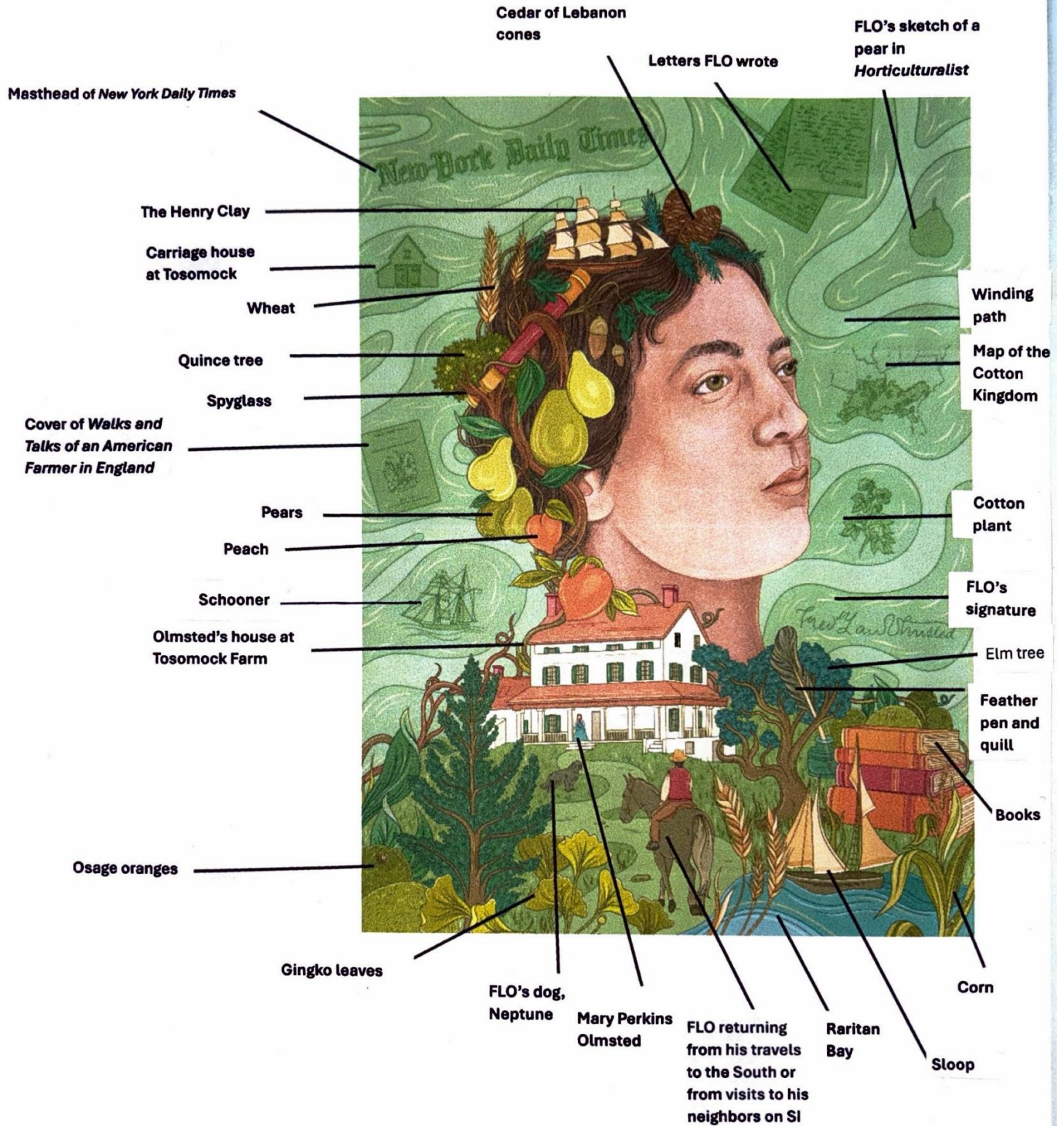




## KEY TO

**“FURROW AND FOLIO: FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED AT TOSOMOCK FARM,”**

**BY GABY D’ALESSANDRO (2023)**



**"Furrow and Folio: Frederick Law Olmsted at Tosomock Farm,"  
by Gaby D'Alessandro (2023),  
for Friends of Olmsted-Beil House**

## **Key to elements in “Furrow and Folio”:**

FLO lived at Tosomock Farm 1848-1855

### **LEFT**

**Masthead of the *New York Daily Times*:** FLO wrote dispatches for this paper (the predecessor of *The New York Times*) about his travels in the American South, using the penname 'Yeoman.'

