LILACS MIRROR HISTORY

Many of us associate lilacs with old fashioned gardens and fond memories of our grandmother’s yard. They are often found rambling through fields marking the site of a homestead that is long gone.

It may be a surprise to learn that lilacs, however, are not native to the Americas. ‘Syringa vulgaris’ (Common Lilac) is native to the Balkans. Many other lilacs come from the mountainous regions of Asia from Afghanistan through China to Japan. European settlers brought this Old World group of shrubs to the colonies in North America. The first lilacs probably came with the Dutch and the French. The sturdiness of the plant made it a very successful traveler withstandings long sea voyages.

The Schuyler House and the Battlefield at the Saratoga National Park are living proof of the Lilac’s original journey to this land with the families who were part of our regional heritage.

“Syringa vulgaris”

Maps available at the Visitor Center; Lilacs can be seen at • Freeman Farm, • Nelson Farm and on the service road.

LILAC WALKING TOUR

Look For Blooms in May

SCHUYLERVILLE, NEW YORK

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