

Orchard

The orchard includes two peach trees and a grafted apple tree that bears four different varieties. An espaliered pear tree and concord grapes have also been planted south of the smoke house.

Formal Garden

Flower were often surrounded by boxwood or edging herbs.

Trees

- Mulberry—Growing out of the fence by the wood pile, this Native tree was planted by a bird.
- Oaks—Native. The house features one mature Chinkapin Oak and three mature Red Oaks.
- Spring Magnolia—This tree shades the kitchen door.
- Sweet Gums—Native. Two mature specimens dominate the front yard.
- Sugar Maple—Native, City tree of Edwardsville. Kickapoo people taught new settlers to make maple sugar and syrup in the 18th century.
- White Redbud—This is a cultivar of the familiar Native, Pink Redbud, which was a favorite three of George Washington at Mt. Vernon.

Prairie Garden

These plants are all Native to the Tallgrass Prairie, which covered much of Illinois when the Stephensons arrived here.

Bee Balm	Mexican Hat
Bluestar	Missouri Primrose
Bottlebrush Grass	New Jersey Tea
Butterfly Weed	Prairie Dropseed Grass
Coneflowers	Purple Prairie Clover
Gayfeathers	Ohio Goldenrod
Ironweed	Rattlesnake Masters
Leadplant	Switch Grass
Little Bluestem Grass	

Shady-Pleasure Garden

Shrubs

- Boxwood—Introduced from England after 1750. The close and hard-grained wood was used for making musical instruments and for many other purposes.
- Virginia Sweetspire—Native, introduced in the 18th century.
- Oakleaf Hydrangea—The shrub was discovered by William Bartram in 1773 in Georgia. The white showy flowers are born in June. After the blooming season, the flowers turn rosy purple and persist until late summer.
- Winterberry—Native, introduced in the 18th century.
- Smooth Hydrangea—Native, introduced 1736.
- Junipers and Yews—border on north side.
- Cranberry Viburnum—Native, introduced 1800.

Vine

- Yellow Carolina Jessamine—Native, introduced 1640. This evergreen vine blooms in April/May with yellow, trumpet-shaped fragrant flowers.

Perennials, Biennials and Bulbs

- Peach-leaved Bellflower—Native to Britain and in cultivation before 1596.
- Blackberry Lily—Native to India and China, introduced 1800.
- Brown-eyed Susan—Native, introduced in the 18th century.
- Columbine—Native, introduced 1750.
- Daffodils—Introduced from the Mediterranean Region after 1700.
- Daylily—Native to China, Korea, Japan, introduced in the 18th century.
- Fringed Bleeding Heart—Native.
- Foxglove—Introduced from Europe before 1748.
- Hollyhocks—Introduced from Europe in the 18th century.
- Hosta—Introduced from China, Japan, Korea in 1830.
- Lady’s Mantle—Introduced from Eurasia in 1800. The common name, lady’s mantle, was derived from the ancient legend that it was used for adornment of the Virgin Mary.

- Lenten Rose—Introduced from Greece and Turkey in the 19th century.
- Lily of the Valley—Introduced from Europe after 1800, blooms May or June and has long been the traditional flower for brides to carry in their wedding bouquets. (All parts of this plant are poisonous)
- Peony—Introduced from Europe, 1750
- Phlox—Native, introduced to gardens before 1800.
- Siberian Bugloss—Introduced from Eastern Europe in the 19th century.
- Woodland Fern - Native, ferns are found growing wild in the woods and make pretty additions to shade gardens. These primitive plants have spores on the undersides of their leaves instead of flowers and seeds.

Gardens at the Stephenson House



Herbs and their uses

- Basil—1750. Used as an aid in digestion.
- Blue False Indigo—Native, used for dyeing blue color.
- Catmint—1750. Used to repels bees.
- Chives—Native to North America, Europe and Asia. Used to stimulate appetite and aid digestion.
- Comfrey—1750. Used as a spring tonic.
- Fennel—1750. Used to season meat.
- Feverfew—1750. Used to repel bees.
- Germander—1750. Used to treat gout.
- Hyssop—1597. Used as a compress for bruises and burns.
- Italian Parsley—Ancient. Used by first colonists as a healthful green.
- Lamb ears—1750. Used in wine for cataracts.
- Lavender—Introduced by early colonist, who used leaves for headache tea, and as a fragrance.
- Lavender Cotton—English colonists used it for worms, and jaundice, and to repel moths.
- Lemon Balm—1600s. Used as a tea for fever, poultice for stings and bites, as well as furniture polish.
- Lungwort—1800. Used as a tea for jaundice.
- Marjoram—1750. Surrounding the sundial, this herb was used to season meat.
- New Jersey Tea—Introduced to English colonists by Native Americans. Used during the American Revolution as a tea substitute during boycott of tea imported from England. Host to many species of butterflies and moths.
- Oregano—Early, escaped to grow wild – Used for tooth-aches.
- Peony—1750. Roots used to treat epilepsy, apoplexy and nervous afflictions. (Warning do not eat!)
- Peppermint—Ancient. Used as insect repellant and strewing herb.
- Rosemary—1750. Burned as incense in sick rooms.
- Sage—1750. Used as a tea for longevity and many ailments.
- Sweet Annie—1750. Used as a fragrance.
- Salad Burnet—It was used to flavor vinegar.
- Tarragon—1750. Used for flux.
- Thyme—1750. Used for fragrance.
- Winter Savory—1750. Used in wine for digestion.

Welcome to the Stephenson House Gardens

Teaching Garden

Benjamin Stephenson, raised in Virginia, would have been familiar with the crops and plants in that state and would also have known the estate of Thomas Jefferson, Monticello. Jefferson probably deserves his fame as one of the first “Master” gardeners of the new nation. He traveled extensively throughout Europe and brought back seeds from plants that were new to him and, in turn, sent seeds of North American native plants to friends in Europe.

Colonel Stephenson would have grown the same crops as Jefferson, although on a much smaller scale. He would have had early spring crops, such as peas, lettuce, spinach, and radishes followed by later developing crops such as chard, broccoli, and cabbages, followed by even later crops such as corn, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and beans. Our gardens in Edwardsville include those vegetables as well as southern-state favorites such as okra, mustard, and collard greens. One box in the demonstration garden is devoted to perennials: strawberries, rhubarb, artichokes, and asparagus.

The latitude in Edwardsville is similar to that of Monticello, (both at 38 degrees), though at a lower altitude. Every effort has been made to plant and grow vegetables and herbs known to both President Jefferson and Colonel Stephenson.

