

The Athens Reporter

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C. G. Young, Editor and Proprietor

CHARLESTON.

Charleston, July 21.—Hubert Heffernan gave his friends a surprise by slipping off quietly on Wednesday and being married to Miss Rita Leeder, of McIntosh Mills. Friends of the bride gave her a shower of Saturday evening.

S. Burchell, Uxbridge, is spending a few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson at the cottage.

Mrs. A. O. Wilson spent a few days last week with Mrs. Fred Hollingsworth, Plum Hollow.

Bernard Godkin, Monica Hudson, Burt Heffernan, Mills Howard and Willie Howard are receiving congratulations on their success at the entrance exams.

Miss Burchell, Uxbridge, and brother, are with Mrs. M. A. Johnson at Bertha Island.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson, Toronto, were recent visitors at Pleasant Mount cottage, summer home of Jos. Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Donovan and son, Arthur, are spending a few weeks at Cedar Park Hotel.

Mrs. Stewart, Smiths Falls, is with her sister, Mrs. Lamb, at Point Sylvia.

Miss Kennedy, of Flint, Mich., and Miss McBrady, of Oshawa, were among those at the pavilion dance on Friday evening.

Miss Alto Botsford and little brother, Jesse, of Livingston, Mont., arrived a few days ago on a visit to their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. Botsford.

The Misses May and Evelyn Latimer, Jones' Falls, were week-end visitors at their home here.

A party of jolly Athens girls are enjoying themselves this week at Camp Restolette.

Mrs. W. Towriss and Mrs. Eaton are at Loetta Lodge.

Mr. Gleichman and family, Mr. Fleichman and party, Mr. Wattenburg and Dr. and Mrs. Watson, all from across the border, are here at their cottages to spend the next few weeks.

The Misses Bulah and Dora Thurston, Brockville, were visiting their cousin, Mrs. Harry Webster, last week.

Frank and George Gifford, Athens, have just finished a fine barn for H. Jeffrey, Oak Leaf. Their families are at their cottage.

Miss Alma Coon, Athens, is very ill at the cottage here.

Mrs. (Rev.) Vickery and family, Shawville, Que., are at Camp Onawanda.

Mr. and Mrs. Crabb, Ottawa, and two daughters are at the Harbor View House.

Guests at Cedar Park are: J. Adams and wife, C. Adams, J. Leob, Celia Leob, L. Macks, New York City; F. Smith and family, Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Barclay, Ottawa; Miss Mitchell, Taboma, Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. J. Hall, Ottawa; R. B. Baker, Cornwall; Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Amerline, Mrs. T. Rhinchart, Mountclair, N.J.; J. J. Kerne, Kirkwood, N.Y.; J. H. Berry, H. Berry, E. J. Carnigan, Ottawa, R. Plains, N.Y.; J. Carnigan, Ottawa, R. Copland, Ottawa; A. R. Hawley, New York; H. Y. Cappy, S. A. Hellela, S. E. McQuair, Hazel, Mallett, J. Mullin, Mary McQuair, W. A. Morland, Mrs. Morland, Miss Morland, Isobel Stuart, M. McQuair, J. Mullin, M. Mullin, M. Cossitt and wife, M. H. Cossitt, Ottawa; J. M. Marmon, Mr. Walter, Alice J. Fornier, Lake George, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Moorburger, Mr. Anervill, Somerville, N.J.; F. H. McCausland, Mr. Moody, Toronto; Jerome O'Keefe and wife, and Frank Lafan, Rochester, N.Y.

FRANKVILLE.

Mrs. W. G. Richards received the sad news of the death of her sister, Mrs. Ralph Dowsley, of Calgary.

Miss Curtis, of Kingston, was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. M. Hanton, on Sunday.

Mr. Bert Wickware and family, of Ottawa, spent the week-end with Mrs. Albert Hanton. They were accompanied home by Mrs. Hanton and Mrs. W. G. Richards.

Mrs. Giffin was successfully operated upon last Saturday.

