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FLOWERING PLANTS OF THE
COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

BY

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CULTURAL FOREMAN, FORESTRY
EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INTRODUCTION

Southeast of Richmond, extending into the Chesapeake Bay, bounded on the northeast by the York River, on the Southwest by the James River is the Lower Peninsula of Virginia. The underlying geological formations are Recent and Quaternary in the eastern part and give way to Miocene in the West. Soils are predominately sandy, mingling with clay and shell marls¹. At Yorktown, on the south shore of the York River, midway between Williamsburg and Newport News, lies the Colonial National Historical Park. Rich as it is in Colonial history, it should deservedly have an equally interesting and diversified fund of natural history. Situated in a mild climate, a common meeting ground for many northern and southern species, and in close proximity to both fresh and salt water gives rise to the abundant and varied flora found on the mildly rolling terrain of this historic and hallowed ground.

It is not the purpose of this brief article to go into detail over individual species and it should be understood that the accompanying species list is not a complete tabulation of the area. It merely represents the casual observation of the writer, supplanted by a few leisurely and pleasant walks over a period of two seasons and is more of a beginning, an explanation of possibilities.

¹ E. W. Erlanson, "The Flora of the Peninsula of Virginia" Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters, IV, (1924), 115.

EXPLANATION OF DATA

The scientific names included herein are as given in Gray's New Manual of Botany (Seventh Edition, New York City, 1908). Likewise the common names, except in instances where none are given when the genus name (scientific) of the common name of the genus is used. The families are arranged in alphabetical order, also the genus-species under each family, starting with the genus. The index of common names is also arranged alphabetically.

Shrubs have been omitted from the following list, also the lichens, mosses and ferns. No attempt was made to identify the various and numerous grasses (Gramineae).

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DISCUSSION

The question of most general interest seems to be the comparative rarity of the various species. Paradoxically, the lowly and adiferous Symplocarpus faetidus (skunk cabbage) is well at the top of the rarity list while that beautiful, exotic-appearing² and ordinarily rare orchid Cypripedium Acarcle (Pink Ladyslipper)³ abounds³ in the piney woods throughout the Park. Several other members of the orchid family as well as the fragrant Epigea repens (Trailing Arbutus) occur not too commonly⁴ in secluded spots. accute
No cap

Flower-lovers can be grateful for the policy of the National Park Service in regard to all flora. Never are they destroyed or disturbed, but are allowed to remain in their natural habitat for the enjoyment of all people for all time. Thus species such as the popular Trailing Arbutus (Epigea repens), eradicated in many sections⁵, will be protected and allowed to multiply.

Of romantic interest is the large number of escapes, those plants originally cultivated, which have, with the passage of many years, become more or less naturalized. The majority of these seem to have originated in Europe, which is altogether natural considering the surrounding area was among the first to be colonized. Among these plants is Radicula Nasturtium-aquaticum⁶ (Water Cress) found in many springs throughout the Park. It is easy, when one of these small natural fountains is found, to conjure the picture of some long-forgotten pioneer carefully planting the first sprigs for his own sparse table. It is much the same when a mat of Vinca minor (Periwinkle), another escape⁷ is discovered in some thicket; an obscured grave-yard or house-site is sure to be nearby. Among other common escapes is Nepeta hederacea (Ground Ivy), Verbascum Blattaria (Math Mullein), Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel) and Muscari racemosum (Grape Hyacinth) all originally from the Old World. The latter is described as a "rare escape"⁸ however it abounds in the fields and roadsides of the Park area, possibly due to its early establishment from Colonial gardens. Undoubtedly many escapes were established due to the importance of Yorktown as a principal Colonial port, also in more recent times by the similar activity of Newport News. Indeed, the flora of this area lends a valuable note to the tracing and restoring of our historic Colonial heritage. Exotic
minor

