sci., 51:84.
- . 1976b. Science in *The Agriculturist*, 1840-1845. J. Tennessee Acad. Sci., 51:109-111.
- . 1976c. Science in *The Naturalist*, 1850. J. Tennessee Acad. Sci., 51:145.
- . 1977a. Tennessee's early technical and scientific journals, 1825-1861. J. Tennessee Acad. Sci., 52:23-26.
- . 1977b. Non-medical functions of the *Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, 1851-1861. J. Tennessee Med. Assoc., 70:168-170.
- . 1978a. Notes on Tennessee's pioneer scientists. J. Tennessee Acad. Sci., 53:2-7.
- . 1978b. Richard Owen Currey, a little known intellectual figure of antebellum Tennessee. East Tennessee Hist. Soc. Publ., 50:58-71.
- . 1980. Some firsts? in the colleges of Tennessee. J. Tennessee Acad. Sci., 55:86-91.