

A HISTORIC PROPERTY OF  
FULLER E. CALLAWAY FOUNDATION

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large, classical-style building with a prominent portico supported by white columns. The building is partially obscured by dense, lush green trees and bushes. The overall tone is slightly muted and historical.

the  
**PORTICO**

*News from Hills & Dales Estate*



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[www.hillsanddales.org](http://www.hillsanddales.org)

# AB PERRY:

## A MAN BEHIND THE SCENES

*“When you let someone else help you do your work, do the hardest thing yourself and delegate the rest. Back the man you give it to. Then don’t worry.”*

*- Fuller E. Callaway, 1920*

Mr. Callaway followed that rule exactly when he hired John Albert Perry, who worked for the Callaway family off and on for over 40 years. John Albert Perry was born on October 12, 1877, in LaGrange. His education began at the home school of Miss Maud Erdman and continued at Park High School in LaGrange where he completed the equivalent of a junior college education. On January 16, 1901, he married Bessie Crouch and in November they welcomed their only child, a daughter also named Bessie.

Perry began his career working for Fuller Callaway Sr. at Callaway Department Store, located on the downtown square. By 1912, Perry had become Fuller’s personal secretary and secretary of Unity Cotton Mills. While in this position, he was considered to be the “right hand of Fuller Callaway,” and anything he said on behalf of his boss was equivalent to words directly from Fuller. From 1914 to 1916, Albert was instrumental in assisting Fuller with overseeing the construction of “Hills and Dales,” a new family home for the Callaways. He was “on the grounds” as often as Fuller and saw to it that Mr. Callaway’s wishes were carried out. He also took care of much of the correspondence, requested catalogs, ordered building materials, and negotiated with suppliers connected with the project. Surviving letters reveal that Albert almost always signed his name as John A. or J. A. Perry, but he was best known by his nickname “Ab.”

### WELCOME

This sixth edition of *The Portico* highlights some of the many special activities coming up at Hills & Dales Estate during the first six months of 2009. As always, it also includes several short articles that we hope you find informative and enjoyable. “Ab Perry: A Man Behind the Scenes” brings an early 20th-century LaGrange citizen to the forefront while “The A List” features two of Alice Callaway’s favorite greenhouse plants, Amaryllis and Anthurium. You will also find an exciting list of workshops and lectures conducted by a range of experts. Of particular note, there will be three exciting culinary demonstrations conducted by Jamie Keating, Tony Bishop, and Ed Yeargan. We will also have our second annual *Picnic in the Garden* this spring and hope everyone will come out and enjoy a day of family fun.

On the cover, a rare winter snowfall blankets the Fuller E. Callaway family home and garden. The morning this photograph was taken last winter it was very peaceful and serene in the garden. This reminds us there is always something new and exciting to look forward to with the seasonal changes at the estate. As always, we invite you to visit and enjoy the beauty of Hills & Dales Estate in every season. ♣

### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Welcome.....	2
Ab Perry: A Man Behind the Scenes .....	3
The “A” List: Amaryllis & Anthurium.....	6
The Curved Garden Bench and a Unique Sofa.....	8
Picnic in the Garden .....	10
Workshops and Lectures.....	11
Workshop Registration Form.....	13
Annual Pass .....	14



*J. A. Perry (1877-1965) served as personal secretary for Fuller Callaway Sr.*

The twenties were very good times for Ab as evidenced by the great role he played when the Callaway enterprises celebrated their twentieth anniversary in Manchester, Georgia, in 1929. Fuller Callaway was instrumental in founding the town as an industrial and commercial center in neighboring Meriwether County. There were speeches, parades, ball games, fireworks, and dinners in honor of this special anniversary. Because Fuller had died the year before, two men who worked closely with Fuller were asked to be keynote speakers for the celebration. The two speakers were Hatton Lovejoy, the Callaway's personal and business attorney, and Ab Perry.

