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PLANTS GROWING THE FIRST SEASON IN AN UNCOVERED CELLAR.¹

JOHN ROBINSON.

THE South Church, at the corner of Chestnut and Cambridge streets in Salem, Mass., was burned on the evening of December 19, 1903. The entire upper portion of the building was destroyed but the main floor was not burnt through to any extent, so that, neither in the church itself, nor in the vestry immediately at the north of the church, which was also burnt, did fire extend into the cellars. Both cellars had ordinary earth floors. The church cellar was seventy-five by sixty-five feet; the vestry was fifty-three by forty feet. The two cellars were separated by a space—never dug out—fourteen feet in width, over which a wooden connection from the church to the vestry was built a number of years ago. The church was erected in 1804, no external changes of any importance having been made in it afterward. An old vestry was replaced by a new one some fifty years since, practically upon the old cellar. Thus, neither cellar had ever been open to the light and air since the first construction of the buildings and there had never been any vegetation in either of them. After the fire, the remains of the church and vestry and all of the rubbish were

¹[In publishing this posthumous paper of Mr. John Robinson, RHODORA acknowledges indebtedness both to Prof. A. P. Morse who, in preparing a bibliography of Mr. Robinson's writings, came upon the manuscript and brought it to our attention, and to the Librarian of the Essex Institute at Salem, Massachusetts, for permission to print the paper, which was deposited in that establishment by Mr. Robinson Jan. 27, 1908. It has seemed best to leave the flora in its original form rather than to make any attempt to modernize its arrangement or nomenclature. Mr. Robinson's observations, of a kind rarely recorded in such detail, show clearly the rapidity with which exposed terrain is invaded by adjacent vegetation.—Ed.]

cleared away, but not until late in the spring of 1904 was either cellar bottom fully exposed to the sun.

These cellars were quite carefully examined on October 14 and 17, 1904, when the plants given in the following list were collected. The list is interesting as showing what a large number of species had appeared in so short a time—five months—in a place where no plants had ever grown before, and also, as showing how quickly certain plants will attain perfection from the seed and to what extent other seedlings will develop in one short season. At the time the collection was made the entire cellar of the vestry was well covered with vegetation, the larger cellar of the church was not so fully covered. No plants were recorded except those from the old cellar bottoms; the covered space between the cellars was disregarded.

As to the source of the seeds: The church was in the center of the residential portion of the city with yards and gardens in the immediate neighborhood from which the wind and birds undoubtedly carried seeds, and fruit of one sort and another was probably thrown into the cellars by persons passing on the streets during the summer. It is quite probable that rubbish had been put in the cellars at various times, including faded flowers from the church decorations. There are few plants in the list which may not be accounted for by one of these suppositions.

In preparing the list there seemed to be no reason for separating the plants found in one cellar from those in the other as the conditions were practically the same in each case. The nomenclature follows that of Britton and Brown's *Flora of the Northern States and Canada*.

PEABODY MUSEUM,

Salem, Mass., Oct. 1, 1908.

LIST OF PLANTS COLLECTED IN THE CELLARS OF THE SOUTH CHURCH
AND VESTRY, OCTOBER 14 AND 17, 1904.

RANUNCULACEAE

Delphinium (species). Garden Larkspur. Plant 4 inches high.

CRUCIFERAE

Bursa bursa-pastoris. Shepherd's Purse. Flowering plants.

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Alsine media. Chickweed. Flowering plants.

Cerastium viscosum. Mouse-ear Chickweed. Flowering plants.

PORTULACACEAE

Portulaca oleracea. Purslane. Flowering plants.

MALVACEAE

Malva rotundifolia. Common mallow: Cheeses. Flowering plants.

GERANIACEAE

Geranium robertianum. Herb Robert. Small plants.

Oxalis stricta. Yellow Wood-Sorrel. Flowering plants.

ANACARDIACEAE

Rhus hirta. Staghorn Sumac. Plant 1 foot high. Fruiting tree in near-by garden.

VITACEAE

Vitis (species). Native Grape. Plant 6 inches high.

Vitis (species). Foreign Grape. Plant 4 inches high.

RHAMNACEAE

Rhamnus cathartica. Buckthorn. Plant 4 inches high. Fruiting tree in adjoining estate.

SAPINDACEAE

Acer rubrum. Red Maple. Plants 3 inches high. Fruiting trees in streets near the church.

LEGUMINOSAE

Trifolium pratense. Red Clover. Flowering plants.

Trifolium repens. White Clover. Flowering plants.

Trifolium hybridum. Alsike. Flowering plants.

Medicago lupulina. Black Medick. Flowering plants.

ROSACEAE

Spiraea vanhoutii. A garden Spiraea. Plants 4 inches high. Grown in gardens about the church.

Fragaria (species). Strawberry. Small plant.

Rubus odoratus. Purple Flowering Raspberry. Plant 4 inches high. Grows in adjoining gardens.

Rubus idaeus. Garden Raspberry. Plants 6 inches high. Grows in neighboring gardens.

Rubus strigosus. Blackberry. Plant 1 foot high.

Pirus malus. Apple. Plant 8 inches high.

Pirus aucuparia. Mountain Ash. Small seedling, growing to quite large size the next year. Trees near by.