Oscar and Clara Smith, of Manotick, accompanied by Lloyd Steacy, of Ottawa, motored on Sunday to visit the former's parents. Clara remained and his brother Donald returned. They are engaged in the cheese industry.

Miss Fanny Lyons, of New Boyne, is visiting her cousin, Dr. W. H. Bourne.

Mrs. Ella Klyne, who has been visiting her niece, Mrs. C. R. Church, has returned to her home in Smiths Falls.

Mrs. Gallagher has returned from visiting her niece, Mrs. Frank Stewart, of Prescott.

Harold B. Leverette, of Ottawa, is having his holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Leverette. Last week he took them to visit his sister, Mrs. A. Latham, of Brockville, then to another sister, Mrs. Ken. Burch, of Alexandria Bay.

Mr. Lawson Livingston, who suffered a stroke two weeks ago, is slightly improved.

Mr. Wm. Bryant has purchased from Chas. Giffin the property known as the David Dowsley home and intends carrying on the butcher business.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Hanton have returned after spending a few days in Brockville.

The Ladies' Aid have decided to hold their annual social on the Methodist church lawn, July 31st.

A. E. Rudd, of Los Angeles, and sister, Mrs. Goodfellow, of Smiths Falls, were guests recently of Mrs. E. Coad. It is 17 years since Mr. Rudd was here last and he was delighted to revisit the scenes of his childhood and manhood.

Mrs. Chas. Giffin, who is in General Hospital, Brockville, being prepared for an operation, was home last Saturday and Sunday.

Laura Martin, who has been visiting her sisters, Mrs. W. and Mrs. Edgar Bryant, has returned to her home in Seely's Bay.

John Davidson has returned after spending some weeks in Orillia.

Dr. Peaf, of Athens, made a professional call at W. Bryant's on Sunday.

Mr. Lawson Livingston was removed to Brockville Hospital on Friday last.

Frankville, Aug. 20.—The Ladies' Aid of the Methodist church is preparing for a lawn social and chicken supper to be held on July 31.

Congratulations are offered to Mrs. George Loucks on her success in the recent vocal examination of the Toronto Conservatory of Music. She has won honor standing. Irma E. Palmer took first class honors in the second grade piano examination.

Mrs. C. Giffin is in the Brockville General hospital, undergoing an operation.

Mr. Giffin has sold his property here to William Bryan.

All are pleased to see again Mrs. N. Moore restored to health after an operation for appendicitis.

Congratulations are due Floey Strikefoot, Ronald Eaton and Keeble Davis on their success in the High school entrance examinations.

Mr. Mede, of Kemptville, has been visiting his sister, Mrs. T. F. Townsend.

Lawson Livingstone is very ill.

The local young ladies are playing a friendly game of baseball with the Toledo team on Saturday night.

PHILIPSVILLE.

Philipsville, July 18.—Miss McBrady, of Toronto, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. P. Nolan. She was a former teacher at Coon's school.

Congratulations are being extended to Orville Elliott and Loretta Wright, they having passed the entrance examinations.

Little Miss Jean Blackman is improving from her recent illness.

Misses Marion and Eileen Woods, of Chantry, were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Blackman.

Mrs. Stella Preston, of Delta, and three little girls were at Robt. Preston's for a few days.

Much sympathy goes out to Miss Hester Willows, who has lost her eyesight.

Mrs. Hilson Warren is getting better slowly. Nurse Brown is still in attendance.

Mr. Mort Brown, an old Philipsville boy, is spending some time at the home of Mrs. H. M. Brown.

Miss Ella Dwyer, Miss Tessie Jordan, Mrs. J. Downey and Mrs. Robt. Preston spent Thursday afternoon in Delta.

Mrs. S. Carr and daughter spent the week-end at Winchester at the home of her son, Mr. Alvan Churchhill.

A few from here attended the social in Elgin recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Warner Phelps, of Delta, were at A. E. Whitmore's.

