

Re-membering a Sense of Place: Andrew Jackson Downing and Charles Downing's Visit to Buffalo and their Relationship with Lewis F. Allen

While preparing for the Allentown Association's 50th anniversary celebration, I was contacted by my friend, Krista Wathne, who had discovered some mysterious old postcards in her family collection. Krista is descended from Buffalo's founding families, including Margaret St. John, whose house was the only one not burned by the British during the War of 1812. She is also a descendent of E.G. Spaulding, a Congressman during the Civil War, and who is known as the "Father of the Greenback."



Figure 1. Lewis F. Allen, circa 1835. Buffalo History Museum.

The timing was serendipitous, for while I chronicled the origin of the Allentown Association - an organization formed to revive a Buffalo neighborhood named for Lewis Falley Allen (1800-1890) - I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Krista's newly discovered postcards were from Allen's own hand (Figure 1). Allen was a gentleman farmer and one of Buffalo's early leaders.

In 1829 Allen paid \$2,500 for 29 acres of land located about a mile north of Buffalo's downtown core which extended westerly from Main Street to the New York State Reservation Line at Hudson Street. Allen's short-horn cattle were domiciled on the acreage. According to oral tradition, as the cattle trod from Main Street to the pasture at what is now Days Park, the meandering path they created eventually became Allen Street. Being the smart cattle they were, their path was equidistant between the two adjoining streets, Virginia and North.



Figure 2. Allentown Art Festival, painting by Ross J. Drago

Over the next century, Allen Street and others intersecting it were created and formed a tight network of small tree-lined lanes and alleys. The neighborhood is unique in Buffalo and contains a wide array of brick and wooden houses as well as commercial structures designed in a variety of architectural styles. They are some of most beautiful and significant structures ever constructed in Buffalo, the majority of them during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. While the neighborhood remained stable as it entered the twentieth century, the neighborhood witnessed a steep decline during the mid-century, partially due to events precipitated by the Great Depression and World War II.

It wasn't until the late 1950s the Allen Street neighborhood was known as Allentown, a moniker that reflected its new identity as a haven for artists and free thinkers. A group of Allen Street merchants, calling themselves the Allentown Village Society, organized in 1958 and planned an outdoor art festival to encourage people to visit from outside the neighborhood (Figure 2). Inspired by the success of the art festival, concerned residents joined forces to fight neighborhood blight, demolition, and crime. At the same time, Allentown's assets were promoted: its noteworthy Victorian architecture, ideal location, and its reputation for being a bohemian artist colony and center of Buffalo's counterculture. By the early 1960s, the neighborhood's efforts were solidified into an organization known as the Allentown Association, which was instrumental in the designation of the neighborhood as the City of Buffalo's first residential historic district.

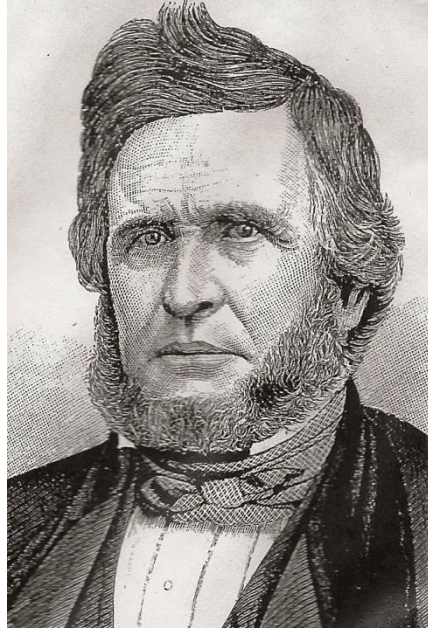


Figure 3. Lewis F. Allen from *Smith's History of Buffalo*.

Lewis F. Allen never lived in the neighborhood that bears his name with such pride, but he might have been considered a model present-day Allentown citizen. Like the nineteenth century, Allen was born on New Year's Day, 1800. He was not a New York State native, but moved to Buffalo from Massachusetts when he was 27 years old and the village had 4,000 residents. The Erie Canal had opened just two years previous and Buffalo was catapulted into a period of extraordinary growth. In addition to having an affinity for short-horn cattle, Allen enjoyed horticulture, agriculture, architectural design, history, politics, civic improvement, and decorating. Allen made a fortune in Buffalo from a variety of business endeavors including real estate investments. He was also a prolific writer; therefore many of his thoughts on his various interests have been preserved. Although Allen was a prolific writer, his prosaic style may be a bit formal and stiff. While it is relatively easy to know what Allen *thought* about various subjects, it is difficult to get a sense of his *personality* from his writings. It is easier to get a sense of Allen's personality from what others who knew him wrote about him. His granddaughter recalled his "great impatience and abruptness" (Sprague, 1964). He loved peace and quiet; notoriety was distasteful to him. Although during his lifetime he was known for his abrupt speech, he was also honest, kind, noble, generous, and a man who "could not do a mean thing" (At Ninety Years, 1890). But above all, Allen is remembered for his love of the City of Buffalo and his ardent promotion of its progress (A Pioneer Gone, 1890). An image of Allen when he was in his fifties is shown in Figure 3.

The post cards Krista shared with me helped to transform the legendary Lewis Allen into a more human Lewis Allen. The post cards are a series of communications from the 1870s, when Allen began to sell portions of his vast Grand Island real estate holdings for residential development. Allen carved the land from Grand Island lots 1 through 5, as surveyed by James Tanner in 1824. E. G. Spaulding purchased approximately 315 acres from Allen, and created a summer estate which he called "River Lawn." On the southeastern shore of Grand Island, Allen retained a large portion of land for use as a

farm and orchard. He called his farm "Allenton," and along the shore of the Niagara River Allen he created a 40-acre site with manicured lawn and gardens which he called "River Lea" (Smith H. P., 1884, p. 437).

In one post card written to Spaulding, Allen laments he had been housebound for a week with a bad cold, which frustrated him because he yearned to visit Allenton and observe the progress made at River Lawn. Inspired by these postcards, I wanted to learn more about Allen's endeavors in the Allentown neighborhood, the most famous of which was the New York State Agricultural Society Fair, held in Allentown in 1848.

With Allentown being a preservation district and the Allentown Association's emphasis on historic preservation, it is sometimes easy to forget that historic preservation is more than just preserving the bricks, mortar, clapboards, and windows of a building. It is also about preserving a sense of place. Sometimes a sense of place can be preserved without extant structures.

During the present generation, Buffalonians have created several private-public landscape initiatives that have defined its space and appearance. Grassroots Gardens was founded by Milton Zeckhauser during a time in Buffalo when houses were being demolished and the littered vacant lots left in their wake were replaced with fruit, vegetable, and flower gardens. These gardens have engaged the surrounding community in ways that produced increased social interaction, a fruit more valuable than any the garden could produce. Buffalo In Bloom was founded by Kate Bukowski to recognize Buffalo citizens who beautify their lawns and public/private spaces with gardens and make their community a more beautiful place to live. Garden Walk was founded by Marvin Lunenfeld. It immediately became a popular annual event, one in which Buffalo's west side gardeners open their gardens for two days during the final weekend of July. But perhaps no contemporary activity is as impactful as Re-Tree Western New York, an outgrowth of the Buffalo Green Fund, created in direct response to the infamous October Storm of 2006 (nicknamed "Arboreddon"). On October 12 of that year, the unseasonable storm dumped heavy, wet snow on trees still full with their foliage. The weight toppled limbs and trees. Beginning in 2007, hundreds of volunteers have planted thousands of bare-root sapling trees in Buffalo twice each year during the early spring and late autumn seasons on public planting strips located between the sidewalk and curb, as well as in parks. I have been an active participant in Grassroots Gardens, Buffalo In Bloom, Garden Walk, and Re-Tree. Of these, it is Re-Tree that most sparks my imagination. There is joy in working with others to plant trees and then watching them grow. Some trees, such as Horse Chestnut and Crabapple, produce lovely flowers in the spring. Others, such as the Hybrid Elm, grow quickly and provide shade to neighboring homes and pedestrians promenading on sidewalks. I can't help but wonder how long the trees will live, how tall they will become, and how they will inspire future Buffalonians with their beauty and strength long after I am gone.



Figure 4. Buffalo's oldest tree at 404 Franklin Street. Photo courtesy of Chuck LaChiusa.

I am reminded of the preservation of a sense of place each time I walk down Franklin Street within the Allentown Historic District. At 404 Franklin Street, between Edward and Virginia Streets, is a 2½ story wood-frame detached house designed in the gabled Italianate style, built circa 1870. The house, as handsome and charming as it is with its round-arch topped windows and classical porch columns, pales in significance to the historic wonder in front of it. A massive Sycamore tree, believed to be the oldest in Buffalo (approximately 300 years of age), is awe-inspiring to behold, shown in Figure 4. Who planted it? How is it that the tree just happened to be in the exact perfect spot before the street was surveyed, cut-through, and paved? How has it managed to survive these many years? These are unanswered questions that may remain a mystery.

Another example of preservation of a sense of place can be found in the next block of Allentown. Early in 2013 the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site at 641 Delaware Avenue demolished a 1960 bank branch building, most recently occupied by Bank of America. By doing so, the Theodore Roosevelt site's lawn was restored to its 1901 appearance. In this case, demolition helped to create an improved sense of place. By removal of the bank building, it is possible to better imagine the site's earlier associations (Figure 5). Before Ansley Wilcox lived there and hosted Roosevelt's presidential inauguration, the site and building was part of the Buffalo Barracks and had historic associations with Lewis F. Allen and that mid-century horticultural and architectural celebrity, Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852) and his brother, Charles Downing (1802-1885).



Figure 5. Wilcox Mansion, Buffalo at turn of twentieth century.

In search of A.J. Downing's sense of place, in September 2013, I visited sites imbued with his spirit, those places that retain connections with him and have been preserved with a sense of place. In Downing's books, such as *Landscape Gardening*, *Cottage Residences*, and the *Architecture of Country Houses*, one can get a sense of his intellect and his clear and engaging writing style, but the books left me feeling him in the abstract, similar to my experience with Lewis Allen.



Figure 6. Andrew Jackson Downing Memorial Urn at Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

Some time ago, I felt a bit closer to Downing during a trip to Washington D.C., when I visited the Downing memorial urn designed by his architectural partner Calvert Vaux. It was installed on the National Mall outside the Smithsonian Institute in 1856, four years after his untimely death (Figure 6). Downing was commissioned by Western New Yorker and U.S. president Millard Fillmore to design the National Mall. Although Downing completed the Mall's design, its construction was never completed. The portion constructed from Downing's design was later obliterated by a subsequent redesign of the

Mall. The urn is the solitary visual reminder of Downing's contribution to the National Mall. But it is impossible to get Downing's sense of place on the National Mall, with its classical design that displaced Downing's original naturalistic design. My continued quest to find places that had connections to Downing took me, not surprisingly, to the eastern shore of the Hudson River.



Figure 7. Entrance gate and gatehouse at Springside, Poughkeepsie, NY. Photo by D. Granville, September 2013.

Against the backdrop of the storied Hudson River valley, which has inspired authors such as Washington Irving as well as the great Hudson River Movement painters, was the hope of finding Downing's spirit. After a long journey from the Pocono Mountains, my partner David and I entered Springside, the country estate of Matthew Vassar in Poughkeepsie. It remains the most intact, accessible, and best documented example of Downing's landscape design commissions. We were very hungry, having been on the road for several hours. We entered Springside through the main entrance (Figure 7). It was a beautiful afternoon. We parked our auto near the gatehouse, a Gothic Revival structure that is the only fully preserved structure at Springside (it is privately owned). We ate a picnic lunch and enjoyed stretching out on a blanket after our journey. We were the only living souls there. After resting for a bit, we began an exploratory hike of the approximately 20 acre site.



Figure 8. Exploring ruins of Matthew Vassar's cottage at Springside, September 2013.

It was here I felt for the first time Downing's sense of place and I learned something about historic preservation. Springside is at once peaceful, lovely, educational, inspiring, and yet at the same time melancholic. It is undeniably beautiful and a testament to the efforts of preservationists who fought to keep the majority of the estate's "pleasure grounds" intact, safe from development that would have destroyed not only the site's natural charms, but most certainly Downing's sense of place. A kiosk filled with brochures enabled us to embark on a self-guided tour augmented by placards placed along Springside's walking trails. The site was largely intact, with most of the estate's buildings preserved until the late 1960s, when fires of suspicious origins began to claim them one by one as the site began to be eyed for residential development. Most of the worst damage occurred after the site was made a National Historic Landmark in 1969. In 1976, when Springside's main attraction, Vassar's "cottage," was threatened with obliteration, preservationists dismantled some of it and removed its façade. A portion of the cottage's façade is now on display at the New York Museum in Albany. Ruins of the cottage still remain at Springside, a ghostly reminder of its former glory.



