

The Traveller

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Fall, 2012

The Moravians and the Bartrams

Paula Locklair

Vice President, Education
Old Salem Museums & Gardens

By October 1762 the Moravians had been actively settling, building and generally establishing themselves in the North Carolina Piedmont for nine years. They had purchased a tract of nearly 100,000 acres, which they called Wachovia, from John Carteret, the Earl of Granville, a Proprietor of the Royal Province of North Carolina.

As word spread that these reliable people were establishing towns in the wilderness, travelers regularly visited them in their first two settlements, Bethabara and Bethania. Four other communities followed, including the primary town for government and trade, Salem, in 1766.

The Moravians kept voluminous written records, and the 1762 Diary for

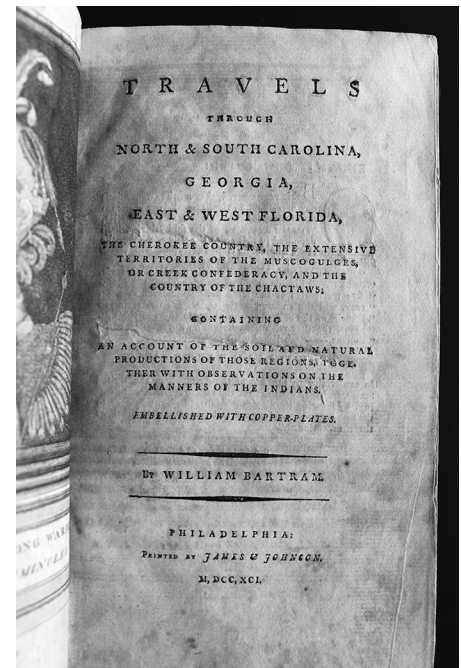
Bethabara and Bethania records:

Oct. 2. A botanist from Philadelphia stopped on his journey and inspected our medical garden, and certain other places. He said the slope below our God's Acre [cemetery] was a great treasure-house."

This botanist was John Bartram (1699-1777) who was traveling in the south, and he recorded visiting the Moravians in two letters written in the autumn of 1762. He seems to have been the first of a long list of notable American and European naturalists and botanists who found their way to the Moravian lands in North Carolina.

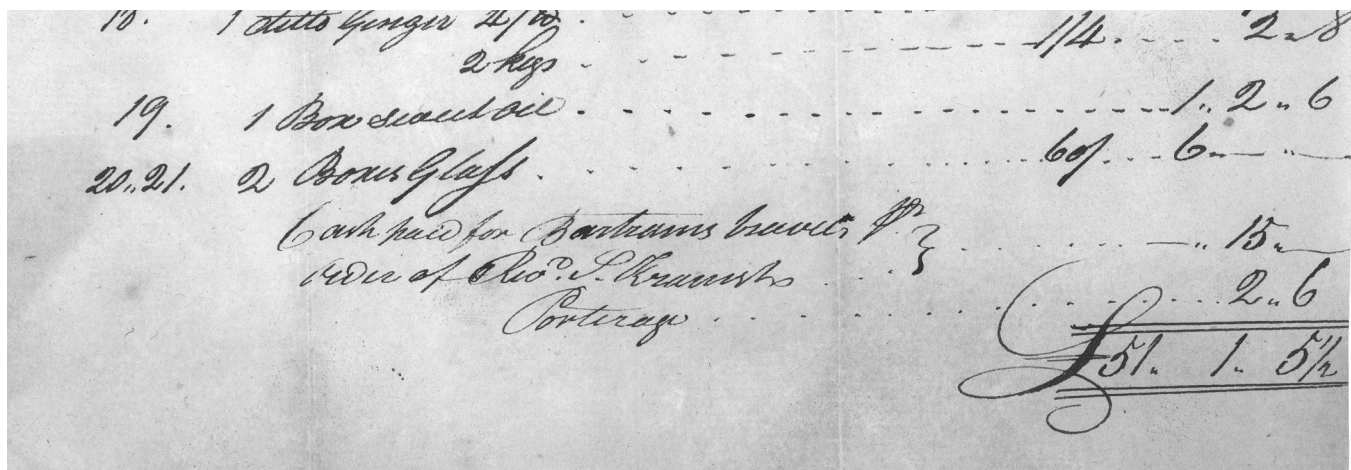
His son, William, also made extensive travels through the southeast. The result of Williams' travels was his book, *Travels Through North & South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida...* published in Philadelphia by James and Johnson, 1791.