Throughout his life, Ab often held more than one job while assisting the Callaways. In the twenties he was the proprietor of his own company, J. A. Perry Real Estate, Insurance & Bonds. He also did advertising work for Adams Building Supply Company. The twenties culminated as a golden era in his career. Perry was a member of Masonic Union Lodge #28, First United Methodist Church, Highland Country Club, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia State Automobile Association which promoted paving and construction

of new highways in the state. Business was also going very well for him as he would joke that he was, "a slave to interest, taxes, and life insurance." Sadly, this would come true in 1929, when his business suffered as a result of the stock market crash. For financial reasons he withdrew all his memberships except from his church.

The Callaway sons, Cason and Fuller Jr., employed their father's former associate and secured for him a position with the LaGrange Relief Assn. He was also secretary of the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation which was responsible for construction of the Broad Street Apartments, so no doubt he worked with the architects, Ivey and Crook. They provided Ab and his wife a home at 114 Ferrell Drive, as well. Ab had claimed in the 1920's that his "hobby" was farming. By 1939, Ab was General Manager of Callaway Farms, an agricultural enterprise that was started by Fuller Jr. The farm, by then called "Hills & Dales," soon became a noted player in the cattle industry with Fuller Jr.'s 1946 purchase of Real Silver Domino 44th, the most preeminent silver Hereford bull in the country. After 1946, Ab left the Callaways and returned to his

insurance career. In 1950, Fuller Jr. re-employed Ab to assist him with organizing family papers. After this project Ab retired in 1952.

Ab lived at 114 Ferrell Drive from 1938 to 1963, when he moved to Westport, Connecticut, to live with his daughter. He had been living alone in the Ferrell Drive house since 1954 when his wife passed away. Ab died of pneumonia in 1965 and was buried at Hillview Cemetery in LaGrange. His pallbearers included prominent figures of LaGrange such as Charles Hudson Sr., Fuller E. Callaway Jr., Charley Traylor, Bill Jarrell, Woodrow Smith, and Curtis Glass, who gave testimony to his continued esteem.

Ab had many diverse positions throughout his life. He put all the effort of what he called his "5 foot 7 inch" frame into every task he was assigned. He was certainly an important confidant and assistant for Fuller E. Callaway Sr. and Cason and Fuller Jr. recognized and rewarded Ab for this loyalty. They respected Ab Perry as one of the men "behind the scenes" in the development of their father's business enterprises and the successful completion of their family home "Hills and Dales." ♣

The word Amaryllis actually means to twinkle, sparkle, or shine. The Amaryllis is a sparkling jewel of a plant with its large trumpet-like multiple blooms. During the holiday season when lights are twinkling and decorations sparkle, it is quite fitting that the Amaryllis plays a starring role in the festivities. Now that the thrill is gone, though, what do we do with our fading jewel? Hopefully this article will enlighten you, but first a brief history.

A member of the Amaryllidaceae family, the correct genus for the beautiful flower we commonly call Amaryllis is actually *Hippeastrum*. About 80 species of these bulbs find their origins in Central and South America. This makes it a tropical plant, so in this part of Georgia, with our frequent and heavy frosts, it is best grown in a pot and kept indoors in the winter months. Amaryllis was first discovered in Chile by Eduardo Frederick Poepping in 1828. Poepping, a physician from Leipzig, Germany, found the plant while he was on a botanical expedition. Many of the large-flowered Amaryllis we are familiar with today resulted from years of hybridization in Holland. Amaryllis are most commonly seen in shades of red, pink, or white but a few cultivars are light green or muted yellow.



*Pink Anthuriums were one of Alice Callaway's favorite greenhouse plants.*



*Amaryllis brighten the greenhouse on a cold winter day.*

Maintenance of Amaryllis is simple. After each bloom fades it should be cut off to the stem. The stem should be cut back to the bulb after it yellows and sags. Continue to water and fertilize the leaves through the summer gradually reducing both. In late summer, discontinue watering and let the plant “rest” for a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks. The bulb may be stored in the soil in a dry place with cool temperatures. DO NOT let the bulb freeze!

