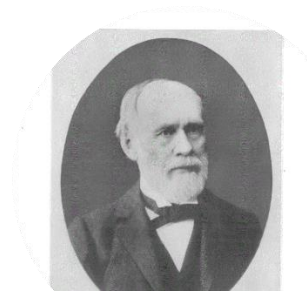


The Role Played by Michiganders in the Development of Modern Horticultural Science

Dave Putt

William James Beal (1833-1924)

Professor at Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) beginning in 1870. He built the first laboratory devoted entirely to the study and teaching of botany in the U.S. His method of teaching, which he called the New Botany was a great advancement at the time. He created a botanical garden on campus in 1871 which still exists today as the Beal Botanical Garden. He began the longest running seed longevity experiment in 1879. Inspired by the work of Charles Darwin and his mentor at Harvard, Asa Gray, he also carried out the controlled studies on hybrid corn.



Liberty Hyde Bailey (1858-1954)

He was a student at the Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) and studied botany with William James Beal. Bailey graduated from the Michigan Agricultural College with a B.S. degree in botany in 1881. After working with the renowned botanist Asa Gray at Harvard, he returned to Michigan Agricultural College to teach horticulture and landscape gardening while earning a M.S. Degree in 1886 from the Michigan Agricultural College. In 1888, he left to go to Cornell in Ithaca, N.Y. to build a new curriculum in practical and experimental horticulture and landscape gardening. With state funding, he helped to create the New York College of Agriculture at Cornell of which he was dean from 1903 to 1913. He also began a program at Cornell to teach nature study in rural schools. Through extension bulletins, lectures, demonstrations, and farm visits, Bailey built support for his programs among New York State farmers and in the State Legislature. He was a prolific writer and authored more than 60 books and edited hundreds more. The book, *The Holy Earth* (1915) is considered a major contribution to the field of land ethics. He is considered the Father of Modern Horticulture.



Dexter Mason Ferry (1833-1907)

At one time Detroit was home to the world's largest seed company, D.M. Ferry & Co., named after its owner. The firm, which dates back to 1856, was renowned for its high-quality seeds. Ferry introduced many new concepts and techniques to the seed business. He only used fresh seeds from the current year's growth and tested their germination rates before selling. Ferry Seed Co. was the first company to sell fruit, vegetable, and flower seeds in small packets for small land owners. The company's headquarters was located in what is present-day Greektown. His seed stock and test fields were primarily located in Oakland Co. The company merged with the California-based Morse Seed Co. in 1930. All operations left the Detroit area in 1959. He is considered the Father of the Modern Seed Business.



Louisa Yeomans King (Mrs. Francis King) (1863-1948)

She was an American gardener and author who became a leading advocate of gardening and horticulture. She wrote on horticultural topics using her married name, Mrs. Francis King. From 1915 to 1945 she was the country's most recognized garden writer. She wrote 9 books and contributed hundreds of articles to gardening magazines. She was instrumental in the founding of the Garden Club of America and the Women's National Farm & Garden Association. She is referred to as "The Fairy Godmother of Gardening".

