

**Historian Report
The Garden Club of Princeton
May 16, 2023 Meeting**

The Garden Club of Princeton (GCP) is a founding club of The Garden Club of America (GCA). GCP was founded in 1911. GCP leaders went on to help found the GCA in 1913.

At the early meetings of GCP, our archives indicate that often members would report on research involving horticultural matters. Some of those early reports exist in our archives and I plan to share them with the membership next year.

Former GCP Historian and longtime member Sandi Tatnall alerted me that the GCA keeps a record of members who have plants named after them.

Go to the GCA Website Horticulture Committee page and scroll down to References and Lists and click on Plants named after GCA Members. In the case of GCP, we have one entry in the record. Cotoneaster 'Marquandii' was named for Mrs. Alan Marquand, one of the 1911 founders of GCP and 1913 founders of the GCA.

Mrs. Alan Marquand Cotoneaster 'Marquandii' Princeton Garden Club

In light of our study of Geraniums and Pelargoniums as our "Species of the Year", Sandi went on to inform me that she remembers we had another member, Brooks Barnes, who was a founding co-chair of the GCA Horticulture Committee, which was created in 1933. Sandi also knew that Pelargonium 'Brooks Barnes' was named for GCP member Brooks Barnes. Brooks was a GCP member from 1925-1974. Sandi saw this pelargonium and remembers that it had a strong rosy colored small blossom.

I hunted for a record and picture of this geranium to share with the club. I contacted the American Pelargonium and Geranium Society who did not respond. I then contacted our more knowledgeable cohort across the pond, and the Geranium and Pelargonium Society of the United Kingdom had a record of the 'Brooks Barnes' Geranium and confirmed that the Barnes pelargonium was in their Pelargonium Registry. Their records indicated that it was released by the Arndt USA nursery in 1952 and is described as Salmon-pink, deepening toward the center with a blackish green leaf, small, zoned and compact.

Over the summer I plan to work on adding the 'Brooks Barnes' Pelargonium to the GCA Registry.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Jordan
GCP Historian