Unlike his father, it does not seem that



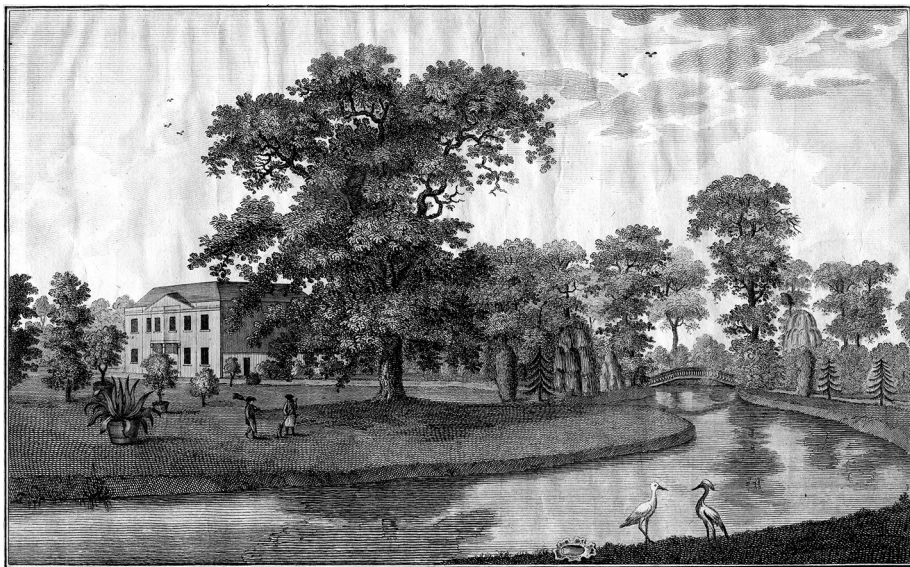
William visited the Moravians, and it is not known how much the Moravians stayed in contact with the Bartrams. But by May 1792 Samuel Kramers of Salem had ordered a copy of William Bartram's new book for £15 through a prominent Philadelphia merchant, Godfrey Haga, also a Moravian.

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Upton House

Dr. John Fothergill's estate



View of old Upton House and the famed botanical gardens of Dr. John Fothergill.
Originally produced for the John Cooke partwork publication *The Modern Universal British Traveller*, London: 1779. Copper line engraving on paper. Later hand colour.

William Bartram's sponsor for his travels in the southern colonies was Dr. John Fothergill. Fothergill, was a well known physician, Quaker philanthropist, botanist, campaigner for the abolition of slavery, and the owner of one of the best known gardens in England. Fothergill built a very successful career as a doctor and in 1762 he was able to purchase a house and thirty acres near West Ham, northeast of London. The estate, named Rooke Hall, was previously owned by Admiral Elliot and dates back to the late sixteenth century. Elliot had begun improving the property, including the planting of Cedars of Lebanon from seeds brought from the Near East. Fothergill began enlarging the estate, renamed the home Upton House, and created a grander garden where he could feature plants acquired from foreign lands. He travelled from Upton to London to attend

his medical practice, but it is not certain that he spent all of his time at Upton House for he was much in demand as a physician. Possibly Upton House was a retreat that he used as often as he could. A local legend says that Fothergill had so little time to devote to his garden during daylight hours, because of the demand of his patients, that he would inspect the garden in the evening by lantern light.

Fothergill began adding acreage to the estate and built hot houses attached to Upton House. He enlisted the help of sailors in searching for new and interesting plants. He paid collectors to travel to Canada, the Alps, and Africa. Fothergill employed fifteen men to work the gardens and artists to draw his plants. He employed Daniel Solander to catalogue the plants, including those acquired from William Bartram. A contemporary description of the estate says,

"On the banks of a winding canal rare and exotic shrubs flourished. In the midst of winter, evergreens were clothed in full verdure, without exposure to the open air; a glass door from the house gave entrance to a suite of hot and greenhouses, nearly 260 feet in extent, containing upwards of 3,400 species of exotics, whose foliage was a perpetual verdure, and in the open ground in summer nearly 3,000 distinct species of plants and shrubs vied with the natives of Asia and Africa.