Figure 9. Stonehenge at Springside, September 2013.

In addition to the existence of the spring that inspired its name, Downing's landscape design, and ruins of buildings (Figure 8), there are other reminders of Springside's Victorian past. "Stone Henge," a rocky knoll, was a favorite spot of Victorian-era picnickers. We found initials carved into the rocks in the 1870s by the Whitehouse family, who lived at Springside after the Vassars (Figure 9). We could easily imagine people over a century ago at Springside dining al fresco, just as David and I had done just a few hours earlier. While it was troubling to see the loss of the buildings, it was reassuring to know Springside had been so well documented that some of the buildings could be reconstructed in the future and Downing's vision restored. Still, even in its current condition, I could easily imagine Downing walking the grounds, designing an artful landscape inspired by the site's natural features. Visiting Springside was an enriching experience, but there was another site nearby we visited and where I keenly felt a sense of place with Downing.

The next day, David and I made a trip to Montgomery Place at Annandale-On-Hudson. An early nineteenth century estate on the Hudson River north of Poughkeepsie, it contains a mansion built by Janet Livingston Montgomery. Montgomery Place is a memorial to Janet's late husband, General Richard Montgomery, the Revolutionary War hero who was killed at the Battle of Quebec. The mansion was redesigned by Downing's architectural collaborator, A.J. Davis, who designed an outdoor room to integrate the classically designed mansion with nature. A.J. Downing collaborated on the estate's landscape development with Janet's sister-in-law, Louise Livingston; Louise's daughter Cora; and Cora's husband, Thomas Barton. Downing designed an arboretum on the mansion's lawn, which remains largely intact. Touring the mansion's interior, particular attention was paid to the dining room, where Downing frequently met with Cora Barton on planned improvements to grounds of the approximately 400 acre estate. With its fine state of preservation, Montgomery Place is perhaps the best interior location to experience Downing's sense of place. It is easy to imagine him in the dining room with its

enormous windows overlooking the Hudson River. Downing's presence could also be felt in the ornate Gothic Revival style bookcase in the mansion's library.



Figure 10. Osage Orange tree planted from A.J. Downing's nursery in 1845, at Montgomery Place, Annandale-On-Hudson, September 2013.

After we toured the mansion, David and I hiked the grounds, which included both wild and cultivated areas. The highlight of the hike was seeing an Osage Orange tree on the grounds that originated from Andrew Jackson Downing's nursery in Newburgh. Downing frequently wrote about the virtues of the ornamental Osage Orange tree and it was indeed beautiful to behold (Figure 10). Downing sold the tree to Louise Livingston and it was planted in autumn 1845 (Haley, 1988, pp. 29, 31). No doubt it was seen numerous times by A.J. Downing when he visited Montgomery Place and wrote about the estate in an October 1847 *Horticulturist* article entitled "A Visit to Montgomery Place." It was thrilling to see the tree and experience its living history, a direct connection to Downing from the 1840s. Seeing it led me to recall Allentown's Sycamore tree and consider Buffalo's Re-Tree efforts. How many trees will survive into the twenty-second century? Will future Buffalonians fondly recall the efforts of volunteers to reforest Buffalo after the October 2006 storm?

Evidence of A.J. Downing's architectural influence in Buffalo and sense of place has been observed in a rather abstract, once-removed way. Downing was a proponent of the Gothic Revival style of architecture, and while Buffalo has lost most of its mid- nineteenth century examples of the style, there are still a few which remain. Buffalo's most prized example is St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, designed by Richard Upjohn in 1849 and designated a National Historic Landmark.



Figure 11. The Gothic Revival Richard Heath cottage at 60 Arlington Place, Buffalo NY, December 2013.

Within Allentown, the structure that owes its architectural origins to A.J. Downing is 60 Arlington Park. The romantically enchanting green space was dedicated as city park land in 1866 and originally called Wadsworth Park, named for a popular mayor of Buffalo, James Wadsworth. The housing which sprang up around the green suggested country comforts and, even today, Arlington Park delivers the sense of another world removed from the bustle of the commercial streets just beyond. Fitting in perfectly with the park's pastoral atmosphere, no. 60, is one of Buffalo's most picturesque residences, built in 1867 by Richard Heath, a stair builder by trade. The house is Buffalo's best remaining example of the Gothic Revival style cottages that were built in rural and suburban America. With its distinctive vertical board-and-batten siding, steeply pitched roof, deep eaves, and boldly decorative barge board, A.J. Downing promoted these cottages as an ideal American architectural residential style (Figure 11).

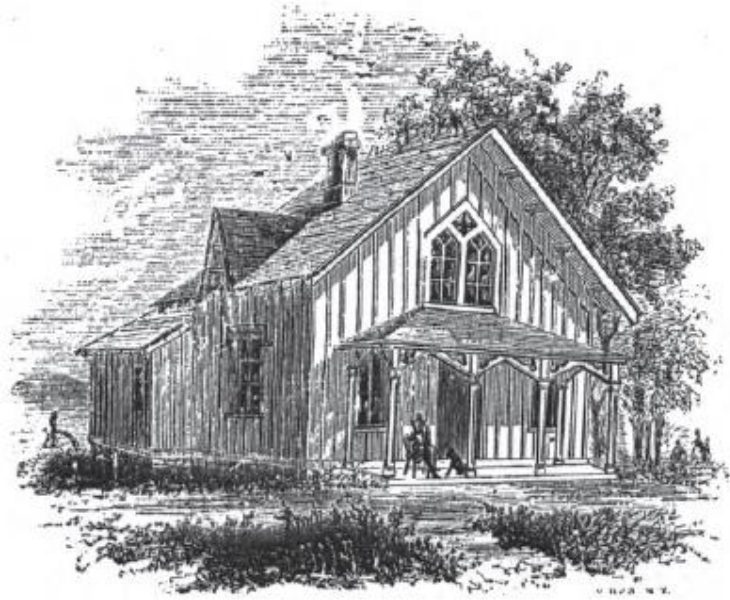


Figure 12. Lewis Allen's Farm Cottage Design IV from *Rural Architecture*, 1852.

Built about 1867, the Richard Heath Cottage displays similarity to “Farm Cottage Design IV” in Lewis Allen’s *Rural Architecture* (Allen L. F., *Rural Architecture*, 1852, p. 226). Allen’s design is shown in Figure 12.



Figure 13. Downing's Small Bracketed Cottage from the *Architecture of Country Houses*, 1850.

The Heath Cottage also vaguely resembles A.J. Downing’s “Design II – Small Bracketed Cottage” in his *Architecture of Country Houses* (Figure 13). However, most of Downing’s houses had their front elevation oriented along its lengthier side. Interestingly, although Allen’s Design IV is a farm cottage, its principal elevation was oriented along the shorter width side of the building and may have reflected a

common Buffalo house siting orientation with which Allen was familiar. Buffalo is a city whose residential quarters are constructed with detached houses built on narrow, but long, building lots. This style is most often associated with Midwestern cities and is very different from the types of row houses found in Eastern cities. The homes built on Buffalo's Arlington Park, along with nearby Day's Park, exemplify concepts promoted by Downing, the integration of residential housing with nature within an urban or suburban environment. After returning from England in 1850, Downing recommended the building of houses near parks and extolled the appeal of doing so when he stated that an owner of a dwelling near a park would have "...realized, as you see, the perfection of a residence in town, viz., a country-house in the midst of a great park, which is itself in the midst of a great city. In these favored sites the owners have the luxury of quiet and rural surroundings, usually confined to the country, with the whole of the great world of May Fair and politics within ten or twenty minutes' walk" (Downing A. , 1974).

In 1853, Allen pursued landscape ideas from Downing's contemporaries such as Englishman Charles Smith. Allen published Smith's work *Landscape Gardening* and added his own notes for implementation on American soil. Advocating the creation of residential pleasure-grounds such as Arlington Park, Smith stated: "Allied, in some respects, to public parks, are the gardens which are formed in squares, and other open places in towns, and in front of streets. These grounds, however humble they may seem, are very beneficial to the population around them; and they ought, therefore, to enter more into our street arrangements than they do at present. They serve to spread the inhabitants of large cities over a wider surface, they increase the purity of the air, and act, in short, as miniature parks" (Smith C. H., 1853, p. 228).

While the houses on Arlington Park may have been built after the Civil War and at least 15 years after Downing's death, his influence in Buffalo was still significant as evidenced by this 1868 advertisement that featured "Design II - English or Rural Gothic Style" from *Cottage Residences* (1842).

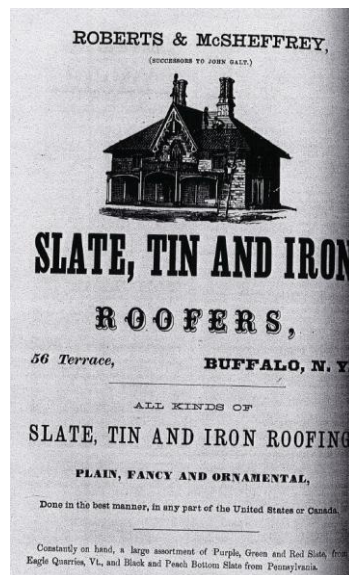




Figure 14. The 1851-3 Italian villa Orrin B. Titus house at 561 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY. December 2013.

Another house that represents Downing's ideals is the brick manse at 561 Franklin Street (Figure 14). It is a unique Allentown example of a cross-gable bracketed Italian villa, one of only a handful found in Buffalo today. Constructed between 1851 and 1853, the mansion's design was inspired by the irregularly massed farmhouses found in Campagna, Italy. The style was popularized by Downing, who praised the Italian villa's capability to awaken "emotions of the beautiful or picturesque" and express "the elegant culture and variety of accomplishment of the retired citizen of the world." Downing believed the Italian villa's asymmetry would appeal to those who relished "the higher beauties of the art growing out of variety."

The location of 561 Franklin also suits Downing's preference of where an Italian villa should be built. According to Downing, the style "expresses not wholly the spirit of country life nor of town life, but something between both, and which is a mingling of both" (Downing A. J., *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 1850, p. 286). Sited on one of the most desirable and expansive lots in Buffalo at the time, 561 Franklin Street was a suburban retreat when built. During the mid-nineteenth century, Buffalo's aptly-named northern boundary of North Street, along with Delaware Avenue, were populated by Buffalo's wealthiest citizens who resided in mansions surrounded by manicured pleasure grounds. Originally, 561 Franklin Street's grounds extended from Franklin Street to North Pearl Street, where its stables were located. Its private grounds also included a large, manicured greensward north of the house (the area now known as Sisti Park).

Constructed of brick with a cut-limestone foundation, the 7,000 square-foot mansion's most prominent architectural feature is its central gable. Its shallow-pitched roof extends far beyond its exterior walls, creating deep eaves accentuated with heavy scrolled brackets. Craftsmanship abounds in small details; even the chimneys are ornamental: twin recessed round arches mimicking the front gable windows proclaim the Victorian bricklayer's art. On the home's north side is its most distinguishing architectural feature: a four-story square campanile that unifies the various design elements of the

mansion. Downing felt the tower was critical to the success of the Italian villa design and said it conveyed power, elevation, boldness, and dignity.

During the twentieth century, the mansion was featured in the exhibit *Buffalo Architecture 1816-1940* at the Albright Art Gallery in January 1940, curated by the preeminent twentieth-century architectural historian and professor Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Jr. He proclaimed the mansion had aged well, and its style was “more satisfying to us to-day than the heavier, more formal and ornamental Renaissance and Gothic types.”



Figure 15. Downing's Italian villa from 1850's *Architecture of Country Houses*.

No. 561 Franklin Street is similar in scale to “Design XXII – A Villa in the Italian Style” found in A.J. Downing’s *The Architecture of Country Houses*. It is shown in Figure 15.



Figure 16. A.J. Downing's 1842 Italian villa design from *Cottage Residences*.

No. 561 Franklin Street also bears design similarities to A.J. Downing’s “Design VI – A Villa in the Italian Style Bracketed” in *Cottage Residences*, shown in Figure 16. However, in the case of 561 Franklin

Street, the campanile is placed in the rear of the home's wing, likely to take advantage of its vistas overlooking its private pleasure grounds to the north.



Figure 17. Davis house at 172 Summer Street, Buffalo, NY.

In Buffalo, the house that follows A.J. Downing's "Design VI" most closely is the Italian villa found a block north of Allentown, the circa-1860 Thaddeus Davis home at 172 Summer Street. While these structures embody the spirit of A.J. Downing's writings, a more direct sense of place can be experienced within Buffalo's Allentown neighborhood and with Downing's associations with Lewis Falley Allen.

