

Market Gardener: A Family History, A.W. Schott

One of my hobbies is genealogy. And how I love family history! As a farmer/blogger, I often ponder who my ancestors are? What was their life like? Why did they move to the Fairmont area? Why did they make the decisions they made? For me, it's interesting that both sides of my family (my parents) have family that started farming in the area. And having most of them farm 70-90 years ago was not unusual. In fact, almost all families farmed because they needed to provide food for their families. Today, many of us take for granted the availability of food. Face it. We can just go to a local grocery and have an abundance food available for us to purchase. It's not a life or death issue of growing food for our families any more. And my grandfather, A.W. Schott, was a Market Gardener who's gardening tradition carried on to his family.

I did not know most of my grandparents. Three out of my four grandparents had passed away before I was born. And because I did not know them probably contributed to why I am curious and want to learn more about them. This past weekend I had time to think about my father's side of the family. My father was one of 14 siblings and on Saturday, our family laid to rest one of his sisters. And three weeks prior to that, another sister had passed away. I couldn't help but think and try to put the whole family into perspective. One thing that is particularly disturbing is that we are losing our oral history. We do have some stories, but as always with family history, more questions arise with each piece of family history uncovered. It is our family history that explains who we are today.

My grandfather's family, Anthony Schott (pronounced Scott), immigrated from Denmark and settled in the Dwight, Illinois area. As a young man, he moved to the Fairmont, MN area and me this future wife, Sarah Luckow. My grandfather was a Market Gardener. In 1923, he purchased land on the north end of Fairmont. The original family home is located on the corner of Margaret and Ida (it is still there) and the land he used to grow produce extended from that house to the south towards the banks of George Lake. Next to the house, where the garage is now, was a greenhouse. My grandpa, Anthony Schott, also sold greenhouse produce plants in addition to the grown produce. I try to envision in my head what it must have looked like in the early 1920s and 1930s. Prior to truck farming, my grandfather worked in masonry. Our family has been told he help build the building on the corner of North North Ave. and 9th Street - the building that was used as a wholesale warehouse.

But his calling was gardening. Fortunately, my mother had a copy of his price list of the plants he sold.

GREETINGS

In presenting this, my second annual price list, I first wish to thank all of my former customers for their liberal patronage in the past and assuring you any orders sent me will be given the same personal attention in the future. To new customers I wish to say that my orders sent me will be filled to your satisfaction.

Raspberry, strawberry and all other small plants have been state inspected and pronounced disease free.

All plants, etc., sold by me are grown on my place and are hardy and acclimated and will produce better results than stock shipped in from warmer climates.

I devote my entire time to the growing of hardy nursery stock and guarantee all goods sold by me to be true to name and just as represented.

Trusting I may have your orders, I remain,
Yours truly,

A. W. SCOTT,
Market Gardener,
Fairmont, Minn.
RR No. 1

RASPBERRIES

Landon, the very best for market.

	25	50	100
	Plants	Plants	Plants
Red	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$3.00
Seaburn, Red .....	.50	1.00	2.00
St. Kops, everbearing .....	.75	1.50	3.00
Chamberland, Black	2.00	4.00	8.00

STRAWBERRIES

	25	50	100
	Plants	Plants	Plants
Trailing, the old standard	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$3.00
Minnesota, as hardy as Dandip ..	.50	.75	1.50
Casper, largest berry grown	1.00	2.00	4.00
French	1.00	2.00	4.00
Single Gem	1.25	2.50	5.00
Big Late	1.25	2.50	5.00

Single Gem and Big Late must be grown together.

Pragmatic everbearing. This is the best berry grown 75 1.50 3.00

GRAPES

	Each	Doz.
Concord, 1 yr.	1.50	\$1.50
Concord, 2 yr. ....	.50	4.00
Beta, 1 yr. A hardy grape which no covering .....	.25	2.50

GOOSEBERRIES

Houghton, 1 yr.	1.25	\$2.50
Houghton, 2 yr. ....	.25	4.00
Downing, 1 yr. ....	.25	2.50
Downing, 2 yr. ....	.25	4.00
Gooseberry tree form, twice as large as Downing25	

CURRENTS

Fava prolific red	4.00	\$2.25
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RHUBARB

Liberal division	1.25	
Best Clump	4.00	

ASPARAGUS

Common colored	\$2.00 per 100	1.00	\$1.00
Columbia mammoth	\$3.00 per 100	.50	.50
Washington Best resistant	\$4.00 per 100	.10	1.00

The latest triumph in asparagus

ONIONS

Red		
Yellow, for growing onions	1.00	per Ct.
White		
Onions for greens	1.25	per Ct.