"That science should not suffer a loss when a plant he had cultivated should die, he liberally paid the best artists to draw the new ones as they came to perfection; and so numerous were they that he found it needful to employ three or four artists in order to keep pace with their increase. His garden was known all over Europe. Foreigners of all ranks asked permission to see it."

Fothergill died in 1780. From the time of his death to 1786 the property was in the hands of the executors of the estate and his sister, Anne, lived on in the house. James Sheppard bought the house in 1787 and renamed it Ham House, possibly because there was another Upton House nearby. After his death in 1812 Sheppard's son-in-law, Samuel Gurney, purchased the estate and lived there until he died in 1856. The house was demolished in 1872. In 1874 the Gurney family offered the estate for sale to West Ham Corporation, at below value, for use as a park and the West Ham Park opened on July 20, 1874. It is today the largest park in the Newham Borough of London at 77 acres. All that remains of Upton House is a stone cairn that was erected when the park was built.

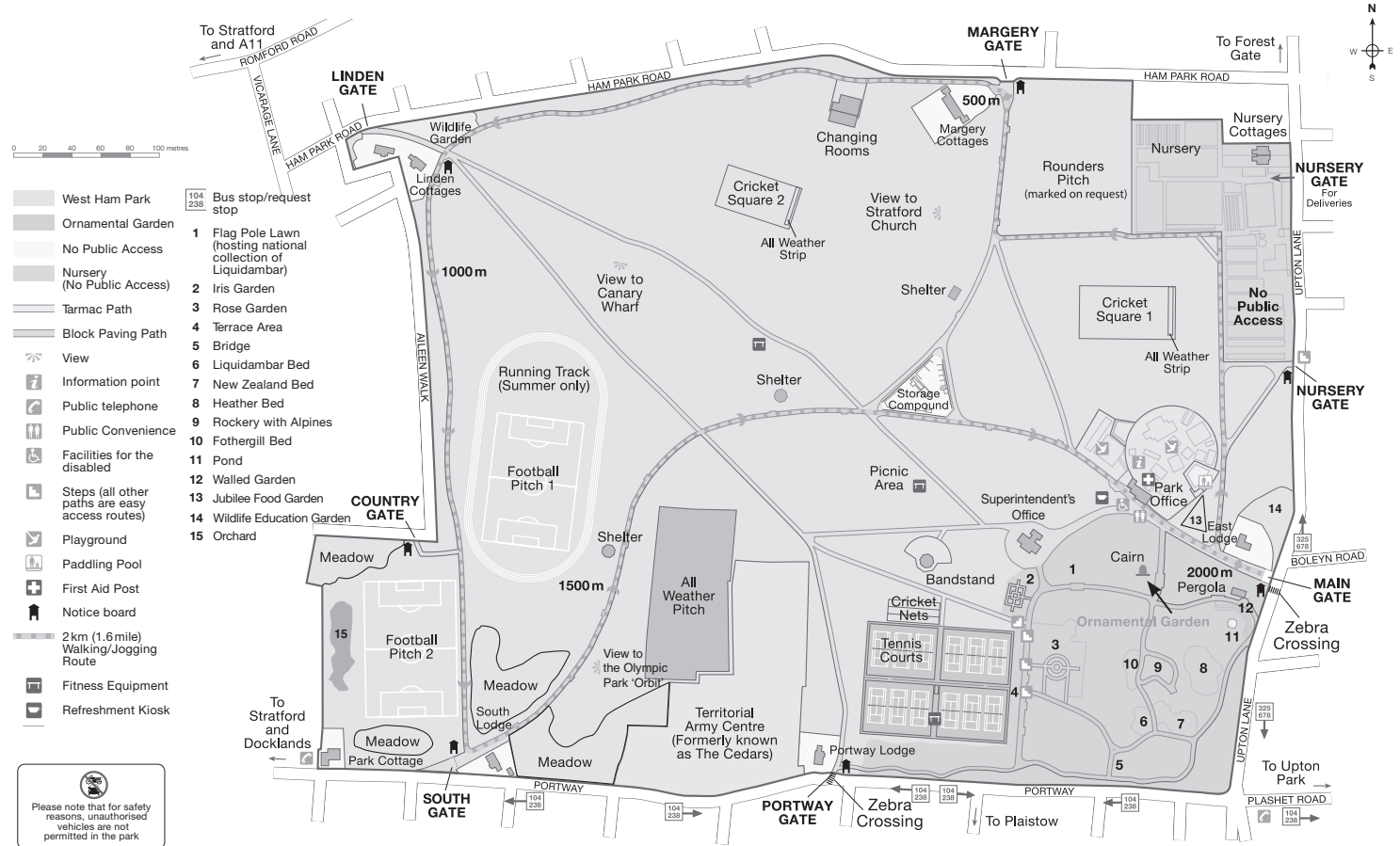
Today West Ham park is one of east London's most popular parks. It has seven acres of ornamental gardens and is noted for its nursery that supplies 200 species of plants for surrounding parks. The web site for West Ham Park is <http://bit.ly/T9Dj5v> ❀



