

## The Powhatan Historic Garden: A Legacy Project

As a joint effort between the Goochland Powhatan Master Gardeners and the Powhatan Historical Society, dedicated in June 2006, the Historic Garden was created as a legacy project for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. The plants selected and used for the garden were com-

date of Powhatan County, and 1830, when the Old Jail was built on Courthouse Square.

### Legacy Facts about the Garden:

- \* Antique bricks along bed 13 and the East perimeter of the garden are from the now-defunct Miller-Polk Tavern, circa 1830.
- \* Some garden bricks made in Clayville by Powhatan Clay Mfg. circa 1907 can be found throughout the paver pathways.
- \* Fence sections are reproductions of fencing surrounding the Courthouse around 1840. The large spacing in the top section was for feeding of animals while citizens were in the Courthouse area.
- \* Slate squares in the pathways are "Buckingham Slate". Some is still in use on the roof of the Clerk's Office (built in 1796) which is the oldest building on the Courthouse Square.
- \* Plants include specimens which would have been found in the area between 1777, when Powhatan County was founded and 1830, when the Old Jail was built.



# Welcome to the *Powhatan* HISTORIC GARDEN



For more info about our Historic Garden, visit  
<https://www.gpmga.org/historic-garden>



The Powhatan Historic Garden is located behind the  
Powhatan Historical Society Building  
3910 Old Buckingham Road  
Powhatan, VA 23139

[www.powhatanhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.powhatanhistoricalsociety.org)



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Dedicated in 2006 to commemorate the 400th  
Anniversary of the Jamestown Colony

The Powhatan Historical Society  
Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association  
Jamestown 2007 Committee

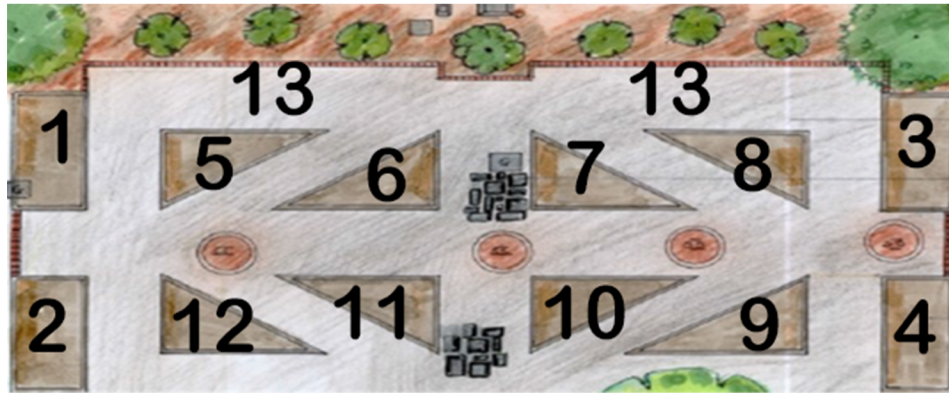


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## THE HISTORIC GARDEN BEDS:



### BED 1 - Norton Grape

Contains the Norton Grape (*Vitis aestivalis* x *Vitis vinifera*) - the oldest American wine grape. Cultivated during the 1830s in Richmond, Virginia by Dr. Daniel N. Norton as a hybrid of *V. vinifera* and *V. aestivalis* (American). Awarded a gold medal as best red wine at the 1873 Vienna World Exposition wine competition.



### BED 2 - Shade Plants

Shade plants in this bed include Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*), Coral Bells (*Heuchera villosa*), and Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*). A favorite Lenten rose story – “On her way to the stable to see the baby Jesus a young girl was crying, because she had no gift, and as her tears melted the snow as she walked along, a beautiful white flower, the hellebore, appeared.”



### BED 3 & 12 - Sweet Flag & Rose Varieties

Sweet Flag (*Iris pseudoacorus*) is found here. It is the model for the “fleur de lis” that was adopted by King Louis VII as the flower of his house. It honors French Huguenots who settled in Powhatan in 1700. *Rosa chinensis* is found in this bed, while other rose varieties are in bed 12.



### BED 4, 5, & 10 - Kitchen Gardens

Kitchen Gardens included vegetables such as tomatoes and okra (bed 5), herbs such as fennel, (*Foeniculum vulgare*), bed 4. All parts of fennel were used in colonial cooking - seeds, leaves, stems and roots to flavor eggs and fish. Early settlers drank tea from Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*), bed 10, after the Boston Tea Party in 1773 to protest taxes on tea. It attracts bees and hummingbirds.



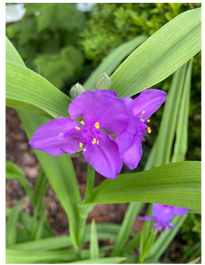
### BED 6 - Grandmother's Garden

Grandmother's Garden contains a variety of heirloom type plants such as 4 o'clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*) and Love-in-a-mist (*Nigella Damascena*). Love-in-a-mist seeds (somewhat like nutmeg) were used as flavoring for wines and snuff.



### BED 7 & 8 - Virginia Native Plants

Native Virginia plants such as Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) were taken to England by John Tradescant. It was believed to be a remedy for spider bites. Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) was used by Native Americans to make “infusions” or tea to cure headaches. Thomas Jefferson grew this plant in Virginia. Because they are native plants and grow so well here, you might see them in some of the other beds in the garden.



### BED 9 - Cash Crops

Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*) was first planted in Virginia in 1607. In the early 1900s, the boll weevil insect arrived in the US and devastated cotton production. Virginia's cotton crop is now closely monitored and protected against the boll weevil. The brown cotton boll is the seed pod, which opens to reveal the familiar soft cotton.

### BED 11 - Medicinal Herbs

Medicinal Herbs such as Lamb's Ear (*Stachys lanata*) were used by American Revolutionary soldiers to bandage their wounds. The leaves are very soft and have healing properties.



### BED 13 - Wall Garden

The Wall Garden contains American boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*), 'Grandiflora' and Cherokee Rose (*Rosa laevigata*). This rose was found in Cherokee and Creek American Indian villages by European explorers. Rose “hips” were used for healing purposes. It climbs up the wall of the garden.

## POWHATAN'S AGRICULTURE LEGACY:

Powhatan's rich agriculture legacy predates the American colonial era. Native Americans placed a high value on tobacco leaves and local tribes collected surplus corn as a “tax” long before the Europeans arrived. Early settlers soon learned to raise these crops along with grain as main revenue producers. Dozens of gristmills and farms made use of the James and Appomattox Rivers to ship their goods to market. The agricultural usage peaked in the early 20th century with more than 115,000 acres planted and nearly 1100 farms. Based on the 2022 Census of Agriculture, the county has about 10,000 cultivated acres and approximately 260 farms.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In the early 18th century, plants had common names such as the above. Often names were associated with two different plant species. In 1753, Carolus Linnaeus initiated a system of naming plants using Latin names for genus and species, usually referring to a description of the individual plant. There was no longer confusion over the lineage of a plant. However, popular names like the “Bleeding Heart” (Bed 2) are still preferred in common usage.

For more colorful photos and info about the garden, visit [gpmga.org](http://gpmga.org)