Visitors in the village recently included Guy Stevens, New York state, at Robt. Preston's; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Chant, Toronto, at Wm. Chant's; Mr. and Mrs. Sirrell, Forfar Junction, at Mrs. Julia Downey's; Miss Somerville, Morton, at Rod. Stevens'.

Miss Georgia Acheson, nurse-in-training at Kingston hospital, is spending her holidays at Mr. and Mrs. Fred Acheson's.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Myers and family and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Myers and daughter Mary, of Portland, spent a day at Jones' Falls. Mrs. Myers and daughter, Miss Blanche, accompanied them.

Mrs. Aimer has returned home from spending a few days in Brockville.

Mrs. Lottie Kelsey, of Elgin, has been engaged to teach the Lockwood school.

ROCKSPRING.

Rockspring, July 19.—Many from here attended the dance and supper held in Harry Sand's grove and all reported a splendid time.

Recent visitors at A. Logan's were Miss Bessie and Reta Logan, Kingston; Mrs. R. B. Wright and family, Escott; Mrs. Joseph C. Morrison and son, Carl, Ogdensburg; Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Justice, Greenbush; Mansell Logan, Ottawa; Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wright, Newbliss; T. Guinness, P. McCarty and B. Thompson, Lansdowne.

A number attended the lawn social at Addison last week.

The women intend holding a social here in the near future.

The people around here completed their road work last week.

Gardening In Canada

THE CULT OF THE PEONY. BEST VARIETIES TO GROW

The season of peony bloom is now just about over and the inspiration to go and do likewise that a lot of us have received from other gardens is still strong. There have been a lot of good resolutions for next spring made by people who do not realize that this is the best time to order peony roots for delivery during the first week of September or even the last week in August. Peonies moved in the spring invariably refuse to bloom the year they are set out. Roots moved in the very late summer or early fall so that they have time to make new roots and become well established before freezing weather sets in are likely to give a fair proportion of bloom the following year. It is true that these blooms will not be anything to boast about in either size or fullness of beauty, but they should come along so as to give an index as to colors and varieties.

The peony requires at least three years to become thoroughly established and to begin to produce its best flowers. Once it has become established it may be counted upon to go right along flowering and increasing in size and beauty for the next thirty years. Right here is the best argument against buying cheap and unnamed varieties of this flower. One buys once for a life-time and it is well worth while to get as good stock as one's purse can afford.

In buying peony roots it is very much wiser to know exactly what one is paying for. The average commercial roots sold by the seedsmen and commercial growers are divisions of large clumps and seldom have more than three eyes or possible stalks for the following season. If nothing else can be obtained one must be satisfied with these, but when it is possible to get five-eyed crowns or larger it is wise to pay the extra price asked for them. They will flower sooner and there is less risk of loss of the roots through eyes being damaged and the plant shut off from development in its own situation.

The ratings of the American Peony Society are an unfailing index of the value of the variety being offered for sale. The concern which offers peony roots for sale and it unable or unwilling to give the society's ratings is a good one not to buy from as it is likely they are not really sufficiently interested in this particular flower to have taken the trouble to obtain the finest stock there is in the wholesale market. Most of the good peonies—if not all of them—have been rated by the society and as a general rule it may be accepted that anything rated under 80 is not worth spending money for, and that anything rated over 90 is sure to be worth the average or standard price of that variety.

Easy to Grow

The Peony Society is one of the strongest amateur floral organizations on the continent. Its members are all enthusiasts and take as a very serious business the matter of voting upon a flower to give it a rating. This gives added value to the ratings as it makes them represent the majority opinion of those who are most familiar with the peony and are therefore in a position to judge a new flower on its merits rather than upon its commercial possibilities. Most of the new varieties now offered to the public are first shown at the annual shows of the Peony Society, and are there given their ratings. The president of the society for 1921 is Mr. Winthrop H. Thurlow, a prominent Massachusetts nurseryman.