Location of Upton House (renamed Ham House) in the early nineteenth century. From the Ordnance Survey First Series, Sheet 1.



Location of West Ham Park in modern day London (from Google Maps).



Park opening – The Park is open from 7.30am every day until dusk. The Toilets are open from 7.45am until 15 minutes before closing.

Children's Playground – The playground is open from 9.30am every day until 30 minutes before park closing time (8pm in the summer months).

Catering – An ice-cream van is available in the summer providing refreshments. Picnics are welcome and benches are provided in the Park.

If you would like to tell us your ideas for how the park could be improved, contact us by emailing parks.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Want to get involved? To find out more about helping to shape future plans for the park and volunteering opportunities please contact the Park Office on 020 8472 3584 or parks.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk or see www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/westhampark

West Ham Park



Map of West Ham Park. The Cairn marks the site of Upton House, later Ham House, Dr. John Fothergill's country home.

Map reproduced with the permission of West Ham Park, City of London

Following in the Bartrams' Footsteps

*Contemporary Botanical Artists
Explore the Bartrams' Legacy*

**A Traveling Exhibition of the
American Society of Botanical
Artists**

John Bartram and his family influenced generations of artists and explorers, by modeling passionate observation and discovery of nature. The American Society of Botanical Artists, in collaboration with Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia, PA, is curating an exhibition of original contemporary botanical artworks depicting plants discovered and introduced by the Bartrams, American pioneers in botany and horticulture.

Artists from ASBA's international membership will submit artworks for consideration, and a team of four jurors will select approximately 40 works for inclusion. Focusing on the native plant discoveries made by John and William in their travels throughout the eastern wilderness between the 1730's and 1790's, the exhibition allows a fresh look at their seminal body of knowledge and art. An illustrated, full-color booklet will be published to elucidate the exhibition's artworks and their links to John and William Bartram.

Exhibition Schedule

Bartram's Garden Gallery
54th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
April 26–May 24, 2013

South Florida Museum
201 10th Street West
Bradenton, Florida
September–December, 2013

Cherokee Garden Library/Atlanta
History Center
130 West Paces Ferry Road NW
Atlanta, Georgia
March 17–June 17, 2014

For more information, contact

Carol Woodin, Director of Exhibitions
American Society of Botanical Artists
The New York Botanical Garden
2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New
York 10458-5126
866.691.9080
exhibitions@asba-art.org
www.asba-art.org



©Karen Kluglein, *Franklinia alatamaha*,
watercolor on vellum

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“The traveler and poet”: Niemcewicz visits William Bartram

Kathryn Braund

In March 1798, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz journeyed to the Kingessing home of another traveler, William Bartram, who was then 59 years old. The Polish traveler seemingly had little in common with the American botanist. Born in 1757 (some sources say 1758), the younger man's passion was literature, not plants. And as Bartram returned to his garden, Niemcewicz became embroiled in Polish politics, serving as a deputy in the Polish parliament. While Bartram's *Travels* was advertised in 1790, Niemcewicz was publishing a scathing political comedy, *Powrót posła* (*The Deputy's Return*). Like *Travels*, Niemcewicz's work proved popular. The writer-politician turned soldier in 1794 when he joined the Polish insurrection against Russia, serving as Tadeusz Kościuszko's aide-de-camp.

Americans revered Kościuszko for his earlier efforts in the American Revolution. He helped erect fortifications in the Hudson River theater, thereby contributing to the defeat of General John Burgoyne at Saratoga in October 1777. He later served with distinction in the southern campaign, and was hailed as a hero for his role in the American victory at Ninety-Six in South Carolina. He ended the war as a brigadier general in the Continental Army and was a life-long friend of leading American commanders, including George Washington.