Keep in mind, when you are ready to start your Amaryllis growing again, you should give it seven to ten weeks to produce flowers. Remove the top two inches of the soil and replace it with good, rich compost. Water the pot thoroughly and place the plant in direct light. Water sparingly until leaves appear, and then gradually increase the amount of water, as over-watering will rot the bulb. To have your jewel shining again by Christmas, you should restart it by mid-October. If starting with new bulbs allow even more time.

“A” is also for Anthurium and this plant is truly a gem. All Anthuriums are horticultural hybrids of the wild green species native to tropical American rain forests. First discovered in Columbia, Anthurium is known to Spanish-speaking people as “capotillo colorado” (the little red cape). The name comes

from the Latin ‘anthos’ meaning flower and ‘oura’ meaning tail. This description refers to the tiny flowers borne on cylindrical spadices that emerge from heart-shaped spathes. There are more than 700 species of this plant, which is a member of the Araceae family.

Hawaii has been a major commercial grower of Anthuriums since the 1940s. A large portion of production is cut flowers. Anthurium flowers can last as long as three weeks if cut in their prime.

Anthuriums are easy to grow as house plants. They are rarely bothered by pests and require minimal care. Pot your Anthurium in coarse well-drained soil such as a combination of peat, pine bark, and perlite. Anthuriums are tropical, so ideal temperatures for them would be between 65 and 80 degrees. Water thoroughly and allow to dry slightly between watering. Yellow leaves are an indication of over-watering or temperatures that are too cold. Bright, filtered light is preferred and if it is too shady the plant will not bloom. Use a slow release fertilizer or a liquid fertilizer at one-quarter strength. For those with small children or pets, please note that Anthuriums can be slightly toxic if ingested and the sap may irritate sensitive skin. ♣

## THE CURVED GARDEN BENCH AND A UNIQUE SOFA ♣

Alice Hinman Hand Callaway, the eleventh of twelve children, was born to Judson Larrabee and Florence May Hollis Hand in 1912 in Pelham, Georgia. When Alice was 8 years old, she came to LaGrange and attended a beautiful wedding reception at Hills and Dales. Alice's older sister, Virginia, had just married Cason Callaway, son of Fuller E. Callaway Sr. The wedding was in Pelham with an additional reception later in LaGrange. The year was 1920; 8-year-old Alice and 13-year-old Fuller Jr. were young attendants at Cason and Virginia's wedding.

As the years went by, Alice visited her sister in LaGrange and as a teen strolled in the gardens with young Fuller Jr. As Alice herself stated, "WE FELL IN LOVE ON THE CURVED STONE BENCH IN THE SUNKEN GARDEN."  
Alice and Fuller married in August of 1930. They built a home

just to the west of Hills and Dales on Vernon Road and called it "Honeymoon Cottage."

Fuller Sr. passed away in 1928 and his wife Ida Cason Callaway died in 1936. Hills and Dales stood empty. The brothers, Cason and Fuller Jr., arrived at an agreement and Fuller Jr., along with Alice and their 2 young children, moved into the family home. Alice, just 24 when she took charge of this extraordinary estate, was immediately drawn to the gardens. Her mother-in-law's home was beautiful and she felt a tremendous responsibility to be a good steward of the house and gardens.

Twelve years later, Alice decided to consult with an interior decorator and put a few "new touches" on the home. Sally King Small of Atlanta, Georgia, came to LaGrange and assisted Alice in various re-decorating projects at Hills and Dales.

