

# THE NURSERIES ON MILNE'S LAND-USE MAP

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## SUMMARY

In 1795-99 an original survey of the London area was made by Thomas Milne, who published the engraved result in 1800. The map was the first to show detailed land-use, and distinguishes between grounds used for market gardens, orchards, hop gardens and nurseries. An attempt is made here to identify the plots of ground used as nurseries with the occupying nurserymen and to complete the picture of the nursery trade of London 1795-1800.

Since the discovery of early nurseries mostly depends on haphazard survival of records, there is rarely a complete picture at any one date. For the country as a whole the first general coverage is given by Bailey's British Directories of 1780-84. Many more towns were included in the Universal Directory of 1790-97. Thus it is only in the last years of the eighteenth century that an overall distribution can be established. Even so, serious confusion is caused by the indiscriminate use of "gardener", particularly in regard to the two distinct, and usually incompatible, trades of market and nursery gardening. The standing of each business has to be confirmed independently.<sup>1</sup>

For Greater London there is, fortunately, another source of information, the detailed land-use plan surveyed by Thomas Milne in 1795-99 and published by him on 11 March 1800.<sup>2</sup> It seems that only one complete copy survives, but this is fully coloured and signed by the surveyor. Though well known to geographers as a remarkable pioneering study of land-utilization,<sup>3</sup> its most outstanding feature does not appear to have been noticed. This is its discrimination between the use of land for nurseries, market gardens and orchards respectively. Engraved on a scale of two inches to the mile, the map marks field boundaries and these correspond quite well with detail on larger plans of individual districts. In principle, therefore, Milne showed every nursery ground of substantial size in an area some 14 miles from north to south by 18 from east to west. There is in fact at least one surprising omission and in other cases what seems to be inadequate indication of area. Notwithstanding these defects the map agrees well with a list of metropolitan nurseries drawn up from directories and filled in from other sources.

In round figures there were 45 nurseries of standing within the area of Milne's map in the period 1795-1800, and of these over 30 can be identified. The identifications include almost all known major firms except Lee & Kennedy of Hammersmith. Most of the firms whose grounds do not appear were small or in built-up areas. From the identified grounds a fairly clear pattern emerges. The London trade, though already pushed out of the central area in which many of the early nurserymen had their gardens, still tended to centralisation. There had always been some dispersal, and this applies particularly to nurseries in the Thames Valley above London: at Turnham Green, Isleworth and Twickenham north of the Thames, and at Putney and Kew south of the river. At such points, close to water transport, there is evidence that the plant trade goes back to the seventeenth and perhaps even to the sixteenth century.

Before listing the nurseries shown, something must be said of the map and its maker. Milne's engraving, except in closely built-up areas, shows the pattern of fields and the land

use of each parcel. His accuracy as a surveyor is acknowledged and he was one of the first to be able to use the base-line measured for the Ordnance Survey. On the complete copy, land use is indicated by colouring as well as by engraved letters, and Milne's painstaking accuracy is shown in four cases where plots marked "n" (nursery ground) are not coloured and seem in fact to have gone out of use.<sup>4</sup> This may mean that Milne made a secondary re-survey of land use shortly before publication but after engraving.

The question remains just why Milne was concerned to distinguish between various kinds of gardens. One possibility is that he was closely related to his namesake and younger contemporary, the nurseryman Thomas Milne (c. 1767–1838) of Fulham. The surveyor was already at work in Scotland by April 1768 and by 1791 referred to his "twenty years experience" of surveying.<sup>5</sup> Although his career from 1768 to 1800 is well documented, nothing is known of Milne after his production of the London map, when his address was No. 7, New Street, Knightsbridge. This position, close to the chief nurseries of fashionable London, may be significant. Chronologically Milne might have been the junior partner of Alexander Eddie evidenced in 1783–85 in the famous seedsman's business in the Strand, though this was more probably the Alexander Milne who in 1785 appears as a seed and hop merchant.<sup>6</sup> Whatever may have been the reasons for Milne's particularity we must be grateful for the unexpected light thrown by his work on an obscure subject.

Since the map marks the ancient parish boundaries it is convenient to study the nurseries by parishes. In the gazeteer which follows, cross-references are given for hamlets such as Brompton, Dalston, Walworth, from which many nurseries took their names. Nurseries of 1795–1800 evidenced from other sources are briefly noted at the end of each parish. Each main entry gives the approximate extent of the nursery marked in relation to modern streets, with an indication of acreage scaled off the map. This does not always agree with statements of area in standard works on horticultural history, and it is likely that several of the unidentified parcels of nursery ground belonged to nurserymen at a distance, even in other parishes. This phenomenon is well attested at a later period. The probability is that very few London nurseries of c. 1800 are really unknown.

Milne's map shows an apparent grand total of 49 nurseries but this is not precise and depends upon assumptions. Of the 49 it can be regarded as certain that 38 are identifiable with nurseries known to have flourished in the period, while 33 are specifically identified with named nurserymen. On the other hand at least 11 named nurserymen were in business in grounds apparently unmarked. Five of these are accounted for as being in closely built-up areas and one other at Highgate (St. Pancras parish) was very small. In one case (New Cross Nursery at Deptford) it is likely that the firm combined a nursery with large-scale market gardening in a way that eluded Milne's notice. Two nurserymen in Brompton (Kensington parish), evidenced in 1797, may have had grounds soon afterwards taken over by one of the larger firms. The new nursery of Buchanan at Camberwell cannot have started until 1796 and was perhaps not in business at the time of the survey. Only the large and surpassingly famous Vineyard Nursery of Lee & Kennedy at Hammersmith (Fulham parish) is left as being mysteriously absent without any reasonable explanation.

In the Gazeteer main numbers, 1–49, are given to the (assumed) separate nurseries marked on Milne's map. Other nurseries evidenced for the period 1795–1800 are given a subsidiary numbering (e.g. 4.A). A few other nurseries, not certainly operating at this date, are mentioned but not numbered.