Kościuszko did not achieve the same success against the armies of Catherine II of Russia, who smashed the Polish insurrection. Kościuszko and Niemcewicz were both imprisoned in Russia for two years. While in prison, Niemcewicz passed the time by translating major works of English literature into Polish. Following their release from prison, Niemcewicz and Kościuszkoto headed to America, where the pair visited George Washington as well as Thomas Jefferson and other leading Americans. How Bartram's work came to his attention remains a mystery, but both Jefferson and Washington were customers of the Bartram horticultural business

and it is clear from his own writing that Niemcewicz found Bartram's writing as appealing as his botanizing. Like Samuel Taylor Coleridge, he appears to have been particularly impressed with Bartram's East Florida adventures. Niemcewicz settled for a time in the United States and married an American. He returned to Poland in 1807 and later published an account of his American travels in Polish: *Podróż po Ameryce 1797–1807*. The work, translated by Metchie J. E. Budka, was published in 1965 by the New Jersey Historical Society at Newark with the title: *Under their Vine and Fig Tree: Travels through America in 1797–1799, 1805, with Some Further Account of Life in New Jersey*.

The excerpt below describes his visit to the Bartram house in March, 1798, and provides interesting observations on Bartram and the family's business, as well as Bartram's brother, John Bartram Jr., who had inherited his father's house and horticulture business and was perhaps a little annoyed that yet another visitor had arrived to distract him and his famous brother from their work. Niemcewicz mentions *Franklinia alatamaha*, a beautiful flowering tree that is the Bartrams' most famous discovery and *Gaultheria procumbens*, a small shrub with a wintergreen scent and bright red fruit, best known today as teaberry or creeping wintergreen, which was included on the family's 1783 plant catalog. As Niemcewicz observed, the leaves are used to brew an herbal tea that the Americans substituted for imported tea during the period of the American Revolution. He also notes the efforts of the Bartrams to produce oriental teas.

This excerpt comes from page 52 of Budka's translation. Budka's footnotes have been omitted and some text supplied in brackets for clarity.

I was acquainted with Bartram through his voyage into the Floridas. Having learned that he was settled with his brother five miles from Phil[adelphia], I went to see him. It was 24th of March. The season was very late for this coun-

try; not a leaf had opened, but in spite of the winds, or rather the hurricanes, which were blowing for many days the roads were terribly muddy and our horses were sunk to their girths. We crossed at Grays ferry, which is skirted on the other side of the Skulkill [River] by a picturesque and wild cliff. We arrived at the farmhouse. It is built of great stones with a few rustic columns of the same material. The garden extends as far as the Skulkill. It was not the moment to see it. There was not yet a green leaf. Straightway I came upon Bartram, the traveler and poet. He is a man between 50 and 60, small, spare, with a quick-tempered air. In a red vest and leather breeches, he was digging up the ground. Is this the giant, I said to myself, who engaged in such frightful battles with alligators and bears? He seemed to me gentle and upright. A little further on his brother was squatting on the bank of a sort of a stream, his hands completely buried in the mud; he was planting something. His manner was not affable; he improved later; he showed us a few trees and bushes, brought for the most part from Georgia and the Carolinas, and the remainder from the Continent. His interest in botany, added to the profits he has made from it, has led him to undertake, at times, journeys of 100 miles solely to go into a forest to collect there a plant or a bush. *Franklinia* is a tree from Georgia, with a superb flower; *Gotheria procumbens* from Jersey with its little leaves of deep green speckled with red; they taste like honey; during the wars it was served instead of tea. The hothouse is neither big nor luxuriant. I have seen there green tea from China and Boh[e]a. Its leaves are a deep green, an inch and a half in length when they are allowed to grow; but for drinking they are picked very young, especially those of Imperial Tea. Bartram deals and plants, flowers, bushes, etc.; he sells much to Europe. He is the best botanist in this country. ❀

Spalding's Lower Store Tour And the beat goes on...

By Sam Carr

The Putnam Blueways and Trails Citizen Support Organization are dedicated to the use of the trails in this small Florida county. On their paddling trip from Hermits Cove Marina on the Seven Sisters Paddling Trail in October a small group passed the site of Spalding's Lower Store at Stokes Landing near Palatka, FL.