UMBELLIFERAE

Conium maculatum. Poison Hemlock. Many plants in full flower 2 feet high. Never noticed in the neighborhood.

COMPOSITAE

Aster tradescanti. White Aster. Flowering plants 14 inches high. Probably from church floral decorations.

Leptilon canadensis. Horse-weed. Flowering plants 4 feet high.

Erigeron ramosus. Daisy Fleabane. Flowering plants 2 feet high. Grows in gardens in the neighborhood.

Solidago canadensis. Golden-rod. Flowering plants 3 feet high. In neighboring gardens.

Euthamia graminifolia (*Solidago lanceolata*). Bushy Golden-rod. Small plants, flowering the next year. Not noticed in the neighborhood.

Ambrosia artemisiaefolia. Roman Wormwood. Flowering plants 14 inches high.

Bidens frondosa. Beggar-ticks. Flowering plants. A common weed in near-by gardens.

Chrysanthemum leucanthemum. Whiteweed. Large plants. Often used in church decorations.

Erechtites hieracifolia. Fireweed. Flowering plant 3½ feet high.

Senecio vulgaris. Groundsel. Flowering plants.

Arctium lappa. Burdock. Plants 4 feet in diameter, not flowering.

Taraxacum taraxacum. Dandelion. Many large plants in flower.

LABIATAE

Galeopsis tetrahit. Hemp Nettle. Seedling plants 8 inches high. Not noticed in neighborhood.

SOLANACEAE

Solanum dulcamara. Bittersweet, Nightshade. Small plants, flowering in 1905.

Solanum tuberosum. Potato. Plants 14 inches high.

Lycopersicum esculentum. Tomato. Plants 1 foot high.

Petunia nyctaginiflora. Petunia. Plants 14 inches high. Common in gardens of the neighborhood.

CHENOPODIACEAE

Chenopodium album. Pigweed. Many flowering plants, one 7 feet high.

Chenopodium hybridum. Maple-leaved Goosefoot. Flowering plants 2 feet high.

AMARANTHACEAE

Amaranthus retroflexus. Amarantha Pigweed. Flowering plants 2 feet high.

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago major. Plantain. Flowering plants.

VERBENACEAE

Verbena urticifolia. White Vervain. Flowering plants 3 feet high. Not noticed in neighborhood.

POLYGONACEAE

Polygonum aviculare. Knotgrass. Flowering plants.

Rumex obtusifolius. Bitter Dock. Plants, not in flower.

Rumex acetosella. Field Sorrel. Plants, not in flower.

URTICACEAE

Ulmus americana. American Elm. Plants 1 foot high.

Ficus carica. Fig. Many plants, one 14 inches high. Appears to be a remarkable growth from fruit thrown into the cellar.

BETULACEAE

Betula alba (?) White Birch. Plant 14 inches high. Forms of the White Birch grow in neighboring yards and gardens.

SALICACEAE

Salix discolor. Pussy Willow. Plants 1 foot high.

Salix (species). Plant 1 foot high.

Populus tremuloides. American Aspen. Plants 2 feet high. Not observed in the region.

Populus grandidentata. Large-toothed Aspen. Plant 14 inches high, leaves very large. Not observed in the neighborhood.

LILIACEAE

Asparagus officinalis. Asparagus. Many plants 1 foot high. Probably from church decorations.

JUNCACEAE

Juncus tenuis. Small Rush. Flowering Plant. Sometimes found in damp gardens in neighborhood.

Juncus (species). Bog Rush. Plants 1 foot high, not in flower.

CYPERACEAE

Carex muricata. Sedge. Flowering plant.

Carex mirabilis (?). Sedge. Flowering Plant.

Cyperacea (species). Sedge. Plant, not in flower.

GRAMINEAE

Phleum pratense. Timothy Grass. Flowering plants.

Agrostis alba vulgaris. Red-top. Flowering plants.

Muhlenbergia mexicana (?). Drop-seed Grass. Not in flower.

Muhlenbergia tenuiflora. Drop-seed Grass. Flowering plants.

Poa annua. Low Spear-Grass. Flowering plants.

Eragrostis pilosa. Tufted Eragrostis. Flowering plants.

Avena sativa. Oats. Flowering plants.

Panicum capillare. Old Witch Grass. Flowering plants, some 3 feet high.

Syntherisma sanguinale. Finger Grass. Flowering plants.

Ixophorus viridis. Green Foxtail Grass. Flowering plants.

Zea mays. Indian Corn. Plants 6 inches high.

Undetermined species of garden shrub. Seedling plant 3 inches high.

Representing 28 Families, 58 Genera, 75 Species.

TWO SUMMERS OF BOTANIZING IN NEWFOUND- LAND

M. L. FERNALD

(Continued from page 65.)

There was still plenty to do nearer home but Miss Priest had collected Thrift, *Statice labradorica*, at Sandy Cove and Long was anxious to add that to his already extended list of "seen-for-the-first-timers." When we passed the hospital Miss Meister had not yet started, so we detailed Dunbar to help carry her bags as far as our roads coincided and Long and I headed for Sandy Cove, vowing to keep our eyes shut



Robinson, Nigel J. 1926. "Plants growing the first season in an uncovered cellar." *Rhodora* 28, 69–74.

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