Long before gardening advocacy organizations such as Garden Walk and Buffalo in Bloom were created, the Buffalo Horticultural Society existed. It was formed in June 1845; its members included Buffalo citizens with an interest in ornamental, vegetable, and fruit gardening. Lewis Allen was elected the Society's first president and a month later, its members held their first fair and exhibit at Arthur McArthur's garden on Main at Eagle Streets. Among those who participated was Allentown residents Mrs. Israel Hatch and her daughters, who lived at the corner of College and Cottage Streets. The Hatches provided cut flowers from their ample gardens for the fair. Built circa 1845, the Hatch house is extant and one of the few remaining from members of the early days of the Buffalo Horticultural Society (Clinton, 1846). The formation of the Society may have been influenced by the popularity of A.J. Downing's *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America*, (1841), *Cottage Residences*, (1842), and *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America*, (1845) (written by A.J.

Downing in consultation with Charles Downing, and with later editions greatly revised and co-authored by Charles). The Buffalo Horticultural Society was the second in New York State to be formed and at the time, proper horticulture was confined to the banks of the Hudson River and New York City neighborhoods (Coppock, *On the Progress of Horticulture in Western New-York*, 1852).

In addition to being president of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, Allen was active in the state-wide New York State Agricultural Society. In addition to Allen, the society's members included Charles and A.J. Downing. In 1847, A.J. Downing became a member of the New York State Agricultural Society's fruit committee, of which Lewis Allen was chairman (Tucker, 1847). On March 11, 1847, the fruit committee nominated Downing's *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America*, as the established authority of the NYS Agricultural society, in classifying the varieties and nomenclature of fruits in their future exhibitions (Downing A. J., *NY State Agricultural Society*, 1847). At the annual meeting of the NYS Agricultural Society on January 19, 1848, Allen became the organization's president for 1848 (*New York State Agricultural Society*, 1848, p. 59). As president and chairman of its fruit committee, Lewis Allen had ambitious plans to showcase Buffalo to the entire east coast.

North American Pomological Convention, Buffalo 1848

1848 proved to be an important year for Allen and the New York State Agricultural Society. At the February 9, 1848 meeting of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, Allen stepped down as president, a post he held since its inception three years earlier. Music Professor William R. Coppock (1807-1863) took over the reins as president. The society thanked Allen for "the able, impartial and energetic manner in which he... discharged the duties of his office" (*Buffalo Horticultural Society*, 1848).

Freed from his responsibilities as president of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, Allen planned an ambitious pomological convention and New York State Fair in Buffalo in September that year. As former president of the Erie County Agricultural Society, Allen had the necessary experience when he organized county fairs in 1842 and 1843 on the grounds of Dr. Ebenezer Johnson's estate on Delaware Avenue (now known as Johnson Park).

The pomological convention took place on September 1, 2, and 4; the Fair on September 5, 6, and 7. Among the notable horticulturalists who journeyed to Buffalo were brothers Andrew Jackson and Charles Downing (Dyer, *Pomological Convention - First Day*, 1848). By 1848, A.J. Downing was the nation's most celebrated expert in landscape gardening, architectural taste, and fruits. Charles was born in July 1802, and was just two years younger than Lewis Allen, although Charles was 13 years older than A.J. (born in October 1815). Although the Downing brothers were in Buffalo for about one week and had a free day on Sunday September 3, 1848, I have yet to discover where they stayed or what other activities they participated in Buffalo, most notably on Sunday.

The three-day pomological convention held on Friday September 1, Saturday September 2, and Monday, September 4 was the first of its kind. It was held in Buffalo's Common Council chamber, shown in Figure 18. At the time, the city government offices, including the council chamber, were located on

the second floor above the very lively and famous Terrace Market located on Main Street at the Terrace (City Hall, 1850).



Figure 18. The Terrace as it would have appeared when visited by A.J. Downing in 1848. The towered building to the right of the image is the Terrace Market. On the second floor was where the pomological convention meeting was held. The building was constructed in the 1830s and demolished in 1853. *Picture Book of Earlier Buffalo.*

The meeting was called to order by president of the New York State Agricultural Society, Lewis F. Allen. Millard Fillmore, then comptroller of New York State, was in Buffalo during the convention (Dyer, Pomological Convention - Second Day, 1848). At the convention, various committees were appointed. The fruit committee included Charles Downing as well as Buffalonians Benjamin Hodge and Charles Tainter, who lived on Delaware Avenue near Barker Street.

The convention was attended by nearly 60 men, from 14 states and Canada. Of all the exhibitors at the convention, Charles Downing exhibited the most apples with 132 varieties, as well as 24 varieties of pears. A.J. Downing exhibited 11 varieties of apples, 11 varieties of pears, 5 varieties of peaches, 2 varieties of nectarines, and 7 varieties of plums (Dyer, Pomological Convention - Third Day, 1848). A list of the fruits exhibited by A.J. and Charles Downing, along with convention notes is contained in the Appendix.

Particularly noteworthy of fruits exhibited at the Buffalo pomological convention is the Bartlett pear, exhibited by Charles Downing. The pear originated in England, but in America was named for Enoch Bartlett, who imported the first tree near Boston in 1799. Allen described an interesting anecdote of their introduction to the Buffalo market in 1851. Based on the story, Allen must have increased his production of Bartlett pears because in 1855, Allen's Bartlett trees were described as "old," and their fruit as "large," and "touching each other on the branches, bending almost like weeping willows under their loads" (Bartlett Pears, 1855). Allen gave a detailed description of the pear's introduction to Buffalo markets when he said:

Last September [1851], I had a few Bartlett pears, beyond what were wanted in the house, and as I had never seen any in the Buffalo fruit shops, concluded to take them into town, and try them. I went to one of the first dealers, and asked him what he would pay for Bartlett pears. 'Bartlett pears!' exclaimed he, 'what are they?' 'Why the very best pears of the season, I replied; 'look at them.' 'Well they *do* look good,' he continued, 'but they won't *measure* any more to the bushel than smaller ones? I buy plenty of good pears from the country for six shillings to a dollar a bushel.' 'Now, my fine fellow, I want you to take these pears, and sell them at *three* cents a-piece, and for the largest do you get *four*, or keep them till I call for them.' There had never been a Bartlett pear in market. 'I'll try it,' he replied, 'but I never could more than *one* cent for a pear, and I guess you'll have to take them away again.' This was about 10 o'clock in the morning. The side-walk was full of people, passing along, and I retreated out of the way, to see the trial of my Bartletts, which stood near the door, the basket in which they were, partially turned up on its side to show them temptingly. 'What pears are those?' asks one, who stops to look at them. 'Mr. Allen calls them Bartletts, but I never saw any before. He says they are *first rate*.' 'Well, I'll try one. What's the price?' 'Three cents a piece and *nothing shorter*! So he told me.' 'Well, that's *loud*! But I'll try one any way.' He tasted it. 'that *is* a pear! I'll take half a dozen. This is the only *pear* I ever tasted in Buffalo.' 'What are these?' asked another. 'Bartlett pears.' 'Ah! Well, my wife has told me a dozen times how good Bartlett pears were. Lend me a basket and I'll take home a dozen. What's the price?' 'Three cents a piece.' 'Confounded dear! But they'll please my wife and the children.' I saw the customers thicken, and left, thinking the experiment would do. Next day I called again 'Have you any more Bartlett pears?' inquired the shop-keeper. 'No. Are they all gone?' 'Gone, yes: and I could have peddled out twenty bushels, by the half dozen, if I only had them.' I was stopped a dozen times that morning, by the dealers, to know if I had any more Bartlett pears; and could have sold 500 bushels while they were in season, at \$3 to \$4 a bushel, if only I had them (Allen L. F., Notes on Pears, 1852).

The New York State Agricultural Society Fair

Immediately following the conclusion of the pomological convention, the three-day New York State Agricultural Society Fair took place in Buffalo. It was held on a site originally called Walden Hill, but was most recently used as a military barracks and called the Buffalo Barracks. It was bounded by Delaware Avenue, North Street, Main Street, and Allen Street, before North Pearl and Franklin Streets had been cut through. In total, the area of the fairgrounds was about 16 acres and is shown in Figure 19.

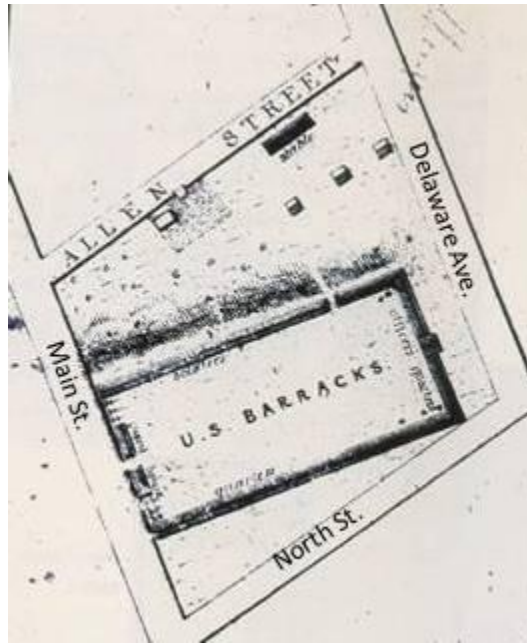


Figure 19. Map of Buffalo Barracks, 1838-1846.

In 1838, Ebenezer Walden leased the property to the federal government for use as a military post. Known as the Buffalo or Poinsett Barracks, the Officer's Quarters, was built about 1838 by three companies of the U.S. Artillery and U.S. Army engineers under Winfield Scott Hancock. In 1846, the lease was terminated and most of the buildings were dismantled, but the Officers' Quarters structure was spared. In 1847, a portion of the lot, including the Officers' Quarters, was sold to Judge Joseph G. Masten, who owned the property for 10 years and lived in it as his residence. At the time, the primary entrance was on the building's eastern side facing Main Street. Masten moved to the house from East Swan Street and lived in the house by 1848 (Hurst, 1973). Masten called his new estate Chestnut Lawn.

The fairgrounds were enclosed by a board fence it contained three great tents which served as exhibition halls, and a fourth tent used for the event's address. When visitors passed through the front gate from Delaware Avenue, they were immediately impressed with a display of mid-nineteenth century technological innovation: a brick-making machine that turned out 2,000 perfect bricks each hour. The first hall that the visitor entered was Implements of Agricultural Hall, which measured 150 x 70 feet and contained the latest innovations in agricultural implements and machinery. The next tent was the Dairy Hall, which measured 150 x 60 feet and contained many cheese and milk products. But the biggest attraction and largest tent was the third: Floral Hall which measured 120 x 80 feet. It contained fruits, flowers, and vegetables. In the center of the tent was an octagonal-shaped Temple of Evergreens, 22 feet high and 17 feet in diameter. In the center of the temple's interior was a graceful statue of Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers and spring. The artistic success of Floral Hall was credited to the "excellent taste, energy, and perseverance of the ladies of Buffalo" (Annual Exhibition of NY State Agricultural Society, 1848). On the sides of the tent were shelves covered with peaches, pears, apples, plums, and quinces (The State Fair, 1848).

A.J. and Charles Downing not only attended the North American Pomological Convention, but also exhibited fruit in Floral Hall at the Fair. Charles exhibited a variety of apples, while A.J. exhibited pears, nectarines, peaches, apples, and plums. Lewis Allen also exhibited a variety of apples (New York State Agricultural Society, 1849, p. 107). In addition, Charles Downing served as a judge of the foreign (outside of NYS) fruit exhibition (New York State Agricultural Society, 1849, p. 108).

Behind these halls towards Main Street was the livestock exhibition. A Horse Circus included several fine stallions. Cattle and other animals were behind the Horse Circus. The fair was a resounding success for Buffalo and was the largest public gathering in Buffalo to that point. Fine weather with mild temperatures and clear skies encouraged attendance, with crowds estimated 40,000-50,000 (New York State Agricultural Society, 1849). During the final evening of the Fair, Floral Hall was cleared and served as a venue for music and dancing. At the conclusion of the week's activities, Lewis F. Allen and William R. Coppock, the events' chief organizers, were recognized for their successful accomplishment (State Fair, 1848). While on the surface the event was an unqualified success, the event did bring to the fore a growing discontent between the prominence of the eastern pomologists, represented by A.J. Downing versus those in the west, represented by Lewis F. Allen.