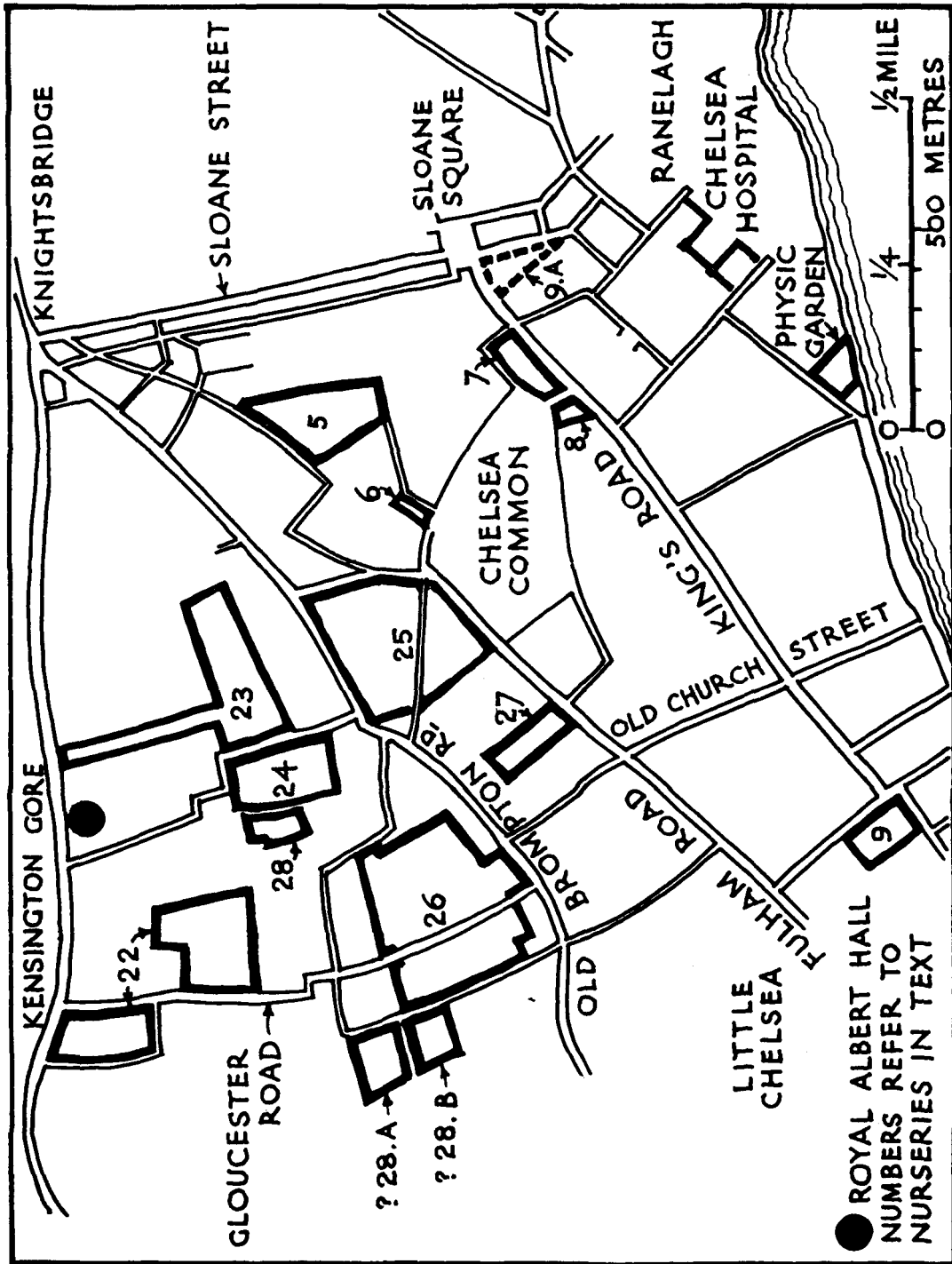


Fig. 2 Nurseries in Kensington and Chelsea

GAZETEER

BETHNAL GREEN (Middlesex)

(1) Hackney Road (S. side), Columbia Road, Ravenscroft Street. 8 acres.  
Possibly part of John Allport's nursery (SHOREDITCH, below 45), as he owned houses and land at Hackney Road, Bethnal Green, in 1802.<sup>7</sup> In 1812 W. & A. Duthie were nurserymen in this parish as was "Duthie" in 1786.<sup>8</sup>

Brentford – see EALING, ISLEWORTH

Brompton – see KENSINGTON

CAMBERWELL (Surrey)

(2) Old Kent Road (S. side), Coburg Road, Pepler Road. 12 acres.  
*Pinery* (later *Coburg Place Nursery*). This, the site of the Hen & Chickens public house, is the position of G. Neal's nursery specializing in Pineapples, 2 miles 60 rods from Cornhill in 1788.<sup>9</sup> It was rated on £45 in 1802. From 1803 to 1836 or later a larger area was occupied by William Couldry, nurseryman and seedsman, rental £100, from 1810 only £66.<sup>10</sup>

(3) Old Kent Road (N. side), Tustin Street, Ilderton Road. 4 acres.  
Not traced; in 1842 the site of Canterbury Place.

(4) Champion Hill (S.E. side), Green Dale. 6 acres.  
Not traced.

Thomas Davey (c. 1758–1833), florist, had a small nursery in Camberwell from before 1791 until 1798, when he moved to King's Road, Chelsea (below, 8).<sup>11</sup>

(4.A) *The Camberwell Nursery*. James Buchanan, gardener and florist, late of Kew, on 2 November 1795 took a lease of a messuage, shop and land for 21 years at £31 a year,<sup>12</sup> but by 1802 he seems to have moved to other land, at least in part.<sup>13</sup> With the address No. 7 Bowyer Place, Camberwell Road, the firm became one of outstanding importance noted for herbaceous border plants and for uncommon trees and shrubs,<sup>14</sup> as Buchanan & Oldroyd 1811–32; Buchanan, Oldroyd & Marsden 1832–; William J. Buchanan –1849.<sup>15</sup> The main grounds were on each side of Wyndham Road and between Camberwell New Road and Knatchbull Road, marked as meadows and gardens by Milne.

CHELSEA (Middlesex)<sup>16</sup>

(5) Walton Street, Lennox Gardens, Rawlings Street. 13 acres.  
Not traced, but probably part of Kensington Nursery (below, 22) as Daniel Grimwood was rated near here on £70 for nursery land in 1794–1800, and William Malcolm & Co. in 1805.

(6) Draycott Avenue, Mossop Street. 1½ acres.  
Not traced, but John Harrison (below, 25) was rated in this area on £41 in 1794 and later on £31.

(7) Kings Road (N. side), Sloane Avenue, Draycott Place. 2½ acres.  
Founded by James Colvill senior (c. 1746–1822), first shown in the rates in 1783; in 1790 Colvill & Buchanan and by 1807 Colvill & Son; carried on by James Colvill junior (1777–1832). The nursery was in 1795 distinguished for the first real display of the garden Chrysanthemum in Britain, and later for hybridization of pelargoniums, gladiolus and

hippeastrums;<sup>17</sup> by 1811 specialized in rare exotics and forced flowers, having between 30,000 and 40,000 square feet under glass. By 1827 Colvill occupied a second nursery at Roehampton in Surrey. He had a very large collection of Cape Bulbs.<sup>18</sup> In 1834-40 the nursery was occupied by (Henry) Adams & Durban.

(8) Kings Road (N. side), Sloane Avenue (W. side). ½ acre.  
Thomas Davey (c. 1758-1833), florist, was here from 1798 after moving from Camberwell (above). Davey was nationally famous for Florists' Flowers, especially Carnations, Pinks and Tulips.<sup>19</sup>

(9) Limerston Street (W. side), Gertrude Street, Lamont Road. 5 acres.  
Not certainly traced, but probably the Chelsea nursery of Henry Shailer (see also KENSINGTON, *Little Chelsea*), who flourished 1788-1815 and was rated for a nursery in this area in 1795-1805. He was famous as a grower of Roses.<sup>20</sup>

(9.A) John Fraser (1750-1811) had a nursery from c. 1786 at the S.W. corner of Sloane Square (Kings Road, S. side), continued after his death by his sons. He was certainly paying rates here in 1800-05. Fraser was botanical collector to the Emperor of Russia and famous for his introductions from America; also, in 1802, for first flowering the Dahlia in Britain.<sup>21</sup>

#### Ranelagh

A nursery near Ranelagh, Chelsea, was occupied in 1789 and possibly later by Hairs, Hairs & Smith of St. James's Street (see KINGSTON, *Ham*).

#### CHISWICK (Middlesex)

(10) Chiswick High Road (N. side), Turnham Green, Thornton Avenue. 8 acres.  
*Turnham Green Nursery*. Probably the nursery occupied by James Scott c. 1740-60.<sup>22</sup> The land was rated to Robson & Hodgson (Robertson, Robinson) in 1776-81, and from 1785 became the nursery of Richard Williams, later F.R.H.S.<sup>23</sup> Williams specialized in Heathers by 1794,<sup>24</sup> and introduced plants from Australia and the Cape.<sup>25</sup> He also marketed the improved Bon Chrétien pear, illustrated by William Hooker in the Horticultural Society's *Transactions* for 1817 and ever since famous as "Williams'".

#### Strand-on-the-Green

There was a nursery before 1722 occupied by George Master(s) who improved the Hotspur Pea.<sup>26</sup> "Masters' or Short Hotspur" appears in seedsmen's lists as late as 1828. This may have been the same nursery occupied from 1727 by Henry Woodman (c. 1698-1758) and by his widow on a declining scale to 1780.<sup>27</sup>

Dalston - see HACKNEY

#### DEPTFORD ST. PAUL (Kent)

(11) Woodpecker Road (E. side), Rolt Street (N. side). [Marked "n" but not coloured].  
Not traced, but the land was market gardens by 1844.<sup>28</sup> 10 acres.