The peony is very easy to grow from well developed root divisions, and very difficult to start from seeds. The hybridizer of peonies must be a person of great patience. The seeds may lie dormant in the seed bed for a year or even two years. It is three years before the first flower is born and five years before the flowers are at their best so that the product of the labor and patience may be judged. Then from five hundred plants there may be one or two that are worth keeping.

There is no flower that will thrive with as little care after it is properly planted as the peony. The first consideration in planting a peony bed is that of situation. The bed should be located where the soil retains a moderate degree of dampness, but in full sunshine. Avoid any location where it is possible for water to lie upon the surface of the soil at any time of the year, or where the overflow of ponds or streams is liable to flood the bed in the spring or fall.

To grow first-class peonies the entire soil of the bed should be excavated to a depth of at least two feet and if the subsoil is of anything but a fine, loamy texture it will be well to go down to a depth of three feet. When the bed begins to look like a miniature foundation excavation it is time to begin preparations for the actual planting. The hole should be filled to a depth of six inches with well rotted manure. Manure from a cow byre is excellent but two or three year old stuff from a farm barnyard where both horse and cow excrement have been thrown will give the best results. Fresh manure is absolutely barred. A certain amount of spading over in the bottom of the hole is desirable before any soil is thrown in but this is not essential. If the soil to go back into the bed is anything but the best garden loam it should be mixed with about one-third of its own bulk of well rotted leaf mould, manure, and sharp sand. This

mixture in turn should contain one-third of each of its ingredients. If the soil is of a fine, loamy, porous texture the addition of about one-quarter its bulk of old manure will be all that is necessary. There is little danger of over fertilizing a peony if the manure is of the proper kind. The peony is one of the grossest feeders we have in the garden, and it is to be remembered that the bed is being prepared to last half a lifetime. Many enthusiasts put in as much as ten pounds of bone meal to a plant so that its slow decay may make a supply of nourishment available for years to come. Before the soil is replaced in the bed it should be turned over often enough to secure a thorough and even mixture. When the bed is ready for the setting of the roots the soil should stand eight or ten inches above the level of the surrounding garden.

Increase in Popularity

Roots should be set at a depth that will bring their crowns not more than three inches below the surface and at least two inches deep. In planting, each plant should be allowed a space at least three feet in diameter. The soil must be firmly packed around the roots, and the bed should be mulched with about two or three inches of coarse, strawy manure or manure with which a large quantity of dead leaves have been incorporated. Manure containing saw-dust or shavings should never be allowed to come near a peony plant.

Cultivation throughout the years consists of cutting off the dead stalks after the ground is well frozen and covering the plant with a liberal mulch of coarse manure. In the spring this mulch should be shaken up, the rougher removed and the fine stuff spaded in to a depth of three or four inches. In the spring it is well to loosen the soil about the crown of the plant but great care must be exercised not to injure the dormant buds which are to provide the year's flowers.

As the flowering season comes on it will often be found that each stalk with its large terminal bud has developed also one or more small buds or lateral stems. If the finest flowers are wanted these extra buds should be removed as soon as they are discovered.

In very dry situations or in those rare seasons when a protracted drouth

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comes in late April or May, peonies will be greatly improved in both flower and foliage by liberal watering. When a peony plant is watered the soil should be drenched to a depth of a foot or more. Surface watering is likely to do more harm than good. Lots of water before the flowers open is appreciated by the plants, but water given after the flowers have opened is sure to shorten the life of the bloom. The peony bed made this fall will give a few flowers next year. In 1926 there should be a few more and the following year the bed will be in its prime and the flowers fully characteristic of the varieties bought. It is a mistake to be discouraged if the flowers of the first two years are not up to the standard of the specimen blooms from which one made his selection when he bought. Making a peony garden is a slow job but one which lasts correspondingly long and during its season is unrivalled in its gorgeousness. Peonies as cut flowers are increasing in popularity every year. To get the best results the flowers should be cut when they are only half open. They will open to full size and develop their characteristic color in water. If the water is changed daily and a little of the end of the stem cut off so that the flower may absorb water, the blooms will last from a wee k to ten days in perfect freshness.

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