2 J. K. Small. Manual of the Southeastern Flora (New York, 1933) 363.

3 Erlanson, op. cit., 135

4 Paul R. Merriman, Flora of Richmond & Vicinity, Virginia Academy of Science (Richmond, 1930) 193.

5 Small, op. cit., 1005

6 Gray, New Manual of Botany (New York, 1908, 7th Ed.) 431.

7 Small, op. cit., 1060

8 Gray, op. cit., 290

ACANTHACEAE

✓ Ruellia ciliosa
Ruellia strepens

Ruellia
Ruellia

ALISMACEAE

✓ Alisma Geyeri

Water Plantain

AMARYLLIDACEAE

Hypoxis hirsuta
Zephyranthes Atamasco

Star Grass
Atamasco Lily

ANACARDIACEAE

Rhus Toxicodendron

Poison Ivy

APOCYNACEAE

Vincea minor

Periwinkle

ARACEAE

Arisaema triphyllum
Symplocarpus foetidus

Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Stunk Cabbage

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

Asarum virginicum

Wild Ginger

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Asclepias syriaca
Asclepias tuberosa
Asclepias variegata

Common Milkweed
Butterfly Weed
Milkweed

BALSAMINACEAE

h *Impatiens biflora*

Jewelweed

BERBERIDACEAE

Podophyllum peltatum

Mandrake

BIGNONIACEAE

Bignonia capreolata
Tecoma radicans

Cross-vine
Trumpet Creeper

BORAGINACEAE

Myosotis scorpioides
Mertensia virginica

True Forget-me-not
Virginia Bluebells

CAMPANULACEAE

h *Specularia biflora*

Venus Looking-glass

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Lonicera japonica
Triosteum perfoliatum

Japanese Honeysuckle
Wild Coffee

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

h *Agrostemma Githago*
Cerastium vulgatum
Dianthus Armeria
Silene pennsylvanica
Stellaria media

Corn Cackle
Common Mouse-eared Chickweed
Deptford Pink
Wild Pink
Common Chickweed

CHENOPODIACEAE

Chenopodium album

Lamb's Quarters

COMPOSITAE

Achillea Millefolium
- *Ambrosia trifida*
- *Anaphalis margaritacea*
- *Arctium minus*
- *Aster novae-angliae*
Aster novi-belgii
Bidens frondosa
✓ *Bidens vulgata*
Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum
Cirsium lanceolatum
- *Hieracium paniculatum*
Hieracium venosum
- *Liatris squarrosa*
Rudbeckia hirta
Senecio aureus
✓ *Senecio Robbinsii*
Solidago nemoralis
Taraxacum officinale

Common Yarrow
Great Ragweed
Pearly Everlasting
Burdock
Aster
Aster
Beggar-ticks
Beggar-ticks
Ox-eye Daisy
Bull Thistle
Hawkweed
Rattlesnake Weed
Blazing Star
Black-eyed Susan
Golden Ragwort
Robbins' Golden Ragwort
Goldenrod
Dandelion

CONVOLVULACEAE

Convolvus arvensis
Cuscuta obtusiflora
✓ *Convolvus sepium*

Field Bindweed
Dodder
Hedge Bindweed

CRUCIFERAE

Capsella Bursa-pastoris
Cardamine bulbosa
✓ *Dentaria heterophylla*
Radicula Nasturtium-aquaticum

Shepards' Purse
Spring Cress
Toothwort
Water Cress

DIPSACACEAE

Dipsacus sylvestris

Teasel

EQUISETACEAE

Equisetum arvense

Common Horsetail

ERICACEAE

Chimaphila maculata
✓ *Chimaphila umbellata*
~~*Epigaea repens*~~
✓ *Monotropa uniflora*

Spotted Wintergreen
Pipsissewa
Trailing Arbutus
Indian Pipe

GENTIANACEAE

Gentiana Andrewsii
✓ *Gentiana crinita*

Closed Gentian
Fringed Gentian

IRIDACEAE

Belamcanda chinensis
Iris cristata
Iris germanica
Iris verna
Iris versicolor
✓ *Sisyrinchium gramineum*

Blackberry Lily
Crested Dwarf Iris
Fleur-de-lis
Dwarf Iris
Larger Blue Flag
Blue-eyed Grass