The Fruit Feud

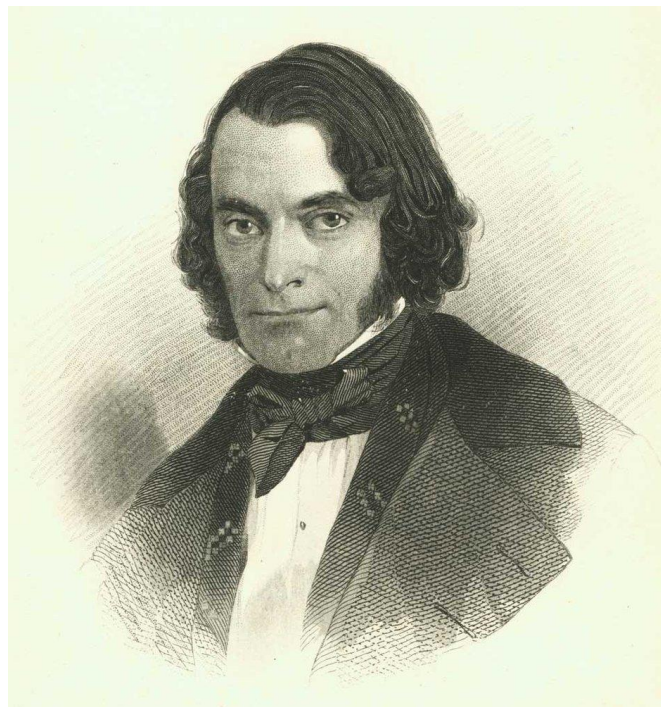


Figure 20. Andrew Jackson Downing.

There can be no doubt the residents of Buffalo, like many Americans, were enamored with Andrew Jackson Downing. Young, energetic, handsome, and passionate about his causes, he fascinated his followers with his charisma and mystery (Figure 20). Author George William Curtis recalled when he first met Downing he was greeted at the door of his "elegant mansion," and described Downing as a

“tall, slight Spanish gentleman, with black hair worn very long, and dark eyes” which he fixed upon his visitors “with a searching glance” (Tatum, 1989, p. 31).

On August 26, 1846, in the month following the inaugural issue of *The Horticulturist*, the Buffalo Horticultural Society adopted a resolution endorsing A.J. Downing and his works. Lewis Allen, then president of the Society, wrote on its behalf that it: “welcomes with great satisfaction the appearance of ‘The Horticulturist,’ edited by A.J. Downing, under whose capable and efficient management, it most confidently anticipates a most useful and honorable career, in reforming, as well as improving, the rural taste of our land. With entire confidence in the ability of the work, we commend it to the attention and patronage of the public,” and the Society resolved to “adopt the authority of Mr. Downing in his ‘Fruits and Fruit Trees of America,’ as their standard in the classification and nomenclature of their fruits” (Allen L. F., Buffalo Horticultural Society, 1846).

Perhaps because of *The Horticulturist*, or the infectious enthusiasm for gardening shown by the members of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, a letter was written to A.J. Downing proclaiming that in Buffalo, “a spirit has been excited for the pursuit of this beautiful portion of [horticultural] labor which bids fair to produce important results, materially enhancing our pleasures and comforts... Many individuals whom a year or two since scarcely thought of putting a seed in the ground, or transplanting a single shrub, now show very respectable contributions... With such a spirit as this... we may reasonably look for the time, and that not far distant, when Fruit and Flowers of the finest and most choice kinds shall be no rarity in our private gardens, and our markets be stocked with as fine specimens of Fruits and Vegetables as that of any other quarter of the Union” (Thomas C. , 1846).

Buffalo pride, and what can only be interpreted as a gushing fan letter, was sent in autumn 1847 by the Buffalo Horticultural Society to A.J. Downing. It hinted at the possible New York State Agricultural Fair to be held in Buffalo the following year, with an implied invitation for A.J. Downing to attend. William R. Coppock, then president of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, wrote to Downing:

...it is to the excellent horticultural and agricultural works of our country, (and first among these I must number the Horticulturist, Fruit and Fruit Trees, &c., Cottage Residences, &c.) that we owe much of the impulse towards rural improvement now evinced here. An intelligent friend from New-York, whom I drove through and about the city lately, remarked, ‘Downing seems to be well known to you all here. Your cottage designs - your mode of painting - your gardening, all bespeak a familiarity with his works.’ And there are many here not personally known to you, who nevertheless, almost claim you as a friend, and delight to converse with you through the columns of the Horticulturist. Great interest is manifest in the agricultural and horticultural societies of our own, and the adjacent counties, in urging the claims of this city to be the place of holding the State Agricultural Fair for 1848. Numerous resolutions have been adopted, and committees appointed to farther this object, which we trust will be favorably received by our eastern friends (Coppock, Horticulture at Buffalo, 1847).

By early 1848, it was well-known that Buffalo was chosen for the New York State Agricultural Fair of 1848. But the seeds of discontent were sown by summer 1848. The New York State Agricultural Society planned a three-day pomological convention to immediately precede the fair. It was ambitious, but the combination of the two events would essentially be a week-long celebration of agriculture, agricultural technology, and horticulture. However, the Buffalo organizers learned of a rival pomological convention to be held a month later in New York. Benjamin Hodge, one of the officers of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, wrote A.J. Downing and asked him to postpone the New York convention until 1849. Hodge wrote:

...a number of fruit-growers from the east and from the west, have assured us that they would be present... This call [for the Buffalo convention] was made before any notice had appeared elsewhere. The convention is to assemble on Friday previous to the coming off of the State Fair, and Cattle Show, also to be held at Buffalo. There cannot be a doubt that a very large number will be present, and take part in the deliberations of this convention, and that much good will result from this convocation.

Under these circumstances, I would beg leave to suggest, that we hold but one convention this year, and that the convention for next year be held in New-York. What say you... to this suggestion?

Downing did not acquiesce to Hodge's request, but instead gave reasons why the New York convention should take place, and invited delegates from Western New York to attend. Downing said:

...materials can be assembled at New-York for a much more complete pomological convention than at any other point in the country. The pomological convention at Buffalo will no doubt be a highly interesting one, but it is impossible, from the position of Buffalo, and the comparatively recent attention to horticulture in the west, that the same amount of experience in pomology can be concentrated there as in a convention near the seaboard, which will be mainly composed of the most experienced pomologists of New-England, New-York, New-Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Let our western friends *crystalize* their experience at the Buffalo convention, and afterwards, by an able delegation, add it to the accumulated facts which will be presented at the New-York convention (Downing A. J., *The Pomological Convention*, 1848).

While Downing appeared to downplay Buffalo's pomological convention in preference to the one planned for New York, he nonetheless wrote a glowing notice of the State Fair and convention planned for Buffalo:

Unusual preparations have, we learn, been made... for the approaching Fair of the State Agricultural Society which is to come off at Buffalo... The Buffalo Horticultural Society, backed by all the active intelligence of the amateur and professional horticulturists of the western part of the State, will no doubt lend their aid to render the horticultural department of the show worthy of the occasion. When such zealous devotees of the art

as Professor Coppock, the president of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, L. F. Allen, Esq., the president of the State Agricultural Society, Col. Hodge, &c., undertake the management of a Fair of this kind, it can scarcely fail to be highly interesting.

The *Pomological Convention*, which is to be held at Buffalo in connection with the fair, will, we understand, be largely attended by horticulturists from various parts of the country, and will no doubt be an assemblage of more than ordinary interest (Downing A. J., *The New-York Agricultural Fair*, 1848).

Although A.J. Downing may have frowned on the Buffalo event, he and his brother Charles not only attended the Buffalo convention, but presented large collections of their fruit. The Downing brothers' attendance was noted not only in the local press, but also in *The Horticulturist*. Interestingly, it also listed those in attendance who actively took place in the pomological discussions at the convention. Charles Downing was noted, but A.J. Downing was conspicuously absent from actively taking part in discussions, despite his attendance at the convention (Thomas J. J., 1848, p. 192).

If A.J. Downing didn't actively take part in the discussions, it may have been because he didn't recognize the authority of the North American Pomological Convention. For example, in Downing's *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America*, he described a particular apple as "Early Harvest." It was reported at the convention, that considerable discussion arose relative to the apple's name. Mr. Thomas proposed to rename it "Yellow Harvest," and delegates at the Buffalo convention decided to change the name. That didn't go over well with A.J. Downing, and in all fairness, with other pomological authorities. Famed Massachusetts horticulturist and nurseryman Charles Mason Hovey, who attended the Fair, but not the pomological convention, said of the name change: "This vote certainly must have been without the least reflection. If pomological conventions are to change names of years' standing in this way, why, our nomenclature would be 'confusion worse confounded'" (Hovey, 1848, p. 539).

Despite Benjamin Hodge's request to the contrary, a month after Buffalo's pomological convention took place, the rival New York City convention was held as planned. If the Buffalo convention was associated with Allen and Coppock, the NYC convention was closely associated with the Massachusetts Horticultural Association and Andrew Jackson Downing. Called the American Congress of Fruit Growers, the only delegate in attendance from the Buffalo Horticultural Society was R. L. Allen (Proceedings of the National Association of Fruit Growers, 1848, p. 19). This was likely Richard L. Allen (1803-1869), Lewis Allen's younger brother.

Following the conclusion of both conventions, the issue of the Buffalo convention's attempt to rename fruit obviously bothered A.J. Downing so much that he wrote a lengthy editorial article on the topic. He said:

It is... very clear that, in a country so broad and so various in its climate as the United States, no invariable rules can be laid down by any local society, convention, or writer, for the whole country.

But it is also equally clear, in the progressing advancement of a subject so full of details and perplexities as that of pomology, that there are some things which ought to be performed, and yet which cannot be performed by local, sectional or state associations. Among these, for example, are establishing standard names of certain sorts, known by a dozen different titles in different parts of the country. A state convention (no matter what title it bears,) for instance, may decide, like that at Buffalo, that the apple generally known as the 'Early Harvest,' shall be called the 'Yellow Harvest;'... but it amounts, after all, only to a resolution.

After reiterating the Buffalo convention was, in Downing's opinion, only a regional convention, he made his case for a single, authoritative national pomological association. Downing continued: "Last October such a body was convened in New-York, under the title of the National Convention of Fruit-growers." Downing may have stepped on a few toes when he described it as: "by far the largest and most intelligent body of horticulturists ever assembled in America" (Downing A. J., *Pomological Conventions*, 1849, p. 422).

A.J. Downing's article provoked Allen's ire and prompted his quick response, which Downing published the following month. Allen called Downing's article "manifestly unfair." Allen said although he was reluctant to appear in any public matter where a controversy is involved, he had to respond as a "mere matter of justice."

Allen took particular offense to A.J. Downing's offer to "gladly assist, in our humble way, every effort for horticultural progress in our State Society as long as its plans are kept within their proper limits where we feel certain, under the new board of officers, they will be confined." Allen believed Downing's comment was directed toward him since Allen had recently completed his term as president of the New York State Agricultural Society. In response to Downing's comment, Allen retorted: "I trust the State Agricultural Society will feel duly grateful to Mr. Downing for his patronizing grace to its destitute situation, and that he unfortunate peccadilloes of its late administration in treading on the forbidden ground of pomology may meet with the compassionate indulgence of an outraged community!"

Allen refused to concede and asserted the Society's new board of officers would pursue "the great agricultural interests of the state, even to the promotion of their pomology, as their predecessors have been in times past, albeit under this threatened displeasure." Allen concluded his rebuttal by charging that Downing wished to: "appropriate the entire pomological rule and action of the country to himself and a few others, and that no body emanating from any source than such as they may approve and control... shall be recognized." Of course, A.J. Downing could not let such a communication pass by without a retort. He said:

The Buffalo Convention was an especial hobby of Mr. Allen's and we see he is a little out of temper with us because we are only willing to give it credit for having been an excellent *State Convention* of fruit-growers.

Of the 'legitimacy and vitality' of the Buffalo Convention, as a State Convention, we have not the slightest doubt. And we are confident, not only that it was productive of much good, but that such a convention, held every year, at the State Agricultural Fair, will be of the great advantage to the community.

Now the Buffalo convention either was a national convention or it was not. If it assembled pursuant to the call of a state society only, it was clearly a state convention. And this, Mr. Allen then President of the society, declares to be the fact. That the presence of several distinguished pomologists from other states, who were partly attracted to Buffalo by the great Agricultural Fair, gave the Buffalo convention an 'odor of nationality' we admit, but it was only an odor.

We do not care the value of a crab whether such a convention meets in New-York or Buffalo, but we must discharge our duty nevertheless in pointing out the difference between a really national and a really local association (Allen L. F., Pomological Conventions, 1849).

Mine is Bigger

Three months after the heated exchange between Downing and Allen appeared in *The Horticulturist*, Downing published a lengthy article Allen wrote in May 1849 about the extensive orchards contained within his Grand Island farm, Allenton. The timing is interesting because it took place about the same time A.J. Downing's Newburgh nursery and orchard holdings were being contracted. Downing's father, Samuel, opened the family nursery about 1810 and it was the first successful nursery in Orange County. When Samuel died in 1822, Charles assumed active management of the nursery for the family's benefit. About 1832 Andrew Jackson joined Charles in the family business and it was called "C. & A.J. Downing Nursery."

