

did not know the sex, and he seemed rather nonplussed. Evidently, he had not realized that it might create a difficult situation when his customers did not get fruit. Apparently, there is no real stock of selected plants in the Northeast. Some of the nurserymen, I think, are buying from the South. I just saw an adv. in the American Nurseryman for grafted hollies from Massachusetts hardy stock, so some are looking to the North.

I may have to call on you for plants in the spring, since my stock is limited. So far, I have sold only collected plants which I have marked for good qualities. It may be necessary to send a truck to Whitesbog for a load. You might be thinking of this and of a price for at least 200 plants. I should be glad to get some of the special ones, as I want to get special plants started in a collection of the various types. I shall sell off the more or less inferior types and keep the better ones.

Wilfred Wheeler

November 17, 1941

Your account of the exhibition of hollies is most interesting. All such educational efforts are helpful in promoting the cause of better holly.

You have the naming of the two Wilson hollies as I understand it, and I have changed the labeling of our one- and two-year-old plants accordingly.

Besides the "St. Mary" and "Wilson" plants, we have plants from cuttings you sent last year, marked Wheeler #1 and #11, and Allen. You showed me the Allen tree, wind-tortured at the corner of a farm house; but I have nothing with which to connect the two lots marked Wheeler.

I have adopted the policy of writing on the labels, in addition to the name of the holly, the name of the person from whom it was obtained. Thus, the name Wheeler is written small on the "St. Mary" and "Wilson" labels, and the name Davis on all those secured from the Davis farm in Cape May County.

I should like to have you name all the lots which you are going to send soon, preferably with a distinctly feminine name for the berry holly and with a masculine name for the pollen holly. My only objection to the name "Wilson" is that it is not feminine. I used numbers extensively in keeping earlier records; but many have so much more individuality, that in using names I find them easier to connect with the plants. With such outstanding trees as the "Criscom", "St. Mary", and "Wilson", I continue to connect the plants with the original tree; but with hollies from the woods, the names come to mean just what the rows of nursery plants tell me.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, we have the only stock of selected northern hollies - and it is getting to be considerable. From the cuttings of '39, we have approximately 10,000 plants and as many more from the cuttings of '40. We also have in the neighborhood of 7,000 older plants, few of which are as much as four feet high.

I should be glad, indeed, to have the opportunity to supply you next spring, and I enclose a copy of our wholesale list. At these prices, we pick the plants and are not apt to include the very best, the top 5% of our collection. Of many of the plants we know little beyond the sex and the appearance in the nursery row, but they are all far above the wild average.

I have given you one each of "Criscom" and "Hanig", which promise to be among the very best of the New Jersey selections. I plan to give you four more of each of these and five each of "Laura", "Farage", "Osa", "Clark", and "Joyce", which I hope you will continue to grow for testing and cutting stock on your place. "Clark" is definitely a holly for hedges, or moderately clipped specimens. The leaves are not very prickly and stand up cheerfully under much winter wind, and the berries are small and abundant.

"Joyce" is so rampant a grower that I fear it may become embarrassing in the nursery, where we have several hundred plants. These were from one to two feet high last spring. This summer they have grown from one to three feet additional, not only

the leader but many side branches as well, and they have more berries than all the others put together. Whether this indicates innate frost-resistance or only that their blossoms were a little higher above the ground than those of the average and so escaped damaging cold, I cannot be sure.

I shall be very glad to receive cuttings of an orange-berried holly or of any other holly which looks promising to you. I shall also be glad to receive additional cuttings of I. altaclarensis. In addition to the plant you gave me, I have ten from cuttings which Jackson Batchelor gave me last year. My very limited experience inclines me to believe that we shall find certain strains of I. opaca which will make better pot plants than I. altaclarensis. There is such a lot to learn!

You can hardly realize what encouragement the enthusiasm of so experienced a plantsman as yourself give me in this holly work. With the exception of Tom Windom, none of my associates has any interest in this development.

Elizabeth C. White

P.S. Since the above letter was typed, your letter has been received, telling of the shipment of two boxes of holly and the change of the name "Wilson" to "St. Anne's". Are we to spell the two St. hollies with or without the s? "St. Mary's" or "St. Mary"?

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November 15, 1941

I am sending you two packages of cuttings: "St. Mary's", Wilson #2 which I have named "St. Anne's"; the orange-colored which I have called "Laura Thomas"; a very fine male tree called "Edward Thomas"; and "Quinn", the tree near the greenhouse which did not look too well. But as I have known the tree, it is good.

