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Lindly: Some of the Flowering Plants of Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana

SOME OF THE FLOWERING PLANTS OF CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA.

BY J. M. LINDLY.

Calcasieu Parish is the largest county in the state of Louisiana. It is about sixty miles east and west, and about fifty miles north and south, and is located in the southwestern part of the state. It adjoins Texas on the west, and is separated from the Gulf of Mexico on the south by only one intervening county. It is bounded on the north by Vernon and Rapids Parishes; on the east by St. Landry, Acadia and Vermillion Parishes; on the south by Cameron Parish; and on the west by the state of Texas. The Sabine river forms its boundary line on the west. Bayou Nezpique and the Mermentau river form the greater part of its eastern boundary.

The Calcasieu river enters the Parish near the northeast corner and flows southwesterly, receiving several small tributaries from the west. The county is generally timbered except in the southeastern part, which is a natural prairie.

It was my good fortune to spend the winter of 1893-4 in the little town of Welsh in the midst of this prairie region, which is about thirty miles in diameter. Ten years prior thereto, this prairie was practically unoccupied, and served as a range for wandering herds of cattle. About 1886 northern emigration set in and farm houses began to dot the prairie. Land at that time could be bought for twelve and one-half cents an acre, but now sells from twenty-five to fifty dollars per acre. This prairie is now given to diversified farming, the main crop being rice, with cotton, corn and sugar cane as minor paying crops. About two or three years ago petroleum of superior quality and in great abundance was found at Welsh and its neighboring town of Jennings on the east. This latest development of its resources has given this locality more than state-wide prominence. The little vilage of Welsh in 1894 had a population of two or three hundred. Now it claims twelve hundred.

This prairie lies just west of that part of Louisiana that Longfellow immortalized in his poem of "Evangeline".

"On the banks of the Teche, are the towns of St.
Maur and St. Martin. * * * *
Beautiful is the land, with its prairies and
forests of fruit-trees:
Under the feet a garden of flowers, and the
bluest of heavens
Bending above and resting its dome on the
Walls of the forest.
They who dwell there have named it the Eden
of Louisiana."

Again,

"Slowly they entered the Teche, where it flows
through the green Opelousas."

The early settlers in this region were French. Some are supposed to be descendants of the exiled Acadians of eastern Canada during the "French and Indian" war of 1754-'63.

The plants enumerated on the following pages are mostly natives of the South. If belonging to a more northerly latitude, I have mentioned them to show to some extent, the range of their natural distribution; or if cultivated, that of their adaptability.

I have used dates to show that many were in bloom in mid-winter. To one from the cold winters of the North, the sight of blooming flowers in the fields during mid-winter is almost marvelous.

Wood's Botany and Florist of 1871, was found to be the most useful. Gray's Manual of Botany of 1889 contained a description of very few of the plants examined.

I regret that my spare time for botanizing was so limited that there were many species of flowers on the open prairie and of trees in the woods that I could not find time to examine. There was not a day during the entire winter but I could find flowers out doors.

At the end of each description I have added the initials of the Botanist used in the final determination of the species, B. B. for Britton and Brown's, G. for Gray's and W. for Wood's.

ACANTHACEAE.

Ruellia strepens L. Smooth Ruellia. Specimen in flower, May 3, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's woods; southwest of Welsh. B. B.

AMARYLLIDACEAE.

Narcissus biflorus. Primrose-peerless. Secured by Miss Belle Singleton, January 19, 1894. W.

Narcissus odorus. Great Jonquil. In full bloom, January 21, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's front yard in Welsh. A cultivated exotic. W.

Pancratium rotatum Gawl. Growing in the low moist ground on the west side of the roadway near the home of Mr. Moore on the road that runs north from Welsh, April 15, 1894, and known in that neighborhood as Spider Lily. W.

APOCYNACEAE.

Nerium odorum. Oleander. In full bloom May 4, 1894,—Oscar Fulton's dooryard, Welsh. W.

Viola major. Periwinkle. April 1, 1894, brought by Mrs. O. Fulton from Hawkeye Ranch, eight miles northwest of Welsh. W.

AQUIFOLIACEAE. HOLLYWORTS.

Ilex opaca Ait. Holly. In the woods on the bayou southeast of the home of Mr. Louvier, January 27, 1894. Leaves, thick, oval, spinescent. Not flowering at this season of the year. Specimen was 20 feet high. W.