In 1837 Charles and A.J.'s business relationship changed and Charles Downing purchased a 13 acre plot a mile north of Newburgh where he built a home and established his own nursery. Lewis Allen's brother, Anthony B. Allen (1802-1892) visited A.J. Downing and Charles Downing's nurseries in 1843. Anthony Allen noted that Charles Downing grew fruit trees for wholesale purposes on his estate and marveled at Downing's system of classification and arrangement. Charles Downing's elaborate classification system prevented mistakes when he made tree sales (Allen A. B., 1844, p. 98).

The Downing nursery was split between three plots in Newburgh. Charles retained ownership of one of them, a 4½ acre plot that his father had left to him. Andrew also owned a 4½ acre plot, upon which he built his famous home in 1838. In addition to these two parcels, Charles and Andrew jointly owned a 2¾ acre plot (Schuyler, 1996, p. 24). A.J. Downing continued the family business under the name C. and A.J. Downing Highland Nurseries, and later Botanic Garden and Nurseries (Allen A. B., 1844, p. 97).

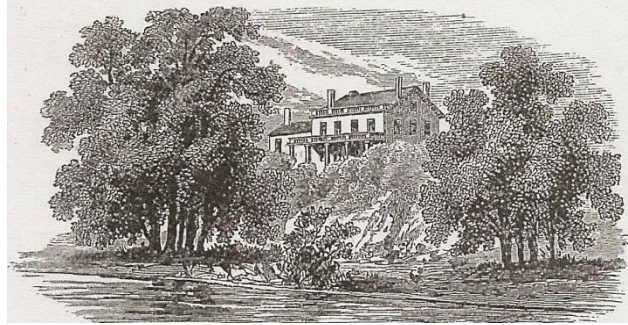


Figure 21. Lewis Allen's home on the Niagara River as it appeared in the 1860s.
From Lossing's *Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812*.

Due to financial distress which Andrew Jackson Downing experienced during the mid-1840s, the Downing brothers were forced to sell the nursery lot they held in common ownership to meet Andrew's creditors. A.J. Downing sold his nursery business in 1847 (Schuyler, 1996, p. 13). However, A.J. Downing continued to own his 4½ acre estate and work with his brother on Charles' 13 acre estate.

Still, Allen's farm and nursery holdings were mammoth in size when compared to the Downing brothers' orchards. In addition to Allen's 3¼ acre estate on the banks of the Niagara River between West Ferry and Breckenridge Streets where he lived, his primary farm, Allenton, contained approximately 800 acres during the late 1840s (Hodge, 1852). If it was the dispute with A.J. Downing over the pomological convention that prompted Allen to write about his orchards at Allenton, it was well worth it. An article submitted to *The Horticulturist*, it serves as an important mid-nineteenth century documentation of his farm. Allen noted that since the mid-1840s, he had planted thousands of fruit trees on his farm and had about the following number of trees, either planted or cultivated in his orchards:

- Apple 2,000
- Pear 1,000
- Quince 600
- Cherry 400
- Plum 300
- Peach 200

Allen said: "My farm is level... on the... south point of Grand Island... about six miles north of Buffalo and the outlet of Lake Erie." Allen described his soil as being part of the "Onondaga salt group'... a 'secondary' formation based on limestone, mostly a clayey loam, generally known here as a *limestone* soil..., with a subsoil at about a foot depth below the surface, of still reddish clay; dry yet fertile and strong..."

Allen described the climate at Allenton, with the temperature "ranging from 0, seldom but sometimes to 2 degrees below it in winter; up to 85°, and, but very seldom, to 90°... in summer. Surrounded by water, our fruits are hardly ever cut off by spring frosts, which is common to all the lake

region. Nights, influenced somewhat by the breezes of Lake Erie; [are] rather cooler in summer than the country a few miles east of us..."

Allen extolled the region's ability to produce extraordinary fruit and said Western New York "is probably the best for the perfect production of *all* their varieties, in *open* culture, of apples, pears, quinces, cherries, plums, peaches, grapes and melons, and the small fruits... [of] excellence of flavor, in the United States..."

If there were any who might have doubted such a boastful claim, Allen slyly used the provocation as a way to tempt *The Horticulturist's* readers to attend the New York State Agricultural Society's next pomological convention: "this assertion... will probably challenge the attention of many prominent and experienced of our country. But, 'come one, come all' to an exhibition of our northern fruits, then in season, at the Syracuse State Agricultural Exhibition, on 12th September next, where the North American Pomological Convention is to hold its next session; and we fear not to abide the result of a contest."

Allen then gave a detailed description of the many specific fruit tree varieties in Allenton's orchards, and the first he listed was "Yellow Harvest," the apple whose name provoked controversy within the rival authoritative pomological organizations. Allen refers to the apple by the name chosen by the North American Pomological Convention, much to the chagrin of A.J. Downing.

If Allen sensed he may have offended Downing with his reference to Yellow Harvest apple, Allen redeemed himself when he acknowledged Downing's scholarship. Allen praised a pear tree in his orchard as "the *best* winter pear I know; a strong, vigorous growing tree; a great, and *annual* bearer; and true to that variety, as described in Downing's book of fruits."

Allen acknowledged the importance of a fruit's name, and implied that there were financial ramifications resulting from the agreement of a fruit's name, or lack thereof:

I am not disposed to convince the public against their will, that a new fruit is better than an old one, merely because it is new when the old one is really excellent. On this I must tell you a story, and a true one. Two gentlemen residing in our fine Genesee fruit region, last fall sent, each, several barrels of Virgalieu pears to New-York to be sold. One of them called his pears the 'Virgalieu,' the only name *he* knew; the other, to be precise, marked his 'White Doyenné.' In a few weeks, the consignee returned an account of sales. The Virgalieus brought \$12 a barrel; the White Doyennés \$6. The seller gravely remarking, that they were both fine specimens of pear; but if the owner of the White Doyennés had only sent his Virgalieus as his neighbor did, he could have sold them for just as much! So much for a name... (Allen L. F., *Experiences in Orchard Fruit Culture*, 1849).

One final exchange on the size of fruit orchards between A.J. Downing and Lewis Allen took place when Allen contributed another brief article to *The Horticulturist* on root pruning. Downing responded, making allusions to the size of Allenton. Downing said Allen "is an *orchardist* on a large

scale, [who] does not see the great value of root pruning to amateurs who wish to grow 50 trees in a small garden, because they have very little room for each tree. To such, root pruning and pinching are invaluable” (Allen L. F., *Laying Fruit Grounds into Grass; versus Root Pruning*, 1849).

Downing and Allen Reconcile

Meanwhile, the pomological society associated with Lewis Allen (the North American Pomological Convention), met the following year (1849) in Syracuse, New York. Lewis Allen and Charles Downing both attended and Allen recalled Charles’ attempt to help Allen find the proper name of an unknown winter pear: “I supposed it to be the Glout Morceau... I presented it at the American Pomological Convention, at Syracuse, in 1849, to the inspection of Mssrs. Parsons of Flushing, Charles Downing and Mr. Saul, of Newburgh, and John J. Thomas, of Macedon – all good judges, and their opinion was that it was *not* the Glout Morceau, but *more like* the Beurre Rance” (Allen L. F., *Notes on Pears*, 1852).

A month later, the pomological society associated with A.J. Downing, the American Congress of Fruit Growers, met for the second time in New York City in 1849. That year, three delegates from the Buffalo Horticultural Society attended: Benjamin Hodge, Lewis Eaton, and Hiram Barton.

After two years of rivalry, both organizations desired unification and to pursue their common goals associated with the scientific study of pomology. A resolution for the union of the two conventions was introduced by Dr. Herman Wendell of Albany, who attended the 1849 meeting of the American Congress of Fruit Growers with that purpose in mind. The proposition for union met a hearty response from the congress which appointed a committee, headed by Andrew Jackson Downing, to confer with a committee from the North American Pomolgoical Convention. The conference of committees between the two organizations was held in late 1849. A.J. Downing presided and urged the “necessity of harmony among pomologists” (Schuyler, 1996, p. 111). At the meeting, it was reported that “the utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed” (*The American Pomological Society*, 1867, p. 314).

The following year, the two organizations combined and called themselves the American Pomological Congress and met in 1850 in Cincinnati. The western location was specifically chosen to demonstrate the significance of the country’s western pomologists. To show its support, the Buffalo Horticultural Society sent 16 delegates, an impressive number. Among those was Lewis F. Allen; it was the first time he attended a pomological convention that included the former rival eastern delegation.

Lewis Allen applauded the two organizations’ unification and even withdrew support of some conclusions derived at the earlier North American Pomological Conventions. Of the conventions, Allen said: “They have done much good, and I hope they will continue their proceedings... The mere *say-so* of one or two partial or interested parties, should not govern, and when decisions are so made, they are entitled to little weight... It is an old adage, that wise men *may* change their minds; fools *never* do” (Allen L. F., *The Orange Pear - Once More*, 1852).

Allen was obviously happy with the convergence of the two former rival pomological organizations and wrote: "I spent a delightful week in Cincinnati... it was... a week of hospitality, of kindness, and polite attentions from those residents with whom, together with some of my neighbors, and friends of my own state, I became acquainted" (Allen L. F., *The Isabella Grape - Its History, Etc.*, 1851).

Charles Downing attended the 1850 American Pomological Congress conference held in Cincinnati, however, his brother A.J. Downing did not attend. A.J.'s absence may have been attributed to his trip abroad to England. A.J. was in the process of establishing his architectural practice with his new partner, Calvert Vaux, who returned with him from London. Autumn 1850 was a busy season for A.J. Downing as he built an addition to his house which served as Downing & Vaux's architectural office. He also secured his first significant client and commission: Matthew Vassar's estate at Springside. Downing & Vaux's business continued to grow when in November 1850, A.J. Downing met with U.S. President (and Buffalonian) Millard Fillmore. The two met in Washington and A.J. Downing secured the largest commission of his career. Downing was hired to redesign of the National Mall, west of the Capitol Building. Both Downing and Fillmore were in Buffalo during the 1848 North American Pomological Congress and it is possible they may have met at that time. Millard Fillmore and his wife had a passion for gardening.

While A.J. Downing's busy schedule perhaps did not permit him to attend the October 1850 Pomological Congress conference in Cincinnati, he did meet with Lewis Allen a few months later. In January 1851 A.J. Downing and Lewis Allen met in Albany at the annual meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society. Each man represented their respective counties, Orange and Erie (New York State Agricultural Society, 1851).

Meanwhile, Allen continued to write articles which A.J. Downing published in *The Horticulturist*. One in particular, displayed their continued mutual respect for each other, even if they did not completely agree on issues. In February 1851, Allen wrote the article "Domestic Animals for Parks and Pleasure Grounds," which was published in that year's April issue of the *Horticulturist*. Downing said: "We are glad to have our notions of the advantages of introducing domestic animals into the ornamental park scenery of our country places, fortified by one of the most noted stock-breeders in the country, whose broad meadows on the Niagara river, give example for his and our precepts."

Allen began his article with a justification for the need to introduce domestic animals into parks and pleasure grounds:

In every populous part of the United States, and more particularly in the neighborhood of our large cities and towns, scattered far and wide, are seen imposing and costly houses, seated in large lawns and parks, planted out with noble trees, embellished with beautiful gardens, and expensive grounds, to say nothing of the various minor decorations, both of nature and art, set up or planted at much cost, and cared for at a heavy annual charge upon the proprietor merely as objects to gratify the taste, or to arrest the attention of the passer-by, to gaze at and admire. These, so far as they go,

are all very well; but, contrary to what is usually supposed, they fall far short of *completing* a country establishment as it should be; a pantomime in the landscape; not *speaking* to the heart like the living action and the moving beauty of animal life, which would other give effect and fullness to such much rural beauty and ornate embellishment, and make it just what it should be, the perfection of rural objects inartificially brought together, and filling up a complete picture.

Allen then described sheep and cattle which he believed were appropriate to meet his goal. However, Allen was critical of deer: “Deer, as in England, he cannot keep and if he could, they are a creature of no profit. Neither will our American fences hold them, and they are destructive to every young thing of vegetable growth within reach.”

Downing disagreed with Allen on this point, and spoke from authority having returned so recently from his trip to England. He responded: “We cannot quite agree... about the deer – unless his remarks apply to our wild deer. The deer of English parks are perfectly tame, and as easily kept within bounds as any of our cattle. We do not see why they should not be imported into our parks, as well as Short-horns.”

Allen concluded his article by painting a lovely picture of his experience and love of nature and alludes to conversations he had with Downing that expressed their common agreement on the topic of introducing animals into landscapes:

... convinced as I am, that in the United States we are most lamentably behind the times in this important appendage to our country establishments; and referring to a recent conversation with you on this subject, I thus ‘give tongue’ to my thoughts. And I will only add my entire conviction that he who seeks one of the highest enjoyments of country life, can do no better than to cultivate a taste, both in himself and in his family, for the appreciation of fine domestic animals, in which they will find some of their purest and least expensive pleasures. It is so with many who from entire indifference, have become enthusiasts in their love of them; and for myself – though it be egotism to say it – in my own island park of some hundreds of acres, I find no serener pleasure than with my honest shepherd dog at my side, to stroll out among my Short-horns, my Devons, and my South Downs, and amid the summer beauty of woods, and grass, and waters, to call them around me in their joyous fullness, and commune with their gentle natures as one entrusted by a kind Providence with the care of his subordinate creatures, and whose bounty in their beautiful creation, it would be guilt in me to neglect (Allen L. F., *Domestic Animals for Parks and Pleasure Grounds*, 1851).

