

BIBLIOGRAPHY – Three Centuries of New England Garden History

Annotated Sources by Valencia Libby Nov. 2022

These are not required for course; they are simply recommendations for further enjoyment.

Recommended

Cronon, William. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England*. NY: Hill and Wang, 1983. (Cronon's interdisciplinary study was the first and best of this kind. Well organized and well written.)

Emmet, Alan. *So Fine A Prospect: Historic New England Gardens*. NH: University Press of New England, 1996. (The most informative book on real New England.)

Mattor, Theresa & Lucie Teegarden. *Designing the Maine Landscape*. Down East Books, 2009. (The guide to significant historic landscapes in Maine.)

General

Birnbaum & Karson *Pioneers of American Landscape Architecture*. Vols. I, II, III.

Griswold, Mac and Eleanor Weller. *The Golden Age of American Gardens: Proud Owners, Private Estates, 1890-1940*. NY: Abrams, 1991. (Illustrated from the Garden Club of America's Archive of American Gardens; social and architectural history; entertaining but not always accurate.)

Hedrick, U. P. *A History of Horticulture in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1950. Reprinted by Timber Press, Portland, OR, 1988. (To date, the only complete history of American horticulture.)

Jackson, J. B. *Landscapes: Selected Writings of J. B. Jackson*. Ed. Ervin H. Zube. Amherst, MA: Univ. of Massachusetts Press, 1970. (Fascinating, stimulating, America's greatest landscape critic.)

Otis, Denise. *Grounds for Pleasure: Four Centuries of the American Garden*. NY: Harry Abrams, 2002. (Very interesting & well written perspective on landscape history.)

Punch, Walter, ed. *Keeping Eden: A History of Horticulture in America*. Boston: Mass. Horticultural Society, 1992. (Tamara Plakins chapter particularly good.)

Stilgoe, John R. *Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845*. New Haven, CT: Yale Univ. Press, 1982. (Interesting study of the regional development of everyday landscape features. Stilgoe was a student of J. B. Jackson and fleshs out his ideas.)

Tishler, William H., ed. *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places*. Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1989. (Excellent reference to people & sites.)

New England

Chase, Georgiana P. *An Herbal for Eighteenth Century Gardens at Tate House* [Portland]. ME: Society of Colonial Dames, 1991. (Useful for plants but not as scholarly as Leighton.)

Josselyn, John. *New-Englands Rarities*. UK: 1672. Reprint, Boston: William Veazie 1865.

Thaxter, Celia. *Among the Isles of Shoals*. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co., 1873.
_____. *An Island Garden*. Boston & NY: Houghton, Mifflin, 1894. Reprinted.

Thornton, Tamara Plakins. *Cultivating Gentlemen: The Meaning of Country Life among the Boston Elite 1785-1860*. New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 1989. (A most interesting analysis of the Boston elite's love of country houses & horticulture. Also see her chapter in *Keeping Eden*.)

Native American

Nabokov, Peter and Robert Easton. *Native American Architecture*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1989. (Rich, informative, well illustrated, and inspiring; a must read.)

Nabokov, Peter. *Where the Lightning Strikes*. NY: Penguin Group, 2006. (Chapter 1 is on the Penobscot.)

Wilson, Gilbert H. *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden: Agriculture of the Hidatsa Indians*. St Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1987. (One of the only guides to Native American gardening techniques applicable to Midwest and Eastern US.)

McBride, Bunny. *Women of the Dawn*. Lincoln NE: U. of Nebraska Press, 1999. (History of Penobscot as “a prose poem of beauty & honesty.”)

African-American

Ferguson, Leland. *Uncommon Ground: Archeology and Early African America, 1650-1800*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1992. (Essentially one case study conducted on a Virginia plantation; very interesting.)

Twitty, Michael. *The Cooking Gene: a Journey through African-American Cooking in the Old South*. NY: Harper-Collins, 2017. *Afroculinaria* is a website & blog by this young authority on African- American foodways & gardening techniques.

17th & 18th Centuries

Kastner, Joseph. *A Species of Eternity*. NY: Knopf, 1977. (A history of New World botanists and naturalists.)

Leighton, Ann. *Early American Gardens: For Meate or Medicine*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1970. (Leighton's scholarship was thorough, her interpretations excellent, does not discuss design.)

Leighton, Ann. *American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century: For Use and Delight*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1976.

Lockwood, Alice B. ed. *Gardens of Colony and State*, 2 vols. NY: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1931. (Vol. I deals with New England, only 4 pages on Maine otherwise excellent source.)

Maccubbin, Robert P. and Peter Martin, eds. *British and American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1984. (Scholarly collection of essays.)

Rickett, H. W., ed. *Botanic Manuscript of Jane Colden (1724-1766): First Woman Botanist of Colonial America*. NY: Chanticleer Press, 1963. (One of the few works on early women botanists/horticulturists.)

Wulf, Andrea. *The Brother Gardeners*. NY: Vintage Books, 2008. (International botany & American history by an author who is German, living in London & an excellent scholar. Most readable.)

Federal Period to Mid-19th C.

Downing, Andrew Jackson. *A Treatise on the Theory & Practise of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America*. NY: 1841, reprinted many times. (The master promoter of 19th C. romantic naturalism.)

Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America*. NY: Dover, 1964.

Henderson, Peter. *Gardening for Pleasure*. NY: O. Judd & Co., 1887.

Larkin, Jack. *The Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840*. NY: Harper & Row, 1988.

