

CONCORD GARDENS, 1922-1929

These photographs, taken of selected Concord gardens in the 1920s, reveal spectacularly landscaped creations that include roadside bowers, private retreats, and a practical vegetable garden. Though lacking color, it is not difficult to imagine the summer days--insects buzzing and warm breezes blowing--when they were at their peak, providing enjoyment for homeowners, guests, neighbors, and passersby.

The images were made by Salem photographer Charles Darling to illustrate a series of articles written by Concord author Florence Taft Eaton. Mrs. Eaton, born in Uxbridge, Massachusetts in 1857, was the wife of William Lorenzo Eaton, a principal in the Concord Public Schools. Mother of four sons and a daughter, she died in Concord in 1939.

During the 1920s Mrs. Eaton wrote prolifically on both domestic and historical topics, including district schools, New England Thanksgivings, Ephraim Bull's Concord grape, and the "up-to-the minute kitchen." She ventured into travel writing when she reported on her trip to South Carolina, and into current issues in her 1928 piece in the *Landmark* on "Broader Horizons for Women." A number of her articles are available in the library's Special Collections.



THE GARDENS

TOP SHELF :

Mrs. Russell Robb's garden, hillside planting, 1929

Mrs. Russell Robb's perennial garden, 1929

SECOND SHELF:

Mrs. Charles F. Edgerton, Sr. Terrace garden, Main Street, Concord, 1929
View overlooking river toward N.W. and Nashawtuc Hill . . .

Mrs. Russell Robb's garden, Monument Street, Concord, 1927
One of the loveliest small gardens I have ever seen . . .

THIRD SHELF:

Florence Taft Eaton. "Broader Horizons for Women: an American Woman's Letters" in
Landmark, July 1928.

Mrs. Florence Taft Eaton in a corner of
Ralph Waldo Emerson's garden, undated

Mrs. Alfred E. Curtis's perennial garden, 1927
*A lovely home garden of lovely perennials
planted with attention to design . . .*

FOURTH SHELF:

Cyrus Pierce House & garden, 1927
This tiny garden is a blaze of color at all seasons . . .

Mrs. Stedman Buttrick's garden, 1929

Mrs. Sherman Hoar's sunporch at Battle Lawn, undated
Ivies, many seedlings of annuals, stocks, snapdragon, etc. . . .

BOTTOM (AT AN ANGLE):

Mr. Harry Little's garden, "The Edge of the Wood," 1927