(11.A) *New Cross Nursery*. Milne marks as market gardens several large parcels of land N. of New Cross Road (area of New Cross Gate Station) in the Surrey (Hatcham) part of Deptford parish. These formed by c. 1780 the nursery of Crombie & Cormack, after 1802 John Cormack, later Cormack & Son, Cormack, Son & Sinclair, in 1843 Cormack & Oliver.<sup>29</sup> By 1811 they were among the principal London nurserymen

and occupied 40 acres,<sup>30</sup> and in 1830 took part of the new Conservatories at Covent Garden.<sup>31</sup>

EALING (Middlesex)

*Brentford*

Milne's map does not mark any nursery ground in Brentford (parish of Ealing), leaving blank grounds near Brentford Church known to have been occupied by the firm of Ronalds (see ISLEWORTH, below 19). In 1802 Hugh Ronalds (c. 1759–1833) was freeholder of his own house in New Brentford.<sup>32</sup>

FULHAM (Middlesex)<sup>33</sup>

(12) New Kings Road (S. side), Hurlingham Road, Broomhouse Road. 18 acres.  
*The Fulham Nursery*. Probably founded c. 1720–30 by Christopher Gray (c. 1694–1764), who may have taken over an earlier nursery. It was continued by William Burchell (c. 1725–1800) and Matthew Burchell until 1810, when it was purchased by Whitley, Brames & Milne from Brompton (see 26 below). The junior partner, Thomas Milne (c. 1767–1838), came from Threepwood in the parish of Melrose and may have been related to the surveyor. He was a distinguished hybridizer, raising the noted passion-flower *Passiflora x caeruleo-racemosa* about 1820.<sup>34</sup> The firm was Whitley & Osborn from 1833, Osborn & Son from 1853, and closed in 1881. One of the most famous nurseries for American trees, this was in 1811 among the principal nurserymen.<sup>35</sup> Matthew Burchell in 1802 held at least part of the land as freehold.<sup>36</sup>

(13) New Kings Road (N. side), Munster Road, St. Dionis Road. 4 acres.  
 Not traced, though it might be expected to represent the Parsons Green nursery visited by Gibson in 1691. It was founded by Thomas Rench (c. 1631–1728) and continued by his son Nathaniel Rench (1682–1783) and the latter's son-in-law Daniel Fitch and his children until 1865. The main area occupied consisted of Southfield or Broom Farm (ultimately South Park), some way to the south-east. The Rench family are said to have founded the first London Floral Feasts, annual flower shows, and to have been active in improving strawberries; auriculas, variegated hollies and tulip trees were among their specialities.<sup>37</sup>

(14) Munster Road (E. side), Lettice Street, St. Dionis Road. 1 acre.  
 Possibly the nursery attached to the market garden of the Dancer family, flourishing c. 1650–1880.

*Hammersmith*

(15) King Street (S. side), Queen Caroline Street, Angel Walk, Sussex Place. 6 acres.  
 Not traced, unless it is the nursery in King Street later well known as Colley & Hill (c. 1815–40), celebrated for pelargoniums.<sup>38</sup> In 1805 David Allen, florist and seedsman, and Allen, Newman & Gyet, florists and seedsmen, were in Hammersmith.<sup>39</sup> There had also been a nursery in Hammersmith belonging to Henry Marsh (1675–1741), perhaps close to his mansion in Frog Lane.<sup>40</sup>

(15.A) *The Vineyard Nursery*. The nucleus of this famous nursery comprised some 18 acres N. of Hammersmith Road on the site of Olympia. The land, or parts of it, had been occupied by Lewis Kennedy and James Lee (1715–1795) as a nursery since 1745, and after Lee's death continued in various partnerships until 1894. Milne marks part of the land on the known site of the nursery as meadow.<sup>41</sup>

## HACKNEY (Middlesex)

(16) Well Street (E. side), Wick Road, Queen Anne Road. 5 acres.  
Probably the nursery founded by John Busch *c.* 1760 and taken over in 1771 by Conrad Loddiges (?1743–1826). In 1787 and 1792 Loddiges acquired other grounds lying E. of Mare Street, marked by Milne as meadow and market garden.<sup>42</sup> Loddiges were especially noted for the introduction of rare exotics, and for their publications: *The Botanical Cabinet* (1818–33) and a long series of catalogues.<sup>43</sup>

(17) Victoria Park Road (S.E. side), opposite Well Street Common. 8 acres.  
Not traced as a separate nursery but perhaps part of Busch's and later Loddiges' grounds.

## Dalston

(18) Dalston Lane (S. side), Graham Road. 17 acres.  
The nucleus, later enlarged to 30 acres, of the nursery founded by Warren Luker (d. 1784) about 1760, from 1780 carried on as Luker, Smith & Lewis and from 1785 to 1849 as Smiths. Edward and Samuel Smith were regarded in 1811 as among the principal nurserymen and had over 30,000 square feet of glass.<sup>44</sup>

Ham – see KINGSTON

Hammersmith – see FULHAM

Hoxton – see SHOREDITCH

## ISLEWORTH (Middlesex)

(19) London Road (S. side), Twickenham Road, Teesdale Avenue. 8 acres.  
Part of the nursery occupied by the firm of Ronalds of Brentford (see EALING, above). The firm is said to have been founded *c.* 1750 by Hugh Ronalds senior (*c.* 1726–1788), who was renting part of this land from the Duke of Northumberland by 1780. The nursery was carried on by his son Hugh Ronalds junior (*c.* 1759–1833), the author of *Pyrus Malus Brentfordiensis* (1831), and later members of the family. The land tax assessment on the Isleworth ground increased from £5 to £10 in 1793, to £11 in 1794–96, £19 in 1797–1800 and later to £82. Though chiefly famous for fruit trees, the firm also pioneered in herbaceous and alpine plants.<sup>45</sup>

(19.A) Nathaniel Swinden, author of *The Beauties of Flora* (1778), was established near the 8th milestone on the Bath Road, presumably on the opposite (N.) side to Ronalds' nursery.<sup>46</sup> Swinden was described as a seedsman of Old Brentford in 1805.<sup>47</sup>

(19.B) A Brentford nurseryman called Bell in 1793 received seeds, sent by Pallas from the Crimea, of the Pontic Azalea (*Rhododendron luteum*), then first introduced.<sup>48</sup> This was probably the Mr. Bell paying land tax in Isleworth at the time and possibly the John Bell who died there in 1813. In 1818 Thomas Bush Bell owned a nursery at Brentford End next to Syon Park, on the S. side of the London Road.<sup>49</sup>

An outstanding earlier nursery in Isleworth, on an unknown site, was that of Peter Mason (1680–1730), famous for fruit trees and a pioneer of the spruce fir. At Mason's death the nursery contained over 115,000 trees in some 80 species.<sup>50</sup> This may have been the nursery occupied by James Aslett in 1767 and by one Chandler in 1780.<sup>51</sup>

## ISLINGTON (Middlesex)

Milne leaves blank an area close to the centre of Islington known to have been the nursery of the Watson family



(19.C) Before 1769 William Watson had founded a nursery E. of Colebrooke Row (Danbury Street, Noel Road, St. Peter's Street) of some  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres,<sup>52</sup> specializing in choice plants.<sup>53</sup> In 1771 he took part in the "great interchange of exotic plants" with the Chelsea Garden. The firm became William & James Watson in 1776 and in 1792 Thomas Watson succeeded to the business, which continued until 1821.<sup>54</sup> Watson was in 1798 the first to flower the Pontic Azalea in Britain (see above, 19.B).<sup>55</sup>