Ilex opaca Ait. Variety, *integra*, according to Wood's Botany. The leaves differed from the preceding by being entire, very few spinescent, and more oval and smaller. In bloom in Oscar Fulton's dooryard, Welsh, April 22, 1894. W.

ASCLEPIADACEAE.

Asclepias paniculata Desf. A green Milkweed. In bloom May 2, 1894, near Oscar Fulton's road-gate, Welsh. W.

AURANTIACEAE.

Citrus vulgaris Risso. Bitter Orange. In bloom March 28, 1894; several trees, 15 feet high, growing on south side of Oscar Fulton's home in Welsh. W.

BROMELIACEAE.

Tillandsia usneoides L. Long Moss. Spanish Moss. Black Moss. Growing in great profusion on the trees along the bayou west and south of Welsh, forming long hanging tufts or gray festoons. G.

CAPRIFOLIACEAE.

Lonicera japonica. Chinese Honeysuckle. The full blown flower was presented to me by Wade Spurgeon, January 23, 1894. W.

Lonicera sempervirens Ait. Trumpet Honeysuckle. In full bloom in L. O. Hill's woods south of Welsh about two miles, April 14, 1894. W.

COMAMELYNACEAE.

Tradescantia virginica L. Spiderwort. Growing wild in Oscar Fulton's woods, May 3, 1894, in bloom at this time. W.

COMPOSITAE.

Ictenium ambratum. Sneezeweed. In bloom May 3, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's woods southwest of Welsh. W.

CONIFERAE.

Pinus australis Mx. *Pinus palustris* Mill. Long-leaved Pine. Southern Pine. Yellow Pine. Hard Pine. Great forests of this valuable tree abound in the western and northern parts of Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, and extend northward many miles along the Calcasieu and Sabine Rivers, but are rapidly disappearing before the great lumbering industries of this region.

Pinus taeda L. Loblolly Pine. Old Field Pine. The specimen examined was a large tree, probably 50 or 75 feet high, standing in a plowed field on Hawkeye Ranch owned by Mr. Prentiss, northwest of Welsh about eight miles.

Taxodium distichum Rich. Bald Cypress. Quite common in the bayous and along the margin of the lakes in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

CORNACEAE.

Nyssa uniflora Walt. Swamp Tupels. Gum Tree. Numerous tall trees along the bayou west and south of Welsh. W.

CRUCIFERAE.

Brassica arvensis (L.) B. S. P. Charlock. Wild Mustard. In full bloom, January 27, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's garden in Welsh. B. B.

CUPULIFERAE.

Quercus virens Ait. Live Oak. Growing at Welsh. W.

Quercus aquatica Mx. Water Oak. Growing at Welsh. W.

EUPHORBIAEAE.

Euphorbia corollata L. Flowering Spurge. Growing on the school ground, Welsh, May 2, 1894, when it was in flower. W.

Stillingia scbifera L. Tallow tree. A large tree, growing by the front gate of Oscar Fulton's residence yard, May 4, 1894. W.

GERANIACEAE.

Oxalis stricta L. A wood sorrel. In bloom on the school ground at Welsh, May 3, 1894. W.

IRIDACEAE.

Iris florentina. Orris-root. Flowering specimen mounted March 27, 1894, from Oscar Fulton's front yard. W.

Sisyrinchium bermudiana L. Variety *anceps*. Blue-eyed Grass. Flowering specimens found growing north of Welsh, April 1, 1894. W.

JUGLANDACEAE.

Carya olivaeformis. Pecan. Large tree, 60 feet or more in height, growing in Oscar Fulton's orchard, and in bloom May 3, 1894. W.

LEGUMINOSAE.

Baptisia alba R. Br. A Wild Indigo, growing on the school grounds in Welsh, and in flower May 2, 1894. W.

Baptisia screnae Curtis. A Wild Indigo, in bloom March 28, 1894, along the street north of the home of Mr. Farel in Welsh. W.

Trifolium repens L. White Clover. In full bloom, January 21, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's pasture. W.

LILIACEAE.

Allium mutabile Mx. A wild onion growing in the woods of L. O. Hills south of Welsh, and in bloom April 14, 1894. W.

Allium striatum Jacq. Thus called in Wood's Botany. But in Gray's Manual, called *Nothoscordum striatum*, Kunth. In bloom in Oscar Fulton's pasture, January 21, 1894.