Allen and Downing’s continued exchange in *The Horticulturist* is charming. A few months later, Allen wrote an article on grapes which Downing published. In it, Allen shared: “I was familiarly chatting not long since, at a dinner table over a glass of wine, with a distinguished American – I could tell his name, but for the thought that I were boasting of a great man’s acquaintance and friendship... ‘Don’t tell me of American wines,’ said he – ‘we have a thousand good things in America – more than any

where else – but we can't make good wines... In California... we may, in time, produce good wines... but for the present we must be content to grow cotton and wool, and our other valuable products for the wine countries of Europe, and let them grow wines for us in return.”

To this comment, Downing responded: “We have no reason, as yet, to disagree with Mr. [Daniel] Webster (for we presume, from having heard this remark before, that [Mr. Allen] refers to that gentleman)... But we understand from good authority, that California... has actually begun to produce excellent wines...” (Allen L. F., *The Isabella Grape - Its History, Etc.*, 1851).

While Allen and A.J. Downing appeared to have reconciled their differences, there seemed to be a need to explain Allen's literary tone to *The Horticulturist's* readers. Allen's friend and fellow Buffalo Horticultural Society member Benjamin Hodge wrote to Downing, and provided an explanation for Allen's behavior: “Mr. A[llen] and myself... speak and write rather pointedly, sometimes; a little sparring occasionally. But it is merely the spice of life, very like the Paddy and his wife – ‘a little bit of a jar now and then, makes us better friends’” (Hodge, 1852).



Figure 22. Lewis Allen's brothers Anthony and Richard founded *The American Agriculturist*, which featured one of A.J. Downing's cottages as its frontispiece.

While A.J. Downing remained editor of *The Horticulturist*, after 1850, he focused most of his energy on his architectural practice. Downing may have been surprised to learn Lewis Allen treaded on his architectural turf when Allen wrote the book *Rural Architecture* with assistance of Buffalo architects Otis & Brown in 1851 (published in 1852). While *Rural Architecture* was Allen's first full-length book on architecture, the Allen family had a long history with A.J. Downing on the subject. Lewis Allen's two younger brothers, Anthony and Richard, founded the New York City based periodical *The American*

Agriculturalist in 1842, four years before *The Horticulturist* began publication. In *The American Agriculturalist* May 1843 issue, Anthony and Richard reviewed A.J. Downing's new book, *Cottage Residences*. In their glowing review, they said: "We can not but express our unfeigned delight at the publication. Mr. Downing has fortunately deviated from the general routine of American architecture, and has come out boldly in favor of the old English; and we know of few more beautiful designs, to our taste, than he has given in this elegant work." The Allen brothers were fond of Downing's use of the Gothic Revival style, both for aesthetic and utilitarian purposes. Of the steeply pitched roofs found in the style, they said: "we think the large ample roof particularly necessary in our hot climate, to shade the walls and windows from the fervid sun. It is also the best roof to throw off the deluging rains that frequently fall here, and it assists greatly in keeping the walls dry, no small comfort in country houses, especially when built of stone or brick" (Allen & Allen, Cottages, 1843). The Allens so greatly admired *Cottage Residences* they selected a house from the book for the frontispiece of *The American Agriculturalist* (Figure 22). The Allens said: "to show our estimation... we have taken the liberty of nearly imitating... the design of plate II... and a beautiful Gothic thing it is too" (Allen & Allen, Cottage Residences, 1843).

Nearly a decade later, A.J. Downing paid notice to Lewis Allen's architectural literary work when he wrote a seven page review of *Rural Architecture* in the July 1852 issue of *The Horticulturist*. This may have been *quid pro quo*, because Lewis Allen had previously critiqued the principles of Downing's architectural publications in *The Genesee Farmer* and *The American Agriculturalist* periodicals. While Lewis Allen agreed with Downing's ideas on the aesthetic of the picturesque, Allen did not agree with his brothers on Downing's preferred use of the English Gothic Revival style. Of the larger homes which resembled castles, Allen said they reminded him of being "surrounded by the feudal oppressors who long made sorrowful the homes of the Old World." While Allen does not mention A.J. Downing by name, he said "it is much to be regretted, no matter who may have been the cause of thus corrupting public taste, that the mania should have prevailed in this country... for building Gothic castles." In summary, Allen said the Gothic Revival style was uncomfortable, inconvenient, and "imbued with prejudices at variance with the simplicity of our manners" (Conlin, 2009, p. 26). It is no surprise, then, that Downing likewise gave Allen's *Rural Architecture* a mixed review. He did not like the designs of Allen's dwellings, but otherwise found much to praise.

Downing said: "When a plain practical farmer undertakes to write a book on architecture, no one will expect his book to smack of Vitruvius or Palladio, any more than one would expect a good house painter to turn out Vandykes and Raphaels. Accordingly, any one who looks for a very correct and studied architecture in Mr. Allen's excellent book will be disappointed – since not one of the buildings represented in the volume would bear criticism by the laws of beauty and proportion, which govern, or are supposed to govern, architecture as a fine art."

"On the other hand, we take great pleasure in saying Mr. Allen has not written a book like many books that are now inflicted upon the public, for either money or fame, but because he had something to say. If he is not an architect, he is a sagacious clear headed, American farmer, who knows, perhaps better than most architects, what sort of comforts and conveniences farmers want..."

If Downing did not appreciate the artistic designs of Allen's houses, he did approve of Allen's suggestion that household appointments should be strong, plain and durable. Downing published an extensive excerpt of Allen's "House and Cottage Furniture," part of the chapter *Farm Cottage Design IV*, a house which is similar in design to the Heath Cottage at 60 Arlington Park, in Buffalo. Downing commented: "Mr. Allen touches upon every thing that relates to the inside and outside of the house or the farm, and if his straight forward, pithy remarks, will only be taken for their full value, by the wives and daughters of the class to which he belongs, we shall speedily look for a new and more healthy pulsation in the social heart of the masses of the people. Having been preaching the same kind of doctrine for some time past ourselves, we need not say that we most cordially agree with all our author says in the... remarks on 'house and cottage furniture'".

Downing concluded his review of *Rural Architecture* with the following complimentary summary: "One of the most valuable parts of the book is the latter half, in which all the out-buildings of the farm... as well as domestic animals of all kinds, are briefly and practically treated of. Here Mr. Allen is completely at home, and his remarks will be texts for those who are beginners in those matters. Altogether, we look upon his volume as one of the most valuable contributions to the country library yet made by an American farmer. It is a good harbinger of that general enlightenment of our great industrial class, that we so fully believe to await the American Agriculturalists" (Downing A. J., Reviews. *Rural Architecture*, 1852).

It is a testament to A.J. Downing's affection and respect for Lewis Allen that Downing dedicated such a large amount of space to his review of Allen's book in *The Horticulturist*. His review almost appeared to tease an emotional response from Allen, but it never came. That issue marked the last time that A.J. Downing and Lewis Allen would literarily spar. On July 28, A.J. Downing drowned in a tragic steamboat accident on his beloved Hudson River, at the height of his career. He was 36 years old.

The first issue of *The Horticulturist* that was not edited by Downing was the September 1852 issue where his death was announced on the issue's front page. Just a few weeks after A.J. Downing's death, the second American Pomological Congress was held, this time in the east, in September 1852 in Philadelphia. Lewis Allen was in attendance as was Charles Downing. While A.J. Downing was not physically present, his spirit was felt by all who attended. The September and October 1852 issues of *The Horticulturist* both carried extensive tributes to Downing.

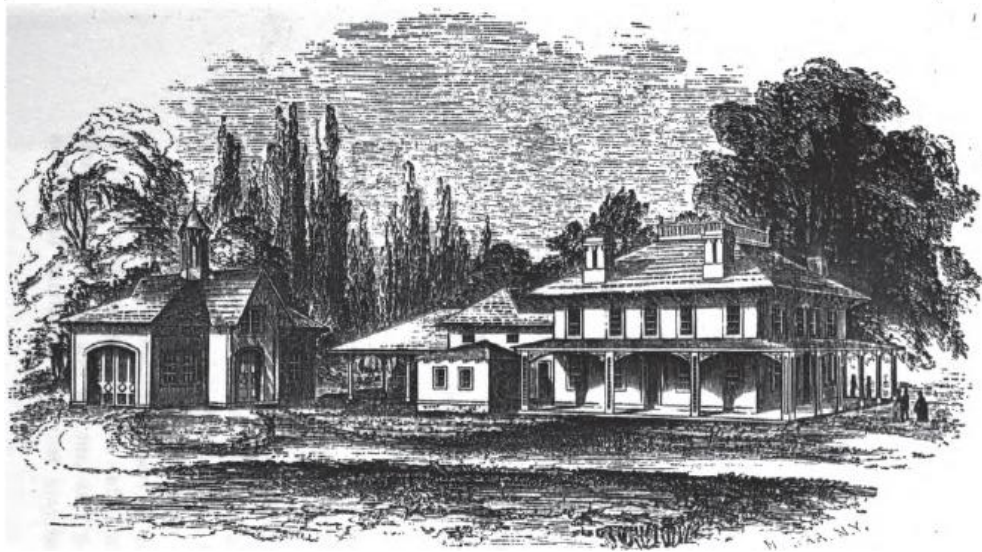


Figure 23. Allen's design for a southern plantation house, published in *Rural Architecture and The Horticulturist*, 1852.

In the October issue where A.J. Downing was fondly recalled, Allen must have felt honored when one of his houses, a *Farm House Design VI, a Southern or Plantation House*, was published in *The Horticulturist* (Allen L. F., *A Southern or Plantation House*, 1852). Allen's design is shown in Figure 23. It seemed that even after A.J. Downing's death, Allen's relationship with A.J. and his brother continued. In 1855, the Fruit Growers Society in Western New York was formed and combined various horticultural societies in the 23 counties in the western part of New York State and Lewis Allen served as Vice President of the new organization. Charles Downing became a member and ardent supporter. At the organization's first summer meeting in Syracuse in June 1856, Downing exhibited a Napoleon Biggarreu strawberry (Hedrick, 1930).

Legacy



Figure 24. Charles Downing.

After A.J. Downing's death, both Charles Downing and Lewis Allen continued their scientific and literary pursuits. Downing became the country's chief pomologist and arbiter of fruit nomenclature,

while Allen was recognized as one of the nation's foremost cattle experts. Unlike his brother A.J., Charles shied away from the limelight. Charles was modest and had a retiring disposition. He was an attentive listener rarely known to speak unless asked, and was brief and direct in his response. Charles Downing retired from active management of his nursery business in 1867, but continued to exercise an active interest in pomology. He originated many new fruits, and by grafting and collecting choice seeds, he improved many other varieties (Nutt, 1891). Several small fruits bear his name (Albany Evening Journal, 1885).

[1870. AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST. SEPTEMBER.]

DOWNING'S FRUITS AND FRUIT TREES.

By A. J. DOWNING.

NEWLY REVISED AND GREATLY ENLARGED

By CHARLES DOWNING.

Octavo, 1122 Pages.

The original work of the late A. J. Downing appeared in 1848. Some years after it was revised and much enlarged by his brother, Charles Downing, who has again completed the work of a second revision. Charles Downing is upon all hands acknowledged as one of our highest pomological authorities. He writes but seldom, but whatever bears his name is accepted as the judgment of one who is entirely disinterested, as far as the commercial aspects of pomology are concerned. The present edition contains the results of many years' labor and experience which have been devoted to testing the value

of fruits and acquiring a knowledge of them that should benefit others.

RECOMMENDATION FROM HON. MARSHALL P. WILDER.
President of the American Pomological Society.
Boston, Oct. 4, 1869.

GENTLEMEN:
I have received a copy from Mr. Charles Downing of the second revised edition of the "FRUITS AND FRUIT TREES OF AMERICA." It is the most comprehensive of any similar work, in fact a complete ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN POMOLOGY brought down to the present time.

The original edition by his brother, the late Andrew Jackson Downing, popular as it ever has been, is made doubly interesting and useful by this revision, comprising as it does the results of a long life of critical observation.

As a work of reference it has no equal in this country, and deserves a place in the library of every Pomologist in America.

MARSHALL P. WILDER.

This elegant and valuable work will be an indispensable requisite to every library, and to all interested in Fruits or Fruit Culture.