(19.D) Andrew Hogarth was in 1797 a nurseryman here.<sup>56</sup>

#### Kingsland

(20) Balls Pond Road (N. side), Boleyn Road, King Henry's Walk. 19 acres.  
*The Kingsland Nursery*, occupied from 1787 by Robert Mackie, later by Lewis & Mackie, from 1800 by Thomas Bassington, in 1825 Bassington & Bunney, and finally by George Hockley Bunney in 1826-44. Bunney in the 1830's was one of the hybridizers of the *Fuchsia*.<sup>57</sup> In 1797 the firm of Mackie & Lewis was described as a "Patent Nursery Manufactory".<sup>58</sup>

#### Newington Green

(21) St. Pauls Road (N. side), Newington Green Road, St. Pauls Place. 2 acres.  
*Northampton Nursery*, founded by Thomas Barr in 1791. By 1798, as shown by an increase in assessment from £16 to £34 for land, the nursery had been enlarged, and by 1806 consisted of 11 acres extending W. over the site of Northampton Park.<sup>59</sup> Barr took Samuel Brookes into partnership in 1819; in 1822 the nursery was said to be "carried on with much spirit, collectors being sent out to distant countries, and many new plants imported".<sup>60</sup> Brookes left England for Chicago in 1832 and the land was used for building.<sup>61</sup>

Kennington – see LAMBETH

#### KENSINGTON (Middlesex)

(22) (a) High Street (S. side), Palace Gate, Victoria Road. 9 acres.  
 (b) Gloucester Road (E. side), Queens Gate, Queens Gate Mews, Queens Gardens. 14 acres.

(see also CHELSEA, 5 above; and *Brompton*, 27 below)

*The Kensington Nursery*, founded soon after 1700 by Robert Furber (c. 1674-1756), and until 1840 one of the most fashionable nurseries. Furber acquired some of the exotics introduced by Bishop Henry Compton (1632-1713) to Fulham Palace, and the nursery was throughout distinguished for the number of rare species cultivated. It is particularly noted also as the first known English source of the Moss Rose (1724).<sup>62</sup> The firm continued as John Williamson & Co. from 1756 to 1783, when it was taken over by Daniel Grimwood, who discovered the "Unique" or White Provence Rose and developed a stock of it. The business flourished through several partnerships, notably that of Grimwood & Wykes in 1796-1804. It was then leased by William Malcolm junior (1769-1835) and later passed to Richard Forrest. There was a separate seed shop, The Pine Apple, in Arlington Street, Piccadilly. In 1820 the amount of land worked had fallen to 20 acres,<sup>63</sup> but by 1822 a field of 7 acres in Brompton (below, 27) had been acquired from William Salisbury.<sup>64</sup> Daniel Grimwood in 1802 was freeholder of his own house and land in Kensington.<sup>65</sup>

#### Brompton

(23) Thurloe Place (N. side), Imperial Institute Road, Ennismore Gardens, Brompton Square, Exhibition Road. 21 acres.

*Brompton Park Nursery*, founded in 1681 by Roger Looker & Co., and famous in 1694–1714 as London & Wise, the first really large nursery in Britain (then some 50 acres but gradually reduced).<sup>66</sup> Successive partnerships never regained the prestige lost by the incompetence of Joseph Carpenter and William Smith, who took over in 1714, but the business survived until 1851. From 1789 to 1802 the proprietors were James Gray and Thomas Wear.<sup>67</sup> In 1811 the nursery was again put at 50 acres; in 1820 at 56 acres.<sup>68</sup>

(24) Cromwell Road (N. side), Imperial Institute Road (site of Natural History Museum).  
14 acres.

*Cromwell's Garden Nursery*, perhaps founded soon after 1700 by John Kirke, and occupied by Joseph Kirke in 1766. Until after 1824 the firm was in the hands of Joseph Kirke senior and his sons William and Joseph; in 1836 of John Kirke.<sup>69</sup> They were famous for grape vines and for other fruit, stocking one hundred varieties of apples.<sup>70</sup>

(25) Brompton Road (W. side), Thurloe Place, Onslow Square. 27 acres.  
Founded by Henry Hewitt (d. 1771) and his brother Samuel (d. 1793). After 1771 the firm was carried on by their nephew Henry Hewitt junior (d. 1791) and from his death by his nephews John and Samuel Harrison. The latter, in various partnerships, continued until bankruptcy in 1833. The nursery stocked fruit trees and also specialized in herbaceous and greenhouse plants, and in vegetable and flower seeds. It is possible that this nursery may previously have been that of Joseph Allerton who in 1733 had plantations of North American trees, particularly the Red or Scarlet Oak, at Brompton Lane near the Spring Gardens, Knightsbridge.<sup>71</sup> (See also CHELSEA, 6 above.)

(26) (a) Old Brompton Road (N. side), Cromwell Road, Ashburn Place, Reece Mews (divided by Gloucester Road). 32 acres.

(b) Cromwell Road (S. side), Wetherby Gardens, Ashburn Place (W. side), Court-field Gardens. 8 acres.  
Founded by Frank Thoburn in 1784 and from 1788 to 1790 run in partnership with Reginald Whitley (c. 1754–1835). Whitley took various partners and the firm was Whitley & Barrit in 1796–1801, Whitley & Brames until 1810, when the nursery extended to 40 acres.<sup>72</sup> The old Fulham Nursery (above, 12) was then taken over and the business transferred over a period of several years. The catalogue of Whitley & Barrit for 1796 shows that they were pioneers of hardy herbaceous and alpine plants.<sup>73</sup> They also stocked fashionable exotics for stove and greenhouse and besides many named varieties of the usual bulbs they had 37 varieties of *Ixia*, 12 of the *Antholyza* and 20 of *Gladiolus*, as well as 74 Heaths for the greenhouse and 11 for the open air.<sup>74</sup> In 1808 Whitley obtained seed of the important Chinese White Paeony, known by his name as *Paeonia lactiflora Whitleyi*.<sup>75</sup>

(27) Fulham Road (N.W. side), Old Brompton Road, Summer Place, Onslow Gardens (site of Brompton Hospital). 7 acres.

Part of the grounds acquired by William Curtis (1746–1799) in 1789 on his removal from Lambeth Marsh. His garden was continued by his partner William Salisbury who, before 1822, had disposed of this plot to Malcolm of the Kensington Nursery (above, 22). A new garden in Sloane Street was already in process of establishment by 1809.<sup>76</sup>

(28) Cromwell Road (N. side), Imperial Institute Road, Queens Gate. 4 acres.  
Not traced in the period of Milne's map, but occupied as a nursery in 1825 by J. Ellingham.<sup>77</sup> This adjoined Hale House, where Pouparts are said to have had a nursery producing the Muscadine Grape.<sup>78</sup>

Fulham Road (N.W. side), Old Brompton Road, Onslow Square, Sunner Place. Between the nurseries of the Harrisons (above, 25) and that of Curtis & Salisbury (above, 27) an area of 6 acres was occupied by Thomas Gibbs & Co., nurserymen and seedsmen of Ampthill, Beds., and 90 Piccadilly. They were in occupation by 1807 and until after 1836.<sup>79</sup> The firm existed by 1787 and Thomas Gibbs had the shop at the corner of Half Moon Street, Piccadilly, by 1797.<sup>80</sup> It is uncertain whether occupation of the Brompton land goes back to 1800. The site is marked "g" by Milne, but as Gibbs at first used the land as an experimental ground for grasses and agricultural seeds, this is not necessarily incompatible. Later, in 1818 Gibbs was here producing hybrid cowslips of various colours and including hose-in-hose forms,<sup>81</sup> but in 1828 all were destroyed by frost. Most varieties, however, survived at the Ampthill Nursery.<sup>82</sup>

(28.A) In 1797 Robert Shaw, not otherwise evidenced, was rated for house and nursery ground in Old Brompton on an assessment of £21.<sup>83</sup>

(28.B) George Mitchell was rated on £36 for a nursery in Old Brompton in 1797.<sup>84</sup> He was presumably the seedsman and florist of 19 New Bond Street in 1790-91.<sup>85</sup>

It seems possible that these two nurseries were the two parcels totalling 8 acres mentioned above (26.b) as part of the Thoburn & Whitley nursery. Though this comprised 40 acres in 1811 it was rated at a total of only £42 in 1797,<sup>86</sup> as against £163 for the Kensington Nursery (above, 22), £90 for Brompton Park (above, 23) and £78 for Kirkes' nursery (above, 24).