The sentimental side of Alice is evident in her decision to commission a custom made conversational sofa to place in her living room. The design of the sofa was inspired by the curved stone bench in the sunken garden where Fuller had courted Alice almost 20 years before. Saybold & Cleland, a small furniture maker in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, created the sofa in 1948. This unusual curved sofa is upholstered in pale peach silk velvet, is skirted, and has arms that roll low to the seat cushion.

Visitors are always interested in learning the personal stories behind furniture in the home. The story of Alice's custom sofa is featured in the orientation film at the Visitor Center and guests frequently ask about the sofa on tours. This unique story is often a topic of conversation among our guests. Alice and Fuller would be pleased that visitors are enjoying this family treasure that brought them so much pleasure and enjoyment. ♣



*This curved stone bench was added to the garden in 1916 at the suggestion of Neel Reid.*



*The design of the living room sofa was inspired by the curved stone bench in the gardens.*

## Second Annual Picnic in the Garden: SATURDAY, MAY 9TH

Our first annual Picnic in the Garden was held in 2008 and was a big success! Over 175 people came and enjoyed an old-fashioned picnic and an afternoon of family-friendly games. Our second annual **Picnic in the Garden** will be on **Saturday, May 9th**, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. All families that arrive with a picnic basket and a blanket will receive complimentary admission to the gardens. Special games for children and adults will include croquet, bocce, ladder ball, horseshoes, and bean bag toss. We will also have free pony rides and live music. Mark your calendar and come enjoy a popular family pastime inspired by days gone by. ♣



## HILLS & DALES ESTATE WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES

*We are pleased to announce a wonderful group of educational and entertaining programs for the upcoming season. Program topics range from water gardening to enjoying culinary delights. These programs and workshops will be conducted by special guests and the staff of Hills & Dales Estate. Call 706-882-3242 or e-mail [info@hillsanddales.org](mailto:info@hillsanddales.org) to register. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Fees for all activities include garden admission. Annual pass holders receive a 20% discount.*

### PRUNING WOODY ORNAMENTALS

*10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturday, February 14th*

Confused about when and how to prune your favorite ornamental shrubs? During this “hands on” workshop, **Jo Phillips**, Hills & Dales Estate Horticulture Manager, and **Neal Howard**, certified arborist and Hills & Dales Estate Gardener, will share with you proper techniques and also the correct season to prune different types of plants. Participants will learn how to properly rejuvenate an overgrown shrub and get some practice pruning small trees. \$25 per person.

### A TASTY FEAST

*11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 21st*

Join certified executive chef, **Jamie Keating**, for a morning of culinary delight and a lovely lunch prepared right before your eyes. During this cooking demonstration Jamie will prepare an appetizer, salad, main course, side dish and dessert. Participants will partake in a meal and get lots of creative cooking tips. Bring a healthy appetite and enjoy learning from Jamie, who won both gold and silver awards as a member of the 2008 United States Culinary Olympic team. \$40 per person.

### APPETIZERS FOR EVERYONE

*11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14th*

Need ideas and inspiration for your next party or special event? Local chef **Tony Bishop**, from the Cart Barn and formerly with the highly esteemed In Clover, will create a variety of different appetizers and dishes appropriate for entertaining. Best of all, throughout the presentation you will get to taste his creations. \$40 per person.

## WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

**SOUTHERN FAVORITES***11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 4th*

Have you ever wanted to create the ideal Southern brunch or luncheon? **Ed and Ann Yeargan**, owners of the popular Creme Fraiche specialty catering service, will create a wonderful assortment of their favorite southern recipes. From Ann's favorite pimento cheese to Ed's mojito cocktail, you'll get lots of good ideas for your next luncheon. Ed will also give tips on creatively arranging your table, unique napkin folds, and other entertaining ideas. Participants will also sample the dishes prepared by the Yeargan's. \$40 per person.