The fruit of "St. Anne's" is still far from its true color, but is very fine. As for "St. Mary's", the cuttings are very short and I could not get many.

The male tree that I found a few days ago seems to be the most remarkable male tree I have seen. I am sorry I did not know about it when you were here.

As for the orange-berried tree, it is very beautiful, but I am not sure that it will compare with the real red ones. For a novelty, it might be welcome.

The holly exhibit in Boston was awarded a medal by the New England Wild Flower Society as an educational exhibit in growing one of our most important native trees. I am receiving a good many letters asking about holly trees.

Wilfred Wheeler

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November 21, 1941

The cuttings were in fine order, moist and fresh as if they had just been packed. The foliage of "Edward Thomas" is certainly remarkable for its beauty. How large is the tree?

Are you expecting to send cuttings of the other two trees we located in the woods? They were near the Girl Scouts' camp, were they not?

The first cuttings, which we put in the last of August and the following two weeks, now have many good roots. I am hoping to pot up 1,000 to 2,000 of these next January and to get small plants with berries on them for Christmas '42.

We have always had considerable bloom on the cuttings in the greenhouse. There has never been any care in pollinating these cuttings, nor have we used the new fruit-setting chemicals. Nevertheless, we have gotten a small percentage of the little plants with berries on them, though the greater number of varieties dropped their berries when such plants were potted after the first new growth had hardened about the end of May or early June. The work has been done this late because of the difficulty of fitting it in with the rush spring season. This year I am planning to pot as many as I can in January before any top growth is made. If my scheme works out and I

find there is a demand for such plants, I shall be warranted in asking for more greenhouse space to care for them.

Elizabeth C. White

November 19, 1941

The cuttings were all named; there were about 200 from the "St. Ann" tree and about 100 from "St. Mary". I think we had better omit the final s.

As for the Wheeler #3 and #2, these are trees which I have in the woods and are good, not outstanding but better than the average. The Allen tree is the one you will recall as being in the open. This tree has taken all kinds of weather; other than that I do not consider it of particular value. You might keep some of it for stock.

You wrote that the Peekskill Nursery in Peekskill, N.Y., is advertising grafted hollies from Massachusetts trees, but you certainly have the largest stock from good sources. As it looks now, I shall need about 200 plants. It may be best for me to get them with the truck; I shall let you know about this later. I am looking forward to the named plants which you are going to give to me, and I am preparing places for them this fall.

In the package of cuttings is an orange-fruited variety that I named "Laura Thomas" after the wife of the man who owns the tree. We shall have to distinguish it from your "Laura" in some way.

By the way, I have made arrangements to move the "Dorothy" tree to my place and also several other good-looking trees which were near it.

I am indeed glad you think I have encouraged you in your holly work. It is such a pleasure to work with you, for I feel like an amateur compared with what you know. I have learned so much from you about what to look for in hollies. I find myself looking for the things you have spoken of and being very hard-boiled over a tree which does not have these qualities.

I have permission to scout a section near Rochester, Mass., a good deal north of us. I have heard that there are some fine hollies there. It seems to me there will always be a call for good hollies, even though they may not be outstanding. These can be propagated and sold as better than average. Rochester is in the coldest section of Massachusetts that grows hollies abundantly; it is about forty miles back from the sea.

I have heard of a place in Rhode Island which has some fine hollies. However, I find that people know so little about that subject that almost anything looks good to them.

Wilfred Wheeler

November 25, 1941

Almost thirty-five years ago, when on the Garden Committee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, I visited a garden in Marion in which there were some holly trees. Looking over some old pictures the other night, I came across a picture of one of these trees. I went to Marion today to see it.

The place is still in the same family, but what a change. The hurricane wiped almost everything off the point, including the large house and several others, but the holly tree and several others which I had forgotten were still standing. In spite of the fact that twenty feet of salt water had covered them, all are in splendid condition and especially the one that I had remembered. The tree reminds me somewhat of the "Griscom" holly in that it is much the same shape, although not as large, being somewhat better than 35 feet. It also reminds me somewhat of a large edition of "St. Mary" in that the leaves are very close and dark. The fruit is borne more like that of "St. Ann". The tree spreads about 25 feet at the base, but has a straight trunk. It is not heavily fruited this season, but one side is quite good and suggests what it might be if fully covered. I shall send you some cuttings and hope to get a