#### *Little Chelsea*

Henry Shailer (above, 9) was a nurseryman here by 1788 and until 1815.

Kew - see RICHMOND

Kingsland - see ISLINGTON

#### KINGSTON upon Thames (Surrey)

(29) London Road (N. side), Park Road, Elton Road, Willoughby Road, Gordon Road. 12 acres.

*Kingston Hill Nursery*, not traced at the period of Milne's map but occupied from c. 1820 by Thomas Jackson (c. 1791-1859), nurseryman and fruiterer, and by his successors to 1875 as Jackson & Sons;<sup>87</sup> probably of J. & G. Mitchelson in 1786 (see below, 33).

#### *Ham*

A nursery near Ham Common was occupied in 1789-91 by Hairs, Hairs & Smith, nurserymen of St. James's Street (see above CHELSEA, *Ranelagh*), and they may have continued to a later date.<sup>88</sup>

#### LAMBETH (Surrey)

(30) Kennington Road (W. side), Lambeth Walk, Walnut Tree Walk. 2 acres. Not certainly traced, but probably represents removal of a nursery from its earlier site slightly to N. (Kennington Road, Lambeth Road, Hercules Road). Richard North nurseryman, author of *A Treatise on Grasses and the Norfolk Willow* (1760), who in 1757-59 had occupied Shoulder of Mutton Field (2½ acres) in Marsh and Wall Liberty, N. of Westminster Bridge Road,<sup>89</sup> moved to this latter position. He died c. 1765, some two years after disposing of the nursery to James Shields or Shiells.<sup>90</sup> Shiells was also noted as having one of the two principal Pineries in London by 1779.<sup>91</sup> *Shields Nursery* is marked on plans

of 1787 and 1800 in the more northerly position, perhaps due merely to lack of revision.<sup>92</sup> In 1789 this was the site of "Mr. North's nursery and flower gardens".<sup>93</sup> William North in 1788 paid rates on an assessment of £28 in Asylum Road and also £13 "for Mays" in Three Coney (*i.e.* Lambeth) Walk.<sup>94</sup> James Shiells, however, was at the same time assessed at £18 in East Place, Bishop's Liberty.<sup>95</sup> William North continued in a nursery, with Pinery and Forcing Houses, near or opposite The Asylum (Bethlehem Hospital) until 1806 at least, but in 1805 his shop was at 161 Piccadilly.<sup>96</sup> In 1829 the nursery formerly of North was said to be occupied by John Hay.<sup>97</sup>

Serious confusion is caused by the existence of another nursery E. of The Asylum (St. Georges Road, S. side, W. of West Square). In 1788 this was occupied by Mr. Hay,<sup>98</sup> who appears to be Walter Hay, in the same year rated on £13 for No. 13 Moor Place, Bishop's Liberty.<sup>99</sup> In 1803 the firm of Hay & Co., and in 1805 Walter Hay and James & George Swinnerton, nursery and seedsmen, were at St. Georges Fields; Walter Hay's private address was No. 2 Durham Place, Lambeth.<sup>100</sup> It seems that the same nurserymen must have changed partners, since James Shiells was in 1776 in partnership with John Cowie of The Acorn, 21 Parliament Street, Westminster, by 1780 trading as Shiells & Hay there and at The Nursery Gardens, Lambeth, continuing to 1783. In 1784 the same firm was listed as Walter Hay.<sup>101</sup>

(31) Black Prince Road (N. side), Bolwell Street, Ward Street, Brittany Street. 3 acres. *Cotmansfield Nursery*, purchased in 1827 for the erection of a parochial chapel,<sup>102</sup> but not otherwise traced.

(32) Kennington Lane (N. side), Tyers Terrace, St. Oswald Place, Vauxhall Street. 5 acres. In 1785 garden ground occupied by Messrs. Tyers, Rogers and Barrett under Sir Joseph Mawbey, Bart.<sup>103</sup> not otherwise traced.

(33) Kennington Oval (central space) 9 acres. Part of a larger area of 38 acres, known as The Forty Acres, which also included the original nursery of William Malcolm by 1757 (see *Stockwell*, below 34). By 1785 most of this site was occupied as a nursery by James & George Mitchelson, and continued as Mitchelsons' until about 1835.<sup>104</sup> In 1803 the business was in the hands of J. Mitchelson,<sup>105</sup> who is said to have lived to the age of 100 years<sup>106</sup> (see also above, 29).

#### *Stockwell*

(34) Brixton Road (W. side), Clapham Road, Caldwell Street, Stockwell Park Road, Lorn Road. 50 acres.

William Malcolm was already a nurseryman of standing in 1757 when he was rated on an assessment of £46 in Kennington (above, 33); in 1761 this had risen to £54. By 1788 William Malcolm & Son were rated at Kennington Common on £46 10s., and also at Stockwell (South Lambeth Common, *i.e.* this site) on £114.<sup>107</sup> The earlier address was The Pine Apple near Kennington Turnpike.<sup>108</sup> Malcolm was supplying plants to the Princess Dowager of Wales for Kew Gardens in 1769,<sup>109</sup> and his catalogue of 1771 was perhaps the first trade list to be drawn up on botanical principles.<sup>110</sup>

By March 1789 the nursery moved to the Stockwell site, and in that year "Mr. Malcolm has just erected a handsome house, built with grey stock-bricks, which is most delightfully situated; on its south-east side are large hot-houses, conservatories, etc."<sup>111</sup> William Malcolm senior was dead by *c.* 1800.<sup>112</sup> In 1794 William and James Malcolm had produced for the Board of Agriculture *General Views* of the agriculture of Buckinghamshire and of Surrey, but

the latter was said to be "full of mistakes".<sup>113</sup> The firm became Malcolm & Doughty from 1805 to 1810, in 1811 Malcolm & (Robert) Sweet, and closed in 1815.<sup>114</sup> The younger William Malcolm had by then taken over the Kensington Nursery (above, 22).

#### Vauxhall

By 1803 "Mr. Napier, Nurseryman, near Vauxhall" was described as "a very successful cultivator of many rare articles" and had both raised from seed and flowered *Protea anemonifolia* from Port Jackson (New South Wales). This almost certainly implies a start by 1800. In the following two years the firm was Napier & Chandler.<sup>115</sup> The site (Wandsworth Road E. side, Thorncroft Street, Camellia Street) is shown as market garden on Milne's map, but in 1824-26 as a nursery.<sup>116</sup> The firm became Chandler & Buckingham (1827-33) and later Chandler & Sons; it was especially famous for the culture of Camellias owing to the hybridizing undertaken from c. 1806 by Alfred Chandler senior<sup>117</sup>.

#### LEWISHAM (Kent)

- (35) (a) High Street (E. side), Hither Green Lane, Courthill Road. 2 acres.  
 (b) Dermody Road (S. side), Courthill Road. 8 acres.  
 (c) Brockley Grove (S. side), Arthurdon Road, Henryson Road. 5 acres.

*The Lewisham Nursery.* These parcels of land formed part of the great nursery founded c. 1760 by John Russell (c. 1731-1794) and continued by his sons John Russell junior (1766-1808) and Thomas (c. 1773-1810) and son-in-law John Willmott (1775-1834). Russell "raised himself by his skill and industry to a state of affluence rare among nurserymen and, after keeping his carriage and living many years like a gentleman, died in 1794 aged 63, leaving property to the amount of £20,000".<sup>118</sup> The firm was Russell, Russell & Willmott in 1805,<sup>119</sup> later John Willmott & Co., and finally Willmott & Chaundy, closing in 1860.<sup>120</sup>

The nursery occupied above 100 acres in 1811 and paid for labour alone over £3,000 a year, "being the largest concern of the kind in the neighbourhood of London and one of the largest in the kingdom".<sup>121</sup> By 1822 the grounds extended to 150 acres and 70 hands were employed;<sup>122</sup> in 1843 over 112 acres, mostly leased from the Earl of Dartmouth, were occupied in the parish of Lewisham alone, and other ground stretched into Lee.