**The Henry Clay:** The steamboat Olmsted sailed to Europe on in 1850.

**Carriage house at Tosomock:** This illustration shows what the building looked like around 1850. It was copied from a sketch drawn by Frederick's younger brother, John.

**Wheat:** Wheat was among the crops FLO grew at Tosomock Farm

**Quince tree, Pears, Peaches:** Trees Olmsted grew in the orchards at Tosomock Farm. He grew more than 5,000 pear trees there. He sold the produce in NYC markets and also sold trees as part of his nursery business.

**Spyglass:** FLO often used a spyglass to view ships in Raritan Bay, which Tosomock Farm overlooked.

**Cover of *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*:** FLO embarked on a walking tour of Europe and the UK, including Birkenhead Park, in 1850. He would return to Tosomock to collect his journal entries and the letters he had written home as *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*, which was published in 1852.

**Schooner:** FLO shipped produce from his farm to New York City

**Olmsted's house at Tosomock Farm:** Olmsted's father purchased this house and its surrounding 130-acre property on the south shore of Staten Island for him in 1848 for \$13,000. While he lived there, FLO Jr made many improvements to the aesthetics and drainage of the property and experimented with scientific farming and landscape design.

It is believed that the farm was the site where he and Calvert Vaux completed their plan that won the competition for Central Park and worked on plans for Prospect, Morningside, and Riverside Parks (source: <https://www.tclf.org/olmsteds-tosomock-farm-staten-island-ny>)

**Osage oranges, Gingko leaves:** Osage orange and Gingko trees are among the ornamental trees Olmsted planted at Tosomock. Other ornamental trees he planted there were Cedar of Lebanon trees, Black walnut trees, and Horse chestnut trees.

**Neptune:** Olmsted's black Newfoundland dog

**Mary Perkins Olmsted:** FLO's wife, to whom he attributed much of his success. They met upon his arrival in Staten Island in 1848 and married in 1859.

## RIGHT

**Cedar of Lebanon cones:** Cedar of Lebanon trees are among the ornamental trees Olmsted planted at Tosomock. One of these trees that FLO planted remains on the property.

**Letters FLO wrote:** FLO was hired by the *New York Daily Times* to travel to the American South in 1850 and to report on slavery. The dispatches he wrote during these travels appeared in three books and were later condensed into the book *The Cotton Kingdom*.

**Sketch of pear in *Horticulturalist*:** An article that Olmsted wrote about pear trees while he was living on Staten Island for the *Horticulturalist* magazine in January 1852 included his illustration. Olmsted grew more than 5,000 pear trees at Tosomock.

**Winding path:** Olmsted introduced curving paths to the Tosomock Farm property to better conform with the property's topography, creating a gentler approach to the farmhouse. Winding paths would become a prominent feature in the landscapes he would later design.

**Map of the Cotton Kingdom:** FLO helped create this map of the American South for inclusion in his book *The Cotton Kingdom*, which detailed his observations of cotton production and the institution of slavery.

**Cotton plant:** Representing FLO's travels to the South and the letters he wrote about his travels there.

### Olmsted's signature

**Elm tree:** Olmsted planted elm trees at Tosomock. They were among his favorite trees, and he incorporated them in many of his designs, including Central Park's mall.

**Feather pen & quill:** Representative of the writing Olmsted did at Tosomock, including for *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England* and *The Cotton Kingdom*.