Price, Prepaid, \$7.50.

ORANGE JUDD & COMPANY, 245 Broadway, New York.

AMERICAN CATTLE:

THEIR HISTORY, BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT.

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Late President of the New York State Agricultural Society, editor "American Shorthorn Herd Book," author "Rural Architecture," etc., etc.

Notices by the Press.

We consider this the most valuable work that has recently been issued from the American press. It embraces all branches of the important subject, and fills a vacancy in our agricultural literature for which work the author by his many years' experience and observation was eminently fitted... it ought to be in the hands of every owner of cattle, and the country, as well as individuals, would soon be much richer for its teachings.

Journal of Agriculture, (St. Louis).

This will rank among the standard works of the country, and will be considered indispensable by every breeder of livestock.

Practical Farmer, (Philadelphia).

Considering that there are some ten million milch cows in the United States, and nearly a thousand millions of dollars invested in cattle, the magnitude of this interest demands that the best skilled talent be devoted to the improvement of the various breeds and the investigation of the best method of so caring for the animals as to gain the greatest profit from them. This volume will give the farmer just the instruction which he wants.

N. Y. Independent.

The object of the work, as stated by the author in his



Notices by the Press.

The large experience of the author in improving the character of American herds adds to the weight of his observations, and has enabled him to produce a work which will at once make good its claims as a standard authority on the subject. An excellent feature of this volume is its orderly, methodical arrangement, condensing a great variety of information into a comparatively small compass, and enabling the reader to find the point on which he is seeking light, without wasting his time in turning over the leaves.

N. Y. Tribune.

Whatever works the stock farmer may already have, he cannot afford to do without this.

Ohio Farmer.

of the volume, is written with much of the grace and charm of an Allison or a Macanley. His description of the leading breeds is illustrated by cuts of a bull, a cow, and a fat ox, of each race. The next one hundred pages are devoted to the subject of Breeding. This is followed by chapters on Beef Cattle, Working Oxen, Milch Cows, Cattle Food, Diseases, etc. The arrangement, illustrations, analytical index, etc., of the work are in the best style of modern book-making.

New England Farmer.

Price, Post-paid, \$2.50.

ORANGE JUDD & COMPANY, 245 Broadway, New York.

Figure 25. The Downing Brothers and Allen continued to be associated, even in this 1870 book advertisement.

Allen likewise retired from active management of Allenton farm on Grand Island. After about 1865, Allen focused on his literary efforts, especially his editorship of *The American Short-Horn Herd Book*. Allen's son, W. Cleveland Allen, assumed active management of Allenton in 1873 (*A Grand Island Farm*, 1877). Exemplary of the kinds of activities Lewis Allen pursued in the later part of his life, he lectured at Yale on apples, where he pronounced New York's Wayne County as the best apple producing region in the world (*The Greatest Fruit Region in the World*, 1860).

With his new-found spare time, Allen published two books within four years, *American Cattle* in 1868 and *History of the Short-Horn Cattle* in 1872. About the same time, Charles Downing undertook a complete revision of his late brother's book *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America*, doubling its size when published in 1870. Both were advertised in an 1870 issue of the *American Agriculturist*, shown in Figure 25. In 1873, Charles Downing updated the horticulture sections of seventh edition of his brother's classic work, *Cottage Residences*. Allen's book, *Rural Architecture*, proved to be very popular and was republished 12 times within 12 years and was said to have done more "to shape the course of ordinary house building than many a more pretentious and less salty book" (Conlin, 2009, p. 24).



Figure 26. Mid-twentieth century photograph of River Lea, Grand Island NY.

As might be expected, most sites associated with the Downing brothers and Lewis Allen have been lost. However, in addition to those sites already mentioned, there are several extant locations to get a sense of place, at least for Charles Downing and Lewis Allen. Allen's Grand Island villa at River Lea

is located at 8 East River Road (Figure 26). According to oral family history, Lewis Allen gave it to his only son, William Cleveland Allen, as a wedding gift for his use (Heyden, 1966).

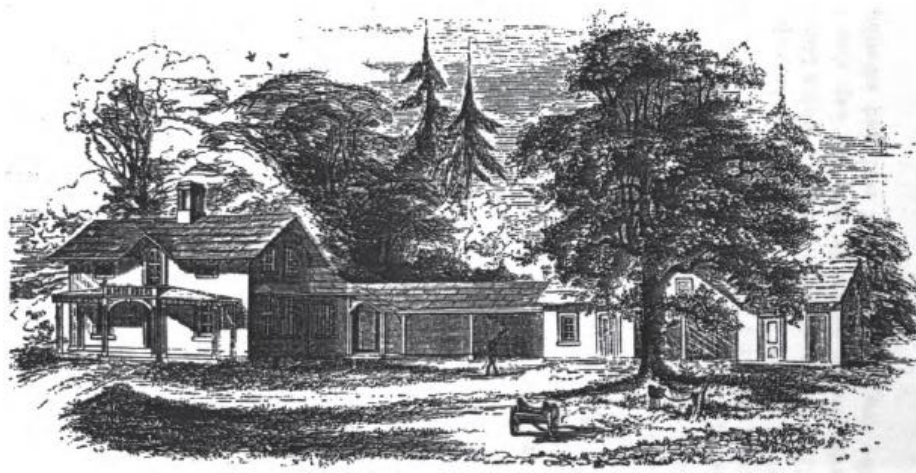


Figure 27. Allen's Farm House Design II as published in 1852's *Rural Architecture* is based on River Lea.

The house is remarkably similar to Allen's "Farm House Design II" in his pattern book, *Rural Architecture*, shown in Figure 27. Of the design, Allen writes: "this is a plan of a house... based chiefly on one which we built of wood some years since on a farm of our own..." (Allen L. F., *Rural Architecture*, 1852, p. 84).



Figure 28. River Lea also resembles Downing's Design X from 1850's *Architecture of Country Houses*.

The villa at River Lea also bears a strong resemblance to the farmhouse at Montgomery Place, shown in Figure 28. The farmhouse is based on "Design X – Symmetrical Bracketed Cottage with Veranda," designed by A.J. Davis and described by Downing in his 1850 book *The Architecture of Country Houses* (Downing A. J., *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 1850, p. 119). Lewis Allen retained ownership of River Lea until the late 1880s (Grand Island River Front Property, 1888).

A.J. Downing, Charles Downing, and Lewis Allen were all passionate and dedicated men of the nineteenth century who continue to influence today. Although older than the Downing brothers, Lewis

Allen outlived both of them. A.J. died in 1852, Charles in 1885, and Lewis in 1890. While Allen is not nearly as famous as A. J. Downing, there are striking similarities between the two men and their legacies.



Figure 29. Andrew Jackson Downing's house at Newburgh, Highland Garden. Built in 1838, it was demolished about 1920.

Both A.J. Downing and Lewis Allen developed their dream homes near the rivers with which each was associated. Downing built his house on his family's Newburgh nursery lot a few blocks from the Hudson River in 1838 which he called Highland Garden, shown in Figure 29.



Figure 30. The Porter-Allen house on the bank of the Niagara River in Buffalo, NY. Built in 1816, it was demolished in 1911.

Lewis Allen purchased General Peter B. Porter's 1816 stone house on the banks of the mighty Niagara River and in 1838 made extensive alterations and additions to the manse. Allen dramatically changed its appearance to satisfy both his needs and ideas about architectural design. Allen's home is shown in Figure 30 and Figure 31. Both Allen's and A.J. Downing's homes have been lost. Highland Garden was demolished in the early 1920s for housing development that occupies the site of A.J.

Downing's former home and gardens. Once called the "most historic house in Buffalo," the Porter-Allen home was demolished in 1911 for the construction of a factory. At the time, the demolition was called the "crime of 1911" (Days of Auld Lang Syne).

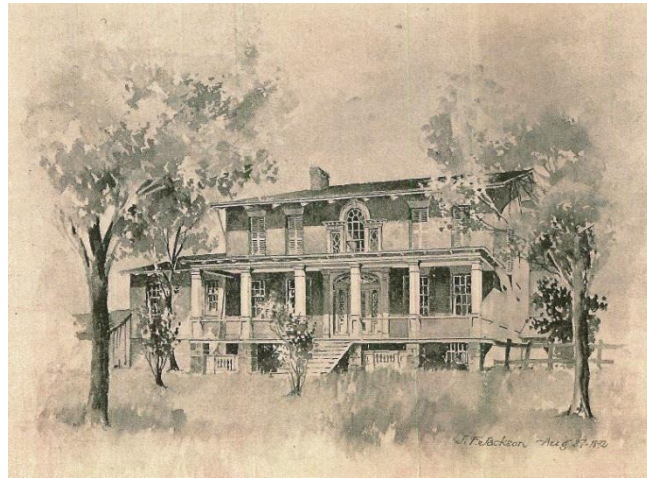


Figure 31. Allen's home as it appeared in 1892. The center Palladian window on second story and Georgian style entrance were likely added after Lewis Allen died. Sketch by J. F. Jackson.

Another similarity between the Downing brothers and Lewis Allen is that their names are recalled in physical places. Downing Park, a 35-acre park located in Newburgh named for both Andrew and Charles Downing, was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1891 and opened in 1897; it was their last collaboration together (Downing, Andrew Jackson, 1901). In Buffalo, Lewis Allen's name is recalled in the Allentown Historic Preservation District, a portion of which is located on Allen's former Buffalo cattle pasture. The preservation district is approximately 232 acres in size.

Despite the loss of Allen and Downing's homes, At least two buildings directly associated with the Allen and Downing families are extant. In the 1930s, River Lawn, the estate created by E.G. Spaulding, became Beaver Island New York State Park, when New York State purchased it, along with what remained of Allenton Farm. Allen's villa at River Lea was nearly demolished in 1962 when the Niagara Frontier State Parks Commission attempted to expand Beaver Island's golf course. However, through the efforts of preservationists, the house was spared and today operates as a museum. Both of Charles Downing's homes in Newburgh are also extant. His humble abode, a brick attached rowhouse at 174 Chambers Street, southeast corner of South Street, remains. He lived there from 1868 until his death in 1885.

Like Andrew Jackson Downing and Lewis Allen, Charles Downing had aspirations for a large home. In 1837 he purchased a 13-acre estate a half-mile north of Newburgh in Balmville on the Hudson River and built a Greek Revival style manse. Due to the growth of Newburgh, Downing's bucolic estate was bisected by Grand Avenue. As a result, in 1868 Charles Downing sold his home (located on the west side of Grand Avenue between Beech Street and Downing Avenue), to Alfred Bridgeman who subsequently modified it to suit late Victorian tastes. Charles Downing then moved to the smaller house

on Chambers Street (Murtfeldt, 1873). During the twentieth century, Charles Downing's 1837 house was divided into a duplex and on a reduced parcel, remains at 3 Beech Street, shown in Figure 32.



Figure 32. Charles Downing's home in Newburgh. Built in 1837, it was extensively altered circa 1870 by Alfred Bridgeman.

What of Downing and Allen's fruit feud? The American Pomological Congress, whose origins began with A.J. Downing and Lewis Allen, continues as the American Pomological Society and is now associated with Penn State University. Since 1848, the Society has returned to Buffalo just once. Perhaps the 1848 discord of A.J. Downing and Lewis Allen haunted the meeting, for it was certainly a strange event. It was planned in conjunction with the ill-fated Pan American Exposition, and held on September 12-13, 1901. When the meeting convened, President William McKinley was dying at the Milburn house on Delaware Avenue. He had been shot by an assassin on September 6, although the President's grave condition was kept secret from the public. The pomological meeting was planned to be held in a tent adjacent to the Epworth Hotel near the Exposition grounds. However, immediately before the meeting was to start, a terrible storm passed over Buffalo. Heavy rains and wind wrecked the tent and forced the meeting inside the hotel's dining rooms. As a result, its sessions were "uncomfortably crowded." The next day was the conclusion of the pomological meeting, and that very evening, President McKinley died. The following day, September 14, Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as President of the United States at the home then known as the Wilcox Mansion. While those in attendance at the pomological meeting in 1901 could not have known about the events about to unfold on their historic stomping grounds, the president of the American Pomological Society couldn't help but surmise the significance of the 1848 conference and recall that in attendance at that meeting "were the two Downings..." and that about "50 or 60 men attended the convention. That they were enthusiastic clearly appears from accounts of the convention, the object of which... was to ascertain as far as practicable, the varieties of fruit really worthy of cultivation of the different sections of the country, that the useless expense so often incurred in the cultivation of worthless fruits might be saved. A great work in correcting names of fruits was then begun, which labor has never since been neglected" (Watrous,

1901). The Society has never returned to Buffalo, although it has held its meeting in Rochester several times as well as Toronto and Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Within Buffalo's Allentown Historic Preservation District, two sites remain associated with the 1848 New York State Agricultural Society's Fair and the Buffalo Horticultural Society. The 1838 Army Officers' Quarters, now the Theodore Roosevelt National Inaugural Site, was at the time of the fair adjacent to the grounds and home to Judge Joseph G. Masten, a member of the Buffalo Horticultural Society. Also extant is the Israel Hatch home at 35 Cottage Street. Hatch was an early member of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, whose house once was surrounded by expansive and beautiful gardens.