The Putnam County Waterways Committee has formed a Bartram Trail Committee. Its chair, Sam Carr, was leading the paddle. Mr. William Wilson spotted the paddlers and invited them to land and join him on a guided tour of the site of the Lower Store. He has lived here for all 80 of his years and had a fantastic knowledge of Bartram's hangout. He even has a Spanish Land Grant survey marker in his yard. His homestead is the location of part of the Lower Store site. His barn built in the 1920s is still standing. He pointed and said, "I was born between those two oak trees."

Wilson witnessed the University of Florida's excavation of the site years ago and remembers where the stockade post-holes were found and where charcoal and

bricks identified the location of fireplaces. He pointed out the location of the Trading Post and the McLatchie residence where William Bartram stayed during his 1774 tour. The group was fascinated at the detail and amount of information he recalled.

As the group departed Mr. Wilson asked "Do you want to see the treasure map?" which brought them to a halt. He explained that a treasure hunter he chased out of his yard had given him an old map of Stokes Landing. He didn't know where the map came from but it sure looks authentic and old. It has a lot of the Bartram characteristics—complete with drawings of a battoe and schooner—both used by Bartram in and out of Stokes Landing. The elements are numbered for illustration like Bartram's detailed maps and drawings. The map excited the group. It is below.

For Bartram aficionados, it was a delight. The Bartram Trail Committee is discussing with Mr. Wilson and his neighbors how to use part of the property for a memorial and kiosk. This would be a major win for the group. ☸

Larry and Debbie Quick

Bartram would be proud—approximately 50 intrepid naturalists, scholars, historians, and adventurers all, following in his footsteps with the same keen eyes, inquisitive minds and love of life!

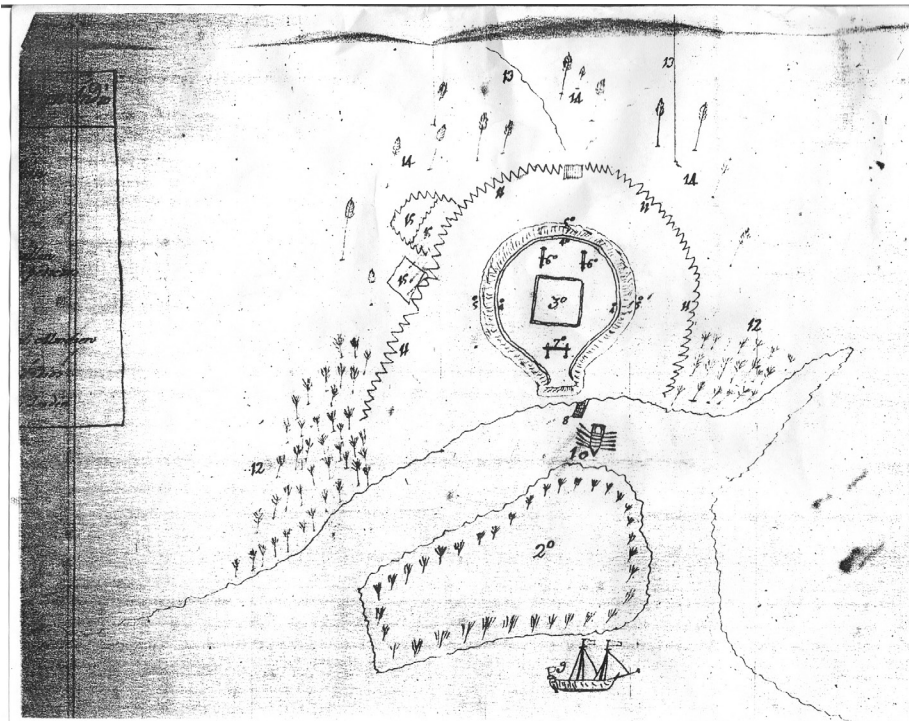
In 2007, a group of Bartram Trail Conference attendees traveled to the Tensaw Delta in lower Alabama for a post conference tour to launch canoes and explore portions of the newly dedicated Bartram Canoe Trail. The group included among others, Rosa & John Hall, Kathryn Braund, Joel Fry, and the late Davida Hastie (founding member of the BTC and a visionary for the Bartram Canoe Trail).

Having just attended the inspiring conference held at Alabama's new Delta Resource Center, the group was primed for exploring the landscape—perhaps even seeing bits and pieces of what William Bartram had seen for himself over 225 years ago.