**Books:** Olmsted was a prolific reader and writer.

**Corn:** Corn was among the crops FLO grew at Tosomock Farm

**Sloop:** In March 1848, Olmsted sailed aboard the sloop *Juliet* from his farm in Connecticut to the shore of Staten Island near Tosomock Farm. The 3-day journey was difficult, with the *Juliet* becoming stuck in ice and enduring snow storms.

**Raritan Bay:** The Raritan Bay is located at the southern portion of Lower New York Bay between the of New York and New Jersey. Tosomock Farm property, situated high on a slope, had a commanding view of Raritan Bay. Olmsted described the view as "wondrous beautiful."

**FLO returning to Tosomock on horseback:** Olmsted traveled by horse during his trips in the American South and locally on Staten Island to visit his friends, neighbors, professional associates, and clients. His friends often visited him at Tosomock, often arriving on horseback.

*Almsted, Frederick Law*

WALKS AND TALKS

OF AN

AMERICAN FARMER IN ENGLAND

*Frederick Law Almsted*



NEW YORK:

GEORGE P. PUTNAM, 155 BROADWAY.

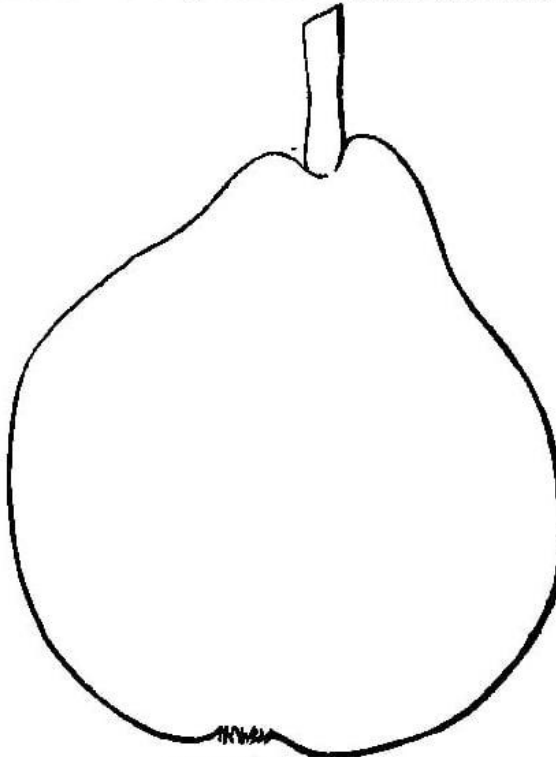
M.DCCC.LII.

## A NOTE ON THE TRUE SOLDAT LABOUREUR PEAR.

BY F. L. OLMSTED, SOUTHSIDE, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR: Two and three years since, I planted one thousand pear trees, embracing most of the varieties that are much esteemed on quince stock. Most of them fruited last year, but a few varieties not till this. Among the latter is one which I have never seen described in any American publication, and which has given me more satisfaction than any other.

I received a dozen trees from Messrs. PARSONS & Co., which they had received from France with the label *Soldat Laboureur*, but believed to be identical with the *Beurre d'Arenburgh*; the fruit, however, proves to be quite different from that well known sort, as well as from *Glout Morceau*, or anything else that I know. The trees have made a strong, healthy, upright, and naturally regular and pyramidal growth, out-stripping everything else that I have, except possibly, *Beurre d'Amalis*; the shoots of this season, on all parts of the tree, being in every case, on an average, three feet in length. The fruit answers to the following description, which I have to-day



True *Soldat Laboureur*.

received from your French correspondent, M. DESPORTES, as that of the *True Soldat Laboureur*, which is by no means, he says, to be confounded with the *Orphelins d'Eugheim*, (*Beurre d'Arenburgh* as known here,) though it long has been.

### COLOR OF BUILDINGS IN RURAL SCENERY.

13

**TRUE SOLDAT LABOUREUR.**—Color, yellow, but covered with grey and russet spots and dots, a little greener about the stem. Texture—skin fine; flesh coarse, white, melting; water abundant; sweet, vinous and perfumed; ripens end of October. It is a very good, first (class) pear. The fruit is generally larger than the above outline. The branches are upright, and it is a vigorous grower.