- (36) (a) Brockley Road (W. side), Howson Road, Arabin Road, Beecroft Road [parcel to S. of c. 6 acres, marked "n" but not coloured]. 27 acres.  
 (b) Brockley Grove (N. side) (Cemetery), Darfield Road. 4 acres.

Not traced as nursery grounds; all were classified as arable land in 1843.<sup>123</sup>

James Major (c. 1737-1831), who lived at Lewisham for many years, was famous for raising the earliest laced Pinks in 1771-74;<sup>124</sup> it is uncertain whether he had a trade nursery there.

#### LEYTON (Essex)

- (37) Lea Bridge Road (N. side), Overton Road, Belvedere Road, Hitcham Road. 12 acres.  
 "Lea Bridge Road Nursery" (see below) already in business under Richard Siborne by 1755 and until 1775. From 1775 to 1782 it was held by Joseph Hughes with his farm on the opposite side of Lea Bridge Road. Thereafter the nursery seems to have been occupied with Black Marsh Farm, which was rated to Henry Wilkinson from 1790 to 1830, who probably

sub-let it. From 1838 to 1860 it was certainly occupied as a nursery by James Pamplin, and in 1861–69 by William Pamplin. This nursery must be distinguished from the more famous Lea Bridge Road Nursery, founded in 1823 by Finlay Fraser (d. c. 1849).<sup>125</sup>

#### Leytonstone

(38) Leytonstone High Road (W. side), Grove Green Road, Dyers Hall Road, Vernon Road. 11 acres.

*Leytonstone* or *Leyton Nursery* (later *American Nursery*), already occupied by the famous nurseryman Adam Holt in 1710–29.<sup>126</sup> Holt supplied fruit trees to Sir Samuel Clarke of West Bromwich Manor, Staffs., in 1720 and raised the “Royal Widow” auricula sold for 10 guineas.<sup>127</sup> The nursery was later in the hands of John Hay from 1759 until his death in 1792, and of James Hill (c. 1761–1832) and his widow Charlotte. In 1799–1801 Hill could supply crocus bulbs, fan yews and laurustinus, as well as mignonette and other flower seeds.<sup>128</sup> When visited by Loudon in 1835 the nursery abounded in a “very great variety of Red American Oaks”.<sup>129</sup> From 1839 to 1888 the nursery was carried on by Protheroe & Morris.<sup>130</sup>

(39) Leytonstone High Road (W. side), Langthorne Road (S. side), Brierley Road, Victoria Road. 8 acres.

*Holloway Down Nursery*, in existence by c. 1751, was owned by Spencer Turner who died in 1776. His name is commemorated by the hybrid semi-evergreen Oak raised in the nursery, *Quercus x Turneri*.<sup>131</sup> Turner’s will offered the nursery at a valuation to his servant William Perkins, who carried it on until 1825. From 1834 until 1863, when the land was built over, the nursery was run by Edward Perkins.<sup>132</sup>

Leytonstone – see LEYTON

Mile End – see STRATFORD-BOW

New Cross – see DEPTFORD

#### NEWINGTON (Surrey)

(40) (a) New Kent Road (N. side), Ralph Street, Falmouth Road, Spurgeon Street. 14 acres.

(b) Old Kent Road (S. side), Beckway Street, Alfreton Street, East Street [2 acres in St. George the Martyr, Southwark]. 5 acres.

(c) Kinglake Street (E. side), Smyrk’s Road, Alvey Street. 4 acres.

*Kent Road Nursery*. Samuel Driver, possibly the Lambeth nurseryman flourishing in 1717–30 or his son, was in Kent Road, Walworth, by 1760,<sup>133</sup> and still in 1777.<sup>134</sup> By 1785 Alexander (?Abraham) and William Driver were assessed on two holdings at £36 and £33, and in 1788 they were said to have nursery grounds of about 40 acres adjoining the house of William Driver at the (E.) corner of East Lane (now Street); to W. of this lane was the “handsome modern built brick house” of Mr. Abraham Purshouse Driver, behind which was “a most elegant and spacious conservatory, 240 feet in length and 24 in width”.<sup>135</sup> “Drivers’ Seed Shop” was at William Driver’s house in 1787.<sup>136</sup> It was in the next year that the Drivers published a revised edition of *The Pomona Britanica, or Fruit-Garden displayed*, and in 1794 they produced a *General View of the Agriculture of Hampshire* for the Board of Agriculture.

New building took place on much of the nursery ground and in 1803 the Drivers’ assessments had changed. They were jointly rated on four separate parcels: £30 plus £1 stock;

£20 for 5 acres; £12 for 9 acres; and £12 for 4 acres, while William Driver at Surrey Square was separately rated on a rental put at £50 plus stock at £2.<sup>137</sup> In 1805 they were described as nursery, seedsmen and land surveyors, Kent Road; Abraham Driver's address was also Kent Road; William Driver was in Surrey Square.<sup>138</sup> The Drivers as surveyors produced a plan of the northern division of Lambeth Manor in 1812.<sup>139</sup>

#### Walworth

(41) Walworth Road (W. side), Olney Road, Sutherland Square, Empress Street. 18 acres. *The Walworth Nursery*, founded by James Maddock (c. 1715–1786), a Quaker said to have moved from Warrington, Lancs., about 1765–75.<sup>140</sup> Priced catalogues of the auriculas, polyanthus and carnations sold by him here were printed in 1777,<sup>141</sup> and of 320 sorts of Gooseberry Trees raised in Lancashire and sold by him in 1780.<sup>142</sup> The property was assessed at £34 from 1782 until 1792, when it was occupied by James Maddock junior (1763–1825) son of the founder, who in that year issued his father's work *The Florist's Directory*. At that time the nursery had more than 800 named varieties of *Ranunculus asiaticus*.<sup>143</sup> The gardens were mentioned in 1788 as "belonging to Mr. Maddox, florist, well known to the curious in flowers throughout the kingdom".<sup>144</sup> It was in 1792 that the younger Maddock disposed of the business to Goring & Wright, cousins of his wife Mary Curtis and of the famous William Curtis (above, 27), whose son-in-law (and brother-in-law of Maddock) Samuel Curtis (1779–1860) took over the firm c. 1800–09. The business went under the name of Curtis & Sturge c. 1800–05, in 1810–14 Curtis & Milliken, from 1815 to c. 1825, Curtis, Milliken & Co. In 1826–54 it was continued by Henry Groom, who moved to Clapham Rise in 1843.<sup>145</sup> While at Walworth, Samuel Curtis issued *The Beauties of Flora* (1806) and in 1810 an improved edition of *The Florist's Directory*. In 1805 Curtis's private address was Albion Place, Walworth, while the business was at No. 1 Walworth Place.<sup>146</sup> At all times famous for bulbs, the nursery under Groom was noted for hybrid lilies.<sup>147</sup>

Newington Green – see ISLINGTON

#### PUTNEY (Surrey)

(42) Upper Richmond Road (S. side), St. Johns Avenue, Putney Hill, Ravenna Road [parcel of c. 1 acre along Putney Hill marked "n" but not coloured]. 10 acres.