While shuttling people to the canoe launch, Rosa Hall spotted a splash of yellow, lighting up a ditch on the side of the road. Could it be? Yesterday's speakers had just addressed several of William Bartram's "finds" as he traveled and botanized through this area.

Rosa's keen eyes had indeed spotted what Bartram had described as "a new species of *Oenothera* ...perhaps the most pompous and brilliant plant yet known to exist." For confirmation, Rosa asked Joel Fry, curator at Bartram's Garden to look at the plant—indeed it was *Oenothera grand-*

continued on page 7



Copy of Mr. Wilson's 'treasure map'. Notice old English writing on left side. Mr. Spalding also owned Stokes Island.



2013 Biennial Conference

Highlands, North Carolina

The BTC will hold its 2013 biennial conference in western North Carolina at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center (aka The Mountain). The Mountain, a few miles west of Highlands, NC, was used at the site of a joint BTC/ North Carolina Bartram Trail Society (NCBTS) meeting in 1999; and has been used several times by the NCBTS for meetings.

The dates for our meeting are:

Friday October 11, 2013 through Sunday October 13, 2013.

The registration fee for the conference has not been set. For more information about The Mountain:

<http://mountaincenters.org/pages/home.php>

Special thanks to members of the conference planning committee, Kathryn Braund, Dorinda Dallmeyer, Tom Hallock, and Brad Sanders. The group looked at various sites and scenarios and selected The Mountain for its location, amenities, and price. Also thanks to Jim Kautz and the NCBTS for their suggestions and

advice. Jim, Lamar Marshall, and Walter Wingfield from the NCBTS will be working with us in developing the program for the meeting.

Looking forward to the mountains of western North Carolina in 2013!

Chuck Spornick



On the North Carolina Bartram Trail at Scaly Mountain

the beat goes on, continued from page 6
flora—the Large Flowered Evening Primrose! Joel immediately rescued one of the plants from the closely mowed ditch and carried the Alabama native back home with him to Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia.

Although not a particularly rare plant, it is unusual to find Evening Primrose offered in the horticulture trade. Now, thanks to several people, particularly Davida Hastie who returned to the area to collect seed in the fall of 2007, members of The Bartram Trail conference can request seed and grow their own "pompous and brilliant plants" at home.

As a newcomer to the Bartram Trail Conference in 2008 and Director of Aldridge Botanical Gardens in Hoover, AL, I was excited to bring "all things Bartram" to our garden, our members and our visitors. John Hall came over from West Ala-

bama and gave an excellent talk on William Bartram. Kathryn Holland Braund shared seed with me that had been collected by the late Davida Hastie. I promptly sowed the seed and planted out several of the plants that came up in our wildflower garden where they thrived. Over the last few years I have grown the Primrose and been able to share seed and plants through our family nursery and now as a hobby. Although not quite on the scale of the "Bartram boxes", full of botanical treasures destined for Europe, the aforementioned people continue on in the same vein as William Bartram—"Puc Puggy"—The Flower Hunter. The beat does go on.

If you would like to request a small number of *Oenothera grandiflora* seed please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Larry & Debbie Quick, 7901 Lee Road 390, Opelika, AL 36804. Growing instructions will be included. ☼

The Moravians and the Bartrams, continued from page 1

It is reasonable that Samuel Kramsch (1756–1824) wanted this new book because he was a Moravian minister and teacher with an active interest in botany. He corresponded with many botanists and often accompanied those who visited Wachovia on plant collecting trips.

A copy of Bartram's book is in the collection of the Moravian Archives, Southern Province, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Because it does not have an owner's signature, it is not known if this is the copy ordered by Samuel Kramsch. But nonetheless, it is a certain example of the Moravians' abiding interests in new information and specifically in their world of the American South. ☼

Photographs courtesy of the Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, NC.

The Traveller
c/o Anne Hurst
138 N Chaparral Dr.
Hull, GA 30646

Bartram Trail Conference

Membership Form

____ RENEWAL
____ NEW MEMBER

Name: _____

Address: _____

____ Individual \$25

____ Family \$30

____ Student \$10

____ Contributor \$50

____ Sustainer \$100

____ Sponsor \$250

____ Patron \$500

E-Mail address: _____

Phone: () _____ Date: _____

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. Use back if necessary)

Please send payment to:

Anne Hurst Weeks, 138 N Chaparral Ct., Hull, GA 30646