

time as 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', and John Champneys could very well have been the breeder. Fraser also imported plants to America. An advertisement he placed in the local gazette is the first written record of 'Old Blush', one of the parent roses, in Charleston:

J. Fraser at Mr. A. Duncan's, Queen Street, No. 113, has for sale—two new kinds of Evergreen perpetually Flowering Roses, originally from the East Indies; one kind bears dark crimson coloured Flowers, the other pale red Flowers. Those incomparable Roses, are well established in Garden pots, and are in a handsome state of vegetation.

Noisette—the Story Behind the Name

Why is the class of reblooming roses descended from Champneys' landmark new rose called the Noisettes? One assumption has been that Champneys lacked the talent or interest to develop the rose further. Another story is that Philippe Stanislas Noisette, a French-born nurseryman based in Charleston, provided both of the roses from which Champneys made his cross, and that Champneys gave Noisette the rose.

Philippe Noisette was the son of Joseph Noisette, a gardener to the nobility of France prior to the French Revolution. He is said to have arrived in Charleston in 1795 from the island of Saint-Domingue (now Haiti), but appears in no historic records until 1808 when

he is mentioned in the minutes of the Charleston Botanical Society as its director. The city directory of 1809 lists him as living in Hampstead. For most of his life, Noisette maintained a residence and nursery on Charleston Neck.

Noisette probably came to Charleston for two reasons. First, as the city had a well-established reputation in the botanical field, Noisette undoubtedly thought he could develop a business there. Secondly, the city offered a network of support based on his connections with the French émigré community from Saint-Domingue, which would provide a footing for eventual success. One of Noisette's influential friends, Dr. Joseph Johnson, was the driving force behind the founding of the Botanical Society, which established a botanical garden in Charleston in 1805. When they hired Noisette as director in 1808, the Society faced significant difficulties. A lottery that was to pay for improvements to the botanical garden proved a failure and in the Society's minutes for 1810, the land was reported as being sterile. The Society tried to move the botanical garden to land owned by William Turpin on Charleston Neck, but the effort failed and the Society and its garden disappeared.

By the time this happened, Noisette was a successful nurseryman with land on Charleston Neck along present-day Rutledge Avenue, which he had purchased from a merchant named Nathaniel Rus-

sell. Until the middle of the twentieth century, the property remained in the Noisette family as a nursery. In 1814 Noisette sent a rose specimen to his brother Louis Claude, a nurseryman in France, where appreciation for this Champneys-type rose became intense. The class of rose was named after Philippe Noisette when Louis Claude invited Pierre-Joseph Redouté, the most famous flower painter of the nineteenth century, to depict the rose, which was 'Blush Noisette'. On his painting of 'Blush Noisette', Redouté wrote the words *Rosa Noisettiana* and *Rosier de Philippe Noisette*. This image was reproduced throughout the world and thus the name "Noisette" became well known.

Development of the Noisette Class

'Blush Noisette' is a more refined rose than 'Champneys' Pink Cluster'. William Prince described it as "more double than its parent, and of much more dwarf and compact growth; the flowers in very large dense panicles." Prince was not so kind to Noisette. He wrote that "the origin of the first varieties of this remarkable group has been announced erroneously to the world by various writers, arising first from the want of candor on the part of Philippe Noisette of Charleston when he transmitted the plants to Paris; and secondly, from the ignorance of those who have discussed the subject." Yet he gives proper credit to