*The Putney Nursery*, probably founded about 1650 by Francis Hunt (d. 1662), who was a gardener in the town before 1654. It achieved some importance under his son Francis Hunt (1652–1713) and fame under the latter's elder son Francis Hunt (1691–1763). This site may not have been occupied until 1727, but by 1713 the nursery comprised more than 13 acres in Putney and 4 in Wandsworth. The last of the family to continue the nursery was Francis Hunt (c. 1729–1775), at whose death it was sold to William Howey (c. 1729–1792), who bequeathed it to his sons John Howey (1762–1798) and Robert Howey (1764–1800). In their time the nursery was said to cover 30 acres. John's widow Elizabeth and his aunt Martha Howey carried on the business until John's infant son William attained his majority in 1819. William Howey is last mentioned as a Putney nurseryman in 1838, but the site was occupied as nursery ground by John Hargood in 1848.<sup>148</sup>

#### RICHMOND (Surrey)

##### Kew

(43) Kew Green (E. side), Forest Road, Bushwood Road, Gloucester Road. 13 acres.

*Kew Green Nursery*, occupied by William Cox the elder (d. 1704), probably as early as 1680. His son William Cox (1680–1722) was noted for his improvement of the Hotspur Pea.<sup>149</sup> After Cox's death a detailed inventory of his stock was taken, showing that he had over 30,000 plants as well as 7 acres under barley, 3½ acres of peas and one acre of beans. Among the plants were 2,250 yew trees, 1,200 elms, 900 hornbeam, 600 horse chestnuts and smaller quantities of sycamores, limes and walnuts, as well as about a dozen species of flowering shrubs. The nursery was taken over by Richard Butt, who seems to have continued to specialize in peas since some seed lists of the later eighteenth century name Butt's or Golden Hotspur Pea as the earliest kind to come into bearing. Butt, however, also supplied trees and shrubs for Kew New Garden (the beginning of Kew Gardens) when it was laid out for Frederick Prince of Wales between 1731 and 1751. Although the nursery continued to exist on the same site until after 1800, its later occupiers have not yet been traced.<sup>150</sup>

#### ST. PANCRAS (Middlesex)

(44) Upper Woburn Place (W. side), Taviton Street, Endsleigh Gardens, Endsleigh Place. 5 acres.

*The Bedford Nursery*, marked as Mr. Hall's Nursery in 1790 and 1804, and occupied in 1812 by J. Hall, nurseryman and seedsman, New Road, St. Pancras.<sup>151</sup>

(44.A) An earlier nursery in the parish on the N. side of the Euston Road, opposite to Fitzroy Square, was that of Daniel West who about 1775 raised from seed West's Black St. Peter Grape.<sup>152</sup> This was possibly identical with the nursery of Thomas Brown, Hampstead Road and New (Euston) Road, c. 1800–1824. Somewhere in the same area were nurseries, or possibly market gardens, belonging to one Montgomery, in whose rooms "Peter Pindar" the satirist (John Wolcot) spent his last years, dying in 1819.<sup>153</sup>

(44.B) A small nursery, not marked by Milne, lay S. of Highgate West Hill opposite the S. end of The Grove. This was described as Mr. Bamstreed's Nursery in 1790 and as William Bonstead's in 1804. William Bowstread was in fact the tenant from c. 1769 to c. 1812, when he was succeeded by William Cutbush.<sup>154</sup>

#### SHOREDITCH (Middlesex)

(45) Hackney Road (N. side), How's Street, Weymouth Terrace, Nichol's Square. 9 acres.

*The Pine Apple Nursery*, marked as Alport's Garden in 1787,<sup>155</sup> and occupied by John Allport, seedsman and nurseryman in 1791 and later.<sup>156</sup> The firm was Allport & Son by 1800, G. & J. Allport in 1810–20, and from 1822 to 1825 George Allport. It is possible that the closely adjacent area of 8 acres in the parish of Bethnal Green (above, 1) also formed part of this nursery.

#### Hoxton

(45.A) Many early nurseries were grouped within the small area of Hoxton.<sup>157</sup> Though one of the last of these nurserymen, John Renton (c. 1747–1810) was living at the time, his *Hoxton Field Nursery* is not marked on Milne's map. It was in a built-up area and probably quite small.

Stockwell – see LAMBETH

#### STRATFORD-BOW (Middlesex)

(46) (a) Bow Road (N. side), Morgan Street, Coborn Road, Alfred Street. 14 acres.

(b) Bow Road (S. side), Archbald Street, Merchant Street, Mornington Grove. 17 acres.



- (c) [in parish of Bromley St. Leonard: Archbald Street (S. side), Arnold Road, Wellington Way. 3 acres.]

*The Mile End Nursery*, generally stated to have comprised 50 acres (see below). It is not clear whether these grounds (none of which is in the hamlet of Mile End) include the sites of the small nursery of one Clements, mentioned in 1691,<sup>158</sup> or the original nursery of James Gordon (?1708–1780), opened in 1742. Gordon can first be traced as paying rates in Bow in 1751, and by 1755 he was tenant of 9 acres. For 25 years before the founder's death this was the most influential nursery in the country, and was instrumental in introducing many important exotics, notably the *Camellia*. When Gordon died in 1780 the firm, James Gordon & Co., nurserymen, occupied the house, garden, greenhouse and land.<sup>159</sup> Gordon left all his properties to his three sons, William, James and Alexander Gordon, but the business was thereafter in the name of Gordon, (Thomas) Dermer & (Archibald) Thomson, Gordon & Thomson in 1793–1811, then Gordon, Forsyth & Thomson until 1837, when the land was taken over for building.<sup>160</sup> The seed shop at The Thistle and Crown, 25 Fenchurch Street, London, opened by Gordon before 1764, survived the nursery until 1845. Archibald Thomson (c. 1753–1832) was rated on the grounds previously of James Gordon & Co. from 1805 onwards, the nursery in 1811 being reckoned as 17 acres.<sup>161</sup> This would be compatible with the area (b) only, but cannot be reconciled with the statement that Gordon & "Thompson" of Mile End had a nursery of 50 acres at the same date.<sup>162</sup>

STREATHAM (Surrey)

*Upper Tooting*

- (47) Upper Tooting Road (S.E. side), Lynwood Road, Cowick Road [marked "n" but not coloured]. 3 acres

This can be identified as "Mr. Hay's nursery", mentioned in 1786–89,<sup>163</sup> but it is uncertain which of the nurserymen of that name was the proprietor (see LAMBETH, above, 30). It had probably ceased to be a nursery by 1799.

*Springfield Nursery* (later *American Nursery*) was immediately opposite to the site of Hay's nursery (Upper Tooting Road N.W. side, Pond Road, Water Road, Hebdon Road). It was founded by William Rollisson (c. 1765–1842) traditionally before 1800 and certainly by 1802, when he was occupying 2 acres at an annual value of £30 as tenant of William Pollard, esq.<sup>164</sup> Though the firm's grounds were not extensive, they became famous for the best collection of Heaths in the London area,<sup>165</sup> and also for rare Orchids and for Pitcher Plants.<sup>166</sup> The business, as William Rollisson & Sons, continued until the death of George Rollisson (1800–1880).

Tooting, Upper – see STREATHAM

TOTTENHAM (Middlesex)

- (48) (a) Church Road (N. side), Peshurst Road, High Road (W.), Tottenham Cemetery. 22 acres.  
 (b) Church Road (S. side), Kings Road, High Road (W.), Church Lane. 9 acres.  
 (c) Park Lane (S. side), Lansdowne Road, Sutherland Road, Chalgrove Road, Shelbourne Road 29 acres.

*The Tottenham Nursery*, comprising 60 acres, of which the 29 acres E. of the High Road (c) above, constituted the "Old Nursery". William Coleman (c. 1743–1808), already a nur-

seryman in Tottenham by 1777, was holding land as a tenant of four different proprietors in 1785. In 1789 he held some 12 acres of copyhold land and over 40 acres in leasehold parcels.<sup>167</sup> By 1802 he owned a freehold house and land.<sup>168</sup> There was a sale on 13 December 1810 of 22 acres of land to W. of the High Road, in 32 lots. Up to this time the nursery, apparently carried on by Coleman's widow Ann and son George Coleman, was reckoned among the principal firms in the London area.<sup>169</sup> George Coleman died in 1822, aged 43, and the Old Nursery in Marsh (now Park) Lane was being run by Sarah Coleman, probably his widow, in 1826–28. At the same time Charles Coleman had a smaller nursery in Church Road (perhaps largely (b) above); he was also a land surveyor. The Tottenham Nursery (Old Nursery) seems to have come to an end in 1833.<sup>170</sup>

Turnham Green – see CHISWICK

TWICKENHAM (Middlesex)

(49) Waldegrave Road (E. side)—part of Strawberry Hill College Grounds. 6 acres.

