



Mrs. A. William Smith (Isadore)
18th GCFM President
1959-1960
“Historic Preservation and Restoration”
168 clubs – 12,349 members



Mrs. Smith had many interests. She was a conservationist, landscape artist and author. She had an extensive wildflower garden and was interested in the conservation of native plants, wildflowers, historic gardens and homes. Garden clubs were urged to restore historic gardens in their communities.

One of her pet projects was working on the restoration of the colonial gardens at the 1655 Whipple House in Ipswich.

There was a continuation of programs in existence. Landscape Design Study Courses were introduced during this administration as forerunner of the Accredited Landscape Design Study Course of 1961. In 1959 the Shade Tree Pool was initiated. GCFM made it possible to buy certain trees and shrubs in quantity to be used for beautification and to attract birds.

After she completed her term of office, Mrs. Smith received recognition as an author. First, she completed a book her husband was working on before his death, *A Gardener's Book of Plant Names* by A. W. Smith. It is a compact dictionary that combines definitions of the botanical names in general usage, with information on their derivation and guides to their pronunciation. She was the author of books on Early American gardens. The first was *“Early American Gardens: For Meate or Medicine”*; *“American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century”* and *“American Gardens of the Nineteenth Century”* followed. They were published by Houghton Mifflin under her pseudonym “Ann Leighton”. After the books were published, the three were republished in paperback as a trilogy by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Mrs. Smith is recognized as an important figure in garden history. Historical and Preservation Societies have her book readily available for anyone interested in Early American gardens.

Note: Her books are still in print and can be ordered through any online service to this day.
[Early American Gardens: For Meate Or Medicine](#)