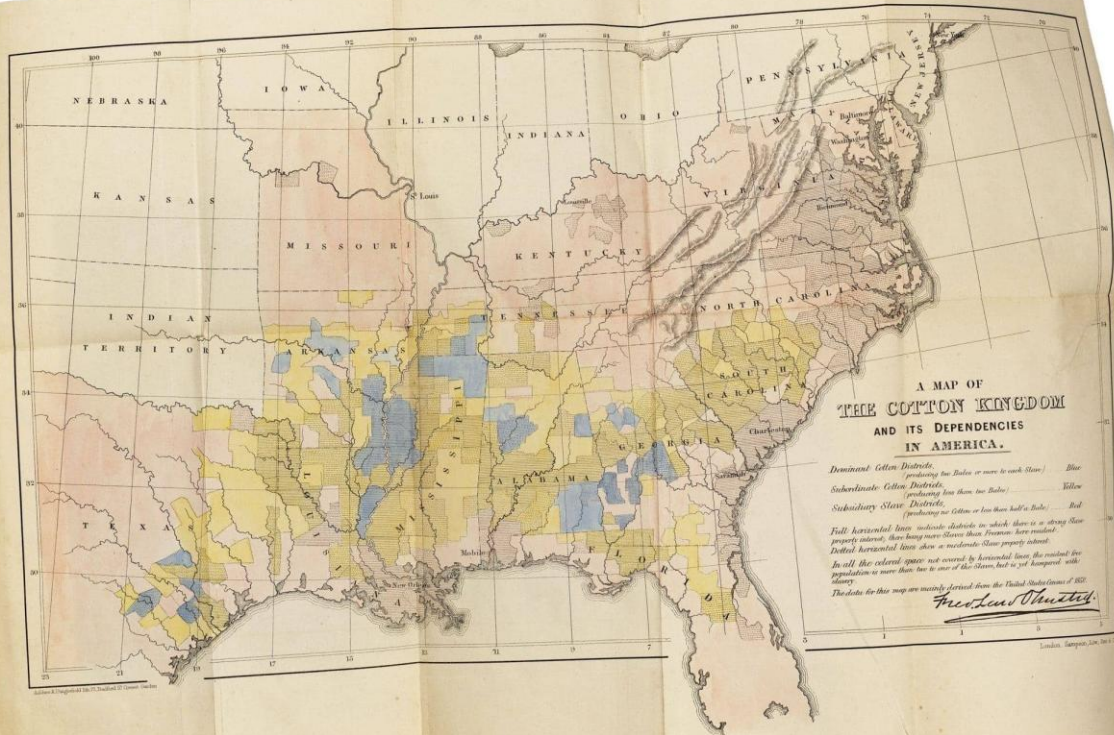
I have only to express my great regret that the specimens I had intended to send you have been accidentally injured, so much so that they would be of no service in enabling you to judge of its value. I allowed one of my trees to bear a dozen fine fruit, with which burthen its growth was quite as strong as any of the others, so I have no doubt it will prove an early and productive bearer.

The Bartlett is doing remarkably well on quince stocks with me—very productive, and the fruit of fine flavor. Soil, deep clayey loam. Yours respectfully,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED.

South Side, Staten Island, Nov. 24, 1851.

We should be glad to be informed if any other of our fruit-growing readers have proved this fine variety. Ed.



## JOURNEYS AND EXPLORATIONS

### THE COTTON KINGDOM.

A TRAVELLER'S OBSERVATIONS ON COTTON AND SLAVERY  
IN THE AMERICAN SLAVE STATES.

BASED UPON THEIR PERSONAL VOLUMES OF JOURNALS AND INVESTIGATIONS  
BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

BY  
FREDERICK LAW OLNSTED.

IN TWO VOLUMES.  
VOL. I.

LONDON:  
SAMPSON LOW, SON & CO, 47 LUDGATE HILL.  
1861.

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