LABIATAE

Ajuga reptans
Lamium amplexicaule
Mentha spicata
Nepeta Cataria
Nepeta hederacea
Prunella vulgaris
Teucrium canadense

Bugle Weed
Henbit
Spear-mint
Catnip
Ground Ivy
Heal-all
American Germander

LEGUMINOSAE

Desmodium canadense
Medicago sativa
Trifolium hybridum
Trifolium pratense
Trifolium repens

Tick Trefoil
Alfalfa
Alsike Clover
Red Clover
White Clover

LILIACEAE

Allium canadense
h Allium reticulatum
Hemerocallis fulva
Lilium canadense
Medeola virginiana
Muscari racemosum
Ornithogalum umbellatum
Polygonatum biflorum
Smilacina racemosa
Smilax glauca
Smilax rotundifolia
Trillium grandiflorum

Wild Garlic
Onion
Common Day Lily
Wild Yellow Lily
Indian Cucumber-root
Grape Hyacinth
Star of Bethlehem
Solomon's Seal
False Solomon's Seal
Saw Brier
Common Green Brier
Trillium

MALVACEAE

Hibiscus Moscheutos
Malva rotundifolia

Swamp Rose Mallow
Common Mallow

ONAGRACEAE

Circaea lutetiana
Oenothera biennis
Oenothera fruticosa

Enchanter's Nightshade
Evening Primrose
Sundrops

ORCHIDACEAE

Cypripedium acaule
h Cypripedium parviflorum-pubescens
h Epipactis pubescens
h Habenaria ciliaris
Liparis liliifolia
Orchis spectabilis

Pink Lady's Slipper
Large Yellow Lady's Slipper
Rattlesnake Plantain
Yellow Fringed Orchis
Twayblade
Showy Orchis

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis stricta
Oxalis violacea

Yellow Wood Sorrel
Violet Wood Sorrel

PAPAVERACEAE

Papaver Rhoeas
Sanguinaria canadensis

Corn Poppy
Bloodroot

PHYTOLACCACEAE

h Phytolacca decandra

Common Poke

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago lanceolata
Plantago major
Plantago Rugelii
Plantago virginica

Rib Grass
Common Plantain
Rugel's Plantain
Hoary Plantain

POLYGONACEAE

Polygonum sagittatum
Rumex Acetosella
Rumex crispus

Arrow-leaved Tear-thumb
Sheep Sorrel
Yellow Dock

RANUNCULACEAE

h Anemonella thalictroides
Aquilegia canadensis
Caltha palustris
? Hepatica triloba
Ranunculus abortivus
Ranunculus acris
Ranunculus recurvatus
Ranunculus septentrionalis

Rue Anemone
Wild Columbine
Marsh Marigold
Hepatica
Swamp Buttercup
Small-flowered Crowfoot
Buttercup
Hooked Crowfoot

ROSACEAE

Fragaria virginiana
Potentilla canadensis
h Potentilla pumila

Strawberry
Cinquefoil
Cinquefoil

RUBIACEAE

Galium Aparine
Houstonia caerulea
Mitchella repens

Goose Grass
Bluets
Partridge Berry

SCROPHULARIACEAE

h Gerardia setacea
— Linaria vulgaris
— Pedicularis canadensis
Verbascum Blattaria
Verbascum Thapsus
Veronica hederifolia
Veronica officinalis

Gerardia
Ramsted
Wood Betony
Moth Mullein
Common Mullein
Ivy-leaved Speedwell
Common Speedwell

SOLANACEAE

h Physalis Alkekengi
h Physalis lanceolata

Winter Cherry
Ground Cherry

SPARGANIACEAE

7 Sparganium americanum-androcladum

Bur-reed

STAPHYLEACEAE

Staphylea trifolia

American Bladder-Nut

TYPHACEAE

Typha latifolia

Common Cat-tail

UMBELLIFERAE

Daucus Carota
Foeniculum vulgare

Carrot
Fennel

VIOLACEAE

Viola lanceolata
Viola Rafinesquii

Lance-leaved Violet
Wild pansy

VITACEAE

Psedera quinquefolia

Virginia Creeper

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