Nygren, Edward T. *Views and Visions: American Landscape Before 1830*. Washington, DC: Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1986. (Art history with useful essays, well documented illustrations.)

Parsons, Samuel, Jr. *How to Plan the Home Grounds*. NY: Doubleday & McClure, 1899.

Rybczinsky, Witold. *A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted & America in the 19th Century*. NY: Scribner, 1999, 2003. (A pleasurable read.)

Tice, Patricia. *Gardening in America 1830-1910*. Rochester NY: Strong Museum, 1984.

Late 19th – Early 20th Century

Axelrod, Alan, ed. *The Colonial Revival in America*. NY: Norton, 1985.

Conforti, Joseph A. *Imagining New England*. U. of N. Carolina Press, 2001. (Faculty at USM, very interesting on all periods but especially the Colonial Revival.)

Fein, Albert. *Frederick Law Olmsted and the American Environmental Tradition*. NY: George Braziller, 1972. (Good overview of Olmsted's major works and contribution; well illustrated.)

Griffith, Sarah L. & Kevin D. Murphy eds. *A Nobel and Dignified Stream: The Piscataqua Region in the Colonial Revival*. York, ME: Old York Historical Society, 1992.

Leighton, Ann. *American Gardens in the Nineteenth Century: For Comfort and Affluence*. Amherst, MA: Univ. of Massachusetts Press, 1987.

Lowell, Guy. *American Gardens*. Boston: Bates & Guild Co., 1902.

Miller, Amy Bess. *Shaker Herbs: A History & a Compendium*. NY: Clarkson N. Potter Inc., 1976. (With due respect to all the Shaker communities founded in New England.)

Murphy, Kevin D. *Colonial Revival Maine*. Princeton Architectural Press, 2004.
(People still don't understand this period's influence on New England. Kevin Murphy is our homegrown architectural historian, treating his subject with intelligence & enthusiasm.)

Novak, Barbara. *Nature and Culture: American Landscape and Painting, 1825-1875*. NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 1980.
(Useful analysis of 19th C. cultural psyche and romanticism which celebrated the American wilderness.)

Schlereth, Thomas J. *Victorian America: Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876-1915*. NY: Harper Collins, 1991.
(Very informative text on multiple changes affecting the entire nation & design.)

Stilgoe, John R. *Borderland: Origins of the American Suburb, 1820-1939*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1988.
(Based largely on secondary rather than primary sources; disappointing, ideas poorly synthesized but everyone refers to it.)

Sutton, S.B. *Charles Sprague Sargent & the Arnold Arboretum*. Harvard U. Press, 1971. (Ever wonder where all our Asian plants came from? This is a good read & a fascinating story.)

Van Ravenswaay, Chas. *A Nineteenth Century Garden*. NY: Main Street Press, 1977.

Wilson, Richard Guy. *The American Renaissance 1876-1917*. Brooklyn NY: Brooklyn Museum of Art, 1979.

Women & Gardening, the Classics

Beecher, Catharine, & Harriet Beecher Stowe. *The American Woman's Home*. NY: J.B. Ford, 1869. (If you have never seen a copy, you should. Inimitable.)

Bennett, Ida. *The Flower Garden*. NY: McClure, Phillips & Co., 1903. Blanchan [Doubleday], Neltje. *The American Flower Garden*. NY: Doubleday, 1909.

Earle, Alice Morse. *Old Time Gardens*. NY MacMillan & Co., 1901. (The queen of Colonial Revival.)
_____. *Sundials and Roses of Yesterday*. NY: MacMillan & Co., 1902.

Ely, Helena Rutherford. *A Woman's Hardy Garden*. NY: MacMillan & Co., 1903.

Johnson, Mrs. S. O. *Every Woman Her Own Flower Gardener*. NY: Henry T. Williams, 1871.

Keeler, Harriet L. *Our Garden Flowers*. NY: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1910.

Sedgwick, Mabel Cabot. *The Garden Month by Month*. NY: F.A. Stokes Co., 1907.

Shelton, Louise. *Beautiful Gardens in America*. NY: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1915.

Tabor, Grace. *The Landscape Gardening Book*. NY: McBride, Winston & Co, 1911. (An early pioneer in landscape architecture.)

Van Rensselaer, Martha. *Art Out-of-Doors: Hints on Good Taste in Gardening*. NY: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1893.

Warner, Anna Bartlett. *Gardening By Myself*. NY: Anson D.F. Randolph & Co., 1872.

Wright, Mabel Osgood. *The Garden of a Commuter's Wife*. NY: MacMillan, 1901.

20th C. Masters of Design

Deitz, Paula. *Beatrix Farrand: The Bulletins of Reef Point Gardens*. Bar Harbor ME: The Island Foundation, 1997.

Greese, Robert E. *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1992. (Jensen designed Martha Stewart's "Skylands" landscape).

Howett, Catherine, ed. *Abstracting the Landscape: The Artistry of Landscape Architect A. E. Bye*. 1991.

Jensen, Jens. *Siftings*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1990 (originally pub. 1939).

Tankard, Judith. *Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Spaces*. NY: Monacelli, 2009. Many other works by this author.

A few extra good reads...

Deitz, Paula. *Of Gardens*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011. A wonderful worldly voice of sophistication & knowledge. Ms. Deitz summers in Blue Hill.

Harrison & Judd, eds. *A Landscape History of New England*: MIT Press, 2013. More contemporary interpretation.

Uglow, Jenny. *A Little History of British Gardening*. London: Random House, 2004. It's so accurate & well written that one cannot put it down.