VEGETABLE PLANT

TOMATOES

Per plants 5 cts. each.		
John Deere	1.15 per doz.	\$1.00 per 100
Earline .....	.15 per doz.	1.00 per 100
Bony best .....	.15 per doz.	1.00 per 100
Stone Late .....	.15 per doz.	1.00 per 100

CABBAGE

Early Jersey Wakefield	\$.25 per doz.	\$7.75 per 100
Copenhagen market	.25 per doz.	.75 per 100
Flat Dutch	.25 per doz.	.75 per 100
Danish ball head	.25 per doz.	.75 per 100
Danish round head	.25 per doz.	.75 per 100
Cauliflower	.25 per doz.	2.00 per 100

PEPPERS

Chinese plant, sweet	\$.25 per doz.	\$2.50 per 100
Bell nose, sweet	.25 per doz.	2.50 per 100
Baby King, sweet	.25 per doz.	2.50 per 100
Caroline hot	.25 per doz.	2.50 per 100
Plants assortment of all	.25 per doz.	2.50 per 100

I have all kinds of plants. Write for something you want, I have it.

HEDGING

	25	50	100
	Plants	Plants	Plants
Friest snow river, 18 to 22 inches	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$8.00
Friest Rose, 8 to 18 inches	1.50	3.00	6.00
Friest Rose, 18 to 22 inches	2.00	4.00	8.00
Barberry Thornbergia, 8 to 18 inches	2.00	4.00	8.00
Lilac, 18 to 24 inches	2.50	5.00	10.00

SHRUBS

Satin Van Houtte	\$.25 each
Alba Rose of Sharon	.25 each
Lilac, 12 to 18 inches	.25 each
Lilac, 18 to 24, well branched	.25 each

ROSES

Pink beauty bedding roses	
Large, 1 yr. field grown	\$.50 each
Red, 1 yr. field grown	.25 each

CLIMBING ROSES

Crimson Rambler, 1 yr.	\$.25 each
Dorothy Perkins, white, 1 yr.	.25 each
Dorothy Perkins, Red, 1 yr.	.25 each
Climbing Clematis, 1 yr.	.25 each

DAHLIAS

I have tried to get the best on the market, not sparing expense. These Dahlias are a beautiful sight.

A. D. Livoni, pink veined variety	\$.25 each
Queen of Yellow Ball	.25 each
Red Blazer show	.25 each
Fancy Flower Red	.25 each
Wine Red, beautiful	.25 each
Varegated Red Spotted with White	.25 each
Purple, the best I can find	.25 each
Sierra King, white ball.	

The most beautiful of all ball varieties	.25 each
Delighted White, 8 to 9 inches across	.25 each
Butterfly White show	.25 each

GLADIOLUS

Standard mixture, No. 1 bulb, sure bloom	\$.50	\$.50
One flower, all colors the best grade	.10	1.00
Hybrids in shades from yellow to orange	.05	.50

If interested in bulbsets for growing write for prices. I have many named varieties in growing stock.

HARDY PERENNIALS

These are the flowers you need to see at your garden centers, blooming every year to the top of all.

Coreopsis, yellow, Daisy like flower	\$.25 each
Shasta Daisy, white	.25 each
Pop Glows, mixed	.25 each
Ever Williams, mixed colors	.25 each
Columbinas, mixed colors	.25 each
Achille, the pearl	.25 each
English Bellis Daisy	.25 each
Laetager Blue	.25 each
Laetager Chinese white	.25 each
Stachys, 6 ft. high, yellow.	

Bell shaped flowers, 8 inches across	.25 each	
Evergreen creeping Myrtle for cemetery planting	.25 each	
Funaria, glauc. exaltation	\$.50 each	\$.75 doz.
Funaria, standard mixture	.25 each	.50 doz.
Vilva, all colors	.25 each	.50 doz.
Oriental Poppy, red with black throat and		

As I look through my current family, it is amazing how many family members have followed in the gardening/farming family footsteps. Many of my aunts/uncles/cousins love(d) gardening (even have some master gardeners!) including my dad who gardened most of his life. Only when gardening was just too hard on him, did he quit. And to this day, I have a garden. And at times I feel inadequate and humbled because of my family history. But I will continue my family's tradition to garden and farm with my family as we continue to grow food for our family, as well as other families. And I *will reflect and remember* my ancestors and their life and my imagined life for them. I will not romanticize it. It was a hard life.

I know that.

A very hard life. And I will not forget. . .

Does your family have any special traditions?

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