This nursery was occupied by members of the Ashe family over a long period. Thomas Ashe, nurseryman, was a churchwarden of Twickenham in 1741–2, and paid rates for a house and land in the nursery from 1748 to 1779. He supplied the poet Pope with plants and sold trees and shrubs to Horace Walpole for the planting of Strawberry Hill. On Walpole telling him he would have his trees planted irregularly, Ashe replied: "Yes, Sir, I understand; you would have them hang down somewhat poetical."<sup>171</sup> William Ashe was rated for the same property in 1780–May 1784, and John Ashe from December 1784 until 1800. By 1812 the "old nursery land" was owned by Lady Waldegrave. John Ashe's trade card as a "Nursery and Seedsman" was printed by Kirgate at Strawberry Hill in 1791.<sup>172</sup>

One of the first notable nurserymen in England, Vincent Poynter *alias* Corbet (d. 1619), of Ewell, Surrey, where his son Richard Corbet (1582–1635), later bishop of Oxford and of Norwich, was born, moved to Twickenham where he made his Will in 1604. He held copyhold lands in Twickenham and Isleworth. As a nurseryman he was famed for having the greatest variety of plums.<sup>173</sup> In 1635 Bishop Corbet was occupying about 6 acres of land (Whitton Road W., Egerton Road, Court Way, River Crane). Vincent Corbet in his Will left £1 to Robert Crofton, father of the Mr. [Robert] Crofton, shown as having some 7 acres of nurseries in 1635, in the area of Richmond Road and Lebanon Park.<sup>174</sup> In 1693–4 nectarine trees were supplied for Wrest Park, Beds., by one Grigson, nurseryman of Twickenham,<sup>175</sup> and in 1730–50 Joshua Spiers or Spyers was a surveyor and nurseryman there.<sup>176</sup>

Vauxhall – see LAMBETH

Walworth – see NEWINGTON

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## NOTES

## Abbreviations used:

- B.M. British Museum.  
 B.M. (P. and D.) British Museum, Dept. of Prints and Drawings.  
 Bodl. Bodleian Library, Oxford.  
 Bodl J J Bodleian Library, John Johnson Collection.  
 Bot. Mag. Curtis's *Botanical Magazine*.  
 Bot. Rep. H. Andrews, *Botanist's Repository*.  
 Coats 1963 A. M. Coats, *Garden Shrubs and their Histories*.  
 Coats 1969 A. M. Coats, *The Quest for Plants*.  
 Cobbett 1872 R. S. Cobbett, *Memorials of Twickenham*.  
 Dir Directories.  
 Edwards 1801 J. Edwards, *A Companion from London to Brighthelmston*.  
 Faulkner 1820 T. Faulkner, *The History and Antiquities of Kensington*.  
 Faulker 1845 T. Faulkner, *The History and Antiquities of Brentford, Ealing and Chiswick*.  
 Flor Cab *Floricultural Cabinet*  
 Gard Chron *The Gardener's Chronicle*.  
 Gard Mag *The Gardener's Magazine*.  
 G.L.R.O. Greater London Record Office.  
 Gorer 1970 R. Gorer, *The Development of Garden Flowers*.  
 Hadfield 1969 M. Hadfield, *A History of British Gardening*.  
 Harvey 1972 J. Harvey, *Early Gardening Catalogues*.  
 Holden Holden's *Triennial Directory*, 1805.  
 Langley 1728 B. Langley, *New Principles of Gardening*.  
 Lib Library.  
 Loudon 1822 J. C. Loudon, *An Encyclopaedia of Gardening*.  
 Loudon 1829 J. C. Loudon, *An Encyclopaedia of Plants*.  
 Lysons 1811 D. Lysons, *The Environs of London*, 2nd ed.  
 Min Lib Minet Library, Lambeth.  
 Mx R.O. Middlesex Records Office.  
 P.R.O. Public Record Office.  
 R.H.S. Royal Horticultural Society (Lindley Lib.).  
 R.O. Record Office.  
 Robinson 1842 W. Robinson, *A History of Hackney*.  
 S.R.O. Scottish Record Office.  
 Toynbee 1927 P. Toynbee, *Strawberry Hill Accounts*.  
 Univ Dir *Universal British Directory*, 5 vols., 1790-97.  
 Whitting 1965 P. D. Whitting, ed., *A History of Hammersmith* (Hammersmith Local History Group).  
 Whitting 1970 P. D. Whitting, *A History of Fulham* (Fulham History Society).  
 Willson 1961 E. J. Willson, *James Lee and the Vineyard Nursery, Hammersmith* (Hammersmith Local History Group).

<sup>1</sup> J. Harvey in *Garden History Society Newsletter*, No. 15, Nov. 1971, 5-7; No. 16, Feb. 1972, 9-10.

<sup>2</sup> B.M., K. TOP. VI (95).

<sup>3</sup> G. B. G. Bull in *Geogr. J.*, 122.1 (1956), 25-30.

<sup>4</sup> Deptford, Lewisham, Putney, Streatham.

<sup>5</sup> In George Adams, *Geometrical and Graphical Essays* (1791); for Milne's career see I. H. Adams in S.R.O., *Descriptive List of Plans*, II (1970), viii-xv.

<sup>6</sup> Kent's Dir.

<sup>7</sup> Mx Poll Book.

<sup>8</sup> W. Roberts in *Gard Chron*, 25 Oct 1913, 283, quoting P.O. Dir.; J. Abercrombie, *The Gardener's Daily Assistant*, 356.

<sup>9</sup> Edwards, 1801, 4.

<sup>10</sup> Newington Lib, Rate Books; Dir.

<sup>11</sup> Records of Caldwells, Knutsford; Davey's catalogues, R.H.S.; Dir; *Flor Cab*, I, 95, 183-4.

<sup>12</sup> Min Lib, Deeds XVIII, 4121.

<sup>13</sup> Newington Lib, Rate Books.

<sup>14</sup> *Flor Cab*, IV, 274-81; *Gard Mag*, IX, 99.

<sup>15</sup> Dir.

<sup>16</sup> Chelsea Lib, Rate Books; Faulkner, *Chelsea* (1829), II, 162-3.

<sup>17</sup> Gorer 1970, 72, 141, 196, 202.

<sup>18</sup> Lysons 1811, II, ii, 842; *Flor Cab*, III, 257; cf. Min Lib, Deeds IV, 39.

<sup>19</sup> *Flor Cab*, I, 95, 183-4; II, 48.

<sup>20</sup> E. J. Willson in Whitting 1965, 94.

<sup>21</sup> Lysons 1811, II, ii, 842; Coats 1969, 281-5; Gorer 1970, 187.

<sup>22</sup> *Gard Chron*, LVIII, 317.

<sup>23</sup> Chiswick Lib.

<sup>24</sup> *Bot Mag*, 9.303.

<sup>25</sup> *Bot Rep*; *Bot Mag*.

<sup>26</sup> Langley 1728, 128.

<sup>27</sup> Harvey 1972, 20, 29, 32; Chiswick Lib.

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## NOTE

The London Topographical Society has in hand the preparation of a facsimile reproduction in colour of Milne's Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster. It is expected that this will be issued to members after the publications now in hand for this and next year. Enquiries should be sent to Stephen Marks, Hon. Secretary, 50 Grove Lane, London, S.E.5.—*Editor*.