Figure 33. Ebenezer Walden's house and extensive gardens in Allentown. Built about 1815 and demolished in early 1880s.

Other prominent Buffalo Horticultural Society members lived in the Allentown neighborhood, although their homes are long gone. These Allentown residents included Judge Ebenezer Walden, who lived on Main at Edward Streets and whose estate included three acres of lawns. An early photograph of Walden's home is shown in Figure 33. Now a parking lot, Walden's orchards were located at Franklin and Edwards Streets in the rear of the Cyclorama Building. Another prominent member was Jesse Ketchum, who lived on the north side of North Street west of Elmwood Avenue.

Trees

Perhaps the Downings' and Allen's most enduring legacy is one of trees, both ornamental and fruit varieties. Downing's trees at Springside and Montgomery Place along the Hudson River stand as living, silent testimony of his efforts and ideals. As for Allen, there may be trees yet still alive he planted at the former Allenton Farm on Grand Island, now contained within Beaver Island State Park, or at

Buffalo's Forest Lawn Cemetery. Allen and A.J. Downing shared an interest in cemeteries. Downing was interested in and promoted the beauty of Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. In Buffalo, Allen founded a cemetery in the Allentown Historic District on Delaware Avenue across from the Buffalo Barracks. He later became a trustee of Buffalo's premier Victorian rural cemetery, Forest Lawn. He planted a number of trees in the cemetery and it is where he is buried. His association with trees was noted in Allen's obituary when it was said: "it is largely due to his efforts and to the zeal displayed by him that Buffalo was so well provided with beautiful shade trees" (A Pioneer Gone, 1890). While Allen was still alive, it was noted that Buffalonians owe the "embellishments with which its long ranges of shade trees overshadow the principal streets" of Buffalo (Smith H. P., 1884, p. 707).

Neither Charles nor Andrew Jackson Downing had any children, so their legacy, the offspring of their intellect, is inherited by all Americans. In addition to their literary works, at least two fruits are named for the Downings: Downing's Red Cheek Cherry and Downing's Early Plum.

Allen had two children who lived to adulthood: William Cleveland Allen, and Margaret Gertrude Allen. Although Allen never lived in Allentown, his granddaughter, May Constance Allen, was a proud resident of the Allentown Historic District during the 1960s when the neighborhood first experienced resurgence. The furniture she owned which once belonged to Allen allowed her to feel connected to him. Born at River Lea on Grand Island, she was 12 years old when Lewis Allen died in 1890. Of all the memories May had of Lewis, her most vivid memory had to do with trees. She recalled being driven in a very handsome carriage with a big bay horse to Forest Lawn cemetery with her grandfather. With great satisfaction, he pointed out to her the great variety of trees he had planted there and enjoyed watching them grow (Sprague, 1964). Like the Downings, Lewis Allen also has a fruit named for him, Allen's Raspberry.

There is another connection between the Allen brothers and Downing brothers and horticulturalists of the present generation. When Lewis Allen's brothers Anthony and Richard visited A.J. Downing in 1843, they noted some of the beautiful ornamental trees at Highland Garden, Downing's home in Newburgh. They particularly noted Downing's Kentucky Coffee Tree with "double pinnate leaves of large size, and handsome panicles of white flowers," as well as Horse Chestnut, "trees little known among us, and deserving universal attention," and Winged Elm, "of very rapid growth, the branches of which are winged with cork somewhat like the cork-oak" (Allen A. B., 1844, p. 98). The Kentucky Coffee and Horse Chestnut are two of the trees planted through Re-Tree in Buffalo, among many other varieties. An example of a tree planted in autumn 2013 is shown in Figure 34.



Figure 34. A father-and-son volunteer team plant a Re-Tree Western New York tree near Hudson Street in November 2013.

Today, those who participate in Buffalo's Garden Walk, Re-Tree, Grassroots Gardens, or Buffalo In Bloom share much in common with brothers Andrew Jackson and Charles Downing, Lewis Allen, and other members of the Buffalo Horticultural Society over 160 years ago. Music professor William Coppock, organist of Buffalo's First Presbyterian Church and president of the Buffalo Horticultural Society, said that those who plant trees provide "an inheritance having the four-fold benefits of riches, honors, patriotism, and happiness" (Coppock, *On the Progress of Horticulture in Western New-York*, 1852). If one of those trees happens to be an apple tree that produces fruit in July, you'll have to decide whether to call it Downing's "Early Harvest" or Allen's "Yellow Harvest" (Figure 35).



Figure 35. Early or Yellow Harvest Apple. From Emmon's *Natural History and Agriculture of New York*, 1851.

In 2015, as part of A.J. Downing's 200th birthday celebration, the significance of his works will be celebrated through the effort of scholar and Downing biographer Dr. David Schuyler. He has scheduled a Downing symposium on Saturday October 24 2015. It will be hosted by the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College (3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601), followed by Sunday tours of Downing (and his later architectural partners) houses in Newburgh. Buffalo State professor and nationally recognized Olmsted & Vaux scholar and author Dr. Frank Kowsky will be speaking at the symposium. Dr. Kowsky was the primary author of the 2012 Allentown Historic District National Register nomination. See www.hudsonrivervalley.org for more information.

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Appendix			
Fruits Exhibited at the North American Pomological Convention, Buffalo, NY September 1, 2, & 4 1848			
A.J. Downing			
Fruit	Name	Convention Notes	Modern
Pear	Cabot		✓
	Golden Beurré de Bilboa	First-rate, and having the reputation of growing upon the quince or pear.	Can't find
	Abuscadine		
	Fulton		
	Flemish Beauty		✓
	Henry Fourth		
	Gansel's Bergamotte		
	Gill from Bartlett		
	Bergamotte Quessoy d' Eté		
	Beurré d'Amalis		
Nectarine	Downton	Unanimously voted to be first-rate.	
	Elruge		
Peach	Large Melting		
	Sulhamstead		
	Early Royal the George	Second-rate, likely to mildew, and, on that account, hardly worthy of cultivation. The peach the committee examined was grown by Bissell & Co., in Rochester New York. Charles Downing said he did not estimate its value very high and it not first rate by any means.	
	Noblesse		
	George Fourth		
Apple	Townsend		
	Summer Sweet Paradise		
	Jersey Sweet	Unanimously passed as a first rate fruit, and worthy of cultivation.	
	Porter	Unanimously judged as first-rate	
	Cumberland Spice		
	Tallowater		
	Dutch Mignonne		
	Holland Pippin		
	Sapson		
	Red Bellflower		
	Scarlet Pearmain		
Plum	La Royale	Recommended as first-rate	
	Reine Claude Violette		
	Cruger's Scarlet		
	Jefferson	Recommended as first-rate and the trees of vigorous growth, although not when young.	
	St. Martin's Quetsche		

	Emerald Drop		
Charles Downing			
Fruit	Name	Convention Notes	Modern
Apple	Victorious Reinette		
	Late Strawberry	First-rate quality in every respect. It is twice as large as the Early Strawberry, superior in quality and 3 weeks later.	
	Winter Golden Sweet		
	English Russett	First-rate keeper, but second-rate for the table. Although referred to as English Russett by A.J. Downing, it is known in Western New York as the Poughkeepsie Russet, a name which the convention adopted. Specimens presented were the growth of 1847 and were "quite fresh, sound and agreeable."	
	Roman Stem		
	Alfriston		
	President		
	Ladies Sweet		
	Soden Sweet		
	Aborgan Apple		
	Jersey Sweet	Unanimously passed as a first rate fruit, and worthy of cultivation.	
	English Golden Pippin		
	Reinette Van Mons		
	Hubbardston Nonsuch	First-rate in every particular.	
	Indian Prince		
	Golden Apple		
	King of the Pippins	Considered second-rate	
	Lyman's Pumpkin Sweet		
	Victuals and Drink		
	Golden Ball		
	Kaighn's Spitzenburgh		
	Fall Harvey		
	Holsten Sweet		
	Sawyer Sweet		
	Minister		
	Cornell's Fancy		
	Canada Reinette		
	Fall Jenneting		
	Federal Pearmain		
	Black Lady Apple		
	Amber Siberian Crab		
	Large Red Crab		
	Foxley Crab		
	Jonathan	First-rate, taking all its qualities into consideration.	
	Smith's Cider		

	Kenrick's Autumn		
	Eustis		
	Yates		✓
	Maiden's Blush		✓
	Brabant Bellflower		
	Rambo	First-rate wherever cultivated.	
	Downton's Pippin		
	Osborne's Sweet		
	Sapson		
	Conway		
	Lovett's Sweet		
	American Golden Russet	Incorrectly described by A.J. Downing. Better known as Bullocks Pippin.	
	Zank		
	Boxford		
	White Seek-no-Further		
	Summer Queen	Second-rate. Acid; first rate for cooking.	
	Red Gilliflower		
	Tolman's Sweeting		
	Laquier		
	Adam's Sweet		
	Baldwin		✓
	Schoonmaker		
	Summer Rambo		✓
	Porter		
	Wine Sweet		
	Lady Apple		
	Murphy		
Pear	Heathcot		
	Chaumontel		
	Washington		
	Golden Beurré of Bilboa	First-rate, and having the reputation of growing upon the quince or pear.	
	Soldat Laboureur		
	Locke's New Beurré		
	Beurré Diel		
	Marie Louise	The fruit committee sampled a Marie Louise pear grown by Lewis Allen. The committee considered it a first rate pear. Charles Downing stated he has grown it several years and it never risen to second rate with him. Allen considered it, with him, nearly equal to the White Doyenné. Allen stated his trees are on a stiff clay loam in an exposed situation, and are good and constant bearers.	
	Beurré d'Aremberg		
	Bezie de la Motte		

	Easter Bergamot		
	Seckel		
	Beurré Capiaumont		
	Napoleon		
	White Doyenné	In Western New York, a first-rate pear.	
	McLaughlin		
	Prince's St. Germain		
	Lewis		
	Coits Beurré		
	Urbaniste		
	Suffolk Thorn		
	De Louvain		
	Bartlett		
	Columbia		
Apple	Fall Pippin	Unanimously passed as first-rate in every respect.	✓
	Sprague		
	Cole or Scarlet Perfume		
	Kirke's Lord Nelson		
	Scarlet Pearmain or Bell's Scarlet		
	American Golden Pippin		
	Lady Healy's Nonsuch		
	William's Favorite		
	Titus Pippin		
	Blenheim Pippin		
	Cambusnethan Pippin		
	Spring Greening		
	Angle		
	Royal Russet		
	Baldwin Sweet	Considered first-rate in New York and New England, but does not succeed well in Ohio.	Twice?
	Ross Nonpareil		
	Autumn Pearmain		
	Danver's Winter Sweet		
	Tewkesbury Winter Blush		
	Cumberland Spice		
	Shrewsbury Pippin		
	King of the Pippins	Considered second-rate	
	Cornish Aromatic		
	Hawthornden	Unworthy of cultivation	
	Wells' Sweet		
	Peach Pound Sweet		
	Fall Vandevere	Unanimously passed as first-rate	
	Killham Hill		
	Lawson		

	Red Gilliflower		
	Sturmer Pippin		
	Winter Sweet Paradise		✓
	Green Winter Sweet		
	Pafroon's Pleasant		
	Spice Sweet		
	Mother	First-rate. Scarcely known outside of Middlesex county in Massachusetts.	✓
	Devonshire Queen		
	Gravenstein	Unanimously passed as first-rate for the season.	
	Berry Bough		
	Springport Pippin		
	Wellington		
	Michael Henry		
	Yellow Ingestrie		
	Belden		
	Lucombe's Seedling		
	Summer Hagloe	First-rate apple. Motion for first-rate was moved to be passed by Charles Downing. Approved, but not unanimously. The apple was described in early editions of Mr. A.J. Downing's <i>Fruits</i> as the Hagloe Crab, which is a different variety.	
	Wood's Greening		
	Sweet Greening		
	Rymer		
	Brook		
	Watson's Dumpling		
	Beauty of Kent		
	Golden Sweet		
	Twenty Ounce	Second rate in quality, but first-rate in size, beauty, and productiveness.	✓
	Monarch		
	Wine Sap		
	Ortley		
	Wine Apple		
	London White		
	Hawthornden	Unworthy of cultivation	twice
	Fameuse	First-rate and worthy of cultivation, especially in northern regions	
	Mouse		
	Hooker		
	Moore's Sweet		
	Early Chandler		
	Nonsuch		
	Cabashea		
	Hamburgh		

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