**WATER GARDENING***10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturday, April 18th*

A water feature adds a new dimension to any garden. Whether you are just beginning or have years of water gardening experience, you'll enjoy this workshop. **Valerie VanSweden**, Curator of the Aquatic Plant Collection at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, will share her extensive knowledge of water plants and pond biology. Valerie will review a wide selection of ornamental water plants and give advice on how to keep them healthy. She will also provide tips on aquatic garden design, beneficial critters, and pond maintenance. \$35 per person.

**PLANT PROPAGATION***10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturday, May 23rd*

Don't be intimidated by plant propagation. It's easier than you think. **Samantha Grey**, Horticultural Instructor at Columbus Technical College, will teach you how to successfully propagate a wide range of ornamental garden plants. This demonstration/hands-on workshop will include propagating from stem cuttings, leaf cuttings, and divisions. Each participant will create a tray of newly propagated plants. \$35 per person.

**GROWING AND USING HERBS***10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Saturday, May 30th*

Interested in growing and using herbs from your own garden? During this program **Dee Smith**, Director of the Davis Arboretum at Auburn University, will share her extensive knowledge of herb gardening and herb uses. Participants will learn all about cultural requirements for a variety of herbs that grow well in the South. Dee will recommend her favorite varieties and also make an herbal tea for all to enjoy. Each attendee will receive a complimentary herb and herb tea recipes. \$35 per person.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRUNING WOODY ORNAMENTALS** (10:00 a.m. February 14th) # People \_\_\_\_\_ Regular - \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Holders - \$20 \_\_\_\_\_**A TASTY FEAST** (11:00 a.m. February 21st) # People \_\_\_\_\_ Regular - \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Holders - \$32 \_\_\_\_\_**APPETIZERS FOR EVERYONE** (11:00 a.m. March 14th) # People \_\_\_\_\_ Regular - \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Holders - \$32 \_\_\_\_\_**SOUTHERN FAVORITES** (11:00 a.m. April 4th) # People \_\_\_\_\_ Regular - \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Holders - \$32 \_\_\_\_\_**WATER GARDENING** (10:00 a.m. April 18th) # People \_\_\_\_\_ Regular - \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Holders - \$28 \_\_\_\_\_**PLANT PROPAGATION** (10:00 a.m. May 23rd) # People \_\_\_\_\_ Regular - \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Holders - \$28 \_\_\_\_\_**GROWING AND USING HERBS** (10:00 a.m. May 30th) # People \_\_\_\_\_ Regular - \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Holders - \$28 \_\_\_\_\_Make Checks Payable to: **Hills & Dales**  
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or Call: 706-882-3242

# Annual Pass

Are you interested in visiting Hills & Dales Estate in every season? Do you periodically bring guests to tour the estate or participate in our workshops? If you are a pass holder, you have probably already taken advantage of these benefits. If not, you might be interested in a Hills & Dales Estate family or individual annual pass. Simply fill out and return the form below and you will receive these benefits:

- One year of free admission to the estate. Family passes also include free admission for your spouse and dependent children.
- 20% discount on guest admissions and workshop registration fees
- Copies of *The Portico* – News from Hills & Dales Estate twice yearly
- 10% discount on gift shop merchandise
- Invitations to special pass holder programs

## HILLS & DALES ESTATE ANNUAL PASS APPLICATION

NEW  RENEWAL

Type of Pass:  \$40 Family Pass  \$28 Individual Pass



Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
MR., MRS., MS., DR., MR. & MRS.

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Dependent Children: \_\_\_\_\_  
MR., MRS., MS., DR. FAMILY PASS ONLY

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE ZIP

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make Checks Payable to:*  
Hills & Dales Estate  
P.O. Box 790  
LaGrange, GA 30241



**OUR MISSION:** *We seek to preserve and interpret the unique horticulture, architecture and history of Hills & Dales Estate so that our guests can be enriched by the legacy of personal involvement and stewardship.*

**VALUES:** *Acceptance, Community, Education, Family, Graciousness, Integrity, Patience, Perseverance, Southern Hospitality, Spirituality, Stewardship*

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