Lilium canadense L. Yellow Lily. In bloom May 11, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's dooryard. W.

Yucca filamentosa L. Bear's Thread. A large specimen about 8 feet high, growing near south side of Oscar Fulton's home in Welsh, and in bloom May 4, 1894. W.

LINACEAE.

Linum sulcatum Riddell. A flaxwort specimen in bloom found growing on the west side of the school yard in Welsh, March 3, 1894. W.

LOBELIACEAE.

Lobelia nuttallii DC. Growing on the school ground in Welsh, May 2, 1894, when specimen examined was in flower. G.

LOGANIACEAE.

Gelsemium sempervirens Ait. Yellow Jessamine. In bloom January 21, 1894, by Oscar Fulton's front yard gate in Welsh. W.

Spigelia marilandica L. Pink-root. In bloom April 14, 1894, in L. O. Hill's woods two miles south of Welsh. W.

LORANTHACEAE.

Phoradendron flavescens Nutt. American Mistletoe. Specimen procured from some of the deciduous trees in Oscar Fulton's pasture January 27, 1894. G.

LYTHRACEAE.

Punica granatum. Pomegranate. In bloom May 3, 1894. Specimen about ten feet high, growing in Oscar Fulton's orchard in Welsh. W.

MAGNOLIACEAE.

Magnolia grandiflora L. Big Laurel. In bloom April 22, 1894, at Prentiss' Hhawkeye Ranch, from which specimen was secured through the kindness of Mrs. Oscar Fulton. W.

MALVACEAE.

Malva papaver Cav. Poppy Mallow. Its bright red flowers were in full bloom May 2, 1894, on the school ground in Welsh. W.

Modiola multifida Moench. In bloom May 2, 1894, by sidewalk along street by Mr. Hebert's home in Welsh. W.

MELIACEAE.

Melia azedarach L. Pride of India. Broneously named by the people of the locality, "Umbrella Tree", and "China Tree". An ornamental tree growing in the corner of the door yards or at the street corners; several in Welsh. Specimen in flower April 15, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's pasture not far from the north side of his house. W.

OLEACEAE.

Fraginus americana L. White Ash. In bloom April 22, 1894, at Oscar Fulton's place in Welsh. W.

Jasminium sambac. Jessamine. Cape Jessamine. Very fragrant. Specimen in bloom May 3, 1894 at Mr. Heald's home in Welsh. W.

Ligustrum vulgare L. Privet Prim. Growing in front yard at Hotel Hanna in the town of Jennings, Louisiana, May 6, 1894, when specimen was in flower. W.

Olea fragrans. Specimen in bloom given to me January 19, 1894, by Miss Aline Miles of Welsh, and called by her China or Tea Olive. W.

ONAGRACEAE.

Gaura angustifolia Mx. Specimen in bloom growing on the school ground in Welsh, May 2, 1894. W.

Jussiaea repens L. Specimen in bloom, May 2, 1894, growing on the school grounds in Welsh. W.

Oenothera sinuata L. An Evening Primrose. In bloom March 28, 1894, along the sides of the street north of Mr. Earl's home in Welsh. Native. W.

Oenothera vinosa. An Evening Primrose. In bloom March 31, 1894, growing along the track of the Southern Pacific Railway in Welsh. Probably from California. W.

PALMACEAE.

Sabal adansonii Guern. Growing along the bayou west of Oscar Fulton's home at Welsh. As there were no flowers in bloom while I was there, I found it difficult to determine this species, the description in Wood's Botany being very brief. Is it possible that it may be *Chamaecrous hystrix* Fraser? Palmetto.

PORTULACACEAE.

Claytonia Virginica L. Spring Beauty. In bloom February 3, 1894, in the northwest part of Oscar Fulton's pasture. W.

ROSACEAE.

Crataegus apiifolia Mx. A Hawthorn. In bloom February 10, 1894, Oscar Fulton's pasture at Welsh. W.

Crataegus acstivalis T. & G. Apple Hawthorn. In bloom January 21, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's woods west of Welsh. W.

Fragaria vesca L. Strawberry. In bloom January 27, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's garden in Welsh. W.

Prunus caroliniana Ait. Cherry Laurel. An evergreen. In bloom February 2, 1894. Tree about 30 feet high growing in northeast corner of Oscar Fulton's dooryard in Welsh. A handsome ornamental tree. W.

Prunus chicasa Mx. Chickasaw Plum. In bloom February 1, 1894, in west end of Oscar Fulton's orchard in Welsh. A native of the South. W.

Prunus umbellata Ell. Blossoms out before the leaves and very fragrant. A large tree 15 or 20 feet high. In Oscar Fulton's pasture west of his orchard in Welsh. W.

Rosa canina. Dog Rose. In bloom January 21, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's front dooryard in Welsh. Said to bloom every month in the year. W.

Rubus trivialis Mx. Southern Dewberry. In bloom, February 10, 1894, in the woods on the west side of Oscar Fulton's bayou southwest of Welsh. W.

Rubus villosus Ait. High Blackberry. In bloom February 10, 1894, in the woods on the west side of Oscar Fulton's bayou southwest of Welsh. W.

RUBIACEAE.

Chiococca racemosa. A shrubby vine. This was the only indoor plant that I examined. Clinging to supports before the west window of, and inside, the room occupied by myself in the home of Oscar Fulton. It was in bloom nearly all winter. Specimen mounted January 28, 1894. Neither Gray nor Britton and Brown mention it. Wood's description is very brief. It was known in the Fulton home as Manetto. I am not certain of its identification.

Houstonia coccinea. Variety, *minor*. Dwarf Pink. Innocence. Bluet. In bloom, January 22, 1894, along the walk leading from the home of Oscar Fulton to the schoolhouse. W.

Mitchella repens L. Partridge Berry. In bloom, April 14, 1894, in L. O. Hill's woods south of Welsh. W.

SALICACEAE.

Salix babylonica L. Weeping Willow. In bloom March 31, 1894, in south-east part of Oscar Fulton's dooryard. W.

SAPINDACEAE.

Acer rubrum L. Variety, *tridens*. Swamp Maple. Growing in the bayou near the bridge south of Welsh. Examined May 5, 1894. W.

Aesculus parva L. A Horse Chestnut or Buckeye. Examined April 14, 1894, in L. O. Hill's woods south of Welsh. W.

SAXIFRAGACEAE.

A Saxifrage growing on the school ground at Welsh, and in bloom May 2, 1894. I seem not to have made a closer identification.

SCITAMINEAE.

Canna discolor. Canna. Indian Shot. In bloom May 13, 1894 in Oscar Fulton's front yard in Welsh. W.

SCROPHULARIACEAE.

Pentstemon pubescens Sol. A Beard Tongue. In bloom on the school ground in Welsh, May 2, 1894. W.

SOLANACEAE.

Solanum carolinense L. Horse Nettle. In bloom May 2, 1894, in the street by home of Mr. Herbert in Welsh. W.

Solanum dulcamara L. Nightshade. Bittersweet. Follonwort. Known here at Welsh as Bridal Wreath. Flowers, white. Vining along the front porch of Oscar Fulton's home in Welsh. Brought a specimen home with me to Winfield, Iowa, which has grown vigorously during the twelve years since its transplanting. B. B.

URTICACEAE.

Ficus carica. Common Fig. Several trees of good size in Oscar Fulton's orchard in Welsh, yielding considerable fruit. W.

Morus rubra L. Mulberry. Trees about 20 feet high. In bloom January 21, 1894, in southwest corner of Oscar Fulton's dooryard in Welsh. W.

Ulmus americana L. White Elm. In leaf the latter part of March, 1894, growing by front gate before Oscar Fulton's home in Welsh. W.

VERBENACEAE.

Verbena multifida. A Vervain. In bloom January 23, 1894, and given to me by Wade Spurgin, whose home was a few miles north of Welsh. W.

Verbena tenuirostris. A Vervain. In bloom May 2, 1894, growing near the steps leading to the front door of Oscar Fulton's home in Welsh. W.

A *vervain* that I could not identify fully with the Botanicae at hand. A shrub about 4 feet high in Oscar Fulton's dooryard in Welsh, blooming May 2, 1894. Doubtless a native of the South, which our northern botanics have not included.

VIOLACEAE.

Viola obliqua Hill. Meadow or Hooded Blue Violet. In bloom January 27, 1894, in Oscar Fulton's pasture. B. B.

Viola ———. Doubtless a southern species that my botanics did not fully describe. Flower, pale purple and smaller than the preceding. Presented to me January 19, 1894, by Miss Belle Singleton, one of the